Intake Policy

Stray Animals

Stray animals found by the public within the MHC (Martinsville Henry County) service area will be scanned for microchip identification. We will also notate any identifying markers such as (but not limited to) tattoos, collars, tags etc. The animal will be behaviorally evaluated by SPCA staff and accepted in shelter pending available space and the behavior evaluation.

If this animal has a collar or microchip, we will keep the animal listed as “stray hold” for 10 consecutive days. If it does not have any identification, we will hold it for 5 consecutive days. At the end of the stray hold, the animal will go up for adoption and receive a spay or neuter date.

We will make reasonable efforts to contact the owner of any identified stray animal. If we cannot accept a stray animal, we will direct the finder to take the animal to Henry County Animal Control (HCAC) or Martinsville City Animal Control (MCAC), whichever jurisdiction the animal was originally found in. We are unable to accept animals outside of the Martinsville City and Henry County area.

Owned Animals

Animals relinquished by their owners will be admitted by SPCA based ONLY upon available space. These animals will not undergo stray holds and will be medically and behaviorally evaluated to determine if they are able to be an adoptable candidate here. The owner should allow up to 30 minutes for the scheduled evaluation and will be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding the pet’s history. The owner must remain on site during this evaluation. If the owner is unable or unwilling to wait, the SPCA will direct the owner to HCAC or MCAC.

If an owned animal is brought to SPCA after/before the SPCA’s regular hours but at a time when staff may still be on site, the owner will be asked to contact SPCA staff during regular business hours to inquire about a relinquishment appointment.

For pets that are found to be behaviorally unmanageable, owners will be directed to seek training or contact HCAC or MCAC to relinquish ownership of their pet.

Duration of Stay Agreement

The behavior and medical condition of each animal admitted to SPCA adoption program will be re-evaluated during the animal’s stay. If an animal’s condition changes, the animal may be determined to be eligible for rehabilitation, manageable, not manageable, or unhealthy/untreatable. If an animal housed at SPCA is not meeting the SPCA’s adoption criteria during its stay, it will be removed from “available” status and placed on “hold”. It will then be behaviorally and/or medically evaluated. If this animal is found to be a risk to other shelter animals or the public, it will be up for review for euthanasia in accordance with the SPCA Euthanasia Policy. This policy covers the discussion of euthanasia for public safety, animal behavior, public animal safety, animal medical status, etc.

“Regulated” animals are prohibited or disqualified for adoption by law, regulation, or county/city policy. These include animals that are unlawful to possess, dogs with a documented history of dangerous behavior, and animals that have been classified by County or City as “dangerous dogs.”

**A dangerous dog is defined as a dog that:**

* Has twice within a 48-month period attacked, bitten, or otherwise caused injury to a person engaged in lawful activity, or
* Has once attacked, bitten, or otherwise caused injury to a person engaged in lawful activity, resulting in death or substantial injury.