



Animal Intake Policy – Updated 2024

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a non-profit organization that has a contract with the City of Alexandria to operate the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter and animal control services for the City of Alexandria. AWLA is an open door facility and accepts all types of animals in any type of condition (behaviorally or medically) from the City of Alexandria.

The Animal Shelter is open to the public:

Sunday: 11 AM – 5 PM
Monday: 9 AM – 7 PM
Tuesday: 9 AM – 7 PM
Wednesday: CLOSED
Thursday: 9 AM – 7 PM
Friday: 9 AM – 7 PM
Saturday: 11 AM – 5 PM

Animal Adoption Viewing Hours

Adoption Hours are separate from administrative hours. Visitors are only able to come in to view animals, visit animals, and submit adoption applications during these hours:

Sunday: 12 PM – 5 PM
Monday: 12 PM – 7 PM
Tuesday: 12 PM – 7 PM
Wednesday: CLOSED
Thursday: 12 PM – 7 PM
Friday: 12 PM – 7 PM
Saturday: 12 PM – 5 PM

Stray Animals

Stray animals should go to the shelter that serves the jurisdiction where the animal is found to give them the best chance of being found by their owner. AWLA takes in any stray found in the City of Alexandria. In cases where we need to take in a stray from outside the jurisdiction (such as a very sick/injured animal or a person who is unable to take it to their jurisdiction's shelter), the Manager on Duty will need to provide approval.

The following Zip Codes are part of the City of Alexandria: 22301, 22302, 22304, 22305 and 22314. Some, but not all parts of these zip codes are in the City of Alexandria: 22312, 22311, and 22206.

Stray animals must be held for a stray period. Stray periods for animals depend on whether the animal was found with any signs of ownership, including a collar or leash,

tags, microchip, tattoo, have been recently groomed, are spayed or neutered, etc. All stray animals will be scanned for a microchip on entering the shelter, during their intake exam, and prior to disposition.

Stray hold for animal with NO sign of ownership: 6 days

Stray hold for animal WITH sign of ownership: 11 days

The stray period begins on the day the animal is brought in to the shelter. All stray animals must be listed on our website.

Surrendering an animal

The AWLA primarily takes surrendered animals from residents of the City of Alexandria. There is no fee for surrendering an animal for citizens of the City of Alexandria. If the person surrendering an animal is not located in the City of Alexandria, we may not be able to accept the animal if we are limited in space in the shelter. It is possible for us to make an exception for an out of jurisdiction surrender on a case-by-case basis depending on the number of open kennels that we have and the needs of the animal. Typically, we will charge a \$50 out of jurisdiction surrender fee, and only a Manager or Director at the shelter can authorize an out of jurisdiction surrender.

If the pet owner is surrendering an animal, we attempt to see if there is anything we can do to find a way to keep the pet with their owner. For example, if they are surrendering because of a behavior issue, we will see if they would be willing to speak to one of our behavior staff.

Owner requested euthanasia

If an owner is bringing an animal to the AWLA to be euthanized, the owner must surrender the animal to the AWLA and then the AWLA will make a decision about the care of the animal. In some cases, the AWLA is able to provide the medical or behavioral care the animal needs and euthanasia is not required. We do not charge a fee for surrenders from City of Alexandria residents.

Adoption Returns

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria will always take back an animal from an adopter who requests to return him/her.

Crisis Care Program

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria will care for animals in situations where an owner is in crisis and is temporarily unable to provide care for their animal(s). The Crisis Care Program is handled by the Community Programs department.

Quarantine

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria quarantines or supervises the home quarantine of domestic animals as directed by the City of Alexandria Health Department that have exposed or been exposed to rabies. These quarantines are handled by Animal Services.

Any mammal who is taken into the shelter who has bitten within 10 days or been exposed to a potentially rabid animal shall be reported to Animal Services to determine if quarantining is necessary.

Wildlife

Wildlife is only handled by Animal Services. If wildlife is brought into the shelter, staff will contact Animal Services to intake the animal.

Sick/Injured/Neonates

Veterinary staff shall be contacted immediately if any animal shows any signs of serious illness /injury upon intake. If the vet staff is not available, the veterinarian shall be called. If they can not be reached, the animal shall be transported to one of our veterinary partners. If an animal is showing signs of a contagious illness, the animal will not be moved and the area may be closed to other animals/people until the veterinarian provides guidance on next steps. Vet staff may order any areas where the animal made contact to be cleaned thoroughly with 1:16 REScue.

Underage kittens/puppies or other animals shall not be placed into a kennel /caged. Instead, the foster manager shall be contacted who will give directions for their care.

