Town of Vienna Police Department

Animal Intake Policy

The Town of Vienna Police Department uses the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

(Hereafter known as the shelter), since we do not have any holding facility within the town.

If any animal is taken into custody for any reason an **Animal Custody Record** will be filled out completely including the following information:

* Date and time of incident.
* Reason for Custody.
* Description of animal.
* Owner Information if available.
* Final Disposition of Animal.
* Officer’s name and date the record was created.

Animal Control and Police Officers are authorized to take custody of animals as follows:

**Dogs**

*Dogs found at large* should be checked for identification and license. If an owner is located the dog should be transported to and released to the owner if they reside within the town. If the owner lives outside of the town the dog will be taken to the shelter to be held until the owner can retrieve the dog. The owner must be notified as soon as possible to pick up their dog at the shelter.

If an owner cannot be identified the dog will be taken into custody and transported to the shelter and released to them for processing according to their policy.

*Injured Dogs* should be taken into custody and transported to the shelter for proper veterinarian care and released to them for processing according to their policy. If a dog is severely injured and requires immediate care it will be taken to The Hope Center to be stabilized according to our Memorandum of Understanding, before taken to the shelter.

*Seized Dogs* will be taken into custody and transported to the shelter to be held according to their policy until the case can be adjudicated according to law.

**Cats and other domestic animals**

*Cats and other domestic animals found at large* that are healthy shall not be taken into custody since they are not prohibited from running at large by law.

*Injured Cats and other domestic animals* should be taken into custody and transported to the shelter for proper veterinarian care and released to them for processing according to their policy. If a cat or other domestic animal is severely injured and requires immediate care it will be taken to The Hope Center to be stabilized according to our Memorandum of Understanding, before taken to the shelter.

*Seized Cats and other domestic animals* will be taken into custody and transported to the shelter to be held according to their policy until the case can be adjudicated according to law.

**Wildlife**

*Wildlife at large* will not be taken into custody or relocated.

*Wildlife suspected of being rabid* will be taken into custody for euthanization and transported to the shelter for disposal by cremation according to their policy.