

**Culpeper County Department of Animal Services**

**Animal Intake Policy**

Will accept stray dogs and/or cats found within the borders of the County of Culpeper. Will accept owner surrender animals from residents of Culpeper County as space permits on a case-by-case basis. Taking into account all relevant information concerning said animal, including but not limited to demeanor and any history of aggression. As needed may accept other small animals, livestock and exotic animals if housing and caring for the animal is feasible within the capabilities and protocols of CCDAS. All animal intakes are subject to the protocols and procedures of CCDAS, including but not limited to proper care, housing, prevention and control of infectious disease and all applicable laws as set forth by the Virginia State Veterinary Office.

ANIMAL INTAKE:

1. Intake Exam

Upon arrival at the animal shelter, each animal will be examined for any signs of illness or injury, and the results will be documented on the attached “Animal Shelter Intake” form.

2.1 Any animal showing signs of potentially infectious/contagious disease will be immediately housed individually (unless nursing neonates with mother) in a thoroughly clean, disinfected, and dry enclosure in the marked isolation room.

1.4 Any animal not showing any signs of potentially infectious/contagious disease will be housed individually (unless nursing neonates with mother or animal arriving with and already accustomed to cohabitation with another specific animal) in a thoroughly clean, disinfected, and dry enclosure in the appropriate general housing area.

1.5 Signs of potentially infectious/contagious disease include, but are not limited to: vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, sneezing, discharge from the nose, eyes, ears or mouth, hair loss, itchiness.

1. Animal Monitoring
	1. Animals will be monitored daily for attitude, appetite, urination, defecation, and any signs of illness or abnormality. Observations will be recorded for each animal on a “Animal Monitor Log” and maintained on or near the animal’s primary enclosure.
	2. Any animal presenting signs of infectious/contagious illness at any time during its confinement in the shelter will be immediately placed in the isolation room. All animals in the isolation room will be individually housed for the entire duration of confinement in the isolation room (unless nursing neonates with mother).
2. Indications for emergency veterinary care

Below is a sampling of situations that require emergency veterinary care. This list is not all inclusive. Consideration of the individual animal must be made to alleviate suffering, prevent further disease transmission, or prevent further disease progression. Consultation with veterinarian by phone may be initiated if unsure whether or not immediate emergency veterinary care is needed for borderline cases.

3.1 Known or suspected history of trauma such as being hit by a car, in a fight with another animal with other than minor abrasions, suffering non-accidental injury, or being shot by a gun or bow and arrow

3.2 Known or suspected burns- chemical or thermal

3.3 Grossly visible wounds (dep punctures, gashes, lacerations, etc with bleeding that does not slow or stop within 20 minutes

3.4 Vomiting with blood in vomit that occurs more than 2 times in a 4 hour period

3.5 Bloody diarrhea with concurrent vomiting with more than 2 episodes in an 8 hour period

3.6 Urination

a. Lack of urination in 24 hours

3.7 Neurologic signs

a. Seizures

b. Circling in one direction

c. Stumbling, falling

d. Head tilt

3.8 Emaciation (excess prominence of the ribs, vertebrae, and/or pelvis)

 3.8.1 a. Body Condition Score (BCS) <3/9 or <2/5 with the inability to stand and indication of dehydration.

3.9 Difficulty breathing, signs of labored breathing

a. This may appear as panting when not stressed or in a hot environment or panting which does not subside when brought into a cool, quiet location.

b. Breathing may be audible as honking, wheezing, whistling, or other abnormal sounds

3.10 Abnormal gum color

 a. white, brick red, blue gums

3.11 Known or suspected eye injury

 a. Failure to address eye injuries in a timely manner can lead to a permanent loss of vision and/or loss of the globe (eye ball)