***Stafford County Animal Shelter***

***Animal Intake Policy***

It is our mission at the Stafford County Animal Shelter to enrich the lives of all animals in our care and provide a safe coexistence of both animals and people throughout our community. As an open admission shelter, we only accept owner surrenders and strays from Stafford County and Stafford County residents. We will also assist with other species such as reptiles, birds and other small companion animals. Our goal is to provide a place of sanctuary for animals to prevent abandonment, neglect or suffering.

Livestock and poultry will be addressed through the seizure process as defined in Virginia Code 3.2-6569; surrenders related to these will be sole responsibility of the owners.

While at this time we have not had to euthanize for space, that is a reality that we may someday be faced with. On a daily basis, animals surrendered by the owner for the following reasons may be subject to euthanasia;

* Deteriorating medical conditions where a licensed veterinarian determines that euthanasia is the most humane option.
* Behaviors that are beyond management that are deemed unsafe to other pets, people, and to the animal itself. In these cases a certified behaviorist or rescues may be consulted in conjunction with recommendations from staff.