

LANCASTER COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

ACO JAMES ABBOTT

ACO MICHELLE LACKERT

JOHN LACKERT

ANIMAL INTAKE POLICY

DOGS/CATS:

If an animal is trapped/picked up as a stray by animal control, or delivered to shelter by person other than owner:

- *visual inspection of animal for ID
- *scan animal for possible microchip
- *examine animals for overall condition
- *animal taken for veterinary care if needed
- *custody record completed and maintained for duration of animal stay at the shelter

- *owner notified if contact information is found
- *animal returned to owner or put up for adoption after 5 or 10 days depending on ID status or failure to be claimed
- *if owner is contacted and fails to claim animal, a custody hearing in general district court is held to legally transfer ownership to Lancaster County
- *if animal is either surrendered by owner or picked up as a stray, the animal may be euthanized if not safely adoptable
- *for owner surrenders, the owner must sign a statement of surrender before custody of animal is taken (statement includes owners name and signature, address and phone number, email address if available and full description of the animal). ACO will then sign and date as a witness
- *any documentation regarding the animal from its veterinarian (shots, tags, medical

history) will be added to the animals file

*if animal is spayed or neutered, it will be put up for adoption. If not spayed or neutered, the prospective owner must sign a sterilization agreement in accordance with Virginia law.

*in seizure cases, animal or animals are examined and taken to veterinarian if needed. They will be held at the shelter until a court determination is made.

Livestock or other animals:

*a contact list of people with adequate housing facilities is maintained in the event of the need for large animal housing

*the same list is used in cases of seizure of large animals until court determination

*a list of various animal rehabilitators for injured /sick/infant/exotic animals is also maintained (usually birds, fawns, or other

unweaned wildlife)

*as with dogs and cats a custody record is maintained until animal is placed in a permanent home

End of year summary report is filed with Virginia Department of Agriculture in accordance with Virginia state law.

At the Lancaster County Animal Shelter it is our policy to not turn away any animal whether trapped or surrendered by an owner.