



## **Policy : Intake of Animals**

**Revised 03/26/2025**

### **1. Types of animals accepted**

Middlesex County Animal Shelter (MCAS) routinely accepts all canines.

All intake inquiries need to be directed to the Shelter Manager or Assistant Manager who organizes and manages intakes.

### **2. Transfer in and out of animals**

MAS accepts transfers of canines from surrounding shelters as room permits. MCAS does not transfer in canines displaying the following:

- Severe aggression toward humans or other animals including bite history.
- Severe medical issues.
- Contagious, difficult-to-treat illnesses such as ringworm or sarcoptic mange.

Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Shelter Manager, Medical Director or Executive Director.

### **3. Adoption Returns**

MCAS will accept pets adopted from the organization at any time without condition. If the pet is not suitable for adoption due to medical/behavioral concerns, the Shelter Manager and Assistant Manager will determine an appropriate disposition for the animal following intake.

If the adopter requests a refund, they need to understand that a refund may take up to two weeks to process, and only 50% of what was paid will be given back. This is stated in the adoption contract they signed.

#### 4. Owner Surrendered Animals

Citizens from the county of Middlesex that need rehoming services for their pets should be directed to the Shelter Manager. If space allows, MCAS may agree to accept owners surrendered animals on a case-by-case basis. In the time when space is not allowed, a wait list is managed, and the Shelter Manager and Assistant Manager organizes this list as well as manages it. Because we are managed intake, we do not overpopulate the shelter!

Intake candidates are assessed for temperament and wellness prior to intake.

Animals exhibiting the following are typically referred to other organizations, rescues, or given other options:

- Severe aggression toward humans or other animals including a bite history or death of an animal.
- Severe medical issues.

Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Shelter Manager and/or Assistant Manager. MCAS will make every effort to provide any owner in need of rehoming services with resources, alternatives, and rescue/releasing agency referrals if appropriate. Pets originally adopted from other local organizations should be returned there unless the releasing agency specifies otherwise.

#### 5. Strays

MCAS only accepts stray animals from Middlesex County. An animal without an ID (microchip, ear tip, article of clothing, collar) will be placed on a **five-day stray hold** per Virginia Law, an animal with a form of ID will be placed on a **ten-day stray hold** per Virginia Law. All animals must be scanned, if safe to do so, for a microchip. If there is a microchip, the microchip company must be contracted to see if there is information on the microchip such as an owner.