



## Intake Policy

Tails High Cat Rescue is a foster home-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit run entirely by volunteers and serving the Washington Metropolitan area from our base in Alexandria, Virginia. Because we do not operate a physical shelter, our ability to accept cats and kittens is directly dependent on available foster homes and the specific needs of each individual cat.

Tails High is intentionally medical-focused, and we are often compelled to step in for cats and kittens with complex medical needs, chronic conditions, or urgent health concerns that other rescues may not be able to support. From the moment a cat enters our care, we prioritize comprehensive veterinary treatment and thoughtful foster placement, carefully triaging what each cat needs medically, behaviorally, and emotionally before they are made available for adoption. Our belief that every cat deserves a loving advocate frequently leads us to say yes when options are otherwise limited.

When foster space allows, we primarily accept friendly, social, and handleable cats who we expect can be placed into adoptive homes within a reasonable time frame. On occasion, we will also accept very scared or undersocialized cats when we believe that, with extensive socialization and the right foster environment, they can become adoptable. Cats considered for admission are assessed in person whenever possible, and intake decisions are based on adoptability, medical needs, foster availability, and overall rescue capacity.

We accept cats from public shelters, other rescue organizations, and individuals who have found cats or need to surrender them. Cats facing immediate danger are prioritized over those who are currently safe. When appropriate foster care is available, we regularly consider cats with special medical needs, including blind kittens, cats with cerebellar hypoplasia, senior cats with kidney or cardiac disease, and cats requiring hospice or palliative care.

Although we do not accept feral cats, we actively support our local TNR network and often accept friendly, adoptable cats and kittens encountered during trapping activities. We do consider accepting non-aggressive FIV-positive cats, and in instances where a cat tests FeLV-positive after intake, we are committed to ensuring that cat is placed in a safe, loving foster or adoptive home where they will be cared for for the rest of their life, regardless of prognosis.

When we are unable to accept a cat into our program, we strive to help by offering courtesy posts on our website and social media channels and by forwarding potential adopter inquiries to the cat's caregiver.

Finally, Tails High unconditionally accepts any cat originally adopted from our rescue if they ever need to be returned, regardless of circumstance or length of time since adoption. Our responsibility to our cats does not end when they leave for their forever homes. We believe that saving cats in our own backyard is essential to supporting our community, while also recognizing that there are times when our experience and resources allow us to assist cats from other areas with specific medical or behavioral needs. Every intake decision is guided by compassion, realism, and our commitment to doing right by the cats entrusted to our care.