**Caring Hearts Rescue Animal Intake Policy**

**General**

Intake volunteer conducts interviews with dog owners wanting to surrender their dog. Shelters transferring dogs to CHR must go through an officer for approval before transferring the dog.

**Dog Breeds**

Generally, dogs under 30 pounds but exceptions are made to that weight limit. All breeds but with an emphasis on small breeds.

**Dog Age**

CHR accepts all ages.

**Dog Health**

CHR policy on required vaccines and medical care:

1. Rabies Vaccine
2. Distemper Vaccine
3. Heartworm testing and all foster dogs kept current on heartworm medicine.
4. Fecal Testing
5. Dentals if the rescue dog has a grade 3+ dental disease.

**Dog Temperament**

CHR temperament tests all dogs entering the rescue program. If any of the dogs show any behavioral problems such as resource guarding or fear reactivity, CHR will keep the dog in its rehabilitation program until the dog shows improvement in behavior or until an adoptive family is found that is completely accepting of the dog’s behavioral needs, which CHR explains thoroughly to them.

**Rehabilitation Program**

All CHR dogs go through a rehabilitation period with a CHR foster parent. The average time a dog stays in the CHR foster program is 3-12 months. More difficult behavioral cases can remain in the CHR foster program for 1-2 years.