**Caring Hearts Rescue Animal Intake Policy**

**General**

An intake volunteer interviews dog owners who want to surrender their dogs. Shelters transferring dogs to CHR must first get approval from an officer 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 2+ 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. Generally, reactive dogs take up to two years to find a safe and responsible home.

**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.