

Animal intake general policy 2020

Stafford SPCA The Stafford SPCA accepts new animals into our shelter primarily on a space available basis and based on the health status and adoptability of the animal. We are a limited-intake shelter, and so cannot take in new animals if space is not available or if the animal is not adoptable for behavioral or medical reasons.

We primarily take in transfers from local shelters, especially those shelters that operate at capacity often and animals who are at risk for euthanasia as a result of limited space in shelters. We also take in owner surrenders from our county and surrounding counties, always on a space available basis.

We collect information about the animals up front, before the animals are brought to our shelter, to ensure that the animal is already spayed/neutered when possible, already up to date on vaccinations, and thus reasonably healthy and safe to enter our shelter environment. Generally, when accepting owner surrenders, we charge a fee to the owner if veterinary care is deficient, in order to bring the animal up to adoptable standards (fully vaccinated, spayed or neutered, etc.) We do not take custody of animals that we deem unadoptable. Thus, we never take in feral animals, animals with severe aggression or behavior issues, or animals too young or too old to thrive in a shelter environment.

We do accept injured or ill animals into our rescue, as long as we have confidence that we can raise the funds for their treatment. We accept the occasional stray dog or cat on holidays when our county Animal Control facility is closed, but we most often direct strays who show up at our shelter to the county Animal Control facility, since they are best equipped to handle them. We make each of our intake decisions on a case-by-case basis, according to the space available in our shelter, the perceived adoptability of the animal, and our current shelter resources.