

HAPPY TAILS ANIMAL RESCUE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA

Overview

Happy Tails Animal Rescue (Happy Tails) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to the rescue of animals from the harm of abuse, neglect, abandonment, and unnecessary euthanasia, and to the placement of animals with rescue organizations or adopters. We support and promote spaying and neutering of all cats and dogs to help control the pet overpopulation and promote education of the public about responsible pet ownership.

Happy Tails' primary purpose is to work in partnership with the Washington County VA C.C. Porter Animal Shelter in saving dogs and cats from unnecessary euthanasia due to overpopulation, lack of space, and treatable medical conditions. Our rescue program includes outreach and work with 501c3 rescue programs throughout Virginia and, occasionally, outside Virginia to transfer adoptable dogs and cats to breed-specific rescue programs as well as all-breed programs in more densely populated areas for spay/neuter, vaccination, and adoption.

Occasionally, Happy Tails will also provide similar rescue services to members of the community who seek to relinquish their dog or cat, thus preventing the animal from being taken to the shelter.

Intake Policy

1. Shelter Animals – Dogs and cats received from the county shelter typically fall into two categories:
 - a. Transport and transfer to another rescue program – these intake procedures typically involve the shelter transferring the animal to the care and custody of Happy Tails, who then transports and transfers the animal to another approved rescue program within the same day. Protocols are in place and implemented to reduce/prevent the spread of infectious disease, and animals are transported in safety kennels and individually housed to prevent interaction unless siblings/litters.
 - b. Intake for emergency medical care – animals in the custody of the county shelter who present a need for medical care are transferred to the care and custody of Happy Tails to seek emergency and preventative medical treatment. After animals are treated for injury and/or illness and are returned to a healthy state, they are transferred to other agencies as described above.
2. Owner-relinquished Animals – in circumstances whereby Happy Tails has agreed to assist with the re-homing of an animal currently in the care of a community member, the dog or cat is transferred to the care and custody of Happy Tails on the day of transport and then transferred to the receiving rescue later in the same day.

General Procedures

1. All animals receive an identification number and code for tracking purposes. A log sheet is kept for intake, disposition, and related information. Reporting is provided per state regulations.
2. Transfer documents for each animal are maintained, including copies of the intake release form from the county shelter or an owner-relinquish agreement from a community member. Happy Tails then utilizes a standard transfer form when transferring care and custody to the receiving rescue. All forms are signed by both the releasing and receiving people/rescue programs.
3. All animals are assessed for medical needs and any behavioral issues. Animals deemed in need of medical care are taken for veterinary assessment and treatment. Animals with observed behavioral issues beyond the capacity of our organization are refused for transfer/intake.
4. All volunteers are required to provide identifying information and execute anti-cruelty and related statements as required by the State.
5. Other procedures and protocols, such as adoption policies, etc, are also in place for the organization.