**City of Fairfax Police Department**

**Animal Shelter Intake Policy**

Beginning October 1, 2023, the City of Fairfax entered into a contract with the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to act as our animal shelter. The Fairfax County Animal Shelter provides the necessary care, housing and medical needs for the City of Fairfax’s shelter animals.

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter provides temporary humane shelter for the City of Fairfax’s lost, abandoned, surrendered, or otherwise homeless companion animals, including but not limited to, dogs, cats, and other small companion animals. The City of Fairfax’s Police Department, and the Fairfax County Animal Shelter have the responsibility of accepting any companion animal regardless of condition, originating from within the City of Fairfax.

Animal Control and Police Officers are authorized to pick up companion animals located within the City of Fairfax. In accordance with City code and state law, all stray companion animals without a form of identification, such as a microchip, ID tag, tattoo, collar, or rope, are kept for a minimum of **five (5) full days**. Companion animals found to have one of these forms of identification are kept for a minimum of **ten (10) full days**. Consistent with state law, a veterinarian will humanely euthanize any animal before the end of the stray period if two veterinarians on staff concur that the animal is suffering and that keeping it for the full stray hold period would be inhumane. Our Police Department will always be notified prior to the euthanasia of such animal.