

## **Animal Intake Policy Green Dogs Unleashed**

### **Purpose**

This policy establishes clear guidelines for the intake of animals into Green Dogs Unleashed (GDU). As a foster-only nonprofit rescue, intake decisions are made to ensure the safety, welfare, and long-term success of animals while remaining within the organization's capacity and resources.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all animals considered for intake by Green Dogs Unleashed, including dogs and other species approved by leadership. It applies to staff, volunteers, foster coordinators, intake coordinators, and leadership involved in intake decisions.

### **Foster-Only Intake Philosophy**

Green Dogs Unleashed is a foster-based rescue with no physical shelter facility. All animals taken into care must have an appropriate foster placement secured prior to intake.

Intake decisions are guided by the following principles:

- Animal welfare and humane treatment
- Foster, volunteer, and public safety
- Responsible use of financial and medical resources
- Transparency and ethical rescue practices
- Prioritizing placement success over intake volume

Green Dogs Unleashed does not operate on an open-intake model and cannot accept every animal in need.

### **Intake Sources**

Animals may be considered for intake from the following sources, subject to approval:

- Partner shelters or municipal agencies
- Other nonprofit rescue organizations
- Owner surrenders
- Emergency or cruelty cases
- Special circumstances approved by leadership

Submission of an intake request does not guarantee acceptance.

### **Intake Prerequisites**

An animal may only be approved for intake when all of the following conditions are met:

- An appropriate foster home is confirmed
- Adequate financial and medical resources are available
- The animal is legally eligible for transfer
- The organization has the ability to meet the animal's medical, behavioral, and training needs

### **Medical and Transport Requirements**

#### **Out-of-State Intakes**

All animals entering Green Dogs Unleashed from out of state must, prior to transport:

- Be current on age-appropriate vaccinations
- Have a valid negative heartworm test when applicable
- Have a valid health certificate issued for interstate transport, in accordance with state and federal regulations

Animals that do not meet these requirements will not be approved for intake or transport.

**In-State Transfers and Owner Surrenders**

Animals transferred or surrendered from within the state must be vaccinated on intake or within 24 hours of intake, unless medically contraindicated and approved by leadership.

**Behavioral Safety Standard**

Green Dogs Unleashed does not accept animals with a known history of human aggression. Safety of foster families, volunteers, adopters, and the public is a primary consideration in all intake decisions.

**Intake Evaluation Criteria****Foster Availability**

Because GDU is foster-only, intake is dependent on the availability of a foster home that is appropriate for the animal's size, age, temperament, medical needs, and training requirements.

**Medical Considerations**

Animals are evaluated based on known or disclosed medical conditions. Intake may be declined if the animal's needs exceed the organization's current medical capacity, funding, or access to appropriate veterinary care.

**Behavioral Considerations**

Behavioral history and observed behavior are reviewed carefully. Animals with behavioral challenges may be accepted if GDU has the resources, foster placement, and professional support necessary to manage them safely. Intake may be declined if the behavior presents an unmanageable risk or safety concern.

**Legal Status**

Animals must be legally transferable to Green Dogs Unleashed. Owner surrenders require a signed surrender agreement. Intake of strays must comply with local laws, stray hold requirements, and partner shelter protocols.

**Emergency Intakes**

Emergency intakes may be considered at the discretion of leadership. Emergency status does not override foster availability, safety considerations, or legal requirements.

**Intake Refusals**

If intake is declined, Green Dogs Unleashed may provide referrals or resources when possible. Intake refusal is based solely on organizational capacity, safety considerations, or regulatory requirements and does not reflect judgment of the animal or surrendering party.

**Authority and Decision Making**

Final authority for intake decisions rests with designated Green Dogs Unleashed leadership or the intake committee. Decisions are made in the best interest of the animal, foster families, volunteers, and the organization as a whole.

**Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed periodically and updated as needed to reflect changes in organizational capacity, applicable laws, or rescue operations.