

## ANIMAL INTAKE POLICY

Lionhearts' mission is to provide affordable spay/neuter services so as to decrease the number of unwanted cats and dogs left homeless in the community or surrendered to shelters. In addition, we commit to rescue cats and kittens in need regardless of age, breed, appearance, color or medical condition.

Our rescue organization (dba Purring Hearts VA) is completely foster-based, i.e. all of our rescues are taken in by a supervised foster family. This enables us to closely monitor each animal, facilitate proper socialization and ensure each is suitable for adoption. Outside the normal kitten season, we help potentially overlooked teenage and older cats to find forever homes. While our foster-based program provides many advantages, the number and availability of foster families at any given time limits the number of animals we can serve.

Because there is an endless need for our services at every time of year, we give priority in our intake process to endangered cats and kittens, and those in emergency situations. We also prioritize calls from local animal control agencies requesting help for very young or high-risk kittens or pregnant or nursing mother cats. We check every stray animal for microchips and contact local agencies to find owners. Members of the community may request assistance with a rescue or owner surrender on a case-by-case basis, and we make every effort to help every time. If we are full or have a waiting list, we refer them to agencies that may be able to assist.

We are a no-kill rescue and we provide medical care to special needs animals as much as we possibly can. Animals in our care will only be euthanized as a last resort, and only in the event of a terminal medical condition, in which the animal's suffering cannot otherwise be remediated.