**Intake of a Dog into the rescue**

**Evaluation and Temperament testing:**

Every dog must undergo a temperament test conducted by an authorized volunteer of Bobbie’s Pit Bull Rescue. A Protocol will be completed, reviewed, and must be approved by the director before the dog can enter the rescue.

Aggression: No dog will be taken into rescue that has a history of human aggression. Animal aggression is acceptable for the breed however it must be placed into a suitable foster home to assure the safety of other pets in the foster home. Dog and cat friendly dogs will be given priority to be placed into foster homes. However, aggressive dog rescues will be evaluated on a case by case basis and brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. Rehabilitation of dog aggression with designated fosters or training facilities will be taken into consideration depending on funds and availability.

**Shelter Dogs**: Either into a foster home or as a facilitated shelter adoption. Shelter pull paperwork must be on file for every dog pulled from the shelter for State Dept. of Agriculture audits.

* + 1. Evaluated prior to placement in an approved and appropriate foster for the skill level of both dog and foster
    2. To increase the number of “pit bull” and “pit bull mixes” adopted we are able to assist in placement through facilitated shelter adoption. In areas where shelters cannot adopt out due to county policies we facilitate these adoptions. The dog generally goes directly from shelter into adoptive home-all dogs are spayed or neutered prior to placement or within 30 days of leaving an animal control facility unless medically unable.
    3. Shelter dogs must receive all vaccinations required by law and be altered before placed in foster or adoptive homes. Exceptions are made if the dog is in immediate danger of being destroyed or for medical reasons provided by a veterinarian.
    4. No puppies will be pulled without the mother and the father. Every attempt will be made to save the whole family together.
    5. If 2 dogs come into the shelter from the same home we will make every attempt to pull and place them together in a foster or adoptive home.
    6. Every dog pulled into the rescue must be quarantined for a minimum of 7 days to prevent the spread of any diseases to other resident animals or humans.

**Owner Surrender:** Either into a foster home or facilitate adoption to public referral adoptions. An owner surrender form must be signed.

* + 1. All animals taken from owner surrender must be spayed or neutered and up to date on vaccinations. (exceptions are reviewed on case by case basis)
    2. Referral adoptions, Bobbie’s Pit Bull Rescue must be provided proof that the animal is altered before placed up for adoption. We can list the dog on the web site but we do not list the owners contact information.

iii. We will only release that information once application is approved and proof of sterilization is received. Home visit is still required.

**Found/Lost:** Either into a foster home or facilitate adoption to public or transfer to another organization.

> Reasonable attempts will be made to contact the organization where the dog came from, if known, and the local animal control facilities

**Abuse/Neglect:** Bobbie’s Pit Bull Rescue has no animal control (cruelty investigator) capacities if a dog needs to be removed from a property and will closely work with local authorities and laws to perform those duties. If the public requests our assistance referral must be made to the local Animal Control first.

**Returns from Foster/Adoptive home:**

- A re-evaluation needs to be conducted to determine temperament, physical state and adoptability so the dog can be placed in the right foster or adoptive home.

- Dogs who are returned for aggression will be assessed by a behaviorist.

- Rehabilitation will be attempted and sanctuary may be pursued. All reasonable accommodations will be made to avoid euthanasia.

Bobbie’s Pit Bull Rescue strongly beliefs that each dog is unique and needs to be looked at as an individual. Every dog will be given the chance of rehabilitation. Euthanasia is an absolutely last resort and is only acceptable if deemed necessary by a veterinarian for medical reasons or a behaviorist for aggression. It must be decided and voted on by the board members.

If a dog is required to be euthanized it will be performed by a licensed vet and the dog is required to first be sedated prior to euthanasia. Every reasonable attempt will be made to make that dogs’ last day THE BEST day of his life. A Bobbie’s Pit Bull Rescue volunteer must be present while the dog is being euthanized at the veterinary office.

**Euthanasia Policy**

*Bite levels all using official Dunbar scale*

Bobbies Pit Bull Rescue will make all reasonable attempts to avoid euthanasia for the dogs in its care. However, BPRS realizes that it has a responsibility to the dog itself, any potential adopter and the general public and will euthanize animals in the following instances:

Medical Issues

1. After consultation with a veterinarian, it is BPRS’s policy to euthanize an animal who:

* Has a condition for which there is either a poor prognosis for survival or where the animals is unable to live without suffering
* Will have a long and painful rehabilitation process with little chance of a good quality of life afterward
* Has an incurable and debilitating illness, or is not responding to treatment for a debilitating illness
* Has a medical issue that BPRS is financially unable to treat (over $5,000 for initial treatment), and the animal is suffering without treatment.

1. After consultation with a veterinarian and the BPRS Treasurer, BPRS may choose to euthanize an animal who requires medical treatment and is suffering even when the cost is under $5,000 for initial treatment, if BPRS is financially unable to treat it. In these cases, the board will take into account fundraising ability, payment plans and using cash reserves.

Behavioral Issues

1. It is BPRS policy to euthanize—without a medical or behavioral consult and regardless of the animal’s age or the circumstances of the bite—any dog who makes a Level 4 bite or above on a human. Due to the severity of a Level 4 bite, the poor prognosis for rehabilitation of dogs that bite at this level and the danger such a dog poses, BPRS will not pursue rehabilitation or sanctuary.
2. The BPRS board will deliberate and vote on whether euthanasia is necessary—without the requirement of a professional behavioral and medical consultation (although the board may opt to perform one or both)— for any dog who:

* makes a Level 3 bite on a human. The board will consider factors including but not limited to: the circumstances of the bite, the likelihood of rehabilitation, the ability of the foster home to comply with a training plan, the overall adoptability of the dog and room in the sanctuary.
* kills another dog or whose attack directly leads to the death of another dog.
* exhibits highly aggressive, proactive predatory behavior toward other dogs and is an active danger toward other dogs, or any dog who severely injures with the intent to kill another dog. In these cases, the board will consider factors including but not limited to: the prognosis for rehabilitation, the severity of aggression, the ability to contain the dog, the danger the dog poses toward humans.

1. A professional behavioral consultation and medical evaluation is required prior to a board vote on euthanasia when a dog:

* makes an *intentional* Level 2 bite on a human. Based on the dog’s prognosis for recovery through medication and behavior modification, as well as the danger the dog presents, board will vote on whether euthanasia is warranted.
* exhibits multiple instances of Level 1 behavior. Based on the dog’s prognosis for recovery through medication and behavior modification, as well as the danger the dog presents, board will vote on whether euthanasia is warranted. A treatment plan should be provided to the foster. No board vote on euthanasia is necessary unless treatment fails, bite scale rises or dog exhibits multiple instances of behavior.

Other Factors

BPRS strongly believes that each dog is unique and must be looked at as an individual and will actively pursue rehabilitation or sanctuary if it doesn’t compromise safety and is financially feasible. The board will consider factors including but not limited to:

* Danger to a potential adopter and community
* General adoptabilty of the animal
  + Sociability with humans
  + Behavior with other animals
  + Prey drive
  + Medical needs
  + Manageability
* Ability to modify behavior
* Projected quality of life of animal
* Suitability for the sanctuary
* Available room in the sanctuary