

## **Billy the Kidden Rescue Intake Policy**

A 501c3 foster home-based rescue, BTKR services the Hampton Roads area, also known as Tidewater or the "7 Cities". We accept intakes, as space and resources allow, from Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Chesapeake and Portsmouth primarily. Cats and kittens in Suffolk, Hampton and Newport News are also considered, but not prioritized. We do not accept intakes from North Carolina, or out of state, except in extremely rare circumstances.

Our cats and kittens are primarily intaken from trapping efforts in areas with ferals, reported to us by concerned citizens. All kittens found at active trap sites are retained, socialized, vetted and placed up for adoption. All strays, dumps and friendly cats, found having matriculated into feral colonies, are retained for stray hold with every effort to locate a possible owner and stray holds being reported to the city in which the cat was found. After 21-30 days of quarantine (to include the reported 10 day stray hold), friendly cats are placed up for adoption. We utilize microchip scanning, social media, local lost pet resources and stray hold reporting to reunite lost pets with owners whenever possible.

In addition to trapped animals, we also accept limited owner surrenders and many transfers from several local shelters, particularly when animals are slated for euthanasia, due to space or illness. We specifically target feral and semi-feral cats, which we place in our barn cat program, FIV and FeLV cats, for which we have specific special needs foster homes and kittens slated for euthanasia due to ring worm or other 100% curable diseases.

Intake decisions are primarily based on space, financial resources available and ease of adoptability. To make intake decisions subjective, an intake scoring tool is used to decide which animals to take vs. refer to other rescues, when limited space is available during peak seasons. When BTKR is full, concerned citizens are encouraged to contact local shelters and SPCAs with no kill policies and low euthanasia rates, as well as other cat rescues in our geographical area. We do maintain a wait list during peak season and will place concerned citizens on it and notify them as space becomes available for their cats or kittens.

All animals we intake are held in quarantine for a minimum of 11-30 days depending on their location of origin and then begin the process of parasite treatment, vaccines, spay/neuter and socialization for adoption.

Any further questions regarding our intake policy can be directed to Executive Director Olivia Packer, Trap Director Joyce Rutti and/or President/CFO Emilie Jackson.

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