

Intake Policy

How Homes Fur Hounds Finds Dogs

Most dogs come from shelters. Some are born in rescue, some are found as strays, some are rescue transfers, and others are owner surrenders.

Homes Fur Hounds works with volunteers and shelter staff in Virginia who pull dogs from shelters. Many of these shelters are in the rural areas of Virginia where they are less likely to be adopted.

How Homes Fur Hounds Decides Which Dogs To Bring In

Potential dogs are identified by Intake Coordinators. Homes Fur Hounds helps dogs in dire need first. We consider pulling dogs that are:

- In shelters in immediate danger of being euthanized
- In shelters needing immediate medical help that the shelter cannot provide
- Found running or roaming
- Deprived of food, water, shelter, or veterinary care
- Surrendered by their owners

Intake Process

Intake steps for out-of-state dogs

1. **Temperament test the dog.**

Behavior assessment is done by the shelter and by the veterinarian the shelter uses. Dogs that do not pass temperament testing are not released to rescue.

2. **Tag the dog.**

Homes Fur Hounds chooses a dog and notifies the shelter/facility using the ID number they have assigned to the dog. The ID number becomes part of our tracking system and animal custody record.

3. **Hold the dog.**

The state in which the dog resides holds the dog for a state- or vet-specified amount of time, e.g., in Texas dogs are held 10-21 days before releasing to rescue. The dog is ready for transport to a rescue when the veterinarian issues a health certificate for the dog.

4. **Transport the dog.**

The state in which the dog resides holds the dog for a quarantine period to ensure that contagious dogs are not transported across state lines. During the quarantine period, the dogs are boarded in that state at either a Homes Fur Hounds approved veterinarian or a

Homes Fur Hounds, Inc.

temporary foster home. After the quarantine period, the dog is examined by a veterinarian who issues a Health Certificate for travel.

5. **Deliver dog to the foster parent.**

The foster parent either meets the transport with a Homes Fur Hounds representative or the representative delivers the dog to the foster parent at a specified location.

6. **Vet-check the dog.**

The dog is vet-checked by our approved veterinarian soon after arriving at the foster home.

Intake steps when a dog is found as a stray (in state):

1. Report the dog to the Animal Control Officer (ACO).
2. Unless the owner is found and wants the dog back, the dog typically remains with Homes Fur Hounds in a foster home until ACO formally releases the dog to us.
3. The dog is vet-checked by an approved veterinarian soon after arriving at the foster home.

Intake steps during a rescue transfer:

1. The rescue/shelter contacts Homes Fur Hounds.
2. Homes Fur Hounds contacts the rescue/shelter and sets an appointment to meet with the dog.
3. Homes Fur Hounds performs a temperament test of the dog, if deemed necessary (the rescue/shelter may have already done a temperament test).
4. The rescue/shelter completes (and signs) the Rescue Transfer Agreement.
5. The dog is transferred by a Homes Fur Hounds representative to a foster home.
6. The dog is vet-checked by an approved veterinarian soon after arriving at the foster home, unless the dog's medical records show that it is current on all vaccines.

Intake steps during an owner surrender:

1. The owner fills out the online Owner Surrender Form to start the surrendering process.
2. Homes Fur Hounds contacts the owner and sets an appointment to meet the owner and the dog.
3. Homes Fur Hounds performs a temperament test of the dog.
4. The owner completes (and signs) the Owner Surrender Agreement.
5. The dog is transferred by a Homes Fur Hounds representative to a foster home.
6. The dog is vet-checked by an approved veterinarian soon after arriving at the foster home, unless the dog's medical records show that it is current on all vaccines.

Information Collected During Intake

The Intake Coordinator responsible for the intake of a dog is responsible for obtaining the required (by law) documentation for transfer of ownership. Depending on the dog's path to Homes Fur Hounds, the following documents are collected with the dog:

- Ownership transfer document
 - Rescue Transfer Form
 - Shelter Transfer paperwork (which is typically provided by the shelter)
 - Owner Surrender Form
- Health Certificate (if coming from out-of-state)

Homes Fur Hounds, Inc.

- Veterinary records
- Proof of Rabies vaccination and Rabies tag # (if issued one)

How Homes Fur Hounds Handles the Information Collected During Intake

Homes Fur Hounds enters information about each dog into a database.

This information includes:

- Original Dog name Or ID Number assigned by shelter
- Name assigned by Homes Fur Hounds
- Intake date
- Intake reason
- Shelter/owner name, address and email/phone contact information
- Gender
- Age
- Approximate weight
- Neuter/spay status
- Description of overall health, veterinary recommendations, treatment plans

Why Homes Fur Hounds Sometimes Temporarily Closes Intake

Homes Fur Hounds receives many requests each month to take in dogs and we sincerely regret the occasions where we are not able to take a dog. We do not have a facility that houses dogs, and unfortunately we cannot legally accommodate a dog if we do not have an available foster home or the funds to care for it prior to adoption.

When we have no available foster homes or lack the funds to care for new dogs, Homes Fur Hounds closes the intake process until foster homes and/or the necessary funds are available.