

Hooves & Paws Animal Rescue

Animal Intake Policy

Purpose

Hooves & Paws Animal Rescue (HPAW) is committed to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming animals while maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare, staff and volunteer safety, and organizational sustainability. This Animal Intake Policy establishes clear, ethical, and capacity-based guidelines for accepting animals into the care of HPAW.

Scope

This policy applies to all animals considered for intake by Hooves & Paws Animal Rescue, including but not limited to dogs, cats, rabbits, horses, donkeys, alpacas, pigs, goats, sheep, and cattle.

Intake Philosophy

HPAW operates under a **capacity-for-care** model. Intake decisions are based on the organization's ability to meet each animal's physical, medical, behavioral, and emotional needs without compromising the welfare of animals already in care.

Sources of Intake

Animals may be accepted from the following sources: - Owner surrenders - Animal control and municipal shelters - Other rescue organizations - Law enforcement or cruelty cases - Emergency or disaster response situations (as resources allow)

Acceptance of animals from any source is not guaranteed and is subject to evaluation under this policy.

Intake Criteria

Animals will be evaluated prior to acceptance based on the following considerations: - Available housing and appropriate species-specific space - Financial capacity to provide routine and emergency veterinary care - Staffing and trained volunteer availability - Behavioral and safety considerations - Quarantine and isolation capacity - Long-term placement potential and quality-of-life assessment

HPAW reserves the right to decline intake when acceptance would exceed safe or humane capacity.

Medical and Behavioral Assessment

All animals accepted into HPAW care will receive: - An initial health assessment as soon as reasonably possible - Required vaccinations appropriate to species and age - Parasite prevention and treatment - Behavioral observation and assessment

Animals with known contagious diseases, severe medical conditions, or significant behavioral challenges may be declined or accepted only if adequate resources and appropriate placement options are available.

Quarantine and Biosecurity

Newly admitted animals may be placed in quarantine or isolation in accordance with veterinary guidance to prevent disease transmission. Intake may be delayed or declined if appropriate quarantine space is unavailable.

Owner Surrenders

Owner surrenders are accepted by appointment only and require: - Completion of an owner surrender form - Disclosure of medical, behavioral, and ownership history - Proof of ownership where applicable

Emergency and Cruelty Case Intakes

Emergency intakes, including cruelty seizures or disaster responses, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Acceptance will depend on immediate welfare needs and available resources. Coordination with law enforcement and veterinary professionals may be required.

Species-Specific Considerations

Due to differing care requirements, intake limits may vary by species. HPAW may temporarily suspend intake for certain species if appropriate housing, expertise, or funding is unavailable.

Euthanasia Policy

HPAW does not euthanize animals for space. Humane euthanasia may be considered only in cases of untreatable medical suffering, severe behavioral risk with no safe alternatives, or veterinary recommendation in the best interest of the animal.

Review and Authority

Final authority for intake decisions rests with the Director of Animal Operations or their designee. This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect best practices and organizational capacity.

Acknowledgment

All staff and volunteers involved in intake decisions must be familiar with and adhere to this policy to ensure ethical, consistent, and humane outcomes for animals in HPAW care.