

Shady's Paw Animal Rescue: Animal Intake Policy

1. Organizational Overview

Shady's Paw Animal Rescue is a foster-based, all-volunteer nonprofit organization. We do not operate a physical shelter facility and rely entirely on a network of foster homes to provide care for cats in transition. Our mission includes Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR), rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption services.

2. Intake Pathways

Cats may enter our care through the following primary channels:

- **Stray & Abandoned Cats:** Includes unowned kittens and socialized cats found by community members or private rescuers.
- **Owner Surrenders:** Reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Priority is given to owners who have exhausted all other rehoming alternatives.
- **Transfers:** Cats may be accepted from other rescue organizations or agencies when they lack placement and we have available capacity.
- **TNVR Program:** Feral community cats trapped for sterilization and vaccination. If a cat trapped via TNVR is determined to be socialized/adoptable, they may be moved into the adoption program.

3. Intake Procedures & Evaluation

- **Ownership Assessment:** All cats undergo a microchip scan and evaluation for signs of ownership (collars, grooming, or ear-tips).
- **Legal Requirements:** Stray cats are reported to local Animal Control as required by law and are held for the duration of the jurisdiction's legal stray-hold period.
- **Health & Temperament:** Every potential intake receives a physical and behavioral assessment. Cats with medical concerns or special needs are accepted only if a foster home capable of managing their treatment is available.
- **Standard Care:** Cats entering the adoption program receive age-appropriate vaccinations (FVRCP/Rabies), deworming, flea prevention, microchipping, and spay/neuter surgery.

4. Temporary vs. Permanent Surrender

- **Permanent:** Ownership is fully relinquished to Shady's Paw for placement. A written agreement must be executed for all surrenders.
- **Temporary:** Accepted only in limited crisis circumstances (e.g., emergency hospitalization or temporary housing displacement) where reunification is the intended goal.

5. Intake Limitations & Authority

- **Capacity-Based Decisions:** Because we are foster-based, intake is strictly limited by available foster space, financial resources, and volunteer availability.
- **No-Kill Commitment:** Shady's Paw is a no-kill rescue. Euthanasia is only considered at the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian to relieve unmanageable pain or suffering.
- **Final Authority:** The Executive Director and/or Director of Operations have the final authority on all intake and euthanasia decisions.