



The Grace Card

INTAKE POLICY

The Grace Card, Inc. is a limited-intake organization serving senior, special needs (medical and behavioral), and cats that are deemed difficult to adopt. The Grace Card, Inc. accepts animals including, but not limited to, stray animals, owned animals and animals pulled from shelters.

The Grace Card, Inc. provides a retirement home and forever fosters for senior pets and those with severe medical or behavioral issues. Except on initial intake for unsocialized cats, we do not use crates or cages for containment of our cats. They have beds, cat trees, cat cubes, toys to play with and they enjoy all of the amenities that a loving home and family has to offer.

1. Senior cats are defined as cats age 10+
2. Special needs can be defined as cats that are not readily adoptable and to which one or more of the following apply:
 - a. Have serious, chronic health issues such as diabetes or other “high maintenance” and “high cost” conditions incurring expensive veterinary care and/or requiring long term or specialized foster care placements.
 - b. Cats that will require extended periods of time to adapt to a new environment, including those that are timid or semi-feral but cannot remain in their home or territory for some compelling reason.
 - c. Are not expected to become adoptable within a reasonable period of time and/or are anticipated to exceed a six-month time period in foster care.
3. Difficult to adopt will include colony cats that must be rescued due to medical or safety concerns and are not expected to become adoptable within a reasonable period of time and without additional socialization in a foster situation.

The Grace Card’s policy is to help an animal in the most need first. Senior and special needs animals will be prioritized for intake as follows:

1. Medical emergency
2. Abuse/neglect including cat deprived of food, water, shelter, or veterinary care
3. At risk of euthanasia
4. Stray animal found running or roaming
5. Transfers from shelters
6. All owned animals

Owner surrenders will be accepted for seniors and special needs under the following guidelines:

1. Seniors who have passed away or are forced to leave their home to move into seniors’ housing with no-pet policies
2. Pet owners who are stricken with debilitating or fatal illnesses and can no longer care for their pets
3. Persons who have become homeless



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4. Persons who have left a domestic violence situation.

Upon intake, the following procedures will be implemented for each animal:

1. If found stray, the cat will be scanned for a chip and if one is found the owner will be contacted, if no chip is found, the local animal shelter to where the cat was found will be notified, social medial posts directed to that county/location will be placed in the lost and found groups, and all efforts will be made to find the rightful owner.
2. All incoming information will be documented including the date and where the animal was found, or owner's name if surrendering, cat breed, color, sex, chip number, and initial observations.
3. A complete medical assessment will be performed and any illnesses treated, and vaccinations administered, if no records available.
4. A behavioral assessment will be performed.
5. Incoming cats will be kept isolated from other animals in the household for at least 7 days in a room by themselves to confirm that no communicable illnesses are present and to give the cat time to adjust to its new surroundings.
6. Unless not recommended due to medical or age concerns (such as seniors), all cats will be spayed/neutered.
7. Any animal that is returned needs to be reassessed behaviorally and medically. Information to be included in all records:

Any animal that needs time to improve, either medically or behaviorally, will be given sufficient time to do so. In addition, an individualized medical or behavioral plan should be created for each animal by the Director, in conjunction with veterinarians, foster, and behavior experts and trainers if needed. Every foster provider should be given a realistic assessment for the length of time an animal will need specialized care before the pet can be put up for adoption.

We are dedicated to giving senior cats forever foster homes in their golden years. In some cases, we can find them forever foster homes. We do not have a facility. Our rescues are fostered in private homes.

Because the need is great, we do have a wait list of cats to come into our rescue. Donations are limited and the cost to care for senior cats is high, so we cannot accept owner surrenders unless a suitable donation is made to help defray the cost of the cat's care. The donation can be \$150 – \$500 depending on the health of the cat, and the cat must be up to date on vaccinations and vet records provided.

The Grace Card, Inc. is a no-kill animal rescue, we will never euthanize residents to make room for new animals or take the life of any healthy or treatable animal. Once we admit an animal into our care, we treat that animal no differently than we would expect a loving pet guardian to do. If our veterinarian determines that a pet in our care requires veterinary treatment for a sickness or injury, we provide that care so as to return that pet to a healthy or a manageable condition. We only euthanize a pet if our veterinarian determines that the pet is too severely sick or injured to ever recover to a life of quality and is suffering.