



## CAT COVE, INC. INTAKE POLICY

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Cat Cove, Inc. (CCI) provides a foster home and rescue resource to improve the lives of community (homeless) cats.

CCI's will intake on space available basis felines from rescues, shelters, property owners who report strays, and pet owners who wish to surrender their felines. Intakes are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

CCI is primarily a foster to adopt rescue but works with pet owners to enable them to keep their pets by providing needed information and temporary fostering. Pet owner surrenders are prioritized based on urgency, condition of the pet, and CCI rescue capacity.

CCI has formal and informal alliances with like-missioned rescues. Custody transfers between these rescues are defined on a case-by-case basis and are prioritized based on urgency.

Custody transfers from rescues must follow current CCI transfer protocols documenting health status and socialization.

CCI exercises due diligence to locate owners in the event a lost pet is taken into custody.

Original version: 1/25/2023 Revision: 1/20/2024

### **Intake Criteria, Considerations and Practices (1/20/2024)**

**Geography:** The location of a feline in need is not relevant to CCI's intake consideration.

**CCI Capacity:** CCI's rescue capacity is the combination of foster home space, volunteer hours and financial budget. A deficit in any one of these areas will result in closing the rescue to intake.

**Fees:** CCI does not consider possible fees collected from future adoption as a condition of intake. However, like most non-profit rescue organization, CCI relies on donations. CCI accepts donations at intake to support future care of the feline.

**Practices between organizations and the public:** It is common practice between shelters, rescue organizations and independent rescuers to provide support for the feline when asking CCI to take custody of the feline. This support is in the form of monetary donations, supplies, volunteers, and veterinary care when CCI agrees to intake. When at or past capacity, reluctantly CCI will decline or wait list a request.



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**Adoptability:** CCI hopes to see all felines adopted. However, adoptability is not a criterion for intake. Often socialization and adoptability cannot be determined at intake when the feline is frightened or stressed. Frequently adoptability is determined after days or weeks of observation.

**Rehomed Pets:** CCI will assume custody of pets when owners either die or cannot care for them. CCI works with pet owners who have failing health, financial situation limiting their choices in housing or their ability to care for their pet, or a family situation requiring surrender of their pet.

**Kittens:** Pet owners who have failed to sterilize their pets turn to CCI to take kittens. CCI encourages spay/neutering of pets and will not support the owner's lack of action to sterilize their pets by taking future litters. Only one litter will be taken. CCI refers those owners to local spay/neuter service organizations and follows up with those owners to facilitate the spay/neutering of their pets.

**Wait List:** When unable to take felines due to rescue capacity limits, CCI will work with rescues and the public by placing felines on CCI's intake wait list. CCI will support owners when possible until the feline can be placed in another home or CCI can foster. CCI will facilitate veterinary care, including Spay/Neuter by making connections with other organizations that provide needed services. CCI will provide needed items like food and wellness treatments as needed to prepare the felines for future intake.

### Special Needs and Seniors:

CCI will take felines who are elderly or have special needs. In the best interest of the feline, CCI will provide a sanctuary or hospice care if CCI determines the feline is not adoptable or that another move will be too stressful.

Felines with medical special needs are accepted. CCI's network includes rescues who specialize in adoptions of those felines. CCI seeks placement with other rescues or adoption in the best interest of the feline. If that is not possible, CCI commits to the forever care of the feline.

**Emergency and Urgent Intake:** CCI will attempt to answer all calls asking to help a feline in need. This often occurs when a sick or injured cat or kitten is found, and vet facilities and Animal Control offices are closed. CCI provides basic first aid and a safe place until veterinary services are available.