Justice for Paws Animal Rescue

Animal Intake Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for the intake of dogs and cats into Justice for Paws Animal Rescue. As a foster-based rescue, we prioritize animals in immediate need while ensuring our resources are used effectively. This policy reflects our mission to save lives and promote equity in animal welfare.

1. Eligible Animals for Intake

Justice for Paws Animal Rescue accepts:

• Dogs and Cats from Shelters and Rescues: Both in-state and out-of-state, focusing on those at risk of euthanasia or with limited options for placement.

• Animals with Medical or Behavioral Challenges: We will accept animals with treatable conditions as long as resources and foster homes are available to support them.

• Emergency Cases: Animals in disaster situations or from hoarding cases may be prioritized when resources allow.

We do not accept:

• Animals whose medical or behavioral needs exceed our capacity.

• Transfers without proper documentation, such as vaccination and medical history.

2. Intake Process

1. Coordination with Partner Organizations

• Shelters and rescues must provide detailed animal histories, including behavior, medical status, and vaccination records.

• For out-of-state transfers, all legal transport requirements, including health certificates, must be met.

2. Initial Assessment

• Upon arrival, all animals undergo a veterinary check and behavioral evaluation.

• Immediate needs, such as vaccinations, deworming, or emergency medical care, are addressed during intake.

3. Quarantine and Preparation

• Animals are placed in quarantine for a minimum of 10–14 days to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

• Spay/neuter surgeries, microchipping, and other essential treatments are completed during this period.

4. Foster Placement

• Animals are matched with foster families based on their individual needs.

• Foster families are provided with a complete medical and behavioral history, as well as supplies and training.

3. Intake Prioritization

Justice for Paws operates on a limited capacity basis. Priority will be given to:

• Animals in immediate danger of euthanasia.

• Animals from shelters or areas with limited resources.

• Animals in need of specialized care that aligns with our expertise.

When resources are constrained, animals may be placed on a waitlist or referred to other organizations.

4. Documentation and Compliance

• All animals must have accurate medical and behavioral records from their originating shelter or rescue.

• Out-of-state animals must comply with state and federal transport regulations, including health certificates.

• A transfer agreement must be completed for every intake, detailing the responsibilities of both parties.

5. Emergency Situations

In cases of natural disasters, abuse, neglect, or hoarding, exceptions may be made to accommodate urgent intakes. Resource allocation and foster availability will determine the scope of emergency intakes.

6. Capacity and Resource Management

Justice for Paws is committed to not overextending resources. Intake is carefully managed to:

• Ensure every animal receives quality medical care and support.

• Avoid overburdening foster families.

• Maintain financial stability for the organization.

7. Commitment to Equity

Justice for Paws is dedicated to rescuing animals from underserved areas and providing opportunities for vulnerable populations. We strive to serve communities equitably, ensuring animals from all backgrounds are treated with dignity and compassion.

8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to reflect the changing needs of Justice for Paws, our foster network, and the animals we serve.

Adopted on: 1/1/2025 by review

Approved by: Colette Junod, President JFP