

Dogs Deserve Better Eastern Shore - Intake Policy

When conducting community outreach to provide food, shelter, water, and over-the-counter flea and tick prevention for community pets, we may encounter pet owners willing to surrender their dogs for a chance at a better life. Through education, owners may decide to surrender their dogs if they feel unable to provide proper care.

There may be times, DDB-ESVA may intervene to rescue a dog found in immediate physical or medical danger. In such situations, we contact the appropriate animal control department for the county where the dog was found. The dog is then held for the required legal holding period—typically 5 to 10 days—while animal control attempts to locate the owner and publicize the lost pet. Once the holding period expires without an owner coming forward, DDB-ESVA assumes guardianship of the dog and proceeds with necessary steps to prepare the animal for adoption by an approved adopter.

Upon intake to DDB-ESVA, all dogs are scanned for a microchip to check for existing ownership by an Animal Control Officer and/or veterinarian or vet tech. Since DDB-ESVA does not have a physical facility, intake dogs typically go directly to a veterinary clinic. Here, they are provided with isolation from other animals for decompression and prevention of contagious illnesses, vaccinations, deworming, and any additional medical care necessary to ensure they are healthy and safe for transfer to an approved foster home..

Protocol for Incoming Dogs

1. Microchip Scanning: Upon arrival, all DDB-ESVA dogs will be scanned by ACO or veterinarian for a microchip to confirm and determine proper ownership.

2. Veterinary Assessment and Care: All DDB-ESVA dogs will be taken to a veterinary clinic for assessment and treatment of any injuries or illnesses. They will also receive standard veterinary care, including deworming, bloodwork and start of vaccination including rabies vaccine.

*DDB-ESVA follows all veterinary recommendations regarding the health and behavior of newly intake dogs

If spay or neuter surgery is needed and the dog is deemed healthy, the procedure will be scheduled.

2a. Dogs 6 Months and over with No Vaccination History or Unknown History:

Vaccinations: Rabies, Bordetella, 1st DHPP - DHPP booster will be scheduled.

2b. If dog is heartworm negative, heartworm preventative will be given.

2c. Dogs Under 6 Months with No Vaccination History: Puppies under 6 months of age will not be permitted to interact with other non vaccinated animals.

2d. Vaccinations: Puppy parvo/distemper and bordetella, vaccines will be scheduled along with parvo/distemper booster per veterinarian recommendation.

Dogs will be checked for fleas and ticks:

- If fleas or ticks are present, capstar will be given, and ticks will be removed. The following day, regular flea and tick preventative will be given.
- If no fleas or ticks are found, flea and tick preventative will be applied immediately.

3. Proper paperwork, which includes surrender form, any immunization records including rabies certificate from prior vet, State Animal Custody Record, Health Certificate (if out of state) will be finalized for intake, making sure all paperwork is present and correct.

4. Once the proper vetting and isolation period is complete, DDB-ESVA staff member will help the dog to be placed in a fully vetted DDB-ESVA foster home. Staff members will assist in proper introduction to resident pets, assisting with setting up management inside the fosters home for decompression and slow introduction to the animals new home, along with coaching the foster on any behavioral or medical concerns for the animal.