



### **Intake Policy**

Wayward Paws Animal Sanctuary & Transport (WPAST) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, home-based animal rescue serving mainly Tazewell County Virginia & Mercer County West Virginia. Intake is based on availability of foster spots and the urgency of the situation that the animal is currently in. Neonates/unweaned kittens & puppies, medical cases, and animals in unsafe situations are the highest priority. Our main foster homes are set up primarily for cats and they are our primary focus at this time but other species are considered on a case-by-case basis as foster space allows. WPAST does not and will not euthanize an animal unless medically or behaviorally indicated. All animals that are deemed not eligible for adoption or transfer to a rescue partner will remain in the custody and care of the rescue for the remainder of their lives. Feral/Community cats are not considered eligible for intake but may be considered for sanctuary status if habitat destruction or another threat is imminent as feral/community cats are not considered adoptable and moving a colony can be very detrimental to its members. It is only considered as a last resort otherwise TNVR assistance will be implemented.

### **Strays**

All animals claimed to be strays and found by the public will be held for 11 days with identification (collars, microchips, tattoos) and for 6 days without identification unless euthanasia is recommended for severe behavioral or medical issues. All animals will be scanned for microchips & examined for tattoos upon intake.

### **Owner Surrenders**

All owner surrenders require a release form to be signed outlining specific details of the animal and informing the owner that updates in the future may not be possible. Owners will agree to provide all medical records and disclose any and all medical & behavioral history to the rescue. Owners who do not disclose all medical & behavioral history will be blocked from surrendering in the future. Owners who surrender are generally not eligible for adoption from WPAST but will be considered on a case-by-case basis if extenuating or temporary circumstances led to the surrender. We will not accept animals that have bitten someone in the last 10 days until the quarantine period is up.

### **Temporary Fostering/Boarding**

Temporary foster situations (due to Domestic Violence or Temporary Housing issues) require a contract to be signed outlining start and end dates of fostering, if any assistance by the owner is required while in care of the rescue (food, litter, medications, veterinary care, room/board, etc.), contact information, pet information, copies of health records, clear communication expectations, & a dates to re-evaluate the owner & pet situation to see if contract amendments are necessary. Should the owner breach the contract, animal(s) will be considered abandoned and disposition will be up to the discretion of the rescue.

### **Wildlife**

We cannot accept wildlife as we are not yet wildlife rehabilitators. We can help with contacting and transporting to a licensed rehabber in many circumstances.