

Forsyth County Animal Shelter

Rescue Partner Policy Agreement

Forsyth County Animal Shelter (FCAS) is responsible for enforcing the laws that protect animals, sheltering and returning stray pets to their owners and promoting responsible pet ownership. Some animals who come to our agency may need medical or behavior rehabilitation beyond the scope of our resources. We are also a high volume shelter and have limited capacity. By working with Rescue Partners, FCAS can offer these animals a second chance at recovery and the opportunity to find an appropriate home.

Commitment of the Rescue Partner Organization

- The organization will submit a copy of its 501(c)(3) designation to Forsyth County Animal Shelter, including a copy of its corporate delegation of authority, if applicable. They will provide additional documentation or updated proof of nonprofit status if requested.

- The organization has obtained and shall continue to maintain any such licenses and certifications as are necessary to operate as a rescue organization and shall present such licenses and certifications to FCAS if requested. They agree to remain in compliance with all federal, state, and local animal laws.

- The organization will provide a completed Information Sheet to help match animals in need with appropriate placement and keep contact information up to date. A Rescue Partner policy agreement is also required.

- The organization will designate individuals who can authorize transporters. FCAS reserves the right to refuse release of an animal to a person who is not in compliance with federal, state, or local animal welfare laws.

- The organization will not hold FCAS responsible for the cost of any outside veterinary care or damages incurred after the animal has been released to the organization's custody. The organization shall not hold FCAS, its employees, agents, or officials responsible for any liabilities, claims, suits, or demands which may be incurred as a result of any act or omission committed and performed under the terms of this agreement by the organization or anyone under agreement with the organization.

- If not done before the time of transfer, the organization will have any animal placed in their custody surgically spayed or neutered, if medically appropriate, prior to final placement.

- The organization understands that no warranty to health, temperament, or estimated age is implied or guaranteed.

- In the event the organization takes custody of an animal involved in an open investigation, the organization agrees to comply with all reasonable requests from FCAS and the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Animal Services division for updates pertinent to said investigation.

- The organization agrees to abide by the decision of FCAS regarding an animal's eligibility to be released to a Rescue Partner. FCAS will not knowingly release an animal that poses a threat to public safety. In the case of an animal that has a history of- or shows- behavior that causes concern, FCAS will disclose such information within its control to the Rescue Partner and will only make that animal available to organizations with expertise in such behavior modification.

- The organization that completes the transfer process and claims responsibility for an animal from FCAS, will be the same organization to maintain custody for the animal until its final placement.

- The organization will approve a transporter in writing to FCAS each time an animal is to be transported from the FCAS facility. Electronic communication is appropriate and preferred. A Transport Agreement will be signed by the transporter on behalf of the organization for each transport. Transfer will be considered final upon completion of paperwork and departure of the animal from FCAS.

- The organization will only place animals with adopters who will respect them as companions and not use them for the sole purpose of protection or hunting. The organization will never release an animal to be used for medical experimentation or research.
- The organization will meet the minimum standard of animal care for housing, nutrition, medical care, and socialization appropriate to the species. The organization will not use behavior modification techniques that are mentally or physically damaging to the animal. Daily observation of the animals is required. If a NC-licensed facility, the organization must be currently licensed by the State Dept of Agriculture. If foster-based, all minimum care guidelines are applicable. FCAS reserves the right to inspect the facility at any time.
- The organization will renew this agreement each year by sending FCAS a new completed agreement and Information Sheet. The organization will be given ample notice by FCAS when it is time to renew. The rescue will notify FCAS within 72 hours of any changes to the rescue or dissolution.

Commitment of Forsyth County Animal Services

- FCAS will inform the organization of their approval or denial as a Rescue Partner in a timely manner.
- Once approved, FCAS will accept the services of the organization.
- FCAS will provide information on an animal that will enable the organization to make an informed decision whether or not to accept the animal into their care.
- FCAS will provide instruction on changes to FCAS policy and procedure that will impact the organization.
- FCAS will provide support and maintain open communication with the organization during interactions on the job, including responding to emails and phone calls in a timely manner.
- FCAS will respect the skills and individual expertise of each organization and understand their resource limitations.
- FCAS will provide feedback on interactions and provide opportunity for the organization to give feedback in order to better accomplish mutual goals.
- FCAS will be available, within reason, to the organization and willing to discuss issues of concern in either an impromptu discussion or pre-arranged meeting time.

I agree that I have the authorization to enter into this agreement on behalf of the Rescue Partner Organization listed below, and that I have read and agree to all policies outlined in this agreement. I understand that I assume full responsibility for the well-being of the animal while under my organization’s care. I agree that I will conduct due diligence and otherwise make my best efforts to place any animals(s) obtained from Forsyth County in safe and healthy environments and I further agree that I will not knowingly place an animal into an environment where it may harm a person or another animal. I understand that failure to comply with these policies may result in the organization's removal as an approved Rescue Partner.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Name of Organization _____