

Current SOP Language

Any stray animal brought into Marshall County Animal Shelter will be available for adoption providing they have been held for seven (7) days. Animals who are eligible for adoption, that have not been adopted after 60 days will be euthanized.

Potential Language

Stray hold and Notification. Any stray animal brought into Marshall County Animal Shelter will be available for adoption providing they have been held for seven (7) days. The 7-day count begins the day after intake. Details about the stray animal will be posted on the 24PetConnect website and on the shelter Facebook page within twenty-four (24) business hours of intake to facilitate reclaim of the animal.

Euthanasia as an act of mercy or to prevent spread of disease. Any confined dog or cat that is injured or diseased may, as an act of mercy, be humanely destroyed immediately after inspection by a veterinarian who has determined that such destruction is necessary to prevent irremediable suffering, to prevent the spread of disease, or because the animal is incurable.

Euthanasia based on time. Animals who are eligible for adoption (day 8 of impound and excluding the date of impound) that have not been adopted after sixty (60) days may be euthanized in consideration of the following time periods and considerations.

(1) Computation of time.

(a) The 60-day period begins on the day when the animal becomes available for adoption following the hold period which is day eight (8) of the impound period.

(b) If an animal is adopted and returned due to incompatibility of the placement, the 60-day time period will restart on the date of return provided it is within three (3) months of adoption.

(2) No animal will be euthanized following the 60-day period unless the following conditions are met.

(a) There are no empty cages, kennels, or other living environments at the shelter facility, either inside the building or outside the building.

(b) The animal cannot share a cage or kennel with another animal;

(c) The shelter has made a plea to foster homes and a foster home is not available.

(d) Notification has been made by telephone or verifiable written or electronic communication with any rescue organization or rescuer that has previously requested to be notified before animals are euthanized.

(e) Unless there is evidence of neglect or animal cruelty as certified in writing by a veterinarian, a reasonable attempt is made to notify by telephone or verifiable written or electronic communication the owner who surrendered the animal to inform that person that the animal is scheduled to be euthanized.

(f) Notification has been made by telephone or verifiable written or electronic communication to the finder who surrendered the stray animal to inform that person that the animal is scheduled to be euthanized.

(g) Notification has been made by telephone or verifiable written or electronic communication with a person who fostered the stray animal to inform that person that the animal is scheduled to be euthanized.

(h) Give those notified under subsections (b) through (e) possession of the animal with the fee waived to avoid the animal's death if they request it.

Fee Waivers. Adoption fees for animals impounded in the shelter will be waived under the following circumstances.

(1) The County Administrator and/or Animal Control Director have the authority to waive the adoption fee for any animal at his/her discretion without the necessity of approval by the Chairman of the County Commission.

(2) The adoption fee will be automatically waived for any animal subject to the 60-day policy outlined above on day forty-five (45) as that time is computed under the Computation of Time section above.

(3) The adoption fee will be automatically waived for any animal estimated to be six (6) years of age or older.

(4) The adoption fee will be automatically waived for any special needs animal (i.e. blind, deaf, missing limb, chronic health condition such as diabetes or epilepsy).

(3) The animal reclaim fee and daily stray hold fee will be waived for any owned animal to prevent the death of that animal upon receipt of a written statement from the owner that he/she is unable to pay the fees.

(4) No fees will be charged to any animal rescue organization for accepting the transfer of an impounded animal.