

## Whitman County Humane Society

### Animal Acceptance Policy

The Whitman County Humane Society manages a Pet Shelter located in Pullman, Washington. We accept dogs, cats and a variety of other small pet animals that are homeless and in need of humane care.

The WCHS Pet shelter is a no-kill facility which means we care for and house all adoptable animals until a suitable new owner is found. Some animals brought to the WCHS Pet shelter may not be suitable for new homes. Please refer to the WCHS Euthanasia Policy for the criteria we use when assessing the adoptability of animals. Adoptable animals may be in our care for weeks, months or even up to a year. Our shelter is limited on space and we must not maintain animals in over crowded conditions as this is inhumane. As such, there are times when we can not accept every animal that is brought to us. We also must maintain space for strays brought to us by our contracted cities of Pullman, Palouse and Albion as well as homeless animals in need of immediate care through out Whitman County

*At the end of this policy is a list of other ideas and options that may help you reconsider your need to re-home your pet or assist you in finding a new forever home for your pet.*

**Owner-Surrender DOGS:** It is best to call the WCHS Pet Shelter (509-332-3422) to check on available space and discussing your need to re-home your dog prior to bringing the animal to the shelter. If space is not available at the time, the animal can be placed on a waiting list. The Shelter Staff will also help you research other options which may help you keep your dog or to find it a new home. There is a surrender fee that must be paid when relinquishing your dog to the WCHS shelter.

- Dog must be in good health. Dogs with on-going chronic illnesses or injuries will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Dog must be of sound temperament. Dogs with behavior problems will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Dogs that show aggression toward people will not be accepted. WCHS can not adopt out animals that could pose a threat to human health. WCHS shelter staff can assist you finding help in training and working with your aggressive dog.
- Dogs that show aggression toward other animals will be considered on a case by case basis.

**Owner-Surrender CATS:** Please see the recommendations about contacting the shelter under the “owner-surrender dogs” section as these also apply to cats. There is a surrender fee that must be paid when relinquishing your cat to the WCHS shelter. *Note regarding Stray Cats: Most city ordinances (including Pullman) do not consider cats running loose as an infraction. Many cat owners allow their animals to be outside unrestrained. If you have a cat in your neighborhood that you feel is a stray or homeless animal, please check*

*with your neighbors to see if the animal is actually owned prior to bringing the animal to the shelter.*

- Cats must be in good health, Cats with on-going chronic illnesses or injuries will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Cats must be of sound temperament. Cats with behavior problems will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Cats that show aggression toward people will not be accepted. WCHS can not adopt out animals that could pose a threat to human health. WCHS shelter staff can assist you finding help in training and working with your aggressive cat.
- Cats that are considered feral cannot be accepted by WCHS. Contact the shelter staff for feral cat control options in our region.
- Cats that show aggression toward other animals will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Other Options to Explore When Wanting to Re-Home Your Pet:**

- Keep the animal and have him/her spay or neutered by a licensed veterinarian. Spaying and neutering your pet not only reduces over-pet population but can have many medical and behavioral benefits for your pet. Talk to your veterinarian about this surgical procedure and the risks & benefits. To find area veterinarians, look in the yellow pages of the local phonebook. For financial assistance in getting your animal altered, please look into the WCHS SNAP (Spay and Neutering Assistance Program). You can find information on our web site at <http://www.whitmanpets.org/snap/> or ask for a flyer with information on contacts and instructions.
- If you are experiencing behavioral issues that are making you considered surrendering your pet, check into getting some professional guidance from a qualified pet trainer. There are dog obedience classes offered regularly through the area Parks and Recreation departments in both Pullman, WA and Moscow, ID. You should also consult with your veterinarian as some behavioral problems are related to an underlying medical condition. Contact the WCHS Shelter staff for more information.
- You can also advertise the animal through a few free on-line sites. Please be a responsible owner and screen potential adopters to ensure your pet goes to the best home for its unique needs and care requirements.
  - [www.palouseads.com](http://www.palouseads.com)
  - [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)
  - [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com)
- If you are left with no other option but to surrender your pet to WCHS and there is no space available at that time, we will take your name, phone number and animal information and place you on a waiting list. We can then contact you when space becomes available.

Approved by the WCHS Board of Directors – December 2008