

Harnett County Animal Services - Rescue Partner Agreement

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Rescue Partner Name | |
| Address | |
| Primary Phone Number | |
| Email | |

The Rescue Partner name above has been approved as a Rescue Partner with Harnett County Animal Services. Rescue Partners are trusted agents for ensuring animals from Harnett County are spay/neutered as an agreed upon goal of both the rescue and Harnett County Animal Services. Because of this partnership, Harnett County wishes to support the waiver of spay/neuter fees to reduce the cost of animal releases.

The below outlines The Rescue Partner Agreement and Expectations:

SECTION 1: Rescue Partner Expectations

- Every animal released from Harnett County Animal Services into our program will be spayed or neutered as long as the animal is three (3) months old and two (2) pounds or within 30 days of acquiring from Harnett County Animal Services whichever comes first. The cost of the spay/neuter surgery will be at the expense and responsibility of our organization if not already performed by Harnett County Animal Services.
- We understand that all dogs, cats and ferrets four (4) months old of age and older must be vaccinated against rabies.
- All applicable fees for vaccinations and microchipping will be paid in full to Harnett County Animal Services before taking custody of designated animals.
- The ownership of any transferred animal from Harnett County Animal Services will transfer to the Rescue Partner with full liability for any further costs associated with care and/or damage (physical property or bodily) done by the transferred animal(s).
- Rescue Partners and or their agents entering into a partnership with Harnett County Animal Services will refrain from perpetuating rumors, and distributing inaccurate information about Harnett County Animal Services and its staff through email, social media or any other form of communication. Failure to refrain will result in termination of this partnership. If a Rescue Partner has a question or concern regarding Harnett County Animal Services practices, all Rescue Partners are welcome to address their concerns with the Adoption Coordinator, Program Manager and/or Animal Services Director.

- All animal(s) within a Rescue Partner's care will be provided adequate food, clean water, shelter, safe containment, appropriate veterinary care and humane treatment at all times.
- Harnett County Animal Services may request a statistical sample of spay/neuter documentation once a quarter.

SECTION 2: Definition of No-Fee/Reduced Fee Transfer Candidates

The following criteria make an animal a transfer candidate:

- Length of stay is greater than 3 days at the Harnett County Animal Services Shelter.
- Space (This will be determined by the Animal Services Program Manager) **under this category animal(s) on stray hold don't apply.**
- Marked "Rescue Partner Only" due to (Medical or temperament).
- Reclaim (if the animal originally came from your organization).
- Known pregnant animals
- Mom and Litter (if you take the litter you must take the full litter and the mom).
- Too young for the adoption floor (3 months old or less OR less than 2 pounds in weight).

SECTION 3: Other Animals Not Fitting the Above Criteria

- The Rescue Partner, at the same fee rate that would apply to the public, can adopt animals available to the public that DO NOT fit the above stated Definition for No-Fee/Reduced Fee Transfer Candidates.
- An authorized representative from the Rescue Partner must come to the Animal Shelter, during adoption floor hours, in person to meet the animal and pay the adoption fee, rabies fee, microchipping, and spay/neuter fees.
- All animals are adopted on a first come first serve basis. Payment can be taken over the phone, but Partner will pick up animal SAME DAY as payment. This is the same standard applied to the general public for all adoptions.

SECTION 4: General Considerations for Rescue Partners

- All potential transfers must be communicated to the Adoption Coordinator prior to scheduling transfer.
- All animals held during stray hold for any Rescue Partner must be transferred out within one business day of their available date.
- If an animal is of insufficient weight, condition, illness or injury which prevents the animal from getting spay/neuter surgery in the allotted time limit, as soon as the animal is healthy enough for the surgery, it is the responsibility of the Rescue Partner to get the spay/neuter as soon as possible.

- When a Rescue Partner desires an opportunity to behaviorally assess animals, or select multiple animals for transfer, the partner must schedule an appointment in advance with the Adoption Coordinator. There is a dedicated room at the Animal Shelter for behavior assessment that Rescue Partners can utilize by scheduling with the Adoption Coordinator.
- Citizens wishing to adopt from the Harnett County Animal Services Animal Shelter will be given preference over Rescue Partners during the 72 hour period.
- Rescue Partners may not access any publicly restricted areas of the Harnett County Animal Services Animal Shelter without staff escort. Entrance into the Stray hold kennels, cages and euthanasia areas is prohibited.
- Animals may not be intentionally delayed from the next available adopter or Rescue Partner to accommodate a Rescue Partner for any reason.
- Rescue Partner may request an animal that has been offered for adoption for 72 hrs, to be placed on hold for pick up. The Rescue Partner that made the hold request must adopt the animal by the end of the next business day. If the Rescue Partner fails to adopt the requested animal placed hold. The Rescue Partner may not make such a request for 90 days.

SECTION 5: Terminating Partnership

- Termination at any time, of this partnership can be made by either party with written notice.
- Harnett County Animal Services reserves the right to determine what action, if any, may be taken upon notification of non-compliance of this Rescue Partnership Agreement.
- Partnerships terminated will not be renewed until the next annual enrollment or 90 days whichever is longest.

SECTION 6: Indemnification

- The applicant in his /her capacity as President and/or Director of the Rescue Partner, hereby agrees on behalf of himself or herself and all other agents and successors of the Rescue Partner, to indemnify and hold harmless Harnett County, its officers, employees, and agents from all losses, suits, damages, or costs arising from participation in the Rescue Partnership Agreement, including, but not limited to, personal injury, damage to property, damage or injury to pets, and all costs and fees accrued in the provision of care, maintenance, and medical care of the animals.

SECTION 7: Renewal of Agreement

- All Rescue Partnership Agreements terminate on June 30th annually.
- Rescue Partners will need to renew their agreements prior to June 30th of each year in order to continue to transfer out animal(s) from the Harnett County Animal Services Animal Shelter.
- Upon first signature of this Rescue Partnership Agreement, the first renewal will be the following June 30th and then every June 30th thereafter.
- Agreements will be reviewed and updated annually.

SECTION 8: Signatures

Printed Name of Rescue Partner President/Director: _____

Signature of Rescue Partner President /Director: _____

Date: _____

Adoption Coordinator or Program Manager

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Attachments:

- Rescue Partner Information
- Organization's Mission Statement
- Non-Profit Status (501c3) Proof (ie, Publication 78 IRS website, www.guidestar.com)
- Organization's Adoption Policy
- Veterinary letter (s) of recommendation
- 3 References with contacts from other NC County-Run Animal Shelters.