

Pasco County Animal Services Policy Statement

What you can do BEFORE bringing an animal to our shelter:

Bring the animal to a local veterinarian to scan for a microchip. Look for visual identification on the animal's collar and call the phone numbers listed on the identification tags. Post the animal on **pets911.com** as soon as possible. If you bring the animal to our shelter, post that information on **pets911.com** also. Place an advertisement, sometimes available for no charge, in the Lost and Found section of local newspapers.

STRAY ANIMALS RECEIVED

We would like to thank you for the concern and effort you have given this animal. Your responsible and caring actions are greatly appreciated by Pasco County Animal Services. Now, we hope to reunite the animal with its rightful owner. The following is information to advise you of our procedures regarding stray incoming animals.

It is important to know that Pasco County Animal Services is an "open admission" animal shelter. This means that we promise to accept into our care any dog or cat who comes to us. Because of this, we receive over 11,000 domestic animals yearly. There are not enough homes for all of these animals. Pasco County and our country are suffering a tragic pet overpopulation problem, with 10 million animals being euthanized annually, nationwide, because new homes aren't available. Unfortunately there are simply more animals than there are people who want to adopt them.

By law, we are required to hold all impounded stray dogs at our shelter for a *minimum* 72 hour holding period, in order to give their owners an opportunity to find them. At the end of the stray holding period, our staff will determine whether he/she can be placed into our adoption program. Unfortunately at this time, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to make any specific animal available for adoption. Much will depend on the animal's general condition and the availability of space in our adoption cages/kennels. Even if the animal is made available for adoption, we cannot guarantee someone will choose to adopt it.

Animals That Are Not Placed Into Our Adoption Program:

The following is a list of conditions under which an animal *may not* be placed for adoption:

- If they are under 8 weeks of age.
- If their advanced age is causing medical or physical problems.
- If they are in poor general health or physical condition.

- If their temperament or behavior is such that they would not adapt well to a new home.
- If they are showing signs of stress due to being placed in a kennel environment.
- If they show signs of a communicable disease that could effect other animals.
- If there is no space available in the adoption kennels.

Depending on the specifics of the animal's condition and availability of space, some animals with these conditions may be placed in foster care, held for treatment, observation, until they are old enough for adoption, or they may be transferred to one of our "Adoption Partners" for possible placement through their agency.

Animals That Are Placed Into Our Adoption Program:

At Pasco County Animal Services, every reasonable effort is made to find loving homes for animals in our adoption program. **Once an animal is placed into our adoption program, there is no set holding period.** Animals may remain for a day, a week, a month or longer. Animals available for adoption may be euthanized if there is a decline in their health, temperament or physical condition. They may also be euthanized if our adoption areas become overcrowded and we need to make room for incoming animals. Any animal that must be euthanized (humanely put to death) will be administered a painless injection of sodium pentobarbital.

If you wish to inquire about this animal, you may do so by calling the animal shelter during regular shelter hours.

If you are interested in adopting the animal, you may inquire by calling the shelter *before* the stray holding period ends. The animal will be assessed for temperament and health conditions to determine if you can purchase an adoption gift certificate for the animal.

**Pasco County Animal Services
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