

*Before you surrender your pet to the shelter, you may want to consider the following:*

- *Ask your veterinarian if they have an adoption program.*
- *Visit [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) or a similar pet rescue website to search for a rescue group that can take your pet.*

## Pasco County Animal Services Policy Statement

### **ANIMALS RECEIVED FROM OWNERS**

We realize how difficult it may have been for you to come to us to surrender your animal. Because of the significance of your decision, we want to ensure that you thoroughly understand our policies on surrendered animals.

It's 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 that 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; new homes aren't always available. Unfortunately, there are simply more animals than there are responsible people who want to adopt them.

**It is essential that you understand all of this and that you understand that you are relinquishing ownership of this animal when you surrender him/her to Animal services.** After you surrender your animal, our staff will determine whether he/she can be placed into our adoption program. There isn't a specific hold time for owner released animals. The animal becomes our property immediately after signing them over to us. At the time you surrender your animal, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to offer any specific animal for adoption. Much will depend on the animal's general condition and the availability of space in our adoption cages/kennels. Even if your former pet is made available for adoption, we cannot guarantee someone will choose to adopt him/her.

### **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 possible, keep your pet until they are at least 8 weeks old.*
- *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 and/or observation, until they are old enough for adoption, or they may be transferred to one of our "Adoption Partners" for 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.

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