



THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

The Humane Society of the United States *Shelter and Rescue Partner Program Policies and Agreement*

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) responds to animals in need many times a year. These actions may be the result of a legal seizure from a puppy mill, animal hoarder, or natural disasters where pets could not be reunited with their owners. During these emergencies, animals are evaluated by a veterinarian for critical or chronic health issues, but routine or complex medical treatment and/or behavioral assessment may not always be possible in a temporary environment. While the HSUS can provide emergency animal sheltering and care to the animals rescued, we rely upon our relationships with our Shelter and Rescue Partners for ongoing rehabilitation and eventual placement in life-long loving homes for them.

HSUS Shelter and Rescue Partners may also assist with intake of animals or shelter mentoring through overwhelmed animal shelters through the Shelter Ally Project. The Shelter Ally Project is separate and apart from Animal Rescue Team efforts however, the same policies listed below apply to placement of homeless pets through routine transports.

HSUS Shelter and Rescue Partner Program

The HSUS recognizes the benefits of collaborating with other animal welfare organizations in the placement of companion and farm animals. We look forward to building a cooperative relationship with qualifying *Shelter and Rescue Partners*.

Non-profit *Shelter and Rescue Partners* are established, 501(c)(3) animal welfare organizations incorporated for the purpose of sheltering and placing homeless animals. Such organizations either have animal sheltering facilities or use foster homes to house animals awaiting permanent homes.

Municipal Agency *Shelter and Rescue Partners* are typically operated by local governments and may also assist in the rescue of animals from seizures or disasters.

Policies

The HSUS and the *Shelter and Rescue Partners* will adhere to the following policies:

1. Every *Shelter and Rescue Partner* must have submitted a completed application with the requested supporting documents and received written notice of approval from the HSUS to participate in the program. Application alone does not qualify as approval.
2. The HSUS is concerned for the welfare of all animals in its care and reserves the right to manage the transference of custody for all such animals to *Shelter and Rescue Partners*.

3. The HSUS expects *Shelter and Rescue Partners* to make responsible decisions and to ensure the care of animals. In the case that an animal is reported to be in an abusive situation and/or in violation of local or state laws, the HSUS reserves the right to reclaim said animal from a *Shelter and Rescue Partner*.
4. The HSUS does not support or endorse dog training techniques using any method that involves excessive force or causes pain.
5. The HSUS and the *Shelter and Rescue Partners* will strive to best meet the needs of the animals by working together in an honest and collegial manner.
6. Any animal released to a *Shelter and Rescue Partner* must be spayed or neutered, when medically acceptable, prior to final placement by the *Partner*.
7. *Shelter and Rescue Partners* must abide by all local, state or national laws with regard to their operations and shall not knowingly place an animal with a person or group that is in non-compliance with local animal control and licensing codes.
8. Animals released to a *Shelter and Rescue Partner* shall not be transferred to non-approved animal welfare organizations, rescue groups, or sanctuaries, or foster homes without the prior written consent of the HSUS. The HSUS may condition its consent on its review of the transferee's operations and facility.
9. Acceptance into the *Shelter and Rescue Partner* program does not imply endorsement of the *Shelter and Rescue Partner* by the HSUS. The terminology used to describe participating organizations does not create or imply any legal partnership or joint venture. Neither the HSUS nor the *Shelter and Rescue Partner* shall suggest or indicate that one exists or hold itself out in that fashion.
10. During a joint-effort (for example, a training, educational event or emergency response), reasonable efforts to promote the identity of both parties shall be clearly communicated through available means. *Shelter and Rescue Partners* and The HSUS shall make reasonable efforts to keep the public informed of their cooperative activities. Whenever reasonably practicable, onsite signage, press statements, interviews, social media posts, newsletters and other news-driven communications efforts shall indicate the involvement of both the *Shelter and Rescue Partner* and the HSUS.
11. *Shelter and Rescue Partners* agree to provide updated organizational information if requested by the HSUS. The HSUS also reserves the right to require current, approved *Shelter and Rescue Partners* to reapply if warranted.
12. The HSUS reserves the right to refuse to release any animal to and/or to terminate immediately its relationship with any *Shelter and Rescue Partner* that has not abided by these policies.
13. *The Shelter and Rescue Partner* acknowledges that it may be required to execute an additional, separate agreement with the HSUS prior to animals from a specific situation being placed with it

and that such separate agreement may impose additional or different obligations on the *Shelter and Rescue Partner*. Upon execution by both parties, the terms of any such separate agreement shall control in the event of any conflict between its terms and those of this ***Shelter and Rescue Partners Policies and Agreement***.

14. The HSUS does not accept responsibility or liability for the transfer of animals from referrals of non- HSUS cases or situations involving either the transfer of animals from third-party shelters or organizations to *Shelter and Rescue Partners* or from one *Shelter and Rescue Partner* to another *Shelter and Rescue Partner*. For all non-HSUS transfers or cases, *Shelter and Rescue Partners* will be solely responsible for confirming the authenticity of paperwork, providing transfer agreements and adhering to state laws and regulations.
15. All HSUS *Shelter and Rescue Partners* eligible must participate in the national Shelter Animals Count database effective January 1, 2019 and shall also be bound by the requirements of such participation.
16. All HSUS *Shelter and Rescue Partners* eligible must participate in the Maddie’s Fund Million Cat Challenge effective January 1, 2019 and shall also be subject to the rules of that challenge.
17. The individual signing on behalf of the *Shelter and Rescue Partner* is authorized to do so
18. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original and which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Signatures transmitted by facsimile or electronically shall constitute original signatures.

THE “SHELTER AND RESCUE PARTNER” IDENTIFIED BELOW ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF THE ABOVE POLICIES AND AGREES TO BE BOUND BY THEM.

Name of Organization: _____

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Title _____

Dated _____

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

By: _____

Printed Name _____

Title: _____

Dated _____