

## **ALLEGANY COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER RESCUE POLICY**

The Allegany County Animal Shelter works with a number of reputable rescues both in the State of Maryland as well as out of state. Working with rescues frees up space in the shelter, reduces expenses for feeding and cleaning and helps move animals to geographic locations with a higher demand for animals. The following is the criteria we look at before we will work with a rescue:

### **CARE:**

- Assures that all animals in their care are up to date on all vaccinations.
- Spay/neuter all pets before placement or adopt out on a spay/neuter contract. Reputable rescues will follow up to ensure that the spay/neuter was performed.
- Fostering pets in social settings.
- Has a facility that is clean and organized and the animals appear fed and healthy

### **PROCESS:**

- Has a Petfinder, Adopt-A-Pet, Petango, etc., page to market animals available for adoption.
- Regularly attends or offers adoption events.
- Responds to inquiries in a timely manner and is willing to speak over the phone.
- Answers your questions about how they operate, the number of animals they have and where they get them, how many adoptions they complete annually, how many foster homes they have, their spay/neuter policy, etc.
- Welcomes potential adopters to visit the rescue and see the animals.
- Requires an application form and adoption contract.
- Screens potential adopters through reference and background checks.
- Works carefully to match up the right forever home with the right pet, based on the pet's needs/personality/etc.
- Provides up to date vet paperwork to the adopter upon final adoption.
- Requires that if the adopter cannot keep the pet for any reason, the pet is returned to the same rescue.

### **ETHICS:**

- Prioritizes work with shelters and owner surrenders from within its own state first.
- Understands the limits of its resources by not accepting more animals than it has the legal authority, space, time or financial means to care for.
- Operates as an official 501(c)3 organization.
- Has a positive reputation in the community among veterinarians, animal shelters and pet owners.