

Memorandum of Understanding

Effective Date: Upon signature of both parties

Between

- Public Agency: Polk County Sheriff's Office
- Private Agency: Oregon Humane Society

Definitions

- Stray cat: Any cat found outside without identification or a designated owner.
- Stray hold: 24 hours

Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to relieve pressure on Public Agencies while ensuring that there is a safety net in place for stray cats in the named counties. Stray cats may serve the required stray hold in the care of Private Agencies in order to ease demands on Public Agency capacity and resources; for the safety of cats in need of immediate care; and/or for the convenience of finders or shelter staff.

Method of Admission

Private Agencies are authorized to hold cats during the stray holding period established by law. Stray cats may be admitted into a Private Agency as outlined in the scenarios below:

- Transfer: Following intake, the Public Agency may transport the stray cat(s) to one of the Private Agencies where the stray hold period will be served in-shelter or at a foster home; once the stray hold period is complete, the stray cat will be administratively transferred to the Private Agency and further disposition will be determined by the Private Agency.
- Direct Intake through Finder: A Private Agency may intake stray cat(s) directly from a finder. The Private Agency will be required to hold the cat(s) for the required stray holding period required by law. Any stray cats impounded in this manner may be held in-shelter or at a foster home managed by the Private Agency. The Private Agency agrees to notify the Public Agency as soon as possible and no more than 24 hours after intake. Documentation included in the notification must include the following information for each animal: a photograph, physical description (coat color, length, pattern/markings), gender, age, finder's name and contact information, and location or nearest cross-street where animal was found. The finder's name and address will be confirmed by the Private Agency by checking identification at time of surrender.

Husbandry and Medical Care

The Private Agency is responsible for providing housing and appropriate care including any necessary veterinary treatment during the stray hold period for any stray cat. Private Agencies may humanely euthanize an unhealthy or injured animal without regard to the holding period of the relevant Public Agency, provided the animal's injuries are determined to be life threatening, or the animal's condition presents a significant threat to the health of other animals in the shelter. This determination must be made by a licensed veterinarian. The Public Agency must be notified as soon as reasonably possible if an animal is euthanized during the specified stray holding period.

Return to Owner (RTO)

In the event that a possible owner contacts the Public Agency to reclaim a stray cat(s) during the stray hold period, the Public Agency will contact the Private Agency to coordinate redemption, which may take place at either location as determined by the agencies.

Stray Hold Period

Private Agency will track the stray hold period when the stray hold is complete and the pet is released to the Private Agency's custody.

Termination

This Agreement may be terminated upon written notice by any of the agencies involved.



Polk County Sheriff's Office

Date 9/30/22

Brian August

Oregon Humane Society

Date 10/11/2022