

CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Calhoun County Animal Control Officer

Policy:

Calhoun County Public Health will maintain licensure as a "pound" under the Bureau of Animal Industry in the Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Public Health will conduct activities that support Chapter 717 and Chapter 717B of the Code of Iowa as it relates to offenses and injury to animals. This will be done in cooperation with local law enforcement. Fees may be charged to cover costs of disease prevention and custodial care.

Procedure:

1. Animal Intake/Release Procedure

- A. Animals will be impounded by the county representatives or the local law enforcement officer after they are found to be at large and the owner is not quickly located or obvious.
- B. No animal shall be placed in a pen that is already occupied by another animal unless it is deemed acceptable by a Calhoun County Pound representative. Under no circumstances shall an animal be placed in an occupied pen with an animal of a different gender, size, or with an animal with a disposition unsuitable for sharing quarters, or with an animal in poor health or with diarrhea.
- C. Animals that are claimed by an owner must be shown to be current on their rabies vaccination before they can be released. The owner will be required to get the animal vaccinated within 3 days of release and a copy of the rabies certificate presented to the pound if the shots are not current.
- D. A holding fee of \$10 per day shall be assessed to the owner after a 24-hour period. The city officials may impose additional pickup fees on their own. Fees paid may be returned if the animal has not been spayed/neutered and the owner has this done within 30 days of release from the shelter.
- E. An "Animal Intake Form" must be filled out for all animals held in the pound and held on file for one year as per State licensing requirements for pounds.
- F. Animals surrendered by their owners will be handled on a case by case basis but are generally not accepted. Intakes will be required to be current on vaccinations with proof of such. If the animal is neutered the suggested donation is \$10 and \$15 for animals that are not neutered.
- G. Animals that are known to be dangerous, vicious or having a contagious disease may not be admitted into the pound's custody.

2. Unclaimed Animals

- A. Animals brought to the pound that have not been claimed after 7 days may be adopted to persons approved by a pound representative. An adoption questionnaire and contract must be filled out and signed by the new owner and an appropriate fee collected. All information known about the animal shall be disclosed to them by pound staff or local law enforcement.
- B. Animals not claimed after 7 days will be given distemper/parvo and rabies shots according to their age and health. Animals will also be wormed as needed, spayed or neutered, and tested for heartworms. They shall also be microchipped prior to adoption.
- C. The shelter has a foster home permit in place so animals may be housed in an approved foster home.
 - a. The foster must be visited by a shelter representative prior to placing an animal in their care. The other animals in the home and the housing conditions must be suitable for the particular animal in need of a foster home. The foster must report every two weeks to the shelter staff about how the animal is doing with training and should immediately report any problems or health concerns.
 - b. If an animal must be removed from the home, at least 48 hours notice should be given to the shelter. Animals removed from the home of a foster due to poor care or other problems should be returned to the shelter as soon as possible.
 - c. Foster homes shall be documented and kept on file for the inspector to check. They should fill out the adoption questionnaire and this used as a guide for suitability.
- C. Animals deemed to be not adoptable due to health or temperament will be humanely euthanized by a veterinarian.
- D. If an animal is purebred and a suitable breed rescue can be found, efforts will be made to transfer custody of the animal to that group. The veterinary bills shall be reimbursed prior to transfer.

3. Injured Animals

Animals brought to or picked up by pound staff that have been seriously injured will be brought to a veterinarian for evaluation. If the owner cannot be contacted within the working day, the animal may be euthanized as recommended by the veterinarian. If the owner is found after euthanasia, they will be put in touch with the veterinarian who treated the animal.

4. Animal Welfare Complaints

- A. If a complaint is received about an animal's welfare or a neglect situation, the ACO will investigate following the Iowa Code Chapter 717 and 717B for guidance. See attached

document.

- B. Following a complaint the ACO will fill out a complaint form, documenting the callers contact information if available, and all steps taken to investigate and/or remediate the situation. The owner of the property and/or animal(s) of concern will then be contacted to ask permission to check on the welfare and condition of the animal(s). If given permission the ACO will observe living conditions and requirements of the law for the species of concern.
 - a. If permission to investigate is denied by the owner, law enforcement will be contacted for procedure to gain admittance to investigate. If necessary a search warrant may be requested from the county attorney. Further investigations from a search warrant will be done according to law and Chapter 717 and Chapter 717B.

Revised

9/16/99

01/07/09

12/28/10

2/08/15