



Barking Hound Village Foundation Rescue

Volunteer Handbook

Our mission is to find placement for the animals of Fulton County Animal Services with rescues across the United States.

About us:

Barking Hound Village Foundation Rescue (BHVFR) is a 501(c)3 non profit rescue. Our mission is to save the lives of Fulton County dogs and cats. We work with rescue groups all over the US to find homes for amazing pets who need a second chance. BHVFR pulls dogs from Fulton County Animal Services (FCAS) who have been passed over by adopters. We take these down on their luck pets, spay or neuter them, give them a full veterinary exam, get all the required shots, and quarantine them for 14 days. During this time they are socialized and their medical and/or behavioral issues are addressed. Once they are happy, healthy, and a little wiser they are placed on our web site for rescues and adopters to meet. Once a rescue or home is found and is approved our dogs are sent in style by plane train or automobile to their new home.

Thank You!

hu•mane (hju:méin) adj. Having the feelings and dispositions proper to human beings; having tenderness, compassion, and a disposition to treat others with kindness; particularly in relieving them when in distress or in captivity, when they are helpless or defenseless; kind; benevolent; sympathetic; merciful.

- Fulton County Animal Services is an "open door" shelter committed to taking in all sick, injured, abused, stray and unwanted animals.
- FCAS provides care for other animals such as rabbits, mice, rats, goats, chicken, hamsters, guinea pigs, domestic birds, reptiles and assorted wildlife. BHVF's goal is to take animals that would otherwise be put to sleep at FCAS because of medical, behavioral or space concerns. FCAS is a large shelter and can take in 30-50 animals in a single day.

Some Important Statistics

A dog can have as many as two litters each year, with an average of six to nine puppies each litter. Cats can breed three times a year, with an average of four to six kittens per litter. According to Humane Society of the United States, one female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in six years. In seven years, one cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats.

The HSUS estimates 8-12 million animals enter shelters every year. Only 25 to 35 percent of these are adopted to new homes. Only one out of every nine dogs born in the U.S. will have a permanent home. Only one out of every 15 cats will have this opportunity.

Programs and Services

ADOPTIONS

Much of the emphasis at FCAS is placed on adoptions. They strive to find permanent, loving homes for shelter animals available for adoption. FCAS does not "sell" animals; nor is the adoption donation the price of the animal. The shelter animals are released to the lifelong care of responsible, loving homes after an application and screening process. Adoption fees help cover the cost of housing and care for the many animals in our shelter. They defray only a part of the actual cost of services provided for each animal adopted from us. Adoptions are made to approved homes only. A profile or "application" process is required. Here at BHVF we do not market to adopters but to rescues. This way we can place 40 or more animals at once. However if a forever home is found for a animal at our shelter we are glad to adopt the animal if it has not already been chosen to go to another shelter.

Adoption fees are \$85.00 for dogs of all ages, and \$65.00 for cats. From time to time, we will do a "two for one" price for cats, upon approval by the shelter director. Each dog or cat adoption includes: sterilization; initial upper-respiratory/distemper vaccination for cats; a parvo test and Da2pp shot for dogs; rabies vaccination for all animals over 3 months; cardboard carriers for cats; leash, and collar for dogs. ALL adopted animals are spayed and neutered prior to release. There are very few (illness-related) exceptions to this rule! Animals not already spayed or neutered will stay overnight and be released day of surgery. We spay and neuter as young as 8 weeks old. (Please read the section on Prepubescent Surgery to acquaint yourself with how and why we perform sterilization on animals this young.)

Other Adoptable Animals

Rabbits, Potbellied Pigs, Goats, Ferrets, Guinea Pigs, Fowl, and other small animals are occasionally available. Adoption fees on these animals vary.

RECEIVING LOST AND UNWANTED ANIMALS

BHVFR cannot take in animals from the public in most situations. Depending on space and time we may be able to help an unwanted pet but all lost animals by law must go to FCAS.

LOST AND FOUND

Fulton county animal services will do everything possible to return lost pets to their rightful owners. They attempt to match lost and found pets via these computer records, craigslist.com and newspaper lost/found listings. Persons reporting a lost animal must be encouraged not to rely solely on our lost and found efforts alone. As our workload and differences in the description of animals makes a positive identification difficult. We advise owners of lost pets to visit any other local Animal

Controls, place a "lost pet" ad in the local papers, check the Internet at www.found-pets.org, www.craigslist.com and www.petfinder.com, and visit the shelters in person as frequently as possible. At BHVFR we can not take in lost or found animals, this way they are in a easy place for the owner to find.

FREE SPAY/NEUTER (S.N.A.P)

FCAS offers free spays and neuters to the citizens of Fulton County, for both domestic pets and feral cats (TNR). Forms and other information are kept in the lobby at FCAS, with the officers and at our off site events. The form may also be filled out on our web site (FultonAnimalServices.com). FCAS will call to make the appointment date and time. The pet's care giver is asked to have the pet there on the given date and on time. Vaccinations, Feline Leukemia/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Testing and Microchip ID are all available at the time of spay/neuter surgery at the owners expense.

LOW COST SHOTS

Monday through Thursday's low cost shots are offered in our lobby without an appointment. Shots are ten dollars.

VACCINATION CLINICS

In addition to vaccinating animals at the time of spay/neuter surgery, FCAS holds public vaccination clinic for dogs and cats. The public should be encouraged to come as early as possible, as the lines can be quite long. Dogs must be kept under control (on a leash, crated or carried) at all times. Cats must be in a carrier. When the clinics are offered they will be advertised.

The vaccinations offered at our clinics are as follows:

Dogs: Rabies Intranasal Bordetella (Kennel Cough); Coronavirus; DHLPP (Distemper/Parvo/Hepatitis/Leptospirosis/Upper Respiratory combo)

Cats: Rabies Feline Leukemia and FVRCP (Distemper/Upper Respiratory combo)

Microchip Identification

A permanent microchip containing scan-able identification is injected under the skin over the shoulder blades of dogs or cats.

Dog Licenses

Fulton County dog licenses are available with the proof of a current rabies vaccination. By law all pets (dogs, cats, ferrets) over the age of 3 months must have licenses.

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

FCAS's Foster Care Program allows animals that are too young for adoptions, are recovering from surgery or illness, or are in need of other special care, to stay in private homes until they are able to be placed into Adoptions. Volunteer foster homes provide a safe place for the animals to stay, nutritious food, socialization and health care to their animal guests. This important volunteer program enables us to save the lives of animals that might otherwise have to be euthanized. All foster homes will be inspected before an animal maybe place in them home, then 2 times a year after that (once in the winter and once in the spring).

EDUCATION/ COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Education is the key to ending animal cruelty, irresponsible ownership, and pet overpopulation. Our Education Department is available for speaking engagements to schools and civic organizations on numerous topics relating to animals and services offered by FCAS. We also invite educators to seek our assistance in incorporating humane education into existing classroom curriculum.

FCAS's Education Department offers a variety of specialized programs to enable our community to become better aware of the unique relationship between humans and animals.

Ways to Help

Volunteers are the lifeblood of FCAS and BHVFR. There will never be enough staff, never enough dollars to hire more staff, and always more needs than paid human resources. That is where volunteers come in and make the difference between success and failure, and for the animals, life and death.

As the program develops and expands, volunteer services will be needed for many important shelter tasks broken down into two types: "in shelter" and "out of shelter." (In shelter volunteering requires a specific shift and time commitment.)

At the shelter

At this time our volunteers are asked to do a little of everything. From cleaning kennels, to walking dogs there is much to do here. There is always a pup that is scared who needs a little extra love, a hyper guy who might need a long walk, a sweet girl who might need a bath or a scared older dog who needs hand fed. All our dogs over one year get time to play in our yard but we have many younger pups who need lots of toys to keep them busy. Our volunteers help us feed the dogs, do laundry and dishes, scrub our dog runs and keep the kennel clean and happy.

Our Foster Program

Foster homes free up space in our shelter so we can take in more dogs from FCAS. All foster homes will need a home check before they can take our dogs home. A foster home agrees to take on expenses for the dogs and day to day care. Fostering an animal is the most rewarding gift you can give and receive. If you would like to foster please meet with us right away. We have cats, rabbits and dogs in need of foster care.

Shelter need list

Our shelter lives off donations and we always need things to keep us going. A full list of items can be found on www.BHVFrescue.org

Your Questions Answered

What is a "no-kill" shelter?

In order to operate a "no-kill" facility, an organization must limit the number of animals it receives to those it has room to house at any given time. In a world where there are many more animals in need of homes than there are homes available, a "no-kill" shelter can only maintain that status by turning some animals away. Those denied admission must be taken elsewhere, either to be adopted or euthanized. While "no-kill" shelters can help some of the animals in a community, they cannot

meet the needs of the majority of stray or at-risk animals who are served by "open-door" shelters like FCAS. BHVFR is a "no-kill" shelter by that definition, and we do commitment to our dogs for life. However we prefer the term "High Save". We use this term because as much as we try we do have to be realistic. If a dog is so sick its quality of life is compromised, or the cost of treating it is more than we can afford we do have to let them go. Same as dogs that wish to hurt humans- we work with wonderful trainers and try everything we can first, but a dog who is aggressive to a human we can place by law.

How long do animals stay up for adoption at FCAS?

FCAS has no set time limit for animals held for adoption. FCAS is an organization dedicated to animal welfare. Therefore, they don't set definite time limit. Adoptable animals are held as long as they remain healthy and temperamentally sound, and as long as room is available. They do, unfortunately, run out of room faster during the busy spring and summer months when the majority of litters are born and turned in. BHVFR has no limit on how long we hold a dog. Most dogs are placed in about two weeks and sent to a new rescue. The ones that are not picked stay behind and we continue to work on medical or behavioral issues.

How early can you spay or neuter an animal?

FCAS sterilizes every dog and cat leaving the shelter. Since we adopt animals out at eight weeks, we will spay or neuter a dog or cat as early as eight weeks. This early-age sterilization is extremely safe, due to the use of isoflurane gas anesthetic. Prepubescent sterilization has been endorsed by the American Veterinary Medical Association as a safe procedure which is effective in helping to reduce animal overpopulation.

Why Do We Sterilize Young Puppies and Kittens?

by Scott M. Ruth, D.V.M.

Many people are unaware of just how important it is to spay and neuter dogs and cats. Surgical sterilization is an extremely effective and humane method of helping to control pet overpopulation. Additionally, there are definite health benefits for both sexes of dogs and cats. Finally, the pets are free of the instinct to reproduce, which is a major cause of roaming. These benefits allow our pets to live happier, healthier and longer lives.

Traditionally, veterinarians have put off sterilization surgery until the patient is at least six months old. However, pets can be adopted from animal shelters as young as two months of age — indeed, the most popular and most frequently adopted animals are the youngest available. Adhering to traditional schedules can produce a time period as long as four months between adoption and the possibility of sterilization. Humane shelters encourage or require adopters to have these pets sterilized, but compliance is often disappointing. Adopters often develop an aversion to the procedure, perceiving it to be dangerous, painful, or otherwise undesirable. Ideally, adopted pets should be sterilized before leaving the shelter, thereby avoiding the need to pursue surgery later.

There is a growing trend in humane shelters to lower the age at which puppies and kittens are sterilized. Colleges of veterinary medicine have conducted extensive research on the effects of early sterilization in dogs and cats. With the advent of new, safer anesthetic agents, the primary danger of early surgery has been greatly reduced, and serious after-effects have not been encountered. Additionally, younger animals tolerate surgery far better than older animals. Their smaller reproductive organs have smaller blood vessels so bleeding is greatly reduced, and a smaller

incision can be used. Younger animals recover from the anesthetic more quickly and easily, heal faster than the older individuals, and seem to have MUCH less postoperative discomfort. The younger patients can even eat food 20 to 60 minutes after surgery, an advantage unheard of in older surgery patients.

Reducing the number of homeless and unwanted companion animals clearly benefits our community. Having all adopted pets sterilized before leaving the shelter insures that they will not add to the tragedy of pet overpopulation.

Is there not a pet overpopulation in other states?

Yes and no. Many states have pet overpopulation issues. Shelters who choose to take animals from us always try to take local animals first. However their local shelters can be up to 90% American Pit Bull Terriers, not every family feels this breed is what they are looking for, but there are not many other options. Our dogs are in high demand in our northern shelters. Also, in the winter months many northern shelters have few cats and will take some of ours.

Why is there such a pet overpopulation in the south?

There are many thoughts on this. Some think it is because people here spay and neuter less, or let their pets roam more than people up north. However, we believe that it has to do with a harsher winter. Many strays in the south can live for years on the streets because winters are not that harsh and year after year they are able to keep breeding.

In order to work well with the staff and to present FCAS in the best possible light, we ask that you adhere to the following policies and procedures while you are on duty as a volunteer. Failure to comply may result in termination.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. They must show a genuine concern for the welfare of animals. A willingness to work hard, get dirty, and pitch in wherever needed is required. The ideal volunteer is self-motivated, mature, sensitive, dependable, and a team player. He or she must have the ability to perform assignments promptly, reliably, and with flexibility.
- Volunteers who work in direct contact with animals must exhibit a willingness to learn about animals and how to properly interact with them. They must be able to react quickly to avoid any mishaps between animals and people
 - Volunteers who will be driving animals to transport or any other purpose must possess a valid Georgia driver's license, a copy of which will be kept in our files.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Volunteers must complete a basic orientation session before reporting to their first assignment. Additional training may be required depending on the area in which you wish to volunteer.
- Animals in our care must be treated kindly and professionally at all times.
- Volunteers must agree to represent BHVFR's philosophies, and perform in a professional manner whenever so doing, and to

refrain from allowing personal views to overshadow or conflict with the shelter's purpose.

TIME COMMITMENT AND SCHEDULING:

◆ We ask each of our volunteers to sign up for as many duties and hours as other time commitments permit. A minimum (average) of 2 hours of service per week is requested but not required. Volunteer hours are flexible depending on the assignment. With the exception of major holidays, our volunteers are welcome to come in seven days a week.

◆ Once you have agreed to be available for a particular shift and duty, we count on you to be here. In the event you are unable to be at your assigned shift, please call us as soon as possible.

SIGNING IN:

You must sign in each time you come to work and sign out each time you finish your shift. Please also sign in/out or call to report any off site/in-home service hours.

DRESS PROTOCOLS:

We require that all volunteers wear long pants and closed-toe shoes with good traction. Volunteers with inappropriate attire (shorts, sandals, etc) will be prohibited from handling animals and may be excused from their shift. We work with bleach. You must be willing to step in bleach pans- you might get bleach on your clothing. Please keep this in mind when you pick what you will be wearing.

Handbook Agreement

I acknowledge that I have been “guided” through the BHVF Volunteer Handbook by a member of the BHVF staff. I acknowledge that I have been given a copy of the Handbook to keep and use at my own discretion. I understand all of the facts, policies and expectations set forth in the Handbook. I pledge to comply with all the information and work within the framework set up by all BHVF policy. I understand that policies may change (or be eliminated) at any time and that I will be informed at the time of the change. I understand that for no reason at all I may be asked to no longer volunteer and I will respectfully leave. I understand that any confidential information I may be privy to will remain confidential. I understand that if at any point in time I am asked by the media or general public to give out information, I will not do so without direct permission from the Executive Director of BHVF. I am over 18 years old.

I understand that I am viewed as part of BHVF and my actions will directly affect the foundation as well as many animals. I will follow all proper animal handling protocols and will never put myself or an animal in danger.

Volunteers Name _____

Volunteers Signature _____

BHVF Employee Signature _____

Today’s Date _____

A copy of this will be sent with the volunteer and the original will be kept in the volunteer’s file.

Date of Orientation _____