



## **Rescue Partner Policies**

The Rescue Partner Program is Bucks County SPCA (BCSPCA)'s proactive community initiative aimed at finding homes for the community's homeless pet population. To accomplish this, BCSCPA establishes and cultivates mutually-beneficial and productive relationships with private animal welfare organizations that assist and partner with BCSPCA to place animals. Placement Partner takes ownership of BCSPCA's animals and cares for them in shelters, foster homes, boarding facilities and/or their own private facilities.

### **Definitions:**

- Bucks County SPCA is a private non-profit humane organization operating two open-admission, no time limit sheltering facilities serving all of Bucks County which receives approximately 5,000/year of stray animals, animals surrendered from the public, animals accepted from other animal shelters, and animals brought in through cruelty, emergency rescue, police and animal controls.
- Rescue Partner is a private animal welfare organization which has been accepted into BCSPCA's Rescue Partner Program

### **Rescue Partner Policies**

1. BCSPCA is concerned for the welfare of all animals in our care and retains control over the transfer process for all such animals. Transfer is complete when all required paperwork is complete and BCSPCA no longer has ownership of the animal.
2. All animals typically will be sterilized prior to release from BCSPCA, unless a veterinarian determines that such surgery would be harmful to the animal. In that situation, Rescue Partner will have the animal sterilized when its health allows. In rare situations, Rescue Partner will take responsibility for sterilizing the animal and will provide proof to BCSPCA upon request.
3. Rescue Partner must agree to do their best to place animals with guardians who will provide love and companionship while meeting their medical and behavioral needs, or to provide long-term sanctuary and care within their own organizational system.
4. BCSPCA requires Rescue Partner to meet the minimum standards of animal care for appropriate housing, nutrition, exercise, medical care, and socialization for each species as described in the ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters as well as all local, state and national laws.
5. Rescue Partner and all of its consultants agree that it will not use behavior modification training techniques that involve the use of force or physical punishment in place of positive reinforcement and reward.
6. BCSCPA will disclose all known behavior and medical information concerning an animal that Rescue Partner is considering accepting.
7. BCSPCA and Rescue Partner agree to protect the health and safety of the public by not knowingly place an animal that poses a threat to public safety. To that end, we agree to the following:
  - a. BCSPCA assesses dog behavior using historical information, observations collected during care, and results of formal behavior assessment.
  - b. In the event in which an animal that BCSPCA placed with Rescue Partner shows signs of previously undocumented aggression toward humans or fails to respond to behavior

- modification, Rescue Partner may schedule a return of an animal to BCSPCA during normal business hours.
- c. Upon request by BCSPCA, a written description of the problems leading to the return of an animal shall be provided. This information will be used by BCSPCA to refine its efforts to appropriately assess and match animals with partners.
8. BCSPCA Rescue Partners should only solicit and accept animals for their own organization as well as for organizations with whom they have a formally outlined program, which is disclosed to BCSPCA during the transfer application process.
    - a. Any transfer partner should also apply to become a Rescue Partner to avoid confusion when accepting animals destined ultimately for another organization. This is also to ensure that all requirements are met for out-of-state transfers, such as providing health certificates.
    - b. If the transfer partner doesn't apply to become a BCSPA Rescue Partner, BCSPCA may require reviewing the agreement between the Rescue Partner and its transfer partner and request additional information.
  9. BCSPCA will attempt to contact Rescue Partners whenever an animal arrives at BCSPCA with identification that traces back to that partner. BCSCPA will adhere to its customary holding times and policies.
  10. BCSPCA values the lifesaving contributions made by our placement partners. We believe strongly that more animals will be saved when our communication and collaboration is positive and constructive. BCSPCA wants to avoid inaccurate negative attention that will create artificial barriers to shelter adoption, volunteer engagement, and public utilization of BCSPCA's services. We aim to inspire the community to join with us, and our partners, to save more animals. To that end, we ask that you join us in committing to the following:
    - a. BCSPCA and partners will clarify and respect proper chain of command for efficient communication.
    - b. Questions and concerns will be welcomed by both parties, according to the agreed upon chain of command.
    - c. Questions and concerns will be presented respectfully and responses will be prompt and equally respectful.
    - d. BCSPCA and partners will consider the impact of their public discourse and each other and will consider input that is in the best interest of the partnership. Unprofessional or negative public discourse, in venues such as online posting, may be grounds for cessation of partnership.
  11. Animals will be eligible for transfer as outlined in the Animal Eligibility for Transfer to BCSPCA Rescue Partner document. Animals shall be transferred to Rescue Partner without a fee. Included are vaccinations, testing cats for FeLV/FIV, testing kittens for FeLV, and dogs for heartworm upon intake, working for intestinal parasites, and treatment for external parasites. Additional services can be provided by BCSPCA at cost to the Rescue Partner on a case-by-case basis.
  12. While BCSPCA will do its best to provide Rescue Partner with all available information about an animal (including medical records, behavioral records, other notes), BCSPCA makes no guarantees concerning the health, behavior, breed or age for any animal which Rescue Partner chooses to accept into its program.

I agree that I have the authorization to enter into this agreement on behalf of the organization listed below, and that I have read and agree to all of BCSPCA policies outlined in this agreement.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of BCSPCA representative: \_\_\_\_\_

