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## Policy Statement - Animals Received from Owners

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Please understand that you completely give up the ownership and all rights to this animal when you surrender it to the ECCHA. Once the animal is surrendered, we will decide if we can place the animal up for adoption. Ideally we would like to place all animals in new homes however we cannot guarantee that a new home will be found for this animal. Animals surrendered to the ECCHA will be examined and temperament tested by our staff soon after they are received to determine if they are suitable for adoption.

### Animals might not be placed for adoption if:

1. They are under the age of 8 weeks or pregnant. Animals between the ages of 7-8 weeks will be considered if they are robust. At this critical stage of their development, young animals are highly susceptible to disease and stress. Animals born into the shelter environment are also highly susceptible to illnesses.
2. They are over the age of 8 yrs. Animals over the age of 8 yrs often do not adjust well to kennel environment. They tend to experience separation anxiety from their owners, depression, and difficulties in adapting to a new home.
3. They are in poor health or physical condition. Many diseases are easily transferred to other animals. One sick animal may infect all the animals in our shelter. Other health conditions or illnesses may be too much for new adopters to take on that financial commitment or burden.
4. The animal is a hybrid. Domestic dogs or cats mixed with wild animals are often unpredictable, unstable and not able to be vaccinated. Therefore the shelter cannot put them up for adoption.
5. The animal has behavior issues. Animals that have aggression or social issues that are unsafe to handle pose a risk to staff, other animals and the public. They also put a higher level of stress on other animals at the shelter.
6. The cat has litter box issues.
7. The animal is suffering from stress due to being placed in a kennel environment-
8. There is not enough cage space available for the animal.

Those animals not placed for adoption will be humanly euthanized (put to death) by a painless injection of sodium pentobarbital after they are examined and we have determined we have no other options for them. THE ECCHA WILL NOT CALL YOU BEFORE THAT ANIMAL IS EUTHANIZED.

For animals available for adoption there is NO set holding period, it may take an hour, a day, a week or longer. Once an animal is placed for adoption its condition is continuously evaluated. An animal will be euthanized from our adoption area if there is a change in its physical condition or temperament which makes it unadoptable or if our kennels become overcrowded. If you wish to inquire as to the disposition of an animal you surrendered, please do so by calling the shelter.