



Lowell Humane Society

"Serving Greater Lowell Since 1873"

www.lowellhumanesociety.org

The primary service of the Lowell Humane Society animal shelter is the acceptance of homeless, distressed and unwanted animals. **The Society has an open admission policy and accepts all animals brought to the shelter provided they have not bitten or scratched during the last 10 days and are not stray dogs which are required to be held by Animal Control in the city/town where they are found (for 7 days).**

The Society typically receives more than 1,000 animals each year. The majority of the animals brought to the Society are dogs and cats. Other domestic pets such as rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, birds, hamsters, gerbils and the occasional exotic pets and reptiles find shelter here. The Society works with local animal agencies and rescue organizations to assist these animals in finding a home.

Before you decide to surrender a pet, we ask that you contact us to discuss placement options and the surrender procedure. To contact us at 978-452-7781 or email at info@lowellhumanesociety.org. Along with your pet, you will need to bring a valid photo ID. Please also bring current veterinary records. This information will be useful to us in evaluating and caring for your pet while at the Society.

Appointments are preferred for all surrenders. The staff interviews each person surrendering a pet to gather history, medical and behavior information about the pet. Please take the time to give us as much information as possible and answer all interview questions accurately and honestly. Surrender hours are Noon-3:30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 12-5:30 on Thursday. Closed Mondays. We are closed on major holidays. All animals must be transported safely in cages, carriers and on a collar and leash.

The Society does not charge a fee for surrendering an animal but does suggest a \$25 donation for an individual animal and a \$50 donation for litters. The actual expenses to prepare and place a single animal into a new home often add up to hundreds of dollars. Please give generously to help the animals! Most animals are evaluated for possible placement within the first week of surrender. Qualified staff carefully evaluate each animal. This evaluation is based on a variety of factors, foremost of which are the animal's health and temperament. Those animals deemed adoptable are placed in the adoption center to await a new home. The Society does not impose a time limit on pets in the adoption center.

The Society cannot guarantee a home for every animal nor can the Society guarantee to keep any animal at the shelter for any specific period of time. If the shelter is unable to place an animal, they will make every attempt to notify the owner if they choose to be notified. The owner will then be given 48 hours to come pick up their pet to pursue other placement options. The shelter also reserves the right to not offer this alternative if they feel the safety of the animal or others is at risk.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to weigh the risks and benefits to your pet when surrendering it. The LHS makes every effort to ensure the animals we adopt are placed, not just anywhere, but with people who will provide good care for the animal for the rest of its life. Animals that cannot be offered for adoption due to medical or behavioral issues will be humanely euthanized.

How long are animals kept at the shelter? Once an animal has been surrendered to the LHS, there is no specific amount of time that it may be kept before it is adopted or humanely euthanized. Some animals may never be available for adoption. Others may remain available for adoption for longer. Factors that determine if and how long an animal will be available for adoption include: health, behavioral and training history and behavior at the shelter. Every surrendered animal is re-evaluated daily with respect to these factors and the most healthy, socially adjusted animals are allowed to live in the available space at the shelter.

Unsafe conditions may make it necessary for an animal to be euthanized within hours of its surrender. **If the animal's immediate health or behavioral conditions are questionable, the Shelter Director shall have the final decision regarding the disposition of the animal.**