

# Mesa County Animal Services Displaced Pet Program



Thank you for visiting Mesa County Animal Services. We understand that your time is valuable and that you are trying to help with the pet overpopulation problem by adopting a displaced pet. We would like to take this opportunity to explain our policies so that you can understand how we determine which pets are placed into our general adoption program. By understanding our policies, you can make decisions that will work with your lifestyle.

## **GOAL – REUNITING OWNERS WITH PETS**

Our first goal is to return each animal to its owner. Animals are generally reclaimed within 24 to 48 hours. However, we hold each animal the legal hold time (generally five business days). If we receive a lead on ownership at any point during that period, the hold time may be extended.

## **GOAL—COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Because our focus is on community safety, we only place dogs that have passed our assessment process into the adoption program. While no temperament test can guarantee the future behavior of a dog, The SAFER test has proven to be successful in identifying behaviors that can be indicators of future problems. Behavior staff are trained in this area and

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they try to complete every assessment in a timely manner so that the animal can go into adoption upon completion of the hold time. However, circumstances can interfere with the assessment being completed on schedule. No animal can be placed into our general adoption program until the assessment has been finalized and the animal is deemed adoptable by our behavior team.

- In addition to the behavior assessment, we assess every animal for health issues based on the history we have available and any obvious health problems.
- When dogs do not pass our temperament test but the concerning behavior can be corrected by behavioral training, the dog may be sent to an animal rescue agency that has resources to address the problem behavior.
- Our goal is to never euthanize any animal that is behaviorally and physically healthy. In order to achieve that goal and to give every healthy animal the best opportunity to find a loving home, we often transfer an animal to a rescue or another humane society immediately upon completion of the required holding time. Throughout the day, we assess our shelter population and make decisions based on the best outcome for each adoptable animal. We are aware that our decision may mean that a citizen who is interested in adopting an animal may be disappointed. However, because of limited space, we must make decisions based on the options available at that critical moment.
- In a nutshell, MCAS staff cannot provide you with a date that an animal will go into adoption or give you information about the final disposition of any animal. Animals may be reclaimed by their owner at any point during their stay at our shelter. Finally, some animals will not go into our general adoption program and will be transferred to a rescue or humane society.

## **THANK YOU!**

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of Mesa County displaced pets. We know that it is you, a potential adopter and Mesa County pet owner, that will truly make a long term difference for these animals. Our job is to keep them safe and to do what we can to make good decisions on their behalf while they are in our care.