



Baltimore County Animal Services

Rescue Partner Agreement

Baltimore County Animal Services (“BCAS”) is responsible for enforcing the laws that protect animals, sheltering and returning stray pets to their owners and promoting responsible pet ownership. Some animals who come to our agency may need medical or behavior rehabilitation beyond the scope of our resources. By working with Rescue Partner organizations, BCAS can offer these animals a second chance at recovery and the opportunity to find an appropriate home.

Commitment of the Rescue Partner Organization (“Rescue Partner”)

- The Rescue Partner will submit a copy of its 501(c)(3) designation to BCAS, including a copy of its corporate delegation of authority, if applicable. If the Rescue Partner does not have a 501(c)(3) designation, it may submit internal organizing documents (such as a charter, articles of incorporation, partnership agreement, operating agreement, board resolutions or bylaws) to BCAS, including a copy of its corporate delegation of authority, if applicable. They will provide additional documentation or updated proof of nonprofit status if requested. The party or agent signing this agreement must be expressly authorized to sign on behalf of the Rescue Partner.
- The Rescue Partner has obtained and shall continue to maintain any such licenses and certifications as are necessary to operate as a rescue organization, and shall present such licenses and certifications to BCAS if requested. They agree to remain in compliance with all federal, state, and local animal laws.
- The Rescue Partner will provide a completed Rescue Partner Information Sheet, including two shelter or rescue references, to help match animals in need with appropriate placement and keep contact information up to date.
- The Rescue Partner will designate individuals who can authorize transporters. BCAS reserves the right to refuse release of an animal to a person who is not in compliance with federal, state, or local animal welfare laws.
- The Rescue Partner will not hold BCAS responsible for the cost of any outside veterinary care or damages incurred after the animal has been released to the Rescue Partner’s custody. The Rescue Partner shall not hold BCAS, its employees, agents, or officials responsible for any liabilities, claims, suits, or demands which may be incurred as a result of any act or omission committed and performed under the terms of this Agreement by the Rescue Partner or anyone under agreement with the Rescue Partner.
- This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland and Baltimore County, Maryland. The parties consent to the jurisdiction of and agree that venue shall be proper in the District or Circuit Court of Baltimore County, Maryland.
- If not done before the time of transfer, the Rescue Partner will have any animal placed in their custody surgically spayed or neutered, if medically appropriate, prior to final placement and will provide documentation of such to BCAS.
- The Rescue Partner understands that no warranty to health, temperament, or estimated age is implied or guaranteed.
- In the event the Rescue Partner takes custody of an animal involved in an open investigation, the organization shall comply with all reasonable requests from BCAS for updates related to the animal and pertinent to said investigation. In some ongoing cases BCAS may provide the Rescue Partner with a “Do Not Adopt” list populated with names, addresses and other personally identifiable information (“PII”) of the animal’s previous owners and known or suspected close contacts. The Rescue Partner shall deny adoptions to the persons named on this list, and shall take care to use the list and the PII contained therein internally only.
- The Rescue Partner agrees to abide by the decision of BCAS in regard to an animal's eligibility to be released to a Rescue Partner. BCAS will not knowingly release an animal that poses a threat to public safety. In the case of an animal that has a history of, or shows, behavior that causes concern, BCAS will disclose such information within

its control to the Rescue Partner and will only make that animal available to organizations with expertise in such behavior modification.

- The Rescue Partner will approve a transporter in writing to BCAS each time an animal is to be transported from the BCAS facility. Electronic communication is appropriate and preferred. A Transport Agreement will be signed by the transporter on behalf of the Rescue Partner for each transport. Transfer will be considered final upon completion of paperwork and departure of the animal from BCAS.
- The Rescue Partner will only place animals with adopters who will respect them as companions and not use them for the sole purpose of protection or hunting. The Rescue Partner will never release an animal to be used for medical experimentation or research.
- The Rescue Partner will meet the minimum standard of animal care for housing, nutrition, medical care, and socialization appropriate to the species. The Rescue Partner will not use behavior modification techniques that are mentally or physically damaging to the animal.
- The Rescue Partner will renew this agreement each year by sending BCAS a new completed agreement and Information Sheet. BCAS shall provide ample notice when renewal is required.

Commitment of Baltimore County Animal Services

- BCAS will inform the organization of their approval or denial as a Rescue Partner in a timely manner.
- Once approved, BCAS will accept the services of the organization.
- BCAS will provide information on an animal that will enable the organization to make an informed decision whether or not to accept the animal into their care.
- BCAS will provide instruction on changes to BCAS policy and procedure that will impact the organization.
- BCAS will provide support and maintain open communication with the organization during interactions on the job, including responding to emails and phone calls in a timely manner.
- BCAS will respect the skills and individual expertise of each organization and understand their resource limitations.
- BCAS will provide feedback on interactions and provide opportunity for the organization to give feedback in order to better accomplish mutual goals.
- BCAS will be available, within reason, to the organization and willing to discuss issues of concern in either an impromptu discussion or pre-arranged meeting time.
- BCAS will not disclose to the public which Rescue Partner has taken an animal into their organization without express permission from the Rescue Partner, except where such disclosures are required to comply with the Maryland Public Information Act (Maryland Annotated Code, Title 4 of the General Provisions Article).

I agree that I have the authorization to enter into this Rescue Partner Agreement on behalf of the Rescue Partner listed below, and that I have read and agree to all policies outlined in this Agreement. I understand that I assume full responsibility for the well-being of the animal while under my organization's care. I agree that I will conduct due diligence and otherwise make my best efforts to place any animals(s) obtained from Baltimore County in safe and healthy environments and I further agree that I will not knowingly place an animal into an environment where it may harm a person or another animal. I understand that failure to comply with these policies may result in the breach of this agreement and the removal of eligibility from the undersigned Rescue Partner.

Name of Organization: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____