



**Willamette Humane Society Admissions Policy**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**  
**Updated 5/1/11**

**What is Willamette Humane Society's admissions policy?**

It is our goal to accept healthy, friendly cats and dogs from Marion and Polk Counties by appointment and place them in loving, new homes. Once an animal becomes available for adoption, there is no time limit in which he or she can remain available. Staff will discuss options with owners whose pets are not accepted for adoption, including possible referrals to other shelters or rescue groups. Animals that display extreme aggression or are suffering mentally and/or physically may be recommended for humane euthanasia. The decision to euthanize an animal is never taken lightly, and each case is thoroughly assessed on an individual basis.

**Do I need to make an appointment to bring in an animal?**

Yes. Appointments are necessary to stabilize the flow of animals coming into the shelter so that we can effectively serve both human and animal customers. Setting appointments also provides customers with the opportunity to discuss options and resources before making a trip to the shelter.

**How do I make an appointment?**

Call the shelter at (503) 585-5900, x300. If you do not reach a staff member immediately, please leave a detailed message, and we will return your call within one business day. (The shelter is open for business Thursday - Monday. We are closed to the public on Tuesday & Wednesday).

**Do you accept walk-ins?**

WHS accepts walk-ins as space allows between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. on business days.

**Is there a fee to surrender my pet?**

Yes. Like most humane societies and animal welfare organizations across the nation, Willamette Humane Society charges a small fee to help offset some of the costs of care. It costs an average of \$250 for WHS to care for an animal from intake to adoption. WHS charges a fee of \$20 per cat, \$30 per dog, and \$40 for a litter of puppies or kittens accepted for adoption.

If your pet is not accepted for adoption, staff will discuss options and costs with you. Owner-requested euthanasia & cremation services start at \$44.50 and are assessed according to the weight of the animal.

**Do I need to make an appointment to bring in a stray animal?**

Yes. If you want to bring in a stray cat from Marion or Polk County or a dog from Polk County, please call us to arrange an appointment. (Stray dogs found in Marion County must go to the Marion County Dog Shelter, located at 3350 Aumsville Highway SE in Salem).

**Is there a fee to bring in a stray dog or cat?**

Since we depend on donations to serve our community, we ask for a \$10 suggested donation to bring in a stray cat or dog.

**Can I bring in a feral cat?**

Yes, but please be aware that feral cats cannot be accepted into our adoption program. If you want to bring in a feral cat, please call for an appointment. We charge a fee of \$25 to safely handle and accept a feral cat.

Alternately, you can make an appointment to bring a feral cat to our spay & neuter clinic, where he or she will be sterilized and returned to you. The cost is \$43 per cat and includes the spay or neuter surgery, rabies vaccination, flea and ear mite treatment. See our website for more information about low-cost spay and neuter services. You can also contact the Feral Cat Coalition for information about caring for feral cat colonies.

**Do you accept small pets?**

WHS does not currently accept small pets. If you need to re-home a rabbit, guinea pig, bird, rodent, or other small pet, see our website for tips for re-homing your small pet and list of referrals to rescue groups or other outlets.

**Can I keep a stray cat or dog in my home and submit a found animal report to you?**

Yes. Call us to arrange a time to bring the animal in and we will scan for a microchip while you fill out a Found Pet report. If an owner is found, we will contact you.

**Do you accept cats or dogs from residents living outside of Marion or Polk Counties?**

No. WHS takes in cats and dogs from residents living in Marion or Polk County. If you live outside of Marion or Polk County, see our website for a list of shelters or rescue groups in your area. If there are no services in your area, you should contact your elected officials about the need for animal services in your county.

**I found a stray farm animal or would like to find a home for my farm animal. What should I do?**

Contact the Department of Agriculture at (503) 986-4681 or Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary at (503) 394-4486.

**I found injured/orphaned wildlife. What should I do? Contact:**

Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center: (503) 540-8664

American Wildlife Foundation: (503) 227-4036

Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: (503) 971-6000

You can also check the yellow pages under Pest Control for companies that handle vermin or rodent issues.

**How can I help WHS in its mission to help homeless and abandoned pets?**

Willamette Humane Society relies entirely on donations, fees for service, and revenue from our for-profit ventures – Davenport's Den pet supply store, the WHS Thrift Store and Helping Paws Thrift Store - to care for thousands of animals each year. There are numerous ways you can help the animals, including:

- Spreading the word about our new admissions policy
- Adopting a pet
- Making a tax-deductible donation
- Remembering us in your will
- Volunteering at the shelter or at our thrift stores