

## STRAY ANIMAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- Each stray animal that is surrendered must be scanned for a microchip. The only exception to this rule is if an animal is too aggressive for staff to scan safely (includes feral cats).
- If a microchip is detected, staff must contact the microchip company to report the animal as found. Then, must make reasonable attempts to contact the owner. (by phone or email).
- Animals with a microchip, will not be given vaccines until the end of the work day if no contact with owner has been made. If the owner is reached, but the animal is not current on vaccinations, owners can opt for Canine 5/1 vaccine for \$10 or a Bordatella vaccine for \$10 (dogs) or a feline 4/1 for \$10 (cats). Rabies Vaccines must be current before the animal is relinquished to the owner, the cost of the Rabies Vaccine is \$10.
- If NO microchip is detected, the animal must receive vaccinations before placing them into a kennel/cage. Dogs over the age of 6 weeks old will receive a Bordatella Intranasal Vaccine and a Canine 5/1 Vaccine. Cats over the age of 6 weeks will be given a Feline 4/1 vaccine. Flea treatment and deworming treatment will be given at the discretion of the staff.
- Animals will be treated for sickness or injury at the discretion of staff. Staff may handle this in house or may need to take the animal to a Veterinarian for treatment. If the stray is reclaimed by the owner, the owner will be required to reimburse MCAR for any medical costs incurred either at MCAR or a Veterinarian's office.
- MCAR in accordance to North Carolina State Law, will hold all stray animals for 72 hours before placing them up for adoption or euthanizing them. This 72 hour hold includes weekends as we have a 24 hour cell phone line an owner can call to claim a stray. In extreme cases where an animal is suffering or severely injured the animal may be euthanized before the 72 hour hold is up. CET performing the euthanasia must document this action.
- If an owner claims a stray within the 72 hour hold period, they must pay the Return to Owner Fee, Vaccination and Meds Reimbursement that includes the vaccines at a \$10 charge each and or flea treatment/dewormer for \$5 each.
- Owners must provide reasonable proof that the stray in question is their pet. (Pictures, vet records, bill of sale etc.)
- If an owner wishes to reclaim their pet after the 72 hour hold period is up, they can apply for adoption. An application does not guarantee the owner can adopt the pet. The pet will be fixed and microchipped before he/she leaves MCAR property as included in the adoption fee. MCAR reserves the right to refuse adoption to any persons at staff discretion.

## REPEAT OFFENDERS AS STRAYS

This section refers to each specific animal being turned in or picked up as a stray. Change of ownership and or address does not nullify charges.

The following rules apply when an animal is brought into the shelter as a stray multiple times in 365 days.

- First time stray reclaim of animal: within 72 hours, Owner picks up and is required to pay the Return to Owner Fee Vaccination and Meds reimbursement. \$10 per vaccine and other fees to be determined by staff.
- Second time stray reclaim: within 72 hours, Owners pay a Return to Owner fee of \$25.00
- Third time stray reclaim: owners pay Return to Owner fee of \$100 OR do the adoption paperwork and get pet fixed/chipped, etc if the pet is not currently altered.
- If a pet is turned in as a stray more than three times in a year, a \$250 fine will be owed each time the pet is brought in.

Approved by the Mitchell County Animal Rescue Board of Directors, February 2019



