

Alabama Humane Federation's

CODE OF ETHICS FOR ANIMAL PLACEMENT GROUPS

As a member of the Alabama Humane Federation's Placement Groups, (AHFPG), I pledge to satisfy

the following conditions:

GENERAL ITEMS

1. As a member of AHFPG rescuers must show respect to local animal control and shelter staff in a effort to establish good rescue relationships. Upon the release of an animal from a shelter to a rescue, care should be taken to represent the shelter in the best possible light.
2. To maintain the rescue as a non-profit endeavor, whether my group is an organization recognized by the state and/or federal government, or the work of one or more private individuals.
3. To conduct my rescue on a voluntary basis, receiving no compensation for rescue work.
4. To educate potential adopters about the issues regarding their breed or species; i.e. temperament, health, training and care.
5. To ensure that all volunteers of my rescue are educated in their area of service, whether fostering, adoption screening, temperament evaluation, transportation or educational outreach.
6. To recommend specific purebred breeders to adopters desiring such information (when possible), but not to act as a general repository or adoption means for any breeder's unsold animals.

FOSTERED ANIMAL CARE

1. To house rescue animals in my care under sanitary conditions, which meet or exceed all minimum standards as defined by local health and sanitation authorities.
2. To assure appropriate routine veterinary care has been provided for fostered rescue animals including regular inoculations, appropriate testing and administration of preventative medication.. Documentation of such veterinary care will be provided to the new owner at the time of adoption.
3. To make adequate provision to ensure that rescue animals are free of parasitic infestations.
4. To provide appropriate food, clean water, and shelter for all animals in my care.
5. To temperament test each animal and exercise good judgement to assure its suitability for placement. Rescue groups will not knowingly place a vicious or otherwise seriously temperamentally unsound animal in an adoptive home.
6. Rescue animals deemed unplaceable for reasons of health, temperament, or any other reason will be humanely euthanized by a veterinarian or certified euthanasia technician and properly disposed of.

ADOPTION PROCEDURES

1. To thoroughly interview potential adopters utilizing two or more methods (i.e. written application, phone interview, home visit, face to face interview) with the goal of placing all rescue animals in homes that are specifically appropriate to each individual animal.
2. To require sterilization as outlined in the **Alabama Mandatory Spay and Neuter Law**, enacted April 2006.
3. To review the current veterinary records of all other pets in the prospective adopter's home prior to the placement of the rescued pet.
4. To obtain landlord approval for prospective adopters who rent or lease their residence.
5. To require all adopters be at least 19 years of age.

6. To utilize a written adoption contract for each animal to fully disclose of all health and temperament information.
7. To provide follow up advice and assistance to adopters.
8. To take back any animal placed by my group at the request of the adopter. Refund of the donation/fee is at the discretion of the rescue group.
9. To maintain a waiting list of interested adopters when requests to adopt exceed available animals.
10. In order to prevent their unlawful use, my rescue group will not release the original registration papers of any rescued animal to the adopter, even if the animal is sterilized.

REFERRAL ASSISTANCE PROCEDURES

1. To acquire as much information as possible about animals being listed for adoption, including but not limited to sex, age, sterilization status, temperament, health, reason being listed. Rescue groups will not knowingly list or refer seriously temperamentally unsound animals, including animals that have bitten a human.
3. To thoroughly interview potential adopters with the goal of referring rescue animals to homes specifically appropriate to each individual animal.
4. To provide follow up advice and assistance to adopters.
5. To maintain a waiting list of interested adopters when requests to adopt exceed available animals.

INTERORGANIZATIONAL / INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

1. To abide by all written contracts entered into with a releasing agency or person.
2. To return phone calls to agencies/private owners with pets to place promptly. If I am unable to return phone calls promptly, I will make alternative provisions to have calls handled by another rescue representative, or if none is available, to leave information on my telephone answering system as to when I will be available to take calls.
3. To pay agreed-upon fees to releasing agencies for rescue pets, and agreed-upon expenses to private individuals who assist with acquisition, transportation, or any temporary care of rescue pets.
4. To conduct myself in a courteous manner in my rescue work such that my behavior brings credit to the image of the AHF and animal rescue in general.
5. Notify the Federation of any significant changes in the structure or contact information of the rescue organization.