



Springfield-Greene County
Health Department

Helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives

Animal Rescue Group Procedures

The Springfield-Greene County Animal Control program will make every effort to work with qualified animal rescue groups. If you are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, you may be able to rescue animals directly from our shelter. Here are the Springfield-Greene County Health Department requirements:

- You must provide proof of your organization's 501(c)(3) status.
- You must be licensed with the Missouri Department of Agriculture as an animal rescue organization.
- You must provide us with a copy of your organization's mission statement. It must state that your organization's purpose is to rescue animals from animal shelters.

If you do **not** meet these requirements (for example if you do not have non-profit status, or you do not hold a license with the Missouri Department of Agriculture):

- You may contact a rescue group that meets the above criteria to assist you.
- They will want to verify you are a legitimate rescue organization and discuss the financial aspects of rescuing from our shelter.
- Please don't forget to provide our animal id tag to assist them.

How can your organization rescue an animal from our shelter?

It is important to note that our primary rescue partner is the Castaway Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.). We always give C.A.R.E. the right of first refusal on all animals in our shelter. C.A.R.E. typically tags animals on Monday and Friday afternoons. It is important to note that we reserve the right to release any animal in our shelter to C.A.R.E. even if your organization has previously tagged it. We will make every effort to give your organization adequate notice of the change in status.

If your group wishes to pull an animal from our shelter we encourage you to provide us with your Missouri Department of Agriculture license in advance as well as proof of your 501(c)(3) status. You must also provide us with the names of individuals who will be pulling animals from our shelter. This list of names must be on file with the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

If you would like to tag an animal for rescue please e-mail us at rescue@springfieldmo.gov. We will work on a first come, first serve basis. Please include the following information in your e-mail:

- Your name and a daytime phone number where you may be reached.
- The rescue organization you are representing.
- The tag number and a brief description of the animal(s) you wish to tag.
- Who will be pulling the animal from our shelter.
- The date in which you plan on pulling the animal.

Our shelter will allow qualified rescue organizations to pull directly from our shelter each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. You must make an appointment to pull during one of these designated times.

Missouri Department of Agriculture regulations stipulate when animals can become available for rescue from our shelter. Dogs found running at large must be held for at least five days and this must include a weekend before they are eligible for rescue. Owner-surrendered animals are available for rescue immediately. Because of the small size of our shelter the maximum time we will hold an animal for a rescue organization is 10 days from the date the animal was impounded.

Per Missouri Department of Agriculture regulations all animals rescued from our shelter must be sterilized and vaccinated for rabies. There are no exceptions. Organizations that rescue through the Springfield-Greene County Animal Shelter are solely responsible for maintaining all necessary paperwork to comply with their Missouri Department of Agriculture licensure. Springfield-Greene County Animal Control will have sole discretion on which animals are available for rescue.