

Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary

ANIMAL RESCUE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Subject: Rescue Agency Pet Foster, Adoption, & Shelter Relations

At Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary, our goal is to attract responsible pet owners and to help them provide permanent loving homes. To that extent, we ask potential adopters to give serious thought to the responsibilities of pet ownership. The ultimate goal is to attempt to match the animal with the most suitable home. All animals released from Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary are to be altered, micro-chipped, up to date on vaccinations, and provided with instructions regarding medical & nutritional needs. Adoption fee is \$73.00 for any animal, and includes the above-mentioned services.

Foster, Adoption, & General Policies:

- ◆ All animals are available to adopt through Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary after they are 1. Released from care by any other involved entity via contract agreement (individual) or via agreement between Higher Ground & shelter or rescue, 2. Given medical evaluation, spay/neuter, microchip implant, & vaccinations, 3. In good stable health condition.
- ◆ Sick or injured animals may be fostered by individuals, and are available for adoption when they are in a stable medical state.
- ◆ It is our intent to provide the best possible permanent option for animals in our care. Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary has the right to refuse adoption to any individual, for any reason.
 - In order to serve the best interests of the animal, Higher Ground Board of Directors has additionally stated that an animal may not be placed in and during the following situations:
 - Times of Bereavement including divorce, homelessness, unemployment, recent childbirth, death, holidays, any event HGAS may deem as crisis or major life events.
- ◆ When Higher Ground is holding an animal for adoption to an interested party, failure to make contact within 3 days of putting the animal on hold will result in a forfeit of any adoption agreement between individual and Higher Ground. Should Higher Ground be holding an animal for refuge, failure to coordinate pick up, or failure to pick up animal within 5 days of specified date will result in forfeit of individual's ownership.

Medical Consent:

- ◆ Transportation of any animal on behalf of Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary's care to the vet is allowed by registered fosters only.
- ◆ Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary will not be responsible for payment of unauthorized veterinary care or procedures. Requests for procedures must be submitted in writing and approved by the HGAS Board of Directors prior to any medical visits. Failure to go through the appropriate channels for consent will result in the foster or caregiver being held responsible for the unauthorized procedure.
- ◆ Procedures approved by HGAS may be performed by authorized HGAS partner-veterinarians only. HGAS will not be held responsible for bills for unauthorized veterinary services done by a veterinary clinic that we are not partnered with.
- ◆ No individual or entity shall be allowed to pull an animal from a shelter or rescue in Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary's name without prior verbal or written consent with Cheri Scandalis.

Communication guidelines:

- ◆ Transporters, Fosters, Volunteers, & Rescue groups working with Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary must represent themselves and Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary with integrity and courteousness. All entities representing Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary are expected to act professionally and courteously.
- ◆ Respectful communication during phone calls, emails and meetings is required. Derogatory behaviors and/or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- ◆ Casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true, undermine the rescue community's objectives as a whole, and will not be tolerated.
- ◆ Failure to abide by these guidelines will result in termination of any relationship or affiliation with Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary.
- ◆ Civilian & Rescue entity visits to Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary are by appointment only. Our facilities are not open for drop in visits.

Updated 01/01/14 by
Michelle S Kyncl
Authorized Representative
Board Secretary, Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary