

STRAY/ABANDONED and SURRENDER POLICY (Effective 12/14/11)

GCHS accepts stray and abandoned animals based on the capacity of the shelter. Notification of stray and abandoned animals must come from local and county law enforcement agencies; animals will only be accepted from the public after persons have notified the appropriate law enforcement agency. Animals may be picked up by staff during shelter hours or brought in by the public. Animals must be contained / restrained in order for staff to go pick up an animal. GCHS only takes in dogs and cats from Green County, and dogs from Lafayette County.

GCHS currently does not accept surrendered or trapped animals. Pet owners are responsible for finding suitable homes for their pets should circumstances mandate.

Definitions:

Stray/abandoned animals: these are animals that have wandered from homes onto someone else's property, or have been dropped by an owner somewhere other than the owner's property. An animal will be considered stray/abandoned for up to 7 days. During this time any person filing the report may turn the animal over to the shelter by way of law enforcement. After 7 days or more of care, the person caring for the animal takes ownership.

Surrendered animals: these are animals where the owner wants to relinquish ownership by turning the animal over to the GCHS. Surrendered animals are:

- any animal that is cared for by a person for 7 days or more
- any GCHS adopted animal that is owned by an individual for two (2) or more months