



Department of
Agriculture and Markets

NYS Agriculture & Markets

Article 26C

Shelter Standards

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License Requirements:

Does Include:

- Rescues and Shelters (including foster based rescues and municipal shelters)

Does **NOT** Include:

- Pet dealers: breeders who offer/sell 25 or more cats/dogs within a 12-month period
- Animal sanctuaries who do not adopt animals

Record Keeping and Protocols

Written protocols for:

- Animal Handling
- Behavioral Assessment
- Enrichment and Stress Reduction
- Management of Bite & Scratch Cases
- Sanitation

Written protocols approved by a veterinarian for:

- Nutrition and Feeding
- Physical Examination
- Emergency Vet Care
- Pain Management
- Vaccinations
- Parasite Control
- Anesthesia and/or Surgery (if done on site by the organization)
- Humane Euthanasia
- Outbreak Management/Control of Infectious Diseases

Clear management structure

<https://nysapfedfund.org/standard-operating-procedures-sops/>



Veterinary Care

- All incoming animals shall be assessed within two hours after intake
- Complete physical examination by trained staff within 24 hours of intake
- Animals in shelter rescue for more than 30 days shall be weighed and examined at least once a month (at least every 6 months for foster care animals)
- Healthy animal must be examined by veterinarian at least every 6 months or more frequently if problems are identified
- All drugs must be documented and dispensed according with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations

Documentation

Health Assessment: Article 7 Seized Dog

Dog Name (if known): _____ Date: _____

Location Found: _____

Time of Pick up: _____ Time of drop off: _____

Description of Dog (Breed, Sex, Color): _____

DCO/Officer name: _____

Contact information (phone number): _____

	YES	NO
Did you see or do you suspect dog was hit by car?		
Are there any obvious wounds, blood present on the dog, or active bleeding?		
Have you observed any blood in stool, urine, or vomit?		
Has the dog vomited?		
Is the dog having trouble breathing?		
Have you observed any coughing, sneezing, or discharge from the nose?		
Is there any swelling anywhere?		
Is there any significant limp or walking abnormality?		
Have you observed any seizures or are they mentally abnormal?		
Is the stomach bloated?		
Did the dog receive any emergency medical care/ was there reason to believe there was an imminent risk to the animal's life?		

If you responded yes to any of the following please provide further details below:

Signature _____

Date _____

Documentation

Physical Exam		Date of exam:
Staff Name:		
Animal Name/ ID:		
Description:		
Assessment	Physical findings	Notes/Descriptions
Species	<input type="radio"/> Dog <input type="radio"/> Cat <input type="radio"/> Other	
ID present	<input type="radio"/> Collar <input type="radio"/> Tag <input type="radio"/> Microchip #	
Sex	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Unknown	
Neutered/Spayed	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Not sure	
General attitude	<input type="radio"/> Bright, Alert and Responsive <input type="radio"/> Quiet but Alert and Responsive <input type="radio"/> Depressed, Not Very Responsive	
Weight	<input type="radio"/> Thin <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Overweight	Weight:
Skin/coat	<input type="radio"/> Bare patches <input type="radio"/> Matting <input type="radio"/> Fleas <input type="radio"/> Ticks <input type="radio"/> Other skin issues <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Walking	<input type="radio"/> Limping <input type="radio"/> Other abnormal movement <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Infectious respiratory disease	<input type="radio"/> Discharge from nose <input type="radio"/> Coughing <input type="radio"/> Sneezing <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Infectious bowel disease	<input type="radio"/> Diarrhea <input type="radio"/> Vomiting <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Body	<input type="radio"/> Lumps <input type="radio"/> Swelling <input type="radio"/> Wounds <input type="radio"/> Bloating <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Emergency conditions – seek medical attention ASAP	<input type="radio"/> Trouble breathing <input type="radio"/> Active bleeding that is not stopping <input type="radio"/> Hit by a car or other serious trauma <input type="radio"/> Seizure	
Other notes:		



Vaccines and Deworming

- Animals must be vaccinated with core vaccines
- All dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated for Rabies prior to release (public health law)
- All animals must be treated for hookworms and roundworms (minimum)



Spay and Neuter

- No dog or cat shall be released for adoption to any person unless the dog or cat has been spayed or neutered **OR** per Agriculture & Markets Law Section 377-A the animal can be released or adopted with a \$35 deposit and a written agreement with the shelter that the animal will be spayed or neutered within 30 days of adoption or if not sexually mature within 30 days of reaching 6 months of age **OR** they can create a foster to adopt program until the animal can be spayed or neutered.

If brick and mortar shelter rescue has surgery capabilities:

- Examination by a duly licensed veterinarian within 24 hours of surgery/anesthesia if performed by the shelter rescue.
- Written anesthetic protocol (including pre/post op care and related emergencies), a dedicated surgical area, & aseptic technique (including sterile & proper working equipment).
- Permanent tattoo placed on ventral abdomen of all shelter owned cats & dogs at time of spay or neuter.

QUESTIONS?

