



Frequently Asked Questions about Surrendering Your Pet

Before you surrender your pet to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, please take the time to look over these Frequently Asked Questions.

What types of animals does the HSSA take in?

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona cares for dogs, cats, puppies, kittens, small rodents (hamsters, mice, rats), birds and some exotic pets. However, as a managed-access shelter the HSSA examines each pet before it is accepted by the shelter.

How many pets does the HSSA take in each year?

The HSSA takes in about 8,600 pets each year. Nearly 60 percent of those pets are surrendered by their owners.

Why is there an animal care fee ?

The HSSA asks anyone surrendering a pet for an animal care fee. This fee helps cover some of the cost to care for the pet. It costs, on average, \$450 to care for each pet that comes through our doors. For a single cat or dog, with a mandatory appointment, the animal care fee is \$45.

What does "surrendering" a pet mean?

When you surrender your pet to the HSSA, you relinquish ownership and responsibility for that pet. Once you have surrendered your pet, the Humane Society of Southern Arizona will make the decisions that we believe are best for the pet.

Can I have a guarantee my pet will be adopted into a new home?

If your pet is placed for adoption, the HSSA will do all it can to ensure the pet finds a loving, committed home. There is no time limit on pets in our care; they will be given as much time as necessary to find a home. However, while our goal is to find a loving home for each and every pet, we recognize that some pets, whether for health or temperament reasons, must be humanely euthanized. This is a decision that is always made with care and a great sense of responsibility.

Can I get updates on my pet's situation at the HSSA?

Though we understand your concern about your pet, we do not give out information once a pet is surrendered to the HSSA.

How long do pets usually stay at the HSSA?

The average length of stay for a pet at the HSSA is about 17 days.

How do I know my pet will end up in a good home?

Our adoption process makes every effort to match pets and people to ensure a home is the right fit. All potential adopters must fill out a fact sheet outlining the type of pet they are looking for, and a chat with a counselor helps us make the best decision.