

TITLE: Adoption Policy for Deemed Dangerous Dogs

SOP NUMBER: Shelter SOP # 32

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 14, 2014



I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure is to outline the procedures followed in the adoption or transfer of dogs that have been legally deemed dangerous.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (hereafter referred to as 'FCAS') to follow a specific set of guidelines when adopting or transferring a dog which has been deemed dangerous to ensure full disclosure of animal's physical and behavioral state.

III. PROCEDURES

In addition to following all of the adoption procedures outlined in SOP #2: Adoption Procedures, the following procedures will be followed:

- A deemed dangerous dog shall only be considered for adoption or transfer if it was not deemed dangerous for causing injury to a person.
- A deemed dangerous dog shall not be transferred or adopted outside of the state of Virginia.
- A veterinarian shall examine the dog and will sign a form stating that the dog is medically suitable for adoption or transfer to rescue.
- The animal shelter director and the animal control commander shall review all documentation related to the dog prior to the dog being made available for adoption or transfer.
- Shelter staff members shall follow all protocol related to special adoption processes as outlined in SOP #2 and SOP #20.
- The adopter or rescue agency representative shall receive all documentation regarding history of the dog and dog's medical and behavioral assessments while in the shelter.
- The adopter or rescue agency representative shall meet with an animal control officer prior to completing the adoption to learn about the requirements for owning a deemed dangerous dog.
- The adopter or rescue agency representative shall sign a form stating that they have received complete disclosure and documentation related to this animal and that they understand and will comply by the requirements for owning a deemed dangerous dog.

- The adopter shall sign the adoption contract or the rescue agency representative shall sign the transfer agreement.

This SOP becomes effective _____ and rescinds all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subject.

ISSUED AND APPROVED BY:

Animal Shelter Director