

Last Chance Arkansas
and
Little Rock Animal Services
Rescue Procedures

Thank you for your interest in rescuing an animal from the Little Rock Animal Services (LRAS) shelter! Last Chance Arkansas (LCA) is NOT officially affiliated with LRAS. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all-volunteer organization that works closely with LRAS to help find homes for the animals housed there. The purpose of this document is to help guide you through the process of rescuing animals from LRAS. Although this document refers to “dogs”, the same policies and procedures apply to cats.

If you are **not** with an animal rescue organization, but want to adopt a dog from LRAS, please go to our web site (www.LastChanceArkansas.org) and refer to the “Adoption Procedures” page. If you are in the central Arkansas area, you can easily adopt a dog directly from LRAS. If you are not in the central Arkansas area, we will be happy to assist you in adopting your new friend. You can find more information on our web site about how we might be able to help you, or you can send an email to adopt@LastChanceArkansas.org and request an adoption application and a copy of our adoption procedures.

If you **are** with an animal rescue organization, there are two ways you can rescue a dog from LRAS:

1. If you **are** a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, you may be able to “pull” (ie, rescue) the dog directly from LRAS. This document provides information about the LRAS rescue policies and procedures. However, this document is NOT the official LRAS policy. We are simply attempting to help you understand their policies and procedures. Even if you are a 501(c)(3) organization, you may not meet all the requirements for pulling directly from LRAS. In that case, LCA may be able to assist you.
2. If you are **not** a 501(c)(3) organization you cannot pull directly from LRAS. However, LCA may be able to assist you in rescuing the dog.

Please understand that we have exactly the same goal you do – saving animals and placing them in the right homes where they will be properly cared for and loved for the rest of their lives. We are not trying to make this process difficult or confusing. Quite the contrary – we are trying to make it as simple and straight-forward as possible while still complying with Arkansas state law, Little Rock Animal Services policies and procedures, and our own ethical and moral obligation to ensure that we are not contributing to the problem of homeless dogs and cats by allowing unsterilized animals to be sent into other communities.

If you are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization please refer to this section. (Otherwise, please refer to the next section.)

In order to pull dogs directly from LRAS, you must meet the following criteria:

1. You must provide LRAS with proof of your organization's 501(c)(3) status.
2. You must provide LRAS with a copy of your organization's mission statement which must state that your organization's purpose is to rescue dogs from animal shelters.
3. Your organization must have a local (in Pulaski County) representative. The local contact information must be provided to LRAS by an officer of the organization.

If you do not meet all of these criteria, you cannot pull animals directly from LRAS. Please refer to the next section to see if LCA might be able to help you. Also, if you meet these criteria but are not already approved to pull from LRAS, and you want to rescue a particular dog currently in the shelter, you may need LCA's help the first time due to the amount of time it will take to get all the paperwork submitted to LRAS and get approved.

If you meet these criteria, please contact LRAS directly at (501) 376-3067 and talk to Tracy Roark (Shelter Director). Tracy will assist you in obtaining approval to pull from LRAS. You can fax your proof of 501(c)(3) status, your mission statement, and your application to (501) 374-1310. Please send it to the attention of Tracy Roark.

Following are the procedures that must be followed to pull a dog (after you have been approved):

1. If the dog has not already been spayed or neutered, it **MUST (NO EXCEPTIONS)** be taken by LRAS directly to an approved local veterinarian for spaying or neutering. You must select a veterinarian from the list at the end of this document. You must call the veterinarian and make an appointment to have the dog delivered to them. Tell them it is a LRAS dog and that you will be sending it there to be spayed or neutered (and whatever else you want them to do). (If the dog has already been spayed or neutered, your local representative can pick him or her up at LRAS any time during their normal business hours.)
2. Payment arrangements are handled between you and the veterinarian. LRAS does not charge an adoption fee for rescues and will not have any involvement in payment arrangements. Most veterinarians will accept a credit card as payment for their services. **It is imperative that you clearly understand the fees that the veterinarian will charge!** In many cases, the veterinarians on the list will give a discount for dogs rescued from LRAS but YOU must discuss that with them directly. They are NOT obligated to do so. Some will give a discount for a limited number of animals per week so, if they have already reached that limit, they may not be able to take any more at that discounted rate.
3. When you have an appointment with an approved veterinarian, call Tracy Roark at LRAS and request that the dog be delivered to that veterinarian on the date of your appointment.

Your appointment date should be within one (1) week. LRAS will need the 6-digit LRAS intake number for the dog you are rescuing as well as a description of the dog.

It is highly recommended that you also send an email to: Tracy Roark (troark@littlerock.org).

Your email should include at least:

- a. The LRAS intake number
 - b. A description of the dog
 - c. An attached picture of the dog
 - d. The name of the veterinary clinic at which you have an appointment
 - e. The date you want the dog taken there
4. After the dog has been spayed or neutered, your local representative may pick him or her up at the veterinary clinic.
 5. **Proof of sterilization MUST be sent to LRAS within 5 business days after the dog is pulled (NO EXCEPTIONS).** You should ask the veterinarian to fax a copy of the proof of sterilization to LRAS at (501) 374-1310. Send it to the attention of Tracy Roark. It must include the LRAS intake number and a description of the dog. If it just includes the dog's name, it will not work because LRAS has no record of the name you gave the dog!

We **HIGHLY** recommend that you obtain a copy of the proof of sterilization and keep it for your records.

We also **HIGHLY** recommend that you personally call LRAS and confirm that they got the proof of sterilization and have updated their records accordingly. If they have not received it, you will need to fax it to them again – or have your local representative deliver it to them personally.

Please understand that this requirement is an Arkansas state law so there can be no exceptions made. It is your **LEGAL** responsibility to comply with this law.

You must stay on top of this until you confirm that LRAS has received the proof of sterilization. We cannot emphasize enough how important this is. If LRAS does not receive proof of sterilization for ALL dogs you pull, your pull privileges will be revoked.

6. If the veterinarian determines that the dog is too sick or too young to be spayed or neutered immediately, he/she **MUST** provide you with a written waiver that states the expected date the dog can be sterilized. That waiver must be sent to LRAS within 5 business days after the dog is pulled (NO EXCEPTIONS).

It is **YOUR** responsibility to **ENSURE** that the dog is sterilized on or about the date set by the veterinarian and that proof of that sterilization is sent to LRAS.

We highly recommend that you not transport the dog out of the Little Rock area until he or she has been sterilized. Once the dog has been transported out-of-state, it becomes much more difficult to follow-up on the sterilization requirements. Your local representative will be held responsible for complying with the sterilization requirement so it is best if the dog is still in the area so that your representative can personally pick the dog up at its foster home and take it to the vet to be sterilized if necessary.

Again, we cannot emphasize enough how important this is. If LRAS does not receive proof of sterilization within 5 working days of the date specified by the veterinarian in the waiver, your pull privileges may be revoked.

7. If out-of-state transportation is required, your organization is responsible for any boarding, foster care and transportation expenses.

If you are not a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, or do not meet the LRAS requirements outlined in the section above, please refer to this section.

If your organization does not meet the requirements to rescue dogs directly from LRAS, we may be able to assist you. Following are our (Last Chance Arkansas) requirements:

1. We must be able to verify the legitimacy of your rescue organization to our satisfaction. We will at least contact a veterinarian in your area that is familiar with your organization. We may also contact personal references, people who have adopted from your organization in the past, other animal control facilities from which you have rescued dogs and your local police department or animal control facility.
2. **You agree to assume full financial responsibility for the dog.** This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Veterinary expenses to have the dog sterilized, immunized and given a health check to be cleared for transport. **This must be done by a LRAS approved veterinarian in Little Rock.** LRAS will not allow a dog to be transported out-of-state on the basis of a promise to sterilize him when he gets where he is going.
 - b. Emergency veterinary expenses that might arise while the dog is in foster care awaiting transportation.
 - c. Boarding and/or foster care from the time the dog is pulled from LRAS until he is transported to your location. This includes food and boarding charges. We will try find a “free” volunteer foster home but no dog we pull will ever be returned to LRAS so boarding costs may be incurred if a suitable foster home cannot be found, or if a planned foster home does not work out for some reason such as incompatibility with other dogs already there.
 - d. Cost, if any, to transport the dog to your location.

LCA may sometimes have funds available that were donated to help save dogs. Whenever we have funds available, we may be able to assist you with some of the expenses if it will help save a dog.
3. We have a suitable foster home that can keep the dog from the time he is released from the vet until he is transported to your location. If we don't have a foster home available, you can elect to put the dog in paid boarding (at your expense) while transportation is being arranged. If your organization has a foster in our area who can foster the dog, that would probably expedite the process of pulling him. We're sure you can understand that we cannot pull a dog from LRAS until we know where he is going to stay when released from the veterinarian.
4. We will keep the dog in a local foster home for a minimum of 14 days from the time he is pulled from the shelter before he is transported. This is to ensure, as much as possible,

that he does not have any serious illness or communicable diseases. Because it is not economically feasible to test every dog for some of the most serious diseases, such as parvo and distemper, we feel it is important to have the dog out of the shelter for at least two weeks before we send him home. We believe it is our responsibility to be as careful as possible not to send sick animals to other communities. In fact, some of the veterinarians we work with will not sign a health certificate for travel until the dog has been out of the shelter for at least two weeks

If you meet the above requirements, and agree to the above conditions, please complete a Last Chance Arkansas Rescue Application and send it back to us. If you don't have an application, you can request one by emailing rescue@LastChanceArkansas.org or you can download one from our website (www.LastChanceArkansas.org) on the "Rescue Procedures" page. The rescue application is simply a means by which we can get to know a little about you and your organization.

Here are the procedures that should be followed to ensure a smooth and successful rescue:

1. If the dog has not already been spayed or neutered, it **MUST (NO EXCEPTIONS)** be taken by LRAS directly to an approved local veterinarian for spaying or neutering. You must select a veterinarian from the list at the end of this document (we will select one if you don't have a preference). LCA will call the veterinarian and make an appointment to have the dog delivered to them.
2. Payment for veterinary expenses should be made to LCA and we will pay the veterinarian. Payment for at least the initial estimated veterinary expenses must be made to LCA before the dog is pulled. The remaining expenses will need to be reimbursed to LCA as soon as we get the invoice from the veterinarian. Payment can be made to LCA via PayPal or check.
3. Foster care or paid boarding must be arranged for the time between being released from the vet and being transported to your location. If you do not have a local foster, we may be able to provide one.
4. After all the necessary arrangements have been made (vet appointment and foster care), LCA will call LRAS and request that the dog be taken to the vet on the date of his appointment.
5. After the dog has been spayed or neutered, and released by the veterinarian, the local foster will pick the dog up at the vet clinic.
6. Because LCA pulled the dog, we are responsible for ensuring that the proof of sterilization is provided to LRAS.
7. If the veterinarian determines that the dog is too sick or too young to be sterilized immediately, the dog will have to remain in foster care in the Little Rock area until he or

she can be sterilized. If this is expected to be for an extended period of time (more than two months) we will need to discuss it with you to determine how to proceed. Remember, because we pulled the dog, we are responsible for complying with the law regarding sterilization. We have to be very careful that whatever arrangements we agree to, we can be assured that the dog will be sterilized and we will get proof of it.

8. After the dog has been sterilized, and is deemed healthy enough to travel, and has met the required quarantine period, he or she can be transported to your location. Options for transportation include paid ground transports to the New England area and air transportation. The ground transports leave Little Rock almost every Thursday and make several stops in New England on Friday night and Saturday morning. The cost for these ground transports is \$150 per dog. We may also be able to fly the dog to you on Northwest Airlines from Memphis. The cost for this is approximately \$100 to \$125. LCA does not normally try to coordinate volunteer ground transports but we will be happy to work with you if you would like to use that method.

LRAS Approved Veterinarians

Clinic Name	Address	Phone
Asher Animal Clinic	6311 Asher Ave.	562-0650
Baseline Vet Clinic	3819 Baseline Rd.	562-5842
Bellevue Animal Clinic	7824 Cantrell Rd.	225-2444
Bowman Road Animal Clinic	1308 Bowman Rd.	223-3737
Chenal Valley Vet Clinic	18 Rahling Cir.	821-0049
East End Animal Clinic	20225 Arch St. Pike	888-3504
Green Mountain Animal Hospital	11601 N. Rodney Parham	224-6969
Markham West Pet Clinic	5514 W. Markham	663-1871
Pet Stop Veterinary Hospital	11827 Maumelle Blvd.	758-6699
Stagecoach Vet Clinic	8912 Stagecoach Rd.	562-1256
Town & Country Animal Hospital	16925 Hwy. 10	868-4365
Treasure Hills Pet Hospital	1221 Breckenridge	225-8248
University Animal Hospital	1400 S. University Ave.	664-8848
Westbrook Animal Clinic	3312 Mabelvale Pike	568-2997