

Big Lakes County Policy

Animal Care Facility Holding Guidelines

Policy Number:	AC-01
Legal Authority:	Big Lakes County
Approved by Council:	Dec 14, 2022
Effective Date:	Dec 14, 2022
Revised Date:	January 11, 2023 June 12, 2024

Policy and Procedure Statement

The purpose of this policy is to define guidelines for when and how to deal with animals in circumstances when the animal rescue can and can not take in animals housed in Big Lakes County's Animal Care Facility.

Criteria:

Any animal that enters Big Lakes County's Animal Care Facility will be housed for a minimum of three (3) days in order to try and find the animal's rightful owner. If an owner cannot be found within three (3) days, Big Lakes County will contact and transport the animal to the animal rescue or place the animal up for adoption.

Alternate holding times:

The Animal Control Bylaw states that the minimum holding time for animals is 3 days. Certain circumstances may lead to Animal Control staff choosing to hold an animal in the Animal Care Facility (ACF) for longer than the 3-day period. This is subject to the opinion of the Animal Control staff and may include instances such as:

- An animal has identification such as a collar and tag, microchip, or tattoo however, Animal Control has been unable to contact the owner.
- A dog is in good physical health and displays knowledge of basic obedience commands meaning the dog is cared for and has received training.
- Animal Control recognizes the animal or has had the animal in the ACF on a previous occasion but has been unable to contact the owner.

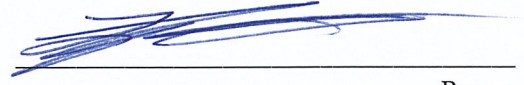
If an animal being held for one of the above instances has not been claimed within 7 days, the dog will be transferred to an Animal Rescue or placed up for adoption as stated above.

In instances when the animal rescue can not take any more dogs due to full capacity, dogs shall be transferred to an alternate Animal Shelter, or placed up for adoption by Big Lakes County. If there

are no available alternate Animal Shelters and the dog(s) are not adopted, Big Lakes County will continue to house the animals until a time when a shelter has room, or they are adopted.

Veterinary Care:

- All animals placed up for adoption will be vaccinated and dewormed.
- Animals will be spayed/neutered prior to being released for adoption, scheduled for after an animal has been adopted, or if in the best interest of an adoptable animal for health reasons (such as prolapses, infections, or pregnancies) spays/neuters may be done on animals not yet adopted.



Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

Date of Final Signature