



Animal Rescue Association of America

Certification Procedures

The Association's certification process is designed to confirm that the applicant rescue organization is materially in compliance with the Animal Rescue Code of Ethics. The process begins with the submission of background information, financial information, written procedures and policies, and an "animal roster" for the previous 12 months. The roster lists all animals adopted along with the animal's source (owner release, shelter, stray, veterinarian release, or adopter return), spay/neuter status at time of adoption, and adoption fee received.

From the animal roster, the Association will select at least two animals for a full "rescue cycle" review. The rescue organization will provide detailed information about each step of the rescue cycle for each of the selected animals, including:

- **Source** – Nature of source, contact information, signed release, shelter agreement/rules if applicable, and other documents related to intake.
- **Medical Care** – Veterinarian contact information, detailed itemization describing services and procedures provided, microchip verification, and spay/neuter certificate.
- **Foster** – Housing information while waiting for adoption, contact information, foster's application/contract, and related materials.
- **Adoption** – Adopter contact information, home check materials, signed adoption agreement, and notes from follow-up contacts.

In addition to detailed review of submitted rescue cycle materials, the Association may contact the organization that released the animal, the foster volunteer, the treating veterinarian, and the adopter. Targeted questions will confirm that the care of the animal and the adoption processes are in conformance to quality rescue standards (the Animal Rescue Code of Ethics). The annual certification renewal will ensure continuing compliance.

For privacy reasons, only pre-specified public information will be released. All other information related to our certification processes are kept strictly confidential.

Successful certification confers the prestigious Certified Rescue Organization (C.R.O.) designation to the recipient animal rescue organization. The "Certified" Association logo is reserved for use by only these organizations.