

Intake Policy

How Meow Stories finds felines

Most Meow Stories felines come from rural Virginia shelters . Some are born in rescue, some are found as strays, some are rescue transfers, and others are owner surrenders.

Meow Stories has developed relationships across Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee with partner shelters we regularly assist.

How Meow Stories decides which felines to bring in

Potential Meow Stories felines are identified by Meow Stories Intake Coordinators. Meow Stories helps felines in dire need in our Virginia shelters first and then in the following priority order:

- In partner shelters in immediate danger of being euthanized
- In partner shelters needing immediate medical help that the shelter cannot provide
- Found running or roaming as a stray
- From private rescuers with no avenue to adopt out the felines
- Surrendered by their owners

Intake Process

Intake steps for out-of-state felines

1. **Temperament test the feline.**

Behavior assessment is done by the shelter and by the veterinarian the shelter uses. Felines that do not pass temperament testing are not released to rescue because Meow Stories does not have the facilities to house feral cats seeking a barn home.

2. **Hold the feline.**

The state in which the feline resides holds the feline for a state- or vet-specified amount of time. When the is ready for transport to a rescue the veterinarian issues a health certificate for the feline before it is put on transport.

3. **Transport the feline.**

The state in which the feline resides holds the feline for a quarantine period to ensure that contagious felines are not transported across state lines. During the quarantine period, the felines are boarded in that state either at the partner shelter or a Meow Stories approved foster home. After the quarantine period, the feline is examined by a veterinarian who issues a Health Certificate for travel.

4. **Deliver feline to the foster parent.**

The foster parent either meets the transport with an Meow Stories representative or the Meow Stories representative delivers the feline to the foster parent at a specified location.

5. **Vet-check the feline.**

The feline is vet-checked by a Meow Stories-approved veterinarian soon after arriving at the foster home as a weekly list is sent to a Meow Stories approved veterinarian for those felines requiring services.

Intake steps when a feline is found as a stray (in state):

1. Report the feline to the Animal Control Officer (ACO).
2. The feline is scanned for a microchip.
3. Unless the owner is found and wants the feline back, the feline typically remains with Meow Stories in a foster home until ACO formally releases the file to Meow Stories.

Intake steps during a shelter/rescue transfer (in state):

1. The rescue contacts Meow Stories.
2. Meow Stories contacts the rescue and sets an appointment to meet with the rescue to transfer the feline.
3. The rescue completes (and signs) the Rescue Transfer Agreement which includes a bite history certification and provides any existing medical records.
4. The feline is transferred by a Meow Stories representative to a Meow Stories foster home.
5. Upon intake initial deworming, flea medication, and FVCRP vaccines are started, as needed.
6. A weekly list is sent to a Meow Stories approved veterinarian for those animals requiring medical attention and/or spay/neuter or rabies.

Intake steps during an owner surrender (in state):

1. The owner contacts Meow Stories and we interview the owner to assess the situation to determine if space is available for the feline and it's particular situation.
2. The owner completes (and signs) the Owner Surrender Agreement.
3. The feline is transferred by a Meow Stories representative to Meow Stories foster home.
4. The feline is vet-checked by an Meow Stories-approved veterinarian soon after arriving at the foster home, unless the feline's medical records show that it is current on all vaccines and update to date per our worming and flea medication protocol or no apparent health issues are noted upon intake.

Information Collected During Intake

The Intake Coordinator responsible for the intake of a feline is responsible for obtaining the required (by law) documentation for transfer of ownership. Depending on the feline's path to Meow Stories, the following documents are collected with the feline:

- Ownership transfer document
 - Rescue Transfer Form
 - Shelter Transfer paperwork (which is typically provided by the shelter)
 - Owner Surrender Form

- Health Certificate (if coming from out-of-state)
- Veterinary records
- Proof of Rabies vaccination and Rabies tag # (if issued one)

How Meow Stories Handles the Information Collected During Intake

Meow Stories enters information about each feline into an excel database and is later transferred to Shelterluv software.

This information includes:

- Feline name
 - The feline's name is written on a Feline Record and a name collar is generated.
 - To keep the feline's paperwork trail intact (especially when the feline is brought in from out-of-state), the feline's original name remains with the feline until adoption unless the feline has no name and then a name will be given by the person responsible for intake.
- Intake date
- Intake reason
- Intake source information
- Gender
- Age
- Approximate weight

Why Meow Stories Sometimes Temporarily Closes Intake

Meow Stories receives many requests each month to take in felines and we sincerely regret the occasions where we are not able to take a feline. Meow Stories does not have a facility that houses felines, and unfortunately we cannot legally accommodate a feline if we do not have an available foster home or have the funds to care for it prior to adoption.

When we have no available foster homes or lack the funds to care for new feline, Meow Stories closes the intake process until foster homes and/or the necessary funds are available.