

Code of Ethics

Reborn Animal Rescue, Inc. (RAR) volunteers shall agree to abide by the RAR Code of Ethics as a condition of their association with RAR. The Code of Ethics covers the following areas: rules of professional conduct, care of our animals, legal compliance, and process.

Rules of Professional Conduct

RAR recognizes that the behavior and reputation of each rescue group can impact the success of animal rescue in general. At RAR, we place high importance on qualities such as honesty, integrity, transparency, confidentiality, consistency, fairness, and courtesy. We want to be advocates for, and raise the reputation of, the animal rescue field.

RAR will make every effort to be professional, fair and honest with other rescue groups and organizations with which we interact. We will respect existing rules (ours and theirs) and treat others as we would like to be treated.

As a RAR volunteer I agree to:

- Be courteous and professional with individuals and other organizations involved in my rescue work.
- Respect the privacy of donors and other contributors (per the RAR Privacy Policy and the RAR Non-Disclosure Agreement), and not solicit contributions from them for the benefit of groups or individuals outside of RAR.
- Disclose to RAR any potential conflicts of interest, per the RAR Conflict of Interest Policy. These include any affiliations I have with other rescue groups, other non-profit organizations, and professionals in the pet care industry (where I am employed).
- Not use my affiliation/membership with RAR to acquire personal, financial or professional gain.
- Inform potential adopters about foster animals in my care, including any issues related to temperament, health, training, and care.

Care of Our Animals

As an animal advocate, I shall:

- Treat all animals with compassion, kindness and respect.
- Ensure that our animals have the proper food, water, shelter, and veterinary care.
- Exercise, play with, and love our animals in ways that are appropriate to the species.

- Ensure that all animals in our foster care are up to date on appropriate vaccinations, heartworm preventative, flea and tick preventative, and are spayed or neutered if appropriate.
- Ensure that our animals are not allowed to roam free or be physically restrained (to trees, cable run, etc.).
- Provide transportation for veterinary care for fostered animals. If I am unable to personally provide transportation, I will notify the Foster Coordinator so transportation can be arranged.
- Increase the fostered animal's visibility by providing updates, pictures, and transportation to area events held by RAR.
- Notify RAR of aggression, other characteristics, or risk factors that might impact a potential adoption.
- Contact RAR immediately if the foster animal is lost or stolen, or if it dies.

Legal Compliance

I agree to:

- Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws focused on animal welfare when transporting and/or fostering animals.
- House animals in my care in sanitary conditions, which meet or exceed all minimum standards as defined by local health and sanitation authorities.
- Contact the Foster or Volunteer Coordinator if I have any questions about applicable laws and regulations.
- Understand the limits of RAR's resources by not accepting more animals than we have the legal authority, space, time or financial resources needed to care for those animals.
- Support the establishment of rescue organizations as 501(c)(3) public charities or as not-for-profit entities whenever possible.

As an organization, RAR agrees to:

- Secure appropriate licensure for RAR in accordance with federal, state, and local laws.
- Require a signed, legal release form from the individual responsible for an animal to be surrendered to RAR.

Process

I agree to:

- Adhere to all RAR policies.
- Support RAR's structured, well-defined, procedural approach to animal rescue and adoption.

- Gain prior authorization from RAR for all non-emergency, veterinary care while the animal is in my care. In case of a medical emergency, the animal will receive necessary care and RAR will be notified immediately afterward.

In addition, I will:

- Not allow any foster animal in my care to be removed from my address or disposed of in any way without prior approval of RAR.
- Not hold RAR or its volunteers responsible for injury or illness contracted by any animal not belonging to RAR, or for any liability or damages, should a foster animal become a problem to myself or others.

As an organization, RAR agrees to:

- Require an application form and adoption contract.
- Screen potential adopters through reference checks and a thorough home visit before an animal is placed.
- Obtain landlord approval for potential adopters who rent or lease their residence.
- Work carefully to match the animal with the "right" forever home.
- Not being afraid to say no to adopter if the situation is not optimal for the animal in consideration.
- Provide up-to-date veterinary records to the adopter upon final adoption.
- Follow up on the adopted animal and its adoptive family.
- Spay or neuter all animals, as appropriate to the species per RAR's Spay/Neuter Policy. Exceptions to this requirement will only be considered by the Board of Directors when a veterinarian provides written certification that sterilization poses a significant risk to the animal.
- Permanently identify/microchip each animal, if applicable.
- Guarantee to accept the animal's return, should the adoptive family's situation change. (Typically, adoption fees will not be refunded, but this is at the discretion of the Board of Directors.)

In addition, should RAR receive a written grievance regarding a RAR volunteer, RAR will:

- Notify the volunteer and provide a forum for responding to the grievance. Note that violation of the RAR Code of Ethics is grounds for hearing and/or action by RAR.