



**Department of
Agriculture and Markets**

NYS Agriculture & Markets

Article 26C

Shelter Standards

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Veterinarian 2

APRIL 21, 2026

Program Overview:

- 25 Animal Health Inspectors (AHIs) across the state will be primarily responsible for inspections
- Inspections are annual unless there is a complaint, concern, or non-compliant inspection



What will the first year look like?

- **The first year is educational**
- **Educational visits will be scheduled for after December 15, 2025**
- **The first unannounced visit after the educational visit will occur in regular renewal period**
- **After satisfactory inspection you will be issued a license**
- **Our goal is to work with shelter rescues to help bring them up to the new standards**
- **OUR GOAL IS NOT TO CLOSE SHELTER RESCUES OR PENALIZE THEM UNNECESSARILY**

License Requirements:

Does Include:

- Rescues and Shelters (including foster based rescues and municipal shelters)

Does **not** Include:

- Pet dealers: breeders who offer/sell 25 or more cats/dogs within a 12-month period
- Sanctuaries who do not adopt animals

License Requirements:

1. Completed application
2. \$150

Training Requirements

- Training required within first 60 days of employment and annually thereafter
- Can include webinars, conference, on-site
- Trainings for each staff member must be documented and include: (a) humane handling techniques; (b) infectious diseases commonly found in animal shelters; (c) zoonotic diseases; (d) animal cruelty; (e) sanitation procedures; (f) body language and normal behaviors for all species regularly handled; and (g) required documentation and data entry.



Training Requirements



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The Association for
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Advancement**



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Lost Dog Prevention

A quick self-paced course to help keep dogs from going missing. Designed for fosters, adopters and the shelter staff and volunteers who support them.

View Course

Documentation

- Unique Identifiers: tattoo, microchip, tags (license, rabies, etc.)
- Name, address, phone # of individual surrendering animal
- Location where the animal was found
- Date of intake & departure from shelter rescue
- Disposition of animal (adopted, transferred, humanely euthanized, etc.)
- Basic animal description - physical, species, age, gender, color, spayed or neutered
- Bite history must be disclosed in writing to adopter, transfer partner, or reclaiming owner
- Veterinary care, behavioral exams, treatment and procedures while in care of the shelter

Protocols

Written protocols shall be in place for:

- Animal Handling
- Behavioral Assessment
- Enrichment and Stress Reduction
- Management of Bite & Scratch Cases
- Sanitation

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Protocols

Written protocols must be approved by a veterinarian for the following categories:

- Nutrition and Feeding
- Physical Examination
- Emergency Vet Care
- Pain Management
- Vaccinations
- Parasite Control
- Anesthesia and/or Surgery (if done on site by the organization)
- Humane Euthanasia
- Outbreak Management/Control of Infectious Diseases

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General Facilities

- Proper Drainage
- Floors impervious
- Electric and running water
- Appropriate temperature
- HVAC with regular maintenance
- Ammonia levels less than 2 parts per million
- Proper isolation: Area separated by door and segregated by species
- Sound: **Continuous** level should not be above 85 decibels
- Lighting must provide daily light cycles
- Food in rodent proof containers

Housing

- Animals must be provided with area big enough for normal postural movements and allow them relief from urine or feces
- If housed in a group, they must be separated by species, must have room to maintain social distance, and be separated for feedings
- Whelping/queening box provided at least 1 week prior to giving birth



Housing- Outdoor

- No unsupervised tethering for more than 30 minutes
- Animals shall not be housed outdoors for more than 12 hours in a 24-hour period except for free roaming cats under shelter care.
- Security from unauthorized entry of other animals.
- Enclosures that allow access for cats shall be fully enclosed to prevent escape. Cats must be removed/rehoused until repair.

If using primary outdoor enclosures:

- Must provide protection from the elements, have adequate drainage and have moisture proof, insulated shelter, large enough to accommodate all enclosed.
- Adequate shade, clean dry bedding, and heat source when temperature fall below 50°F. for all animals.

Sanitation

- Proper cleaning products (Parvocidals, Tuberculocidals)
- Animals must be removed from enclosure prior to cleaning.
- Dedicated equipment for cleaning and disinfecting for use in each separate area. ie: isolation, holding area, adoption area.
- Cleaning and disinfecting kennels, equipment, bedding, litter boxes, food/water dishes, etc. between animals.
- Daily cleaning and at least once weekly disinfecting enclosures that house the same animals or animals housed for long term.
- Protective garments used as needed during cleaning and intensive animal handling activities (bathing, washing, grooming, cleaning isolation area, handling animals with infectious diseases)
- Proper hygiene of shelter staff, volunteers and visitors, including signage, supervision and hand sanitation.



Exercise and Enrichment

- Each animal must be provided with at least 20 minutes of positive social interaction.
- All cats housed in a cage, kennel, or room that provides less than eighteen square feet of floor space per cat for fourteen days or longer should be given at least fifteen minutes per day, five days per week outside of their primary enclosure to exercise and explore
- All dogs in the shelter for fourteen days or longer should be allowed time outside of their primary enclosure to exercise and explore for at least twenty minutes per day five days per week
- Socialization and exercise time needs to be recorded for each animal daily
- Documentation needed if unable to safely interact with the animal due to poor socialization, fear, or aggressive.
- Total number of animals housed in facility shall not exceed number of housing units.

Patient ID: _____

Week of: _____

Friendly / Caution / Will Bite (Date bitten: _____) Medical Condition(s): _____

Feeding	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:
	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:

Activity (socialization and/or exercise)	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:
	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:

Cleaning	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:
	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:

Disinfection	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:	AM:
	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:	PM:

Medications:

Notes:

Veterinary Care

- All incoming animals shall be assessed within two hours after intake by a trained animal shelter rescue staff member to determine if any physical abnormalities exist that require immediate veterinary attention.
- Each animal in custody or possession shall be provided with complete physical examination by trained staff within 24 hours of intake.
- Any animal in custody or possession of shelter for more than 30 days shall be weighed and examined at least once a month (at least every 6 months for foster care animals) by trained staff.

Health Assessment: Article 7 Seized Dog

Dog Name (if known): _____ Date: _____

Location Found: _____

Time of Pick up: _____ Time of drop off: _____

Description of Dog (Breed, Sex, Color): _____

DCO/Officer name: _____

Contact information (phone number): _____

YES NO

	YES	NO
Did you see or do you suspect dog was hit by car?		
Are there any obvious wounds, blood present on the dog, or active bleeding?		
Have you observed any blood in stool, urine, or vomit?		
Has the dog vomited?		
Is the dog having trouble breathing?		
Have you observed any coughing, sneezing, or discharge from the nose?		
Is there any swelling anywhere?		
Is there any significant limp or walking abnormality?		
Have you observed any seizures or are they mentally abnormal?		
Is the stomach bloated?		
Did the dog receive any emergency medical care/ was there reason to believe there was an imminent risk to the animal's life?		

If you responded yes to any of the following please provide further details below:

Signature _____

Date _____

Physical Exam

Staff Name:

Date of exam:

Animal Name/ ID:

Description:

Assessment	Physical findings	Notes/Descriptions
Species	<input type="radio"/> Dog <input type="radio"/> Cat <input type="radio"/> Other	
ID present	<input type="radio"/> Collar <input type="radio"/> Tag <input type="radio"/> Microchip #	
Sex	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Unknown	
Neutered/Spayed	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Not sure	
General attitude	<input type="radio"/> Bright, Alert and Responsive <input type="radio"/> Quiet but Alert and Responsive <input type="radio"/> Depressed, Not Very Responsive	
Weight	<input type="radio"/> Thin <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Overweight	Weight:
Skin/coat	<input type="radio"/> Bare patches <input type="radio"/> Matting <input type="radio"/> Fleas <input type="radio"/> Ticks <input type="radio"/> Other skin issues <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Walking	<input type="radio"/> Limping <input type="radio"/> Other abnormal movement <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Infectious respiratory disease	<input type="radio"/> Discharge from nose <input type="radio"/> Coughing <input type="radio"/> Sneezing <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Infectious bowel disease	<input type="radio"/> Diarrhea <input type="radio"/> Vomiting <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Body	<input type="radio"/> Lumps <input type="radio"/> Swelling <input type="radio"/> Wounds <input type="radio"/> Bloating <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Normal	
Emergency conditions – seek medical attention ASAP	<input type="radio"/> Trouble breathing <input type="radio"/> Active bleeding that is not stopping <input type="radio"/> Hit by a car or other serious trauma <input type="radio"/> Seizure	
Other notes:		

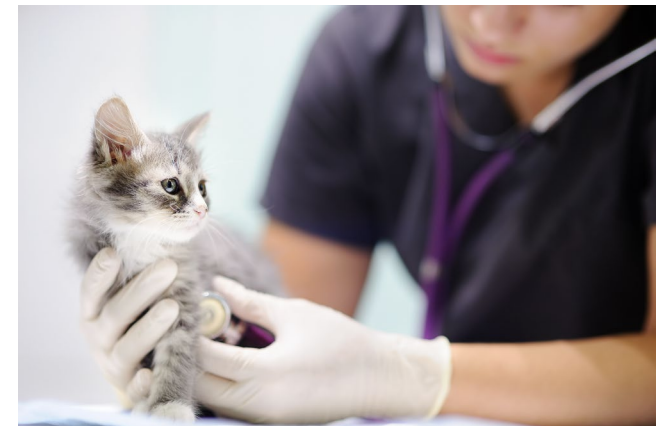
Veterinary Care

- Any apparently healthy animal remaining within custody or possession shall be examined by duly licensed veterinarian at least every 6 months or more frequently if problems are identified.
- All drugs shall be documented and dispensed according with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- Each animal shelter shall have the ability to provide for veterinary assessment and humane care in a timely fashion through in-house facilities or at an off-site location.



Vaccines and Deworming

- Animals in custody or possession shall be vaccinated with core vaccines as recommended by national standards and guidelines, endorsed, or approved by ASV
- All dogs and cats in custody or possession shall be vaccinated for Rabies by a veterinarian or by a licensed vet tech under direct supervision prior to release (public health law).
- All animals in custody or possession shall be treated for hookworms and roundworms (minimum) prior to release and/or placement in foster care.



Spay and Neuter

- No dog or cat shall be released for adoption to any person unless the dog or cat has been spayed or neutered **OR** per Agriculture & Markets Law Section 377-A the animal can be released or adopted with a \$35 deposit and a written agreement with the shelter that the animal will be spayed or neutered within 30 days of adoption or if not sexually mature within 30 days of reaching 6 months of age **OR** We encourage foster to adopt programs until the animal can be spayed or neutered prior to adoption
- Permanent tattoo placed on ventral abdomen of all shelter owned cats & dogs at time of spay or neuter.

If brick and mortar shelter rescue has surgery capabilities:

- Examination by a duly licensed veterinarian within 24 hours of surgery/anesthesia if performed by the shelter rescue.
- Written anesthetic protocol (including pre/post op care and related emergencies), a dedicated surgical area, & aseptic technique (including sterile & proper working equipment).

Resources

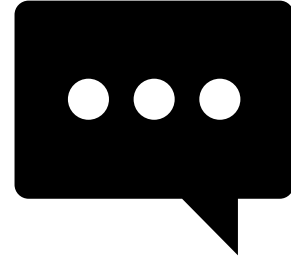
- Association of Shelter Veterinarians (www.sheltervet.org)
- American Veterinary Medical Association (www.avmva.org)
- ASPCA (www.aspca.org)
- NYS Agriculture and Markets
(www.agriculture.ny.gov/animals)
- NYS Animal Protection Federation (www.nysapf.org)



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QUESTIONS?

