



College of Veterinary Medicine

Policies and Procedures

Subject: **Good Samaritan**

Section: *Animal Care Services*

Number: *CVM 6.3.01*

Pages: *1*

Date: *2012*

Replaces Policy Dated: *2006*

To Be Reviewed Yearly by: *AHC Director*

Source:

Cross Reference:

Good Samaritan

I. Definition of a “Good Samaritan” (GS) Animal:

Any domesticated animal presented to the Animal Health Center (AHC) that is ownerless and that has no one willing to assume financial responsibility.

II. Admissions Policy:

- A. GS animals are not admitted to the AHC until a faculty member or house officer determines that the animal meet GS criteria. The admitting clinician is responsible for the patient’s care and disposition until referred to another clinician/service or discharged. If the admitting clinician is not sure if the GS meets appropriate criteria, the clinician should contact AHC Administration for assistance.
- B. GS animals eligible for admission must be injured, ill or in such physical condition that immediate medical attention is necessary to alleviate pain, suffering or distress.
- C. Healthy animals should not be admitted as a GS. Healthy animals should be referred to the Humane Society. This may require the person presenting the animal to “hold” the animal until regular business hours for the Humane Society. The key criteria for admission is that the animal is experiencing immediate pain, suffering or distress. This does not include the chronically neglected animal.

III. Procedures:

- A. Animal not admitted – inform the client of the mission and location of the Humane Society.
- B. Animal admitted – Complete GS form; enter patient information into UVIS and admit. The client must sign the statement on the GS form that states that they claim no responsibility for the animal and relinquish all decisions for care to the AHC.
 - 1. We will provide emergency support/care for the animal only to stabilize its condition. Three (3) working days is the maximum time an animal may be held. During this period, we will attempt to locate the owner. Animals will be transferred to the Humane Society after 3 days.
 - 2. If the animal is not medically stable within 24 hours, it will be humanely euthanized.
 - 3. Critically ill or injured animals may be euthanized upon admission.
 - 4. Before providing restorative medical care or surgery, the attending clinician should consult the Director of the Animal Health Center.
 - 5. Animals admitted will be housed initially in the small animal isolation ward. The animal should be identified and a medical record maintained as with any hospital

patient. When the animal is stabilized, it may be moved to a suitable animal room or sent to an animal shelter or the Humane Society.

- C. The individual presenting the animal may adopt the ill/injured stray animal only if they are willing to accept financial responsibility for the total cost of treatment.
- D. Any questions regarding GS policy, procedures, care treatment or disposition of animals should be directed to the Director of the Animal Health Center.

Approved: Gary J. Bur 9-19-12
Gary J. Bur, Director
Animal Health Center
College of Veterinary Medicine
Date

Approved: Kent H. Hoblet 9/19/12
Kent Hoblet, Dean
College of Veterinary Medicine
Date