

## Capacity of Care

**Policy:** The Lycoming County SPCA is dedicated to providing a quality life for the animals in our care. In order to do that, the shelter must maintain a realistic number of animals in accordance with capacity of care. This includes dogs, cats, smalls, foster care and medical care.

Association of Shelter Veterinarians' (ASV) Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters states that capacity of care is based on the total available resources to promote a positive welfare as described by the five domains for all the animals in or coming into the shelter's care. The resources we must consider are available housing, appropriate staffing, medical service availability, and appropriate outcomes.

Below please find our standard capacity of care and our emergency capacity of care (for instances when the shelter's Humane Society Police Officer (HSPO) needs to bring in animals due to cruelty or neglect or emergency space offered to the Lycoming County Dog Warden) based on available resources and caregiver allocation calculations.

### Procedure:

**Standard Capacity:** 5 hours per kennel shift X 6 kennel attendants / 15 minutes per animal = a total of **120 animals to be housed in shelter.**

We have broken this down into categories -- Dogs: 45, Cats: 70 (26 main, 4 in the four seasons, 10 in isolation, 20 in holding, and 10 in surgery), and Small Animals: 5.

**Emergency Capacity:** 5 hours per kennel shift X 6 kennel attendants / 12 minutes per animal = a total of **150 animals to be housed in shelter.**

Broken down into categories -- Dogs: 51, Cats: 84, (26 main, 4 in the four seasons, 10 in isolation, 24 in holding, 10 in surgery, and 10 in cat intake), and Small Animals: 15.

**Dog Foster Capacity of Care:** This number will fluctuate on a case-by-case basis. Dogs will only go into foster care for the following; medical, behavioral, pregnant or nursing mothers and babies, hospice, long-term/temporary housing due to investigations (Must be approved by HPO). **Dogs will not go into foster care for space or to increase capacity of care.**

**Cat Foster Capacity of Care:** (See Cat Foster Policy & Procedure)

### After Hour Drop Offs:

To reduce the number of ineligible intakes, the Lycoming County SPCA no longer offers after-hour drop-offs to the community via the local police/rangers. All intakes must be during shelter hours of operations. This will reduce the following intake types:

- 1) Out of county intakes
- 2) Owned animals that are being claimed to be strays.
- 3) Bite quarantines.
- 4) Unlawful intakes such as domestic disagreements, or landlord/tenant violations.

This will also reduce danger to the animals, staff, volunteers, and community as animals have not always been properly secured and have escaped from holding pens, and even the building, causing them to be a danger and in danger to traffic, other animals, people, and themselves by discovering themselves in an area with which they are not familiar.

**Police and the public** are welcome to bring stray dogs into the shelter as space permits and provided the animal has been found in Lycoming County.

\*\*See Animal Intake/Waiting List protocols for more information on how to maintain capacity of care