



## ANIMAL SHELTER AGREEMENT, LIMERICK

This agreement (the "Agreement") is by and between the Animal Welfare Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Maine (herein-after "AWS"), Old Holland Road, West Kennebunk, Maine and the Town of Limerick, Maine (hereafter "Municipality") (collectively, "Parties"). The terms of this Agreement shall take effect on January 1, 2025 and shall remain in effect through December 31, 2025.

WHEREAS, Municipality is required under the laws of the State of Maine to provide shelter at a State licensed animal control shelter (7 M.R.S. § 3949) for stray and lost domesticated companion animals (hereinafter "Animal" or "Animals"); and

WHEREAS, Municipality is required under the laws of the State of Maine to provide services relating to the humane disposition of said Animals in the event they are not claimed by their owners; and

WHEREAS, AWS operates an animal shelter as defined in 7 M.R.S. §3907, which is a suitable facility for the housing and/or disposition of said Animals (hereinafter, the "Shelter") but is not a suitable facility for the housing and/or disposition of any living, sentient creature that is not an Animal;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. AWS will confine such Animals as may be delivered to it by an authorized agent of the Municipality for the legal impoundment period. At the end of this period, AWS will make such a disposition as it seems fit in accordance with 7 M.R.S. §§3912, 3913, *et. seq.* AWS may refuse delivery of any living, sentient creature that, in the sole and exclusive judgment of AWS, is not an Animal.
2. Delivery of said Animals shall be accepted from the Municipality's Animal Control Officer/Police from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday through Saturday ("Regular Business Hours"). Police and/or Animal Control Officer will be issued a key to an after-hours holding room at the Shelter. Persons may deliver Animals found within the boundaries of the Municipality to the Shelter during Regular Business Hours. Animals delivered to AWS by Municipality's Animal Control Officer or Police after hours shall be placed by the person delivering the Animal in pens, kennels, or crates made available in the holding room by AWS for that purpose, to the extent such materials are available to AWS. It is the responsibility of the Police and/or Animal Control Officer delivering an Animal after hours to provide bedding, food, and water for said Animal as supplied by AWS, to the extent such materials are available to AWS. Where delivery of one or more Animals by the Municipality's Animal Control Officer or Police renders the Shelter unable to

humanely confine such Animals in the holding room, the delivering Animal Control Officer or Police shall communicate with designated AWS personnel prior to delivery to verify AWS's ability to confine such Animals. AWS alone retains sole discretion to refuse delivery of one or more Animals where such delivery renders AWS unable to provide appropriate housing and/or disposition of delivered Animals.

3. Police and Animal Control Officers shall take a stray or lost Animal to its owner, if known, or, if the owner is unknown, to the Shelter. Municipality agrees that all Animals apprehended and seized within the boundaries of the Municipality and delivered to the Shelter shall be under the exclusive control and custody of AWS. Moreover, Municipality agrees that AWS shall have the undisputed right, consistent with the laws of the State of Maine, to humanely dispose of any Animal given into its custody in accordance with State laws and the policies and procedures of AWS.

4. AWS will not accept delivery of any injured Animal that has not received proper veterinary care. Municipality agrees that it shall obtain appropriate veterinary care for injured Animals prior to delivery to AWS. In the event that Municipality delivers an injured Animal to the Shelter without first obtaining appropriate veterinary care, AWS, in its sole discretion, may elect either to refuse acceptance of such Animal or to accept delivery of such Animal and procure the veterinary care it deems necessary and appropriate. Municipality agrees to reimburse AWS for the costs of emergency and required veterinary care within ten (10) days from the receipt of an invoice. At no time will the Municipality deliver any injured Animal to the Shelter during hours other than Regular Business Hours unless Municipality has made prior arrangements with AWS.

5. The Municipality agrees to and shall indemnify and hold harmless AWS for any claims arising out of actions and/or inactions of the Municipality's Police Officers and Animal Control Officers in the capturing, detaining, processing, documenting and delivery of any Animal under this Agreement, and for any violation by the Municipality's Animal Control Officer or Police Officers of the provisions of this Agreement, and of applicable laws or regulations.

6. AWS shall assist Municipality's residents in allowing owned Animals to be claimed during Regular Business Hours. AWS will request proof of payment prior to releasing an Animal to its owner and may collect impoundment fees on behalf of the Municipality. AWS reserves the right to release an Animal without payment or proof of payment of impoundment fees. Impoundment fees collected by AWS on the Municipality's behalf will be forwarded to the Municipality monthly, along with a report of activity. An invoice for contract fee for service will be provided to the Municipality quarterly.

7. AWS may provide rabies quarantine on a space-available basis for a period of at least ten (10) days to stray dogs and cats found within the Municipality, which have bitten residents of the Municipality ("Rabies Quarantine"). Provision for rabies testing, and the costs therein, are the sole responsibility of the Municipality and/or its residents. AWS is not obligated to quarantine privately-owned Animals.

8. Municipality shall be fully responsible for carrying out all enforcement activities required under the laws of the State of Maine and the ordinances of the Municipality, as may be amended. AWS shall not be required to apprehend or seize any Animal found roaming at large.

9. AWS shall make all reasonable efforts to promote Trap, Neuter, Return (“TNR”) for feral cats, and return such feral cats that are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear tipped and/or micro-chipped to the originating location when possible, and promote caregiver volunteerism and guardianship. The Municipality shall work with AWS and the community to permit and encourage TNR as the preferred method of dealing with feral cats.

10. AWS shall have the sole and exclusive right to determine the responsibility of persons offering to become the owners of unclaimed Animals and the suitability of homes offered and shall have the sole and exclusive right to accept or reject such applicants’ claims to previously unclaimed Animals.

11. Municipality agrees that it shall notify AWS, in writing, of the identities of all of its duly authorized Animal Control Officers. Municipality agrees that it will provide each Animal Control Officer with a copy of the animal control laws of the State of Maine contained in the booklet published by the Maine Animal Welfare Board, the sections of the Municipality’s codes or ordinances which are pertinent to the performance of their duties, and the terms of this Agreement. Animal Control Officers must also be certified as required by 7 M.R.S. § 3947.

12. AWS, its officers, employees, agents, and volunteers shall act in an independent capacity during the term of this Agreement and shall not act or hold themselves out as officers, employees, agents or volunteers of Municipality. Municipality, its employees, agents and representatives shall act in an independent capacity during the term of this Agreement and shall not act or hold themselves out as officers, employees, agents or volunteers of AWS. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed by either Party or by any third party as creating a joint venture or partnership between AWS and Municipality.

13. AWS agrees to comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations in the performance of this Agreement.

14. This Agreement shall not be assigned by either Party, without the prior written approval of the other Party.

15. AWS offers to provide the following services to Municipality at no additional cost to Municipality:

- a. Disposal Services: AWS will accept for disposal stray or lost cats or dogs, dead on arrival, from Animal Control Officers, or duly authorized Police.
- b. Telephone Services: To avoid confusion, AWS will take all telephone inquiries regarding reclaiming an Animal and adopting an Animal. Under special circumstances involving suspected abuse or neglect, the

Animal Control/Police Officer(s) may request that they be contacted prior to an Animal being reclaimed by its owner.

- c. Lost and Found Pet Services: AWS staff will take lost and found reports to facilitate the return of pets to their owners.
- d. Education Services: AWS staff and volunteers will be available for conducting education programs upon request to any interested community group or organization, including schools, grades Kindergarten through 12.

16. For services provided by AWS to Municipality under this Agreement or under applicable law, the Municipality agrees to pay AWS the total sum of \$5,143.58, which is based on \$1.46 per capita/per year, of the Municipality's population as listed here: <https://www.maine-demographics.com/limerick-demographics>, payable in advance quarterly payments.

Fee Calculation: 3,523 population x \$1.46 per capita = \$5,143.58

17. This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Parties and no oral or prior written matter shall have any force or effect. No amendment shall be effective without prior express written approval signed by both Parties. Neither Party shall be bound by any conditions not expressly stated in this Agreement.

18. This Agreement is binding upon, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, assigns and successors in interest of the Parties hereto.

19. If any provisions of this Agreement shall be adjudged to be invalid or unenforceable by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity of the Agreement and the remaining provisions of the Agreement shall be construed as if not containing such provision and, thereafter, the rights and obligation of the parties shall be construed and enforced under the remaining provisions of the Agreement.

20. This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Maine.

21. The fees noted in Paragraph 16, above, shall cover all boarding for Animals delivered to AWS and held other than those pending court proceedings. In the case of seizures due to cruelty and/or neglect, costs and fees for animal care are the Municipality's responsibility. AWS fee schedules are available upon request.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be duly executed on their behalf, in duplicate counterparts, as of the date first above written.

TOWN OF LIMERICK, MAINE

By: 

Printed Name: Gilbert Harris

Its: Select Board Treasurer


Witness: 

Printed Name: Alesha D. Buzzell

THE ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY, INC.

By: 

Printed name: Abigail Smith

Witness: 

Printed Name: Dianna Zandri

Its: Executive Director

Quarterly Payment Schedule:

1st Payment due date:	January 1, 2025	Amount:	\$1,285.90
2nd Payment due date:	April 1, 2025	Amount:	\$1,285.90
3rd Payment due date:	July 1, 2025	Amount:	\$1,285.90
4th Payment due date:	October 1, 2025	Amount:	\$1,285.88

**Total            \$ 5,143.58**

Date Contract Mailed to Municipality: 9/6/24

Date Contract Received back by AWS: \_\_\_\_\_

