

Afghan Hound National Policy for Rescue Guidelines

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission and purpose of Afghan Hound Rescue:

1. Provide for and promote the welfare, protection and humane treatment of Afghan Hounds.
2. Encourage owners to retain their hounds rather than give them up, and offer advice, training and support to attain that end whenever possible.
3. Assist Afghan Hound owners who must give up their hounds in returning them to the responsible breeder or finding suitable new homes in lieu of releasing the hounds to animal shelters or throwing them away.
4. Bring Afghan Hounds into rescue given up by their owners, found stray, in distress, or in animal shelters.
5. Return strays to the owners or breeders if they can be found and are willing and able to take them back.
6. Find good homes for the remainder where they may live out their lives as altered pets.
7. Educate people about Afghan Hounds, their unique qualities and their care.
8. Provide mutual physical, mental and emotional support to all Afghan Hound rescuers.

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES:

1. You and Shelters Administratively, the easiest rescues are those that you acquire from an animal shelter or pound. With these dogs, no owner has come to recover the dog, nor is there an identifiable breeder. Nevertheless, there are things to consider.

Develop an openly honest, friendly and working relationship with animal shelters, city pounds and humane societies. Become a volunteer or assist when you can. Shelter staffs and volunteers can be some of your strongest supporters if they know and trust you.

Shelter standard operating procedures may differ slightly from city to city, county to county and state to state. Become familiar with the policies of the shelters in your area. Know whether a facility is a "kill" or "no kill" operation, and what their track record is in working with rescue groups. When dealing with a "kill" shelter, speed is essential in getting a dog out before its' "clock" runs out. Don't fault the shelter staff for the policies you encounter. They hate to see animals perish too.

Comply with their requirements, and obtain whatever records and information they can or will provide with the hound, and always thank them for supporting you. Then take the hound to the Veterinarian for a thorough checkup and shots. Always ask that the dog be checked for tattoos and scanned for microchips. Not all shelters are equipped or have the time and training to do this. Spaying or neutering will follow after any other medical problems are taken care of, and you've had a chance to evaluate the hound.

2. Strays If an Afghan Hound is found stray and turned over to you instead of animal control, comply with state and local laws on holding strays. Time requirements vary from none to up to 90 days, according to the circumstances and local laws. In the meanwhile, have the Afghan Hound vetted but do not spay or neuter until you have legal control of the dog. Ask your vet to scan for microchips and check for tattoos. If there is no identification tag, tattoo, or microchip, proceed as you would with an Afghan Hound from a shelter (see above) after the required "holding" time is up. You may want to run "found dog" ads in the local newspapers while in the holding period. In some locales, law requires this.

If you acquire a stray whose owner can be identified through tag, tattoo or microchip, make every effort to return the Afghan Hound to the owner. Most people do want their Afghan Hounds back. If the owner declines to take the Afghan Hound back, obtain a release form if possible and follow the procedures in Para 4 below, or document the conversation declining to take the Afghan Hound back and proceed as you would with an Afghan Hound from the shelter. Coordinate with a local attorney on required documentation if possible.

3. Owner Releases Before accepting an owner turn in, ask if the owners have papers on the Afghan Hound and are required to contact the breeder in case of returns, based on the terms of their purchase contract. If so, ask them to contact the breeder about return policies. If the breeder cannot be found or is unable or unwilling to take the Afghan Hound back, there are no impediments to treating this as a rescue. Nor are there impediments if there are no contractual provisions in the sales contract concerning return of an Afghan Hound to the breeder. Always get a release from the former owner giving complete ownership and control of the Afghan Hound to you. A sample release form is attached. Please have this reviewed by a local attorney before use to ensure that it complies with the statutes of your city and state.

Some people may have lost the sales documents on the dog or purchased the Afghan Hound without a contract. If so, obtain a signed release form from the owner, which permanently gives you ownership and total control of the Afghan Hound. Get medical records, shot records, medications if the dog is taking any, bedding, crates, toys and anything else that may ease the transition for the Afghan Hound. Items from "home" frequently ease a dog's anxiety in an owner release situation. Then proceed with vetting, rehabilitation and rehoming.

If a breeder is involved with an owner release that comes to you, and cannot or will not take an Afghan Hound back, talk to the breeder if possible, and find out why. In many cases, there may be a valid reason (illness, death in the family, overload, relocated, no longer in dogs, etc.). The situation may be permanent or temporary. If possible, cultivate a good working relationship with breeders and explain what rescue does, and how. If you can work out a modus vivendi with them, do so. Breeders can be a real asset to rescue when they learn that we are part of the same family of Afghan Hound Fanciers as they are. With a bit of reason, you can develop relations with breeders that may provide future transport, fostering, and other help for rescues as a "thank you" for your assistance to them.

If a breeder is involved who can and will take an Afghan Hound back from a releasing owner, that is part of the contractual agreement between the owner and the breeder. You can offer to assist, but remember, you are not a party to the contract.

4. Reimbursements The AHCA will reimburse Afghan Hound rescuers for required shelter fees and reasonable medical expenses for an array of medical procedures including, but not limited to:

- Physical examinations
- Vaccinations
- Fecal examinations
- Blood screening for heartworm
- Dental work
- Spaying / neutering

Up to a maximum expenditure of \$300.00 as of the date of this document.

Medical procedures should be determined jointly between the rescuer and the veterinary staff. If it appears that these expenses will exceed the \$300.00 cap, please contact the Rescue Chairman to determine if the Afghan Hound in question qualifies as a special needs case (medical expenses in excess of the cap).

5. Special Needs Cases An Afghan Hound may be considered for special needs status depending on a variety of factors which begin with the rescuers personal assessment of the Afghan Hound, its age, general physical condition, nature of the illness or injury, willingness and ability of the rescuer, and his or her regional club, to conduct and participate in special fundraisers for the Afghan Hound. Such cases will be presented on the website as stand-alone or joint special fundraising events if there are two or more Afghan Hound's involved at the same time. Final decision on AHCA funding for a special needs case rests with the Rescue chairman.

6. Regional Clubs Club rescue chairpersons should be active in rescue and in fundraising for their programs. Afghan Hound rescuers are encouraged to join regional Afghan Hound breed clubs and participate actively in their rescue activities. Regional clubs provide a vital source of manpower and money and publicity for local rescue programs. Rescue programs, in turn, are valuable public relations assets for the clubs that can garner much favorable publicity for the club's activities. If you are in a local club, go to the meetings, make friends, be useful to the club. The level of cooperation and enthusiasm for rescue will rise proportionately to your positive involvement with other club activities.

7. Selecting the Right Home One of your most difficult jobs is determining the right home for a specific Hound, for either permanent placement or as a foster home. Are there children? What ages? Other pets? The list of factors to consider is almost endless. To this end, a copy of a general pre-adoption questionnaire is provided for your use and modification as you see fit for your specific location. Check the information provided by the prospective adoptive or fostering family. Call the references provided and, most importantly, make a home visit, or have an experienced Afghan Hound person visit on your behalf to make sure that reality matches what is on the form. The questionnaire coupled with a home visit and much discussion will screen out most unsuitable circumstances.

8. Contracts The adoption contract attached to these guidelines is provided for your use if you do not already have one. Please note that there is a mandatory "return to rescue" clause in the contract. This is a key clause for both rescuer and adopter and is binding on both. You are urged to have this contract reviewed by a local attorney to ensure that it meets the requirements of your city and state.

9. Follow-up Ensure that adoptive families know that you are available at any time as their mentor on all matters pertaining to their Afghan Hound, it's behavior, health, demeanor, training, feeding, etc. Ask them to contact you weekly with "progress reports" during the first month. Afterwards, it is recommended that you contact them at least every six months. Proper follow-up can result in a potential second adoption or future foster home for your program.

10. Adoption Fees Adoption fees should cover your average shelter fees and medical costs involved in bringing an Afghan Hound into the system. A nation-wide survey conducted in 2001 revealed that the average costs for a combination of shelter fees, medical evaluation, laboratory tests and spaying/neutering for our rescued Afghan Hounds exceeded \$250.00, hence the current cap on expenditures. Some Afghan Hounds will come to us in good health, already altered, and up to date on their shots. Others will not. The age of the hound may be a factor in considering a lower adoption fee. You are in the best position to determine what your local fees should be.

11. Working With Others Most Afghan Hound rescuers find themselves working alone to cover large geographic areas. Unfortunately there simply aren't enough rescuers for the number of abandoned Afghan Hounds, nation-wide. There are solutions to this problem, however.

Get acquainted with your nearest Afghan Hound rescuers by phone, email or in person, and support them in any way you can. Sure, the nearest other Afghan Hound rescuer may be 300 miles away, but she, or he, is a part of our nation-wide network of rescuers. If they need help, offer it. Split transportation runs, share ideas, trade home visits and just be there for them! We all need a shoulder to lean on or a hand up from time to time. This is very stressful work and to succeed at it, we have to operate as a team.

Throughout the United States there are a large number of other breed-specific and all-breed or all-species rescue groups. They can be your greatest assets in getting the job done. Get acquainted with them. Introduce yourself, offer to help them (then do it) and you will begin to develop the network you need to cover far more territory than you can alone. Certainly, you may find yourself picking up or fostering a Borzoi, Irish Wolfhound or a Greyhound occasionally, but the amount of help you receive in return will be worth the small effort expended. Link up with a local "Station" of the Canine Underground Railroad (CUR), an organization that develops and executes all-volunteer rescue transportation runs from one end of the country to the other. Check the websites for other National Breed Clubs, visit your local shelters or go to the Adopt-A-Pet section of your nearest large pet store and introduce yourself as a rescuer to the staff and volunteers. It works! To help this process, an introductory letter to shelters and other volunteers is enclosed.

Cultivate the people in your club and those who have adopted Afghan Hounds from you. They are always a valuable resource to both promote your program and provide help in numerous other ways; picking up from shelters, making home visits, fostering, transporting, fundraising. The possibilities are endless and limited only by your own initiative.

12. General Comments The Afghan Hound Club of America supports the rescue program through fundraising efforts, voluntary club donations, and individual contributions. It should be the goal of each rescue group or, if not affiliated with a regional club, individual rescuer to become self-sustaining. There is no guarantee that there will be sufficient donations in a given year to support the demands placed upon the system. You can help. Raise funds for your own program first. Then, help raise funds for the National program by encouraging club donations and sales of fund raising items from the AHCA Rescue Website, such as the annual rescue calendar and yarn products knitted by other rescue volunteers.

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RESTORE, RECOVER, REHABILITATE, RETRAIN, REHOME

REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AS OF APRIL 2001

AFGHAN HOUND RESCUE WILL ASSIST RESCUERS BY REIMBURSEMENT OF REASONABLE MEDICAL EXPENSES UP TO A TOTAL OF \$300 FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, OR A COMBINATION OF THOSE ITEMS AS DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE RESCUER AND THE VETERINARIAN USED:

SHOTS (ALL REQUIRED)

SPAY/NEUTER

BLOOD WORK

FECAL EXAM

TREATMENT OF MINOR INJURIES

TREATMENT OF INTESTINAL WORMS

NAIL TRIM

SHAVE-DOWN & FIRST BATH

DENTAL CLEANING

YOU AND THE VET DETERMINE WHAT IS BEST FOR THE AFGHAN HOUND.
IF THE PROJECTED COST EXCEEDS \$300, CONTACT:

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