



Stray Cat Intake

Policies and Procedures

SPECIALIZED LICENSING

In the state of Illinois, an animal welfare organization (AWO) must carry a “Stray Holding License” in addition to the Shelter License. A Stray Holding License is a special permit that **requires the AWO to have the space AND capability** to house stray animals for a minimum of 7 business days in order to give owners a chance to reclaim their pet. **St. Sophia’s does NOT hold a Stray Holding License.** Instead, when we are contacted by someone from the public about a found cat (stray or presumed owned) we must follow the below steps.

SCAN FOR A MICROCHIP

We can have the finder bring the cat in for a microchip scan, or we can suggest they take the cat to get it scanned. Veterinarians, Boarding Facilities, Police Stations, Fire Departments, Animal Controls, Shelters, and even some Pet stores have scanners on hand. If you find a microchip, use <https://www.petmicrochiplookup.org/> to see what manufacture the chip belongs to. Contact that company and **ask for the registered owners information AND ask for the contact information for who purchased the chip** (EVEN if the chip is registered!). Follow up accordingly.

REFER TO A STRAY HOLDING FACILITY

The closest Stray Holding Facilities to St. Sophia’s are as follows:

- Animal Welfare League @ 10305 Southwest Hwy, Chicago Ridge — (708) 636-8586
- Aurora Animal Control @ 600 S. River, Aurora —(630) 256-3630
- Bolingbrook Animal Control, 375 W. Briarcliff Rd — (630) 226-8688
- Chicago Animal Control @ 27th & Western, Chicago — (312) 744-5000
- DuPage County Animal Services @ 120 N. County Farm Rd, Wheaton — (630) 407-2800
- Hinsdale Humane Society @ 22 N. Elm, Hinsdale — (630) 323-6124
- Naperville Animal Control Shelter @ 1340 Aurora Ave — (630) 420-6178

