



Policy Regarding Animals Adopted to Bethel Friends of Canines by City of Bethel

If an animal is captured and held at the pound, the City of Bethel requires a four day hold. If an owner picks up their animal at the pound they will pay a fee to the City of Bethel. The fee for the first day of impound is \$25 and each additional day of impound is \$20. As a courtesy, if Bethel Friends of Canines has available volunteers, pictures of animals in the pound are posted on the BFK9 Facebook page in hopes that owners will claim them before the four days elapse.

If an animal is not claimed by an owner within those four days, the City of Bethel adopts the animal to BFK9. This was established in an MOU between the City of Bethel and Bethel Friends of Canines on August 14th, 2013. Once the animal is in BFK9 possession it is legally owned by Bethel Friends of Canines. Once animals are under BFK9's possession, board members and volunteers are responsible for getting the animal up to date on vaccines as well as getting spayed or neutered. BFK9 also finds foster homes to house and care for the animals until they can be adopted or until they are transferred out of Bethel to a rescue partner to be adopted.

A person claiming ownership of an animal currently under BFK9 possession, needs to submit a written request to BFK9 to reclaim the animal. They need to submit pictures proving the animal was in their care previous to it being in the pound, a description of how the animal ended up in the pound, and how the owner plans to care for the animal so that it doesn't happen again in the future. Requests need to be emailed to: bethelfriendsofcanines2011@gmail.com The animal possibly could be returned to the person, at the discretion of the board. If the animal is approved to be returned, the owner agrees to meet the requirements in the BFK9 adoption agreement, including agreements to abide by city code by leashing their dog, vaccinating every year, getting the animal spayed or neutered, and paying the standard adoption fee of \$250. This fee helps to cover the costs associated with caring for the animal, including surgery, food, vaccinations, and staff time. Once an animal is out of BFK9's possession (via adoption or transferred to a rescue partner), BFK9 no longer has legal ownership of the animal, and therefore can not grant reclamation.