



Animal Rescue Entity Frequently Asked Questions

How does ODA have the responsibility of licensing and inspecting Animal Rescue Entities (ARE)?

In the 2013 legislative session, Senate Bill 6 was passed, giving inspecting and licensing responsibility of rescue organizations to the county/city dog licensing agencies. While a number of counties developed programs to inspect and license these organizations, others did not. A push for more consistency in enforcement efforts across the state came in the 2019 legislative session when SB 883 was passed. Amending SB 6, SB 883 reassigned the responsibility of regulating animal rescue entities to the State Veterinarian's Office at the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The reassignment of enforcing authority is to ensure all AREs across the state comply with the same record keeping and licensing requirements.

What is an Animal Rescue Entity?

An "Animal Rescue Entity" is defined as any individual or organization that keeps, houses, and maintains in its legal custody 10 or more animals at any given time and that solicits or accepts donations in any form. This includes but is not limited to animal control agencies, humane societies, animal shelters, animal sanctuaries, and some boarding kennels. Exemptions include boarding kennels subject to ORS 167.374, veterinary facilities, and foster facilities.

If we have a veterinarian on staff do we need to be licensed as an ARE?

Yes, the veterinary facility exemption is intended to exempt facilities such as a veterinary clinic or hospital performing medical treatments who may occasionally take in owner surrenders. This exemption is not intended to exempt facilities that are functioning as an Animal Rescue Entity with a veterinarian on site.

Would a group doing Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) be subject to the fee and licensing requirements?

No, if a group is performing TNR Work (Trap, Neuter, Return) and the animals are released after recovery, the animals are not maintained in the groups legal custody and therefore based on this information they are not considered an ARE.

What if this same TNR group was also fostering kittens?

If this same group performing TNR was also fostering 10 or more kittens in their legal custody at any given time and solicits or accepts donations in any form, they would be required to obtain an ARE license. We understand that each situation may be different, for more information on your organizations unique situation please contact the ARE program at 503-968-4680.

Why is the ARE license fee \$375 per year?

It is anticipated that this program will require one full time employee to oversee the program and perform the required inspections. Additional cost will include agency overhead and travel. These projected expenses have been divided by the projected number of animal rescue entities to determine the proposed annual license fee.

Where does the licensing fee go?

All license fees go to support the program costs.

Why is the fee not a tiered structure based on size of rescue?

The license fee was developed with the best-known data available at the time the rules were created. The agency did not have sufficient data to develop a tiered licensing structure in the first year. This is something that can be explored once more data is available.

Is this fee per organization, per location or per animal?

The license fee is per ARE owned or operated facility. This does not include foster locations. Organizations that operate two separate facility locations will need a license and inspection for each facility location.

What will the initial license inspection consist of?

The Oregon Department of Agriculture will complete an inspection of every organization prior to licensing. This inspection will consist of a records audit and a walk-through inspection of any facility owned or operated by the organization. An inspection does not include a walk through of foster facilities. If your organization is exclusively foster based we will complete a records audit.

We are a foster based rescue, will you be inspecting each of our foster facilities?

No, foster facilities will not be inspected to obtain a license. Foster facilities fall within the responsibility of the ARE. We encourage each ARE to require a foster application and perform a home inspection prior to allowing animals in their care. If you are a foster based organization and do not have a central facility where animals are kept, housed, or maintained, ODA will inspect your records. ODA may conduct inspections of foster facilities as part of a follow-up to a complaint/concern received by the agency.

How often will organizations be inspected?

Every organization will be inspected prior to obtaining a license. Follow-up inspections may be needed depending on the outcome of the initial inspection. Future inspections will be based on complaints/concerns.