



ACCOUNTABILITY and FULL DISCLOSURE

Questionnaire/Checklist for Animal Rescue Organizations

By Rescue Watch©

Table of Contents

Page 1: Accountability and Full Disclosure Questionnaire Introduction

*Page 2: *Animal Rescue Verification Information*

*Page 3: *Humane Society Verification Information*

*Page 4: *SPCA Verification Information*

*Page 5: *Animal Control Verification Information*

Pages 6-10: Accountability and Full Disclosure Questions/Checklist

Pages 11-12: In-Closing – The Bottom Line for Rescuers, Donors, Followers of Rescues

**The verification forms and the questionnaire/checklist are “bundled” in this document for ease-of-sending.*

It is easy to choose the verification document for a rescue, a humane society, an SPCA, or an animal control that “partners with any of those organizations on seizures for instance, and then pair it with the questionnaire/checklist pages, and send it to whatever publically operated, primarily donation-funded organization you are contemplating supporting, or have questions for.

Have questions and/or comments about this questionnaire/checklist?

Email: rescuewatch4u@gmail.com

Twitter: [elusive@rescuewatch](https://twitter.com/elusive@rescuewatch)

On Facebook @ [Rescue Watch](https://www.facebook.com/RescueWatch)

Accountability and Full Disclosure Questionnaire – Introduction

As promised, here is the Accountability and Full Disclosure Questionnaire/Checklist for Animal Rescue Organizations.

It is designed to be sent to donation-funded animal rescues and/or other animal rescue/welfare organizations before donations are made to them. It speaks to the matter of accountability, transparency, honesty, ethics, and integrity.

When rescues are willing to complete the questionnaire, provide the information asked for, and will follow-through with publically providing the information they assured the sender they would provide, there is a greater than average chance that they are an inspiringly REAL rescue, and they either find homes for animals and/or provide sanctuary/hospice care, rather than disposing of un-useable animals in various ways, and animals disappear without a trace.

And if the rescue sadly has no other choice but to humanely euthanize an animal, when documentation is provided, and there is no lack of evidence of humane euthanasia being the only course of action, then it is clear this decision is not what is known as "de-valuing" and "convenience killing" as many "rescues" whose hearts are NOT true appear to be doing nowadays.

Most people would know and agree it is the kindest and most peaceful of choices after viewing concise and factual information and documentation, even when a difficult decision to make, sending the animals' spirit to The Rainbow Bridge; there is solace in knowing it was the only choice, and not merely the "disposal" of an un-useable animal that no one wanted to feed or maintain anymore after they had no more "donation-value", or any "monetary or material value". Supporting rescues that have no hidden agenda in their rescue efforts is life-saving.

It is not the gullible and naive lining-of-the-pockets and monetary and material enrichment of people who don't care about ALL animals, and are mostly interested in animals that are good for collecting "crisis" and/or "pity" donations on, or have value in re-selling in an "adoption-for-a-fee" "retail-rescue" transaction.

Many kind-hearted, compassionate people are unable to do "hands-on" rescuing of animals for reasons that are emotional, practical, or financial.

However, many people do want to participate in rescuing animals, and their help is offered by monetary donations, materials for the care of the rescued animals, professional services, etc to primarily donation-funded animal rescues/organizations.

With non-profit animal rescues operating in record numbers all over the United States in the thriving animal rescue "industry", and with the help of "real time" "social media marketing" making it simple and easy for small-to-medium size rescues and organizations to market themselves for free instead of having to have large marketing budgets, verification and fact-checking has now become a necessity to help prospective donors, foundations and organizations that offer grants, and followers of the rescue decide what rescues and organizations to "help" and support.

Currently, people ask questions, with the primary question heard most often being "WHERE are ALL of the animals residing 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year after donation money rescued/bought them?"

Asking questions and receiving accountability and full disclosure from many primarily donation-funded animal rescue/welfare organizations has historically been difficult at best, people are often disrespectfully ignored, and asking simple, non-intrusive questions frequently becomes combative and threatening at worst.

This questionnaire/checklist is a useful tool that allows the rescues and organizations who are truly transparent to demonstrate that they can be trusted and they have no problem showing all types of written, photographic, and video documentation (not just "staged photo-op's" many "rescues" do) proving they are honest and forthright. Public trust is important to them as they do the often difficult task of rescuing, and full disclosure can lead to support from the public which helps more animals.

With so many rescues springing-up, the donating public also wants to know if they are instead dealing with "retail-welfare rescues" who are really nothing more than animal brokers/dealers/horse traders and "opportunists" who profit from the kindness of other people, and animals are often mere "props" and "merchandise" used to collect money, material goods, and also those accolades and "pat's on the back" that are so important to narcissistic people.

Taking care of animals, whether the animals are useable, or perhaps "not so much", has priceless value;

the rescuers who will be happy to fill out this questionnaire sent to them asking for information also KNOW in the deepest part of their soul that every animal teaches them about life and living, and often "the rescued" becomes "the rescuer", and that is the difference between seeing dollar signs when one looks at an animal, or God's perfect creation in each and every animal he has brought to them to care for.

Registered Name of Animal Rescue: _____

- Founder/Representative: _____
- Contact Persons Telephone #: _____
- City/Town and State the person in authority resides in: _____
- Email address for contact person/representative:

- For verification and fact-checking purposes, are you willing to attach the resume of person/s of authority: _____
- Month and Year your organization was founded (even if your organization was not registered as a non-profit yet and was instead a "private", non-registered rescue):

- Rescue and/or charity entity registration #, the state the entity is registered in, and the EIN # assigned by the IRS for the state filing: _____
- IRS Tax Exempt Organization EIN#: _____
- If "Pending" status with the IRS, please attach your filing "acceptance letter" from the IRS and the date received: _____
- Date organization became a "not-for-profit" entity with the State: _____
- Date organization became a tax exempt organization with the IRS: _____
- Location/physical address where rescued animal/s will be taken, housed, and maintained: _____
- If being fostered, name, physical address, and phone # of the fosters (attach a separate page if necessary): _____
- If the quarantine facility is a separate location, name of contact person, physical address of facility, and phone number for contact person at quarantine facility:

- Veterinary Hospital Name, Address, and Telephone #: _____
- Veterinarians Website and Facebook page addresses:

- Rescue Website Address: _____
- Rescue Facebook Page: _____
- Rescue Twitter Address: _____
- Will you attach your Adoption Contract and Agreement: _____
- Are you willing to attach a list of rescues, Humane Societies, SPCA's, and other organizations such as the HSUS, PETA, etc that you "partner" with and/or are affiliated with: _____

Name of Humane Society: _____

- Location/physical address of the Humane Society:

- Contact Person/Person of authority: _____
- Telephone # of contact person: _____
- City/Town and State the person in authority resides in: _____
- Email address for contact person/representative: _____
- For verification and fact-checking purposes, are you willing to attach the resume of person of authority: _____
- Are you a “for-profit” or “not-for-profit” business entity with the state: _____
- Please list the State you are registered in, the date you registered, your registration # with the state, and your EIN # assigned by the IRS for your state filing:

- Are you a 501c3 tax exempt organization with the IRS: _____
- If so, please list your EIN #, the date you applied for 501c3 tax exempt status. Please attach your acceptance of filing letter from the IRS if still in “Pending” approval status:

- Date you received your approval letter from the IRS for your 501c3 status and your EIN #:

- Veterinary Hospital Name, Address, and Telephone #:

- Veterinarians Website and Facebook page addresses:

- How many years this organization has been in business: _____
- Location/physical address where rescued animal/s will be taken, housed and maintained:

- If animals are being fostered, names, addresses and contact information of fosters (attach separate page with this information if necessary):

- If the quarantine facility is a separate location, name of contact person, address of facility, and phone number for contact person at quarantine facility:

- Facebook Page for Business/Organization: _____
- Website Address: _____
- Twitter Address (if applicable): _____
- Will you attach a copy of your Adoption Contract and Agreement?: _____
Are you willing to attach a list of rescues, Humane Societies, SPCA’s, and other organizations such as the HSUS, PETA, etc that you “partner” with and/or are affiliated with: _____

Name of SPCA: _____

- Contact Person/Representative: _____
- Telephone # of contact person: _____
- City/Town and State the person in authority resides in: _____
- Email address for contact person/representative: _____
- For verification and fact-checking purposes, are you willing to attach the resume of person/s of authority: _____
- Month and year your organization was founded: _____
- Physical address/Location of the SPCA: _____
- How many years in business: _____
- Number of Members: _____
- Will you attach a list of your members and their contact information (minimum of 25 members required for SPCA authority): _____
- Are you a “not-for-profit” with the state: _____
- If so, please list the State you are registered in, the date you registered, your registration # with the state, and your EIN # issued by the IRS for this state filing:

- Are you a 501c3 tax exempt organization: _____
- If so, please list your EIN #, the date you applied for 501c3 tax exempt status, and the date you received your approval letter from the IRS for your 501c3 status:

- If still in “Pending” approval status with the IRS, will you attach your “acceptance of filing” letter from the IRS: _____
- Location/physical address where animals will be taken after rescue or seizure and housed and maintained: _____
- Veterinary Hospital Name, Address, and Telephone # that you primarily use: _____
- Website address: _____
- Facebook Page for Organization: _____
- Twitter Address for Organization: _____
- Will you attach a copy of your Adoption Contract and Agreement: _____

Name of government agency Animal Control/Animal Shelter (applies to AC's that are accepting and receiving donations, doing seizures of animals and/or "partnering" with rescues/Humane Societies/SPCA's "helping", seizing animals, or taking in "owner surrenders"):

- Physical address of agency/business:

- Contact Person/Person in authority: _____
- For verification and fact-checking purposes, are you willing to attach the resume of person of authority: _____
- Physical address of facility: _____
- Contact Persons Telephone #: _____
- Number of years in business: _____
- Veterinarian name, address, and phone number:

- Veterinarians Website and Facebook page addresses:

- Facebook Page for Organization: _____
- Website Address: _____
- Do you "partner" with any rescues on a regular basis for "helping" and/or "seizing" animals: _____
- If so, please list the names, addresses, and phone #'s of the rescues, Humane Societies, or SPCA's you contact when you need "help" and/or are doing seizures of animals (use a separate page if necessary):

Questions for Accountability, Verification & Full Disclosure Purposes

- Is your organization (check all that apply):

- 1.) An adoption-based rescue: _____
- 2.) A sanctuary for unadoptable/un-useable animals: _____
- 3.) A hospice facility for animals with terminal illnesses and conditions: _____
- 4.) A primarily donation-funded rescue/organization that operates based on donations received: _____
- 5.) A primarily self-funded rescue/organization that does not rely on donations to operate: _____

- For all organization, whether “non-profit” or “for-profit”; please list the legal name that your business, entity, or organization files taxes under with the State and also with the IRS:

- Please list 3 professional references including names, email addresses, and phone # of reference (not to include family members please):

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

- Will you be self-funding with your own private and/or personal money, or are you primarily donation-funded with donor and/or grant money for the care of the animal/s for this designated fundraiser – please give the percentage of donation-funding to self-funding:

_____.

- For seizures of animals, a bond in the amount of the calculation of approximate value of seized personal property including animals is “insurance” and a guarantee of money for the care of the animals if donations don’t suffice. Will you post a bond in the required amount: _____
- For use with seized animals: If applicable by law to the state in which the animals are located and if the seizure and/or owner surrender is primarily donation-funded, will you be registering with the Secretary of State’s office for a designated fundraiser: _____

- For seizures of animals: is your rescue or organization willing as a **1st course of action** to “help” the animals right where they reside, and help the animal owner keep their animals if they wish to do so? Sometimes animal owners have an emergency in their family that costs them a lot of money whether it be a medical emergency, loss of work/job, illness, the animals are ill, have chronic illness that sometimes goes through acute phases, etc, and instead of taking their animals away from them, all they really need is some “help” from a rescue that is supposed to be there to do just that - HELP. The situation can be re-assessed in 2 weeks, 1 month, and 2 months, and if the situation has improved and resolved, it can be put on a monitoring basis for the next year. If after some “help” is given with the animals where they reside it becomes clear the owners are not interested in improving the situation, then legal steps can be taken to go forward with re-homing some, or perhaps all, of the animals. ALL of this should take place however without sensationalized media attention, and should be dealing in facts and proof so as to avoid a “social media madness mob” from being whipped-up. Is your rescue willing to help the animals and owner at their home as a 1st course of action: _____
- If the rescued animal is a horse, or multiple horses, purchased from an auction or sale, will you publically post your receipt from the auction/sale yard showing the purchase price of each and every animal that you purchased using donated funds?: _____
- If the rescued/purchased animal is an animal being “pulled” from an animal control/shelter, will you post the receipt for the “pull” price and any fees charged to the rescue: _____
- Regarding accountability to the donating public and applicable to “designated fundraisers” i.e. buying horses at sales, seizing animals, “pulling” animals from animal controls/shelters, etc, would you be willing to post public spread sheets and screen shots of the accounting of ALL monies received through donations (with the donors information blocked to protect their privacy) whether through PayPal, ChipIn, GoFundMe, direct deposit to a separate bank account set up for designated fundraisers (the law in some states), bank-to-bank wire transfers, via credit card by card reader, etc (in other words, an accounting of ALL donations received on this designated fundraiser/rescue you are asking for donations for?

- For the purposes of accountability to the public who wishes to verify information, is this Rescue, Humane Society, SPCA, or Animal Control willing to publically post on your website and/or Facebook page ALL of the reports and receipts pertaining to the rescue/purchase of the particular animals you are asking for donations for?

This would include ALL receipts pertaining to their care, their housing, their feed, medications, all veterinary reports and billings, farrier bills, (applicable to horses, ponies, burros, mules, goats, cattle, llamas, alpacas), chiropractic bills, any types of therapy (i.e. massage, acupuncture, acupressure, aroma therapy, etc), any money paid to anyone associated in any way, whether volunteer, founder of rescue, etc, with the rescue of this animal/s: _____

- For verification and transparency purposes, on a designated fundraiser when rescuing/purchasing or seizing an animal, or multiple animals, will your organization:
 - 1). Take at least five (5) photos of each animal **BEFORE** they are removed from the owners property if it is a seizure and/or owner surrender: _____
 - 2). Take ten (10) photos of the sale yard, or animal control facility where the animals were bought/rescued/"pulled" from: _____
 - 3). Post a MINIMUM of 25 photos of the property the animals are being removed from on a seizure and/or owner surrender. This is important because organizations often list "deplorable conditions", "dangerous conditions", etc, but the public rarely gets to see all but a few photos of the property, and often don't see any photos of the conditions so they are able to evaluate conditions for themselves. The public also doesn't see photos of where animals are taken after removal from the owners property: _____
 - 4). Take photos and videos of ALL of the animals being loaded into vehicles for transport: _____
 - 5). Take at least twenty-five (25) photos of the facility/s where ALL of the animals will be kept: _____
 - 6). Post daily photos of the animal/s and any treatment they will be receiving for at least the first 2 weeks, and then monthly thereafter until they are adopted, or euthanized: _____

- Will your organization publically post photos and videos of all of the animals that were rescued, and are also being maintained using donated funds, when they are being examined by your veterinarian? _____

- Will you post all of the vet reports and billings within 48 hours of animals being examined by your veterinarian: _____

- Will you publically post photos AND videos of any animals it is deemed necessary by your veterinarian to euthanize for whatever reasons? _____

- Will you publically post the vet report stating euthanasia of an animal is necessary: _____

- Will you publically post the euthanasia report and billing from your veterinarian for the animal that was euthanized, and also the billing for removal and disposal of the animals remains: _____

- If a necropsy is performed, are you willing to post the necropsy report within 30 days for the animal that was necropsied: _____

- In the case of large animals such as horses, mules, donkeys, cows, llamas, etc, some large animal rescues in lieu of "traditional" chemical euthanasia done by a veterinarian instead transport the animal to a carnivore sanctuary for wolves and/or "big cats" where the animal is shot by an experienced and humane shooter, and the animal is then fed to the carnivores.
 If this method of "euthanasia" is utilized, are you willing to post documentation from the sanctuary that the animal in question was donated to them and were humanely "put down"?: _____

- Will your organization ***at least*** 1 time per month publically post a LIST of animals rescued/bought using donated funds, and maintained with donated funds, that are:
 - 1). Residing on the rescue facilities premises
 - 2). In foster care at another location (list whom has them);
 - 3). At a quarantine facility (list who cares for them there);
 and also publically post on your Facebook page **date-stamped** photos of all of the animals not yet adopted and who have not been “put down”/euthanized: _____

- Will you publically post on your Facebook page and your official website your adoption contract and agreement, and all other forms i.e. confidentiality agreements, liability releases, etc the public must sign before going onto the organizations facility/property: _____

- Will you publically post the full price of the adoption fee when/if any animals that were rescued and maintained using donation money are “adopted for a fee”, and also post a public accounting and itemized list of any monies spent for the care, housing, and maintenance for that specific adopted animal before adoption: _____

- Will all primary participants at the rescue, organization, animal control publically post their resumes and also any credentials, and also those of any participants involved with your rescue/organization, that will give the donating public & followers information on your background with animals, background in rescue, in the “mainstream” animal world, etc so the public and potential donors can fact-check and verify the information?: _____

- Are the founder and primary participants in the animal rescue employed in jobs and/or businesses “outside of rescue” _____. If yes, in what line of work are you employed: _____

- Are the founder and/or any paid participants in the rescue receiving disability benefits, unemployment benefits, social security benefits, or other government benefits?: _____.
If yes, what type of government benefits are you receiving: _____

- If this is a donation-funded horse rescue, what is your position on commercial horse slaughter (check all that apply and use a separate page for further explanation if you are so compelled to explain):
 1. 100% anti-horse slaughter with no exceptions: _____
 2. Anti-horse slaughter “with exceptions” because we can’t rescue them all: _____
 3. 100% anti-horse slaughter, but until the horse slaughter industry, including the shipping of horses outside the US for slaughter is banned entirely, I would like to see domestic/US slaughterhouses (re)-opened so the horses do not have to be shipped so far: _____
 4. If commercial horse slaughter can be made humane, I am in favor of it to use as a disposal system for un-useable and/or un-wanted horses: _____

- For horse rescues; have you or any of the primary participants at your rescue/organization ever sold horses through sales or auctions: _____.
If yes, when, where, and what was the circumstance that led you to selling a horse through a sale or auction? (use a separate page if necessary):

- For horse rescues; if you live in a state where the commercial horse slaughter industry is banned entirely i.e. in California since November 3, 1998, do you attend sales/auctions to “outbid kill buyers” and rescue a few horses even though you are witnessing crimes at every sale where kill buyers operate freely?: _____

Or are you working toward enforcement of the existing laws and helping the Attorney General’s and state Department of Agriculture’s offices enforce the law/s?: _____

Ex: “Whistleblowing” on sale yards/kill buyers/feedlots whom are operating illegally.

- In Closing -

The "Bottom-Line" for Rescuers, Donors and Followers of Rescues

This questionnaire/checklist is for Accountability and Full Disclosure purposes (currently voluntary) for primarily donation-funded animal rescues, humane societies, and SPCA's that are registered with the State as a "not for profit" business entity, and also when registered and/or filed and are "pending" with the IRS as a 501c3 tax exempt organization. Also for animal controls that take receive donations or "partner" with animal rescues.

Prospective donors can send this questionnaire to any of the above described entities that they may be contemplating supporting with a generic monetary donation (donations used for anything pertaining to the rescues operation and are not "designated" for specific purposes), a "designated donation" (specific-use donations), or for the donation of professional services and/or a specific skill-set/area of expertise that could be beneficial to the animal rescue.

The IRS, and also the State that the animal rescue, humane society, or SPCA are registered as business entities in, do not require much in the way of line item documentation of donations received overall, where and what the money is spent on, the public posting of vet reports, euthanasia reports, billings for professional services, bi-monthly photos of all of the animals rescued using donation money, etc.

And more importantly to many animal lovers, the IRS and the State do not require animal rescues, humane societies, spca's, and animal controls that collect donations and/or "partner" with animal rescue organizations, to publically post WHERE each and every animal they rescue and are supposed to maintain using donated funds ARE 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year after being "rescued"..... THAT needs to change.

This questionnaire "fills in the blanks" and asks for responses to fundamental, straight forward questions that many donors are interested in having the answers to.

Some states do require that "designated fundraisers" must be registered with the State as holding or running a fundraiser (and any rescue organization operating in whatever their state of registration and origin is should know what the rules and requirements their state has regarding collecting generic and/or designated donations and funds through fundraisers) to avoid individuals, organizations, and "others" not associated with the rescue they are raising funds for to collect them illegally.

The public is able to call the state the rescue is located in and confirm that a fundraiser has been registered with the state, and that cuts down on the occurrences of the fraudulent collection of funds by swindlers not associated with the rescue or organization.

This questionnaire is mostly for information gathering and verification purposes for prospective donors and followers of a rescue regarding their history and background in rescue and with animals, how much money is collected for designated fundraisers that rescues frequently ask and receive donations for in regard to rescuing/buying specific animals, real estate/land they are purchasing where they will house and maintain animals, for purchasing vehicles and equipment they use for transporting and handling animals, etc.

Additionally, the IRS and the State do not currently require public postings from donation-funded rescues, humane societies, SPCA's, or animal controls that are receiving monetary donations, "material goods" donations, donations for professional services, etc, for the public posting of veterinary records/reports every time the animal is seen by the veterinarian, the chiropractor, the massage therapist, the farrier, etc, on each animal rescued using donation money, necropsy reports from the veterinarian responsible for euthanizing the animal stating the reason for euthanasia, the billing for euthanasia and body disposal, etc

Often, veterinarians and other individuals cannot confirm certain conditions, illnesses, or disease from a visual evaluation, and some conditions need a period of time of rest, treatment, etc to resolve, or to go from an acute phase to a chronic phase, whereby the animal does not need to be euthanized because of pain or mobility issues, but may not be "useable" for anything.

However, if an animal is deemed to be unable to be rehabilitated, and is euthanized, a necropsy is sometimes necessary to determine what condition, disease, or illness the animal had, and THAT will make donors who value the lives of all animals more comfortable KNOWING why the animal needed to be euthanized, and was not simply "put down" because they were un-useable, and no one wanted to spend money to maintain an animal that cannot be "used" for anything.

More and more people are wanting to see documentation, photos, and videos of exactly where the rescued animals that donation money was used to rescue, rehabilitate, and maintain are residing; whether they are in foster care; were they adopted, and if so, where were they adopted to; are they in a sanctuary, or at a hospice facility, and if so, what is the physical address and location of those facilities; can they see photos posted on Facebook pages, on websites, etc of the animals wherever they are residing whether temporarily or permanently?

In the current climate of animal rescues/organizations having so much "reach" for donors/donations and followers from all over the Nation, and Worldwide, it has become necessary to ask for, and receive, answers to simple, straight-forward questions so that the donation-funded organizations who are on the "up-and-up" can emerge as the "real rescues", and the people who are donation-funded and are "into" rescue for the free donation money, material goods, and the accolades, can be exposed and weeded-out.

Too many animals that are supposed to be "rescued" are instead "put down" (killed) in various ways, or are "disappeared" to parts unknown, never to be seen or heard from again.

THAT is not rescue! This questionnaire/checklist is designed to expose, and quite possibly have people who are committing fraud and other crimes using animals as "props" to do it, investigated, and prosecuted if crimes have been committed.

NOTES