

**AAS VIP PETS GROUP  
SOCIAL MEDIA USE POLICY  
January 2020**



**POLICY:**

The City of Arlington Animal Services division will manage a closed Facebook group for the purpose of sharing and networking animals who have been listed as VIP Adoptable Animals and VIP Rescue Only Animals. This page will allow any individual who reads and agrees to this policy, to enter the group for the purpose or networking these animals in a positive light to potential adopters, fosters, or rescue agencies.

It shall be the policy of Arlington Animal Services that an individual who utilizes the social media platforms provided and managed by the City, will create positive interactions with other individuals to communicate about animals, their stories, or information pertaining to the shelter or the animals that it houses.

Arlington Animal Services expects that all individuals who participate in social media shall treat each other with courtesy and respect, regardless of differing views.

**PROCEDURE:**

Social media posts may be used to communicate the following (but not limited to):

- Stories about animals, behavior, or observations about any given animal at the shelter.
- Volunteers communicating about meet-up times to achieve specific goals, etc.
- Communicate ideas of how to be more efficient or better work together as a team.
- Happenings at the shelter more geared for urgent animals that go beyond the main Animal Shelter page. Example- a sudden large intake of animals.
- A general 2-way method to communicate with Animal Services staff.
- Get to know your fellow community members who are interested in helping the animals at AAS.

**PROHIBITED CONTENT:**

1. Social media posts are not an appropriate source of complaints or issues one may have to include but not limited to the shelter staff, shelter operations, decisions that shelter staff must make, and the animals being housed at Arlington Animal Services. These types of comments may be removed at the discretion of the administrators. Complaints and issues must be communicated in person or via private email with the Kennel Supervisor, Christie Compton ([Christie.Compton@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Christie.Compton@Arlingtontx.gov)) or the Social Media Administrator, Michelle Patchett ([Michelle.Patchett@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Michelle.Patchett@Arlingtontx.gov)).

2. Content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation
3. Sexual content or links to sexual content
4. Threats of violence, either direct or implied
5. Conduct or encouragement of illegal activity
6. Information that may tend to compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems
7. Identifying information other than name, posted without permission of the person being identified (address, phone number, license plate number, place of employment/education, etc.) Please use other methods to share private info with each other.
8. Requests for advice, or providing advice on legal matters, medical matters, or other subjects for which the State of Texas requires that a person be licensed to provide that advice in a professional capacity. (Exceptions: requests for referrals to licensed professionals, responses from individuals holding a state license to practice)
9. Posts with the primary intent to shame private citizens in a public forum, whether those citizens are identified or not, will be removed at the discretion of the administrators.
10. False information meant to cause panic or alarm.

### **CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS:**

For cases that may be borderline violations, we may choose to warn a member, or ask them to modify their posts. We may do this by private message, or by comment in the post.

However, posts or comments that violate the rules, in the opinion of the moderators, may be removed by the moderators without prior notice, and the member will be warned. Members may be removed from the group for serious or repeated violations of the above.