

Keep in mind that both a pound and a shelter are both impound facilities.

"Impound" means confined within an enclosure or within limits; holding of the animal.

In accordance with the definitions within New Jersey laws, a pound facility typically impounds animals and retains animals for a seven-day period before considering euthanasia. Conversely, a shelter impounds animals but takes a proactive approach by actively seeking opportunities for these animals, including adoption, fostering, and collaboration with rescue organizations, rehabilitation facilities, or sanctuaries. (***A sanctuary is the only place in NJ where animals are not considered for euthanasia unless it is due to a medical issue.*** As expressed to me by NJDOH (paraphrased), the only way an animal living in a sanctuary leaves such a place is when they have passed away.)

NJSA 4:19-15 definitions:

"Pound" means an establishment for the confinement of dogs or other animals seized either under the provisions of this act or otherwise.

"Shelter" means any establishment where dogs or other animals are received, housed, and ***distributed***.

Under the laws, both pound and shelter facilities have the authority to euthanize animals after the same seven-day duration. The key difference lies in the approach and commitment to providing the best possible outcomes for the animals under our care. Shelters are dedicated to exploring every avenue to improve their lives.

NJSA 4:19-15.16 Impoundment

(Stray/Lost) A shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound receiving an animal from a certified animal control officer pursuant to subsection a. of this section, or from any other individual, group, or organization, shall hold the animal for at least seven days before offering it for adoption, or euthanizing, relocating, or sterilizing the animal.

(Surrendered) The animal is surrendered voluntarily by its owner to the shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound, shall offer the animal for adoption for at least seven days before euthanizing.