

2-19-19

Good evening Mayor, Council, and city staff. My name is Kristie Mamelli, I have lived in the third district my whole life. We have been asking you for a No Kill shelter – Tonight I'd like to talk about six benefits of a No Kill shelter. This is based on information obtained from Maddie's Fund.

Here are the 6 benefits of a No Kill shelter:

#1 - A No Kill shelter generates greater community support. Just as our society is no longer willing to abide by racial discrimination and gender inequality, we're also becoming far less tolerant of the mass killing of our best friends and family members. In many communities, there is a very real bias in support of life-saving programs and policies. This translates into greater political, corporate, philanthropic, business and volunteer support of no-kill programs.

#2 - A No Kill shelter Improves staff morale. Imagine a working environment in which 20% of those around you die every day. In wartime, that may be inevitable. But an animal shelter isn't a war zone and animals aren't dying for a noble or just cause. Killing healthy and treatable animals is debilitating and demoralizing for the people who have to do it. The real irony is that people chose to work at shelters because they love animals and want to help them. To then have to kill them is devastating. Killing creates stressed out employees and high turnover among the rest of the staff as well.

#3 - A No Kill shelter Attracts and retains more volunteers. In an impersonal world where people feel more and more isolated, there is a greater longing for connection. The love given to volunteers by shelter cats and dogs can provide that connection. But it's a devastating blow to care for an animal only to find out he didn't make it to a loving home. Severing attachments is never easy and to voluntarily go through it over and over is not something most people are willing to do. No Kill shelters are able to attract and retain a high volume of volunteers because people know that the animals they care about and care for will be adopted and cherished for life.

#4 - A No Kill shelter has a positive image, which helps attract donations, volunteers and community support. A good image is not just built on the accomplishment of good works but on how well the accomplishment lines up with the shelter's mission. Once again, by saving all of their healthy and treatable cats and dogs, No Kill shelters are able to demonstrate to their communities that they are achieving their lifesaving mission and goals which then enhances the organization's reputation of worthiness and success.

#5 - A No Kill shelter Generates more funding. People who love animals want to donate their money to agencies that save animals. Those who can clearly articulate their mission, demonstrate they're saving lives, and effectively tell their story to the entire community will find a reservoir of caring individuals willing to commit financial resources to help. (This is something Sacramento Animal Care Services excels at).

#6 - More income EQUALS more organizational options. As donations increase, shelters have more options. They can add groomers and behaviorists to boost adoptions. They can add spay/neuter, adoption or public awareness outreach. The list goes on and on. And as more programs and services are added and more lives are saved, a track record of success is proven and revenue increases even more.

Long Beach is very close to No Kill; we now have a new manager with a record of animal shelter experience. We have the community and the compassion to do it. Please pass a resolution that will make Long Beach a progressive No Kill City. It would make Long Beach a leader in animal sheltering and a model for the nation. Thank you.