



DEFINING No Kill

Irremediable physical suffering: An animal who has a poor or grave prognosis for being able to live without severe, unrelenting pain even with prompt, necessary, and comprehensive veterinary care.

The goal of the No Kill movement is not to reduce killing to some consensus-based level such as 10%. It is to end killing for all animals who are not irremediably physically suffering, rigorously defined. This principle applies to all species of animals, including, but not limited to, companion mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, aquatic animals, "farmed" animals, and wildlife.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NO KILL & KILL SHELTERS

ANIMALS SAVED

Healthy animals

Community cats, regardless of whether they are perceived to be friendly or unsocial with humans ("feral")

Orphaned animals, pregnant animals, *in utero* animals, or animals with newborns

Animals suffering from or exposed to a treatable, contagious illness

Poorly socialized or unsocial ("feral") dogs, shy dogs, or traumatized dogs

Animals surrendered for "euthanasia" (the animals must be independently evaluated by a veterinarian and determined to be irremediably physically suffering)

Treatable animals labeled "behavior" or "medical"

Animals with "behavior" or "medical" impediments even if they have been signed over "for euthanasia"

Animals based on arbitrary criteria such as color, age, or breed

NO KILL
SHELTER

KILL
SHELTER



A better and ethically consistent future in animal sheltering inevitably awaits us if the No Kill movement can continue to do what it has always done until every last animal entering our nation's shelters—whatever the species, whatever the challenge—no longer faces killing; overcome the flawed but mutable traditions we have inherited from prior generations. The sooner we recognize the need for change and further innovation, the sooner we will find the motivation and tools to bring that brighter future into reality.

nokilladvocacycenter.org

