

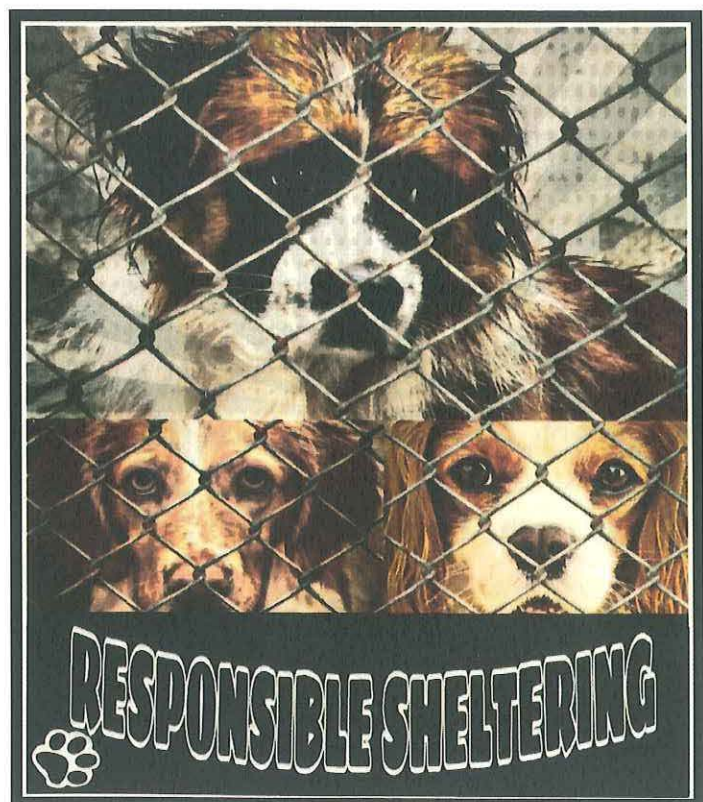
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"No-kill" debacle: will Pueblo bring "responsible sheltering" into vogue?

APRIL 16, 2019 BY [MERRITT CLIFTON](#) — [2 COMMENTS](#)

90% "live release" mandate failed catastrophically in less than 90 days

PUEBLO, Colorado—"You can't manage an animal shelter to a number," Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region president Jan McHugh-Smith told *Pueblo Chieftan* reporter Anthony A. Mestas, hours after her



organization returned to running the Community Animal Services of Pueblo shelter on April 9, 2019, after a catastrophic three-month absence.

(Beth Clifton collage)

In the interim, a 40-year-old local no-kill organization called PAWS for Life tried to take the Community Animal Services of Pueblo Animal Shelter to no-kill, following the "No Kill Equation" popularized since 2004 by Nathan Winograd, founder of the No Kill Advocacy Center in Oakland, California.



(Beth Clifton collage)

Train wreck

"To describe what happened at the shelter during the first three months of this year as a train wreck is probably being too charitable," editorialized the *Pueblo Chieftan* the same day.

"After the Humane Society spent 16 years as the shelter's operator," the *Pueblo Chieftan* explained, "the Pueblo city

council made the decision to turn the contract over to PAWS, which had no previous experience running a public animal shelter. The Pueblo county commission reluctantly went along with the council's choice, which was heavily influenced by a small but vocal group determined to have the local governments operate a 'no-kill' shelter.

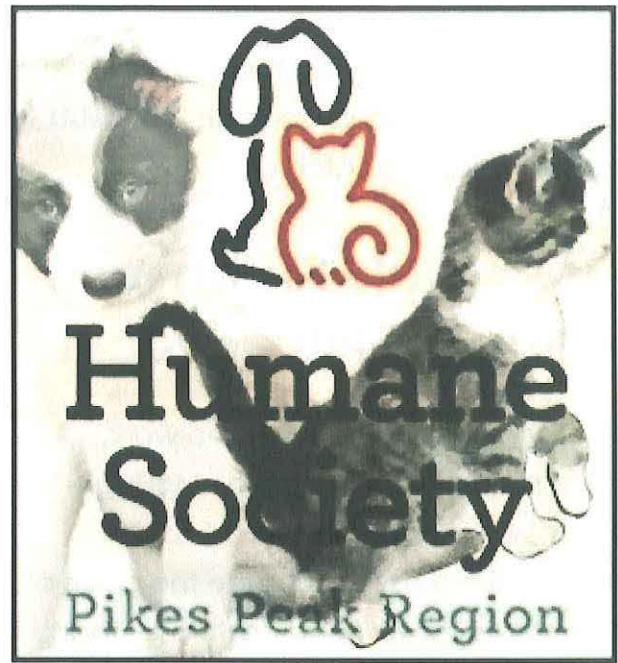
"PAWS failed spectacularly during its three months on the job," the *Pueblo Chieftan* editors summarized, "sparking a state investigation and creating an environment in which some animals suffered needlessly. City and county leaders should be thankful that the Humane Society of Pikes Peak Region has been gracious enough to accept this assignment, after being unceremoniously shown the door. Critics relentlessly attacked them on social media as part of an effort to get PAWS the contract, some even threatening the safety of shelter workers."

Back on the job

The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region resumed management of the Pueblo Animal Shelter under 90-day contracts with the Pueblo city and county governments,

pending negotiation of long-term agreements.

The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region returned to the Community Animal Services of Pueblo shelter only after the Pueblo City Council at an emergency meeting unanimously repealed an ordinance called the Pueblo Animal Protection Act [PAPA], passed in 2018 by demand of PAWS for Life supporters. The ordinance had required the Pueblo Animal Shelter to maintain a 90% "live release rate."



(Beth Clifton collage)

The new contract "stipulates that the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region will not only operate the shelter, but also run enforcement of local animal control ordinances," noted *Pueblo Chieftan* reporter Mestas.



(Beth Clifton collage)

"Live release rate is not what we call socially conscious"

"We've always been here for the people and the animals," McHugh-Smith said, "and now we get to be coming back to provide the services that this community really needs and deserves. Our partners from the Denver Dumb Friends League are helping us with staffing and getting the building ready for operation."

"Animal sheltering is very complex, and I think that's what our elected officials have learned," McHugh-Smith finished. "It takes many, many different things to look at to measure the care of the animals. Just having one focus on a live

release rate is not what we call socially conscious sheltering."

What McHugh-Smith and others call "socially conscious" sheltering, **ANIMALS 24-7** calls simply "responsible sheltering," and "responsible rescuing," for animal rescuers working outside a shelter environment. **ANIMALS 24-7** hopes that the key concepts, by any name, will soon catch on.

McHugh-Smith was early no-kill advocate

A 35-year veteran of humane work, almost entirely in Colorado, McHugh-Smith was among the first U.S. animal shelter directors to embrace the goals of the "no kill movement," as those goals were originally stated, early in her 12-year tenure as executive director of the Humane Society of Boulder Valley in Boulder, Colorado, 1995-2007.



Jan McHugh-Smith (Facebook photo)

McHugh-Smith left Colorado in February 2007 to head the San Francisco SPCA, which through a 1994 agreement with the San Francisco Department of Animal Care & Control called the "Adoption Pact" claimed to have made San Francisco the first U.S. "no kill city."

Frustrated at having had to make steep budget cuts due to budget overruns left by her predecessors, McHugh-Smith returned to Colorado in March 2010 to become executive director of the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region.



Original no-kill movement emphasized methods, not numbers

The "no kill movement" jumped off to a promising start, marked by the first "No Kill Conference," held in Phoenix, Arizona, in September 1995.

The late Lynda Foro convened the first No Kill Conference in 1995. (Beth Clifton collage)

edition of *The No Kill Directory*, published annually for several years by a long defunct organization called Doing Things for Animals.

The sixty-odd attendees had mostly been introduced to each other's existence only a few months earlier by the first

(See *No Kill Conference & No-Kill Directory* founder Lynda Foro, 74.)

Doing Things for Animals, in partnership with the North Shore Animal League America, also organized the first "No Kill Conference" and ten more annual teaching and training conferences that followed.

Though those eleven conferences, animal shelter directors around the U.S. and the world learned what were already time-tested, yet surprisingly little-known techniques for promoting high-volume dog and cat sterilization and increasing adoptions.

Who invented no-kill?

The North Shore Animal League America had developed the now almost universally used approaches to adoption, beginning when the late Alex and Elisabeth Lewyt took over the shelter management in 1969.

Veterinarian Marvin Mackie had pioneered high-volume dog and cat sterilization surgery at clinics funded by the city of Los Angeles since 1973, training Jeff Young, DVM, among many others, who have in turn trained several more generations of spay/neuter surgery specialists.

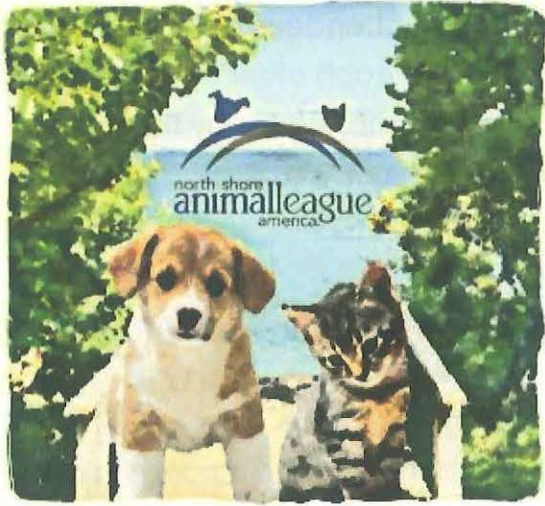
Borrowing ideas from both North Shore and the Los Angeles spay/neuter clinics, the San Francisco SPCA began putting them together under one roof, as part of an integrated program, soon after Richard Avanzino became president in 1976.



Alexander and Elisabeth Lewyt

(See *Who invented no-kill? [It wasn't Nathan Winograd]*)

Progress in Pueblo



(Beth Clifton collage)

By the dawn of the 21st century, the U.S. animal shelter death toll had fallen by half in barely 10 years.

Progress in Pueblo was especially rapid. Community Animal Services of Pueblo reportedly killed 5,700 dogs and cats in 1999, a rate of 35.7 per 1,000 of human population.

By 2016 the shelter was killing barely 1,000 dogs and cats per year, a rate of 6.25 per 1,000 of human population, about 60% of the rate for the Rocky Mountains region and half

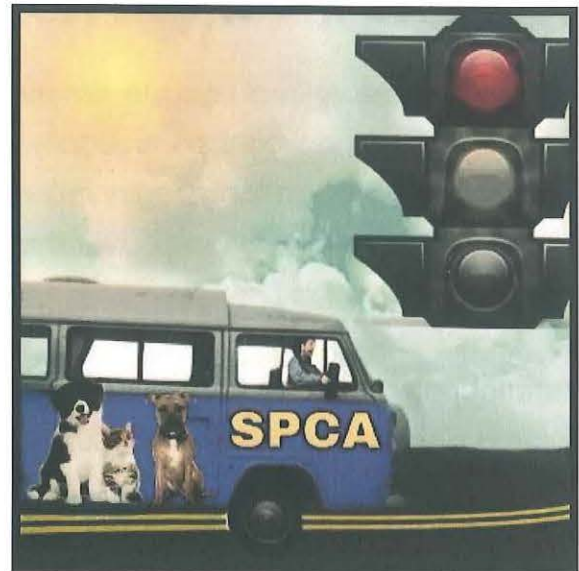
the rate for the U.S. as whole.

The initial threshold for achieving no-kill animal control was set at killing fewer than 5.0 dogs and cats per 1,000 of human population, based on the reality that about that many animals will be irrecoverably sick, injured, or dangerous.

Running through the red lights

The front cover of every edition of the *No Kill Directory* included this definition, drafted by **ANIMALS 24-7** editor Merritt Clifton and ratified in 1995 by all of the original No Kill Conference sponsors and organizers:

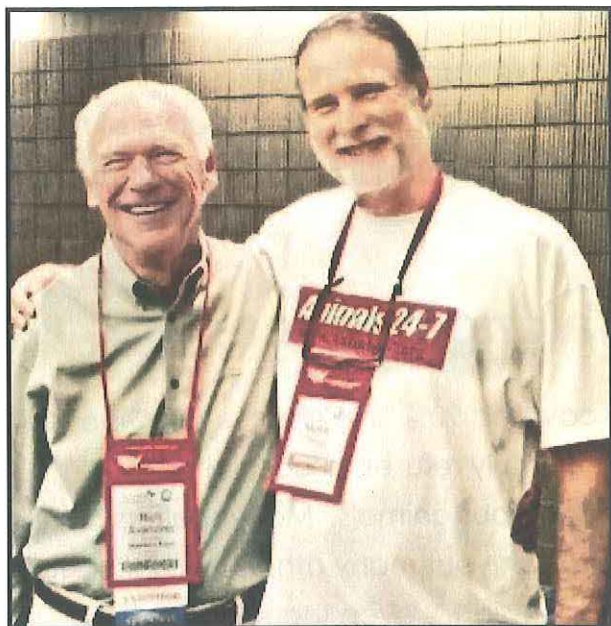
"Implicit to the no-kill philosophy is the reality of exceptional situations in which euthanasia is the most humane alternative available. Those exceptional situations include irrecoverable illness or injury, dangerous behavior, and/or the need to decapitate an animal who has bitten someone, in order to perform rabies testing. They do not include 'unadoptable, too young, or too old,' or lack of space."



(Beth Clifton collage)

From almost the beginning, unfortunately, Avanzino, then-SF/SPCA staff attorney Nathan Winograd (who does not appear to have attended any of the first 11 No Kill Conferences), and the founders of the Best Friends Animal Society, who soon started

their own breakaway No More Homeless Pets conference series, argued that the *No Kill Directory* definition of "no kill" was too complicated to fuel the "no kill movement" as they envisioned it.



Richard Avanzino (left) & ANIMALS 24-7 editor Merritt Clifton. (Beth Clifton photo)

Dumbed down the formula

Also of note, only Avanzino had significant experience in open admission sheltering or on the law enforcement side of animal care and control, and his experience was long behind him. Animal care and control was a job the SF/SPCA had done for 100 years, but Avanzino handed it off to a newly formed city agency in 1984. While the transition was phased in over five years, it was completed before Winograd was hired.

Avanzino left the SF/SPCA in 1998 to become first chief executive of the no-kill advocacy organization Maddie's Fund, backed to the tune of \$350 million by PeopleSoft founders David and Cheryl Duffield.

Much of that money has been put behind promoting a "new" no-kill formula, in alliance with the Best Friends Animal Society. The "new" formula is simply the old "euthanasia rate" statistic, often used in the late 20th century, turned upside down and called the "live release rate"

Why "live release rate" kills

Shelters using the "live release rate" are considered "no kill" if they simply rehome 90% of their animal intake, regardless of what that intake is.

In other words, a shelter that kills fewer than 5.0 animals per 1,000 of human population, as the San Francisco shelters did during the last five years of Avanzino's

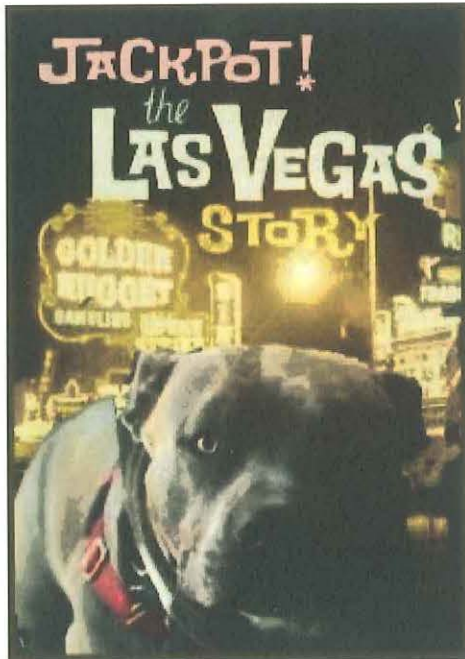


The original Morris Animal Refuge, the first animal shelter in the U.S., which started out no-kill in 1858.

SF/SPCA tenure, might not be considered no-kill, if it promotes spay/neuter and responsible animal care so successfully that intake comes to consist mostly of sick, injured, and dangerous animals.

but was unable to remain no-kill after taking the Philadelphia animal control contract in 1874.

Yet that shelter can still get the no-kill label, a huge advantage in fundraising, if it rehomes 90% of the sick, injured, and dangerous animals it receives, irrespective of risk to the public and other animals—or just keeps them in cages until their deaths of "natural causes."



(Merritt Clifton collage)

Taking chances

Achieving the coveted 90% "live release rate" is even easier if a shelter simply refuses to accept sick, injured, and dangerous animals. Many shelters have taken that approach, but many others have tried to remain "open admission," even though this often leads to taking chances with animal and human health and safety.

Pursuing the 90% "live release rate" has since 2007 contributed to the deaths of 34 humans by 60 rehomed dogs, 43 of them pit bulls; to about 40% of the U.S. pit bull population languishing in shelters and sanctuaries because they cannot be rehomed; to dozens of "no kill" shelter failures each and every

year, with as many as 40,000 animals housed in substandard "no kill" facilities at any given time; and to many of the deadliest disease outbreaks in U.S. animal sheltering history.

(See *Casualties of the "save rate": 40,000 animals at failed no-kill shelters & rescues.*)

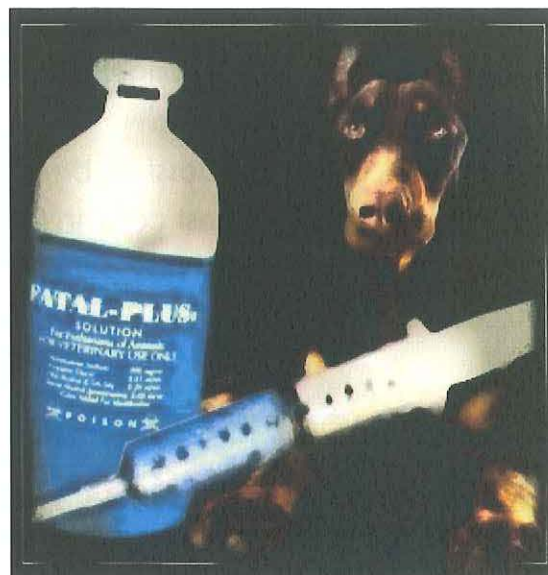
Gamble failed in Las Vegas

The worst disease outbreak of all came at the Lied Animal Shelter in Las Vegas in February 2007.

Originally handling only Las Vegas animals, the Lied Animal Shelter opened in February 2001. The Lied management almost immediately came under intensive criticism for

purportedly killing incoming animals too quickly, after an incident in which a child's dog was euthanized by accident. The shelter was expanded two years later to also hold animals impounded from Clark County, surrounding Las Vegas.

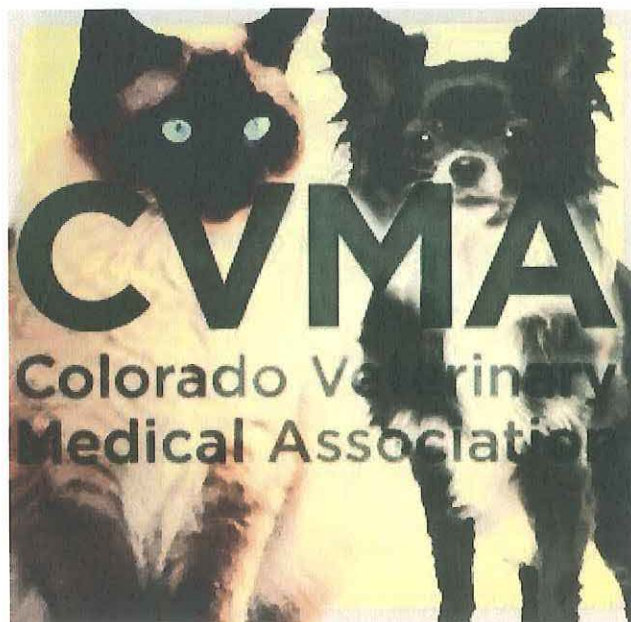
A decade later the shelter tried to go no-kill—prematurely. Outside personnel were eventually brought in to help euthanize more than 1,000 of the 1,800 animals in custody.



(Beth Clifton collage)

About 150 of the animals were ill, and 850 were believed to have been exposed to both parvovirus and distemper among the holding kennels for incoming dogs, and panleukopenia among the incoming cats, along with a bacterial infection never previously found in shelters that caused a fatal hemorrhagic pneumonia.

Similar episodes have occurred around the U.S. and Canada since then, but with fewer casualties, chiefly because the afflicted shelters have served much smaller communities, therefore taking in fewer animals.



(Beth Clifton collage)

"We have a responsibility to prevent & relieve suffering"

"As veterinarians, we have a responsibility to prevent and relieve animal suffering," Colorado Veterinary Medical Association president Will French, DVM declared in response to the Pueblo Animal Shelter meltdown.

"The idea of the no-kill movement is misleading, and often increases animal suffering with unintended consequences," French continued, hammering home a point

often made by **ANIMALS 24-7** since our first feature article, **Why we cannot adopt our way out of shelter killing**, originally posted in April 2014, updated in November 2015.

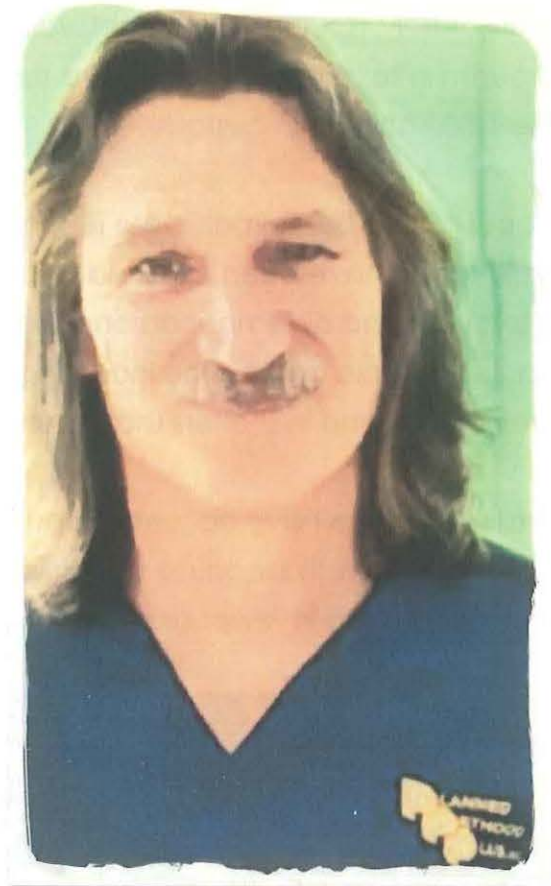
That point has most successfully been made by Colorado spay/neuter veterinarian Jeff Young in a July 2017 guest column for **ANIMALS 24-7** entitled **We cannot adopt, warehouse or rescue our way out of dog & cat overpopulation!**, now read by more than 170,000 people.

"Strongly supports socially conscious animal sheltering"

The Colorado Veterinary Medical Association reinforced French's words with an April 9, 2019 resolution stating that it "strongly supports the socially conscious animal sheltering movement and opposes the no-kill movement in animal welfare.

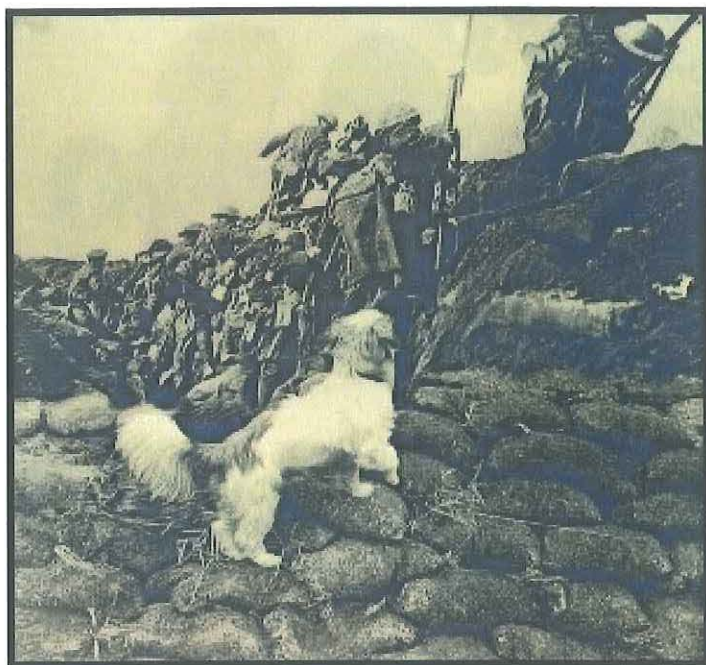
"The socially conscious animal community movement strives to create the best outcomes for all animals by treating them respectfully and alleviating suffering," the CVMA resolution explained, defining as fundamental goals of socially conscious animal sheltering that there are "community commitments to:

- Ensure every unwanted or homeless pet has a safe place to go for shelter and care;
- Place every healthy and safe animal;
- Assess the medical and behavioral needs of homeless animals and ensure these needs are thoughtfully addressed;
- Align shelter policy with the needs of the community;
- Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions;
- Consider the health and wellness of animals for each community when transferring animals;
- Enhance the human-animal bond through thoughtful placements and post-adoption support;



Jeff Young, DVM

- Foster a culture of transparency, ethical decision-making, mutual respect, continual learning, and collaboration."



(Beth Clifton collage)

"Causes every veterinarian supports"

These "are causes every veterinarian supports," the CVMA resolution said. "Policies and legislation that remove professional judgement and knowledge in animal welfare and public health are counter to those causes; we cannot and will not support them."

By contrast, the CVMA resolution charged, "The no-kill movement

increases animal suffering and threatens public health with unintended consequences:

- Animals in need are turned away from shelters because shelters are not able to meet required live release rates if they are admitted.
- Animals languish in cages until they die to avoid euthanasia.
- Dangerous dogs are placed in the community or remain indefinitely in shelters because of release requirements.
- Shelters can no longer accept lost or homeless animals from the community because cages are full of behaviorally or medically-challenged animals who cannot be placed in homes.
- Animal welfare is at risk because shelters are beyond capacity-of-care."

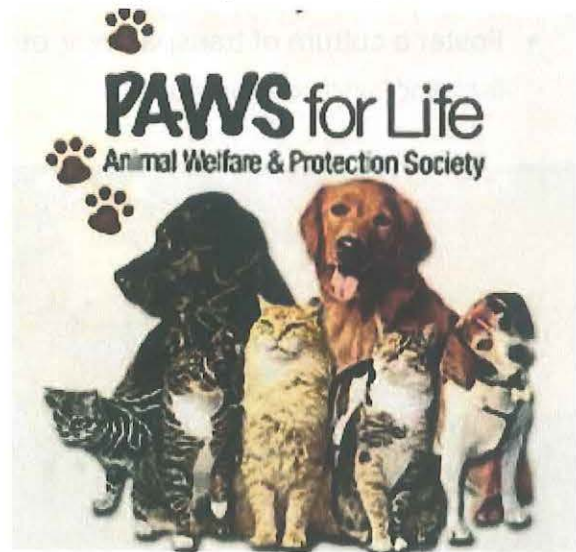
Finished the CVMA resolution, "The CVMA believes a socially conscious sheltering approach provides greater benefits for animals and for the community; as such, we strongly support socially conscious sheltering and oppose the no-kill movement."

How the Pueblo debacle unfolded

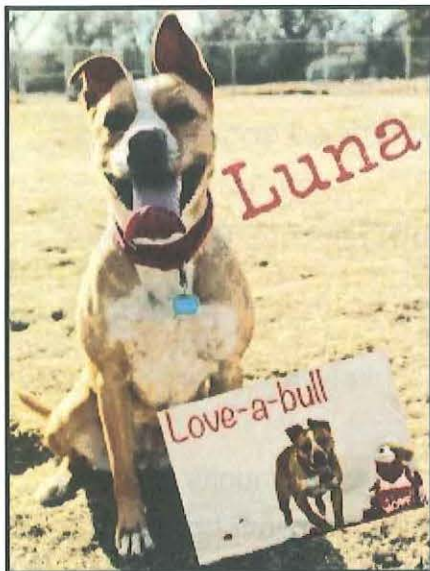
The Community Animal Services of Pueblo shelter debacle became public, recounted *Pueblo Chieftan* reporter Mestas, when "On March 15, 2019, authorities executed a search warrant at the facility," after a March 6 inspection found problematic conditions,

"as part of an ongoing investigation by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Word of personnel changes followed, including the suspension of shelter director Linda Mitchell and the exits of staff veterinarian Joel Brubaker and the most experienced of the shelter's animal control officers."

SoCO Spay and Neuter Association executive director Lisa Buccambuso agreed to replace Mitchell on an interim basis, but resigned only two days later, while PAWS For Life surrendered its state-issued license to operate the shelter.



"I quickly witnessed that the need was greater than what I could offer, and that immediate intervention needed to take place," Buccambuso told media.



This pit bull named Luna was offered for adoption by PAWS for Life during the time frame in question, but from PAWS for Life's own shelter, not the Community Animal Services of Pueblo shelter.

A cat named River & a dog named Luna

That evening, March 27, 2019, KOAA News 5 reporter Tom Kackley revealed many of the Colorado Department of Agriculture findings.

"Inspectors said a cat named River was brought in by a person who said the animal had not been fed for a month when brought in on February 16, 2019," Kackley began. "According to the inspection form, records showed the cat didn't see the vet until February 25."

Severely dehydrated, River died on the exam table.

"A dog was brought in," Kackley said, "when the owner couldn't pay for treatment of a broken pelvis.

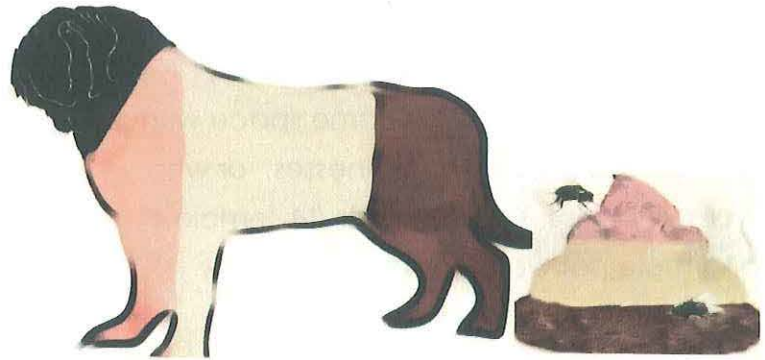
According to the documents, the dog was not seen by the vet for four days and was still not given the vet-recommended medications. Inspectors said the dog was found more than a month later lying on the surgery room floor 'listless and unable to stand.'

Another case," Kackley continued, involved a dog named Luna, brought in on January 12, 2019 after possibly having been hit by a car.

"According to the state, records showed a vet didn't see Luna until January 24," Kackley said.

Stepping in it

"In the surgery room," Kackley summarized, "investigators found 'all rooms in need of cleaning and sanitization.' The surgery table had hair from 'multiple animals.'



Neapolitan mastiff. (Beth Clifton collage)

"Inspectors said a paralyzed Chihuahua had 'free roam' of the main surgery room and had urinated all over the floor. Other animals also were roaming the surgery room and were observed vomiting during the inspection.

"According to the documents," Kackley said, "the exam room was in a similar condition. A back room was full of puppies with diarrhea and the floor had fecal matter 'throughout the room, making it difficult to enter and access other animals without stepping in it.' There was fecal matter on the puppies themselves as well as their bedding and blankets."



(Beth Clifton collage)

Hazardous handling

Further, Kackley reported, "Documents show the shelter initially refused to provide the euthanasia log, medication log, and access to the area around the surgery room to investigators.

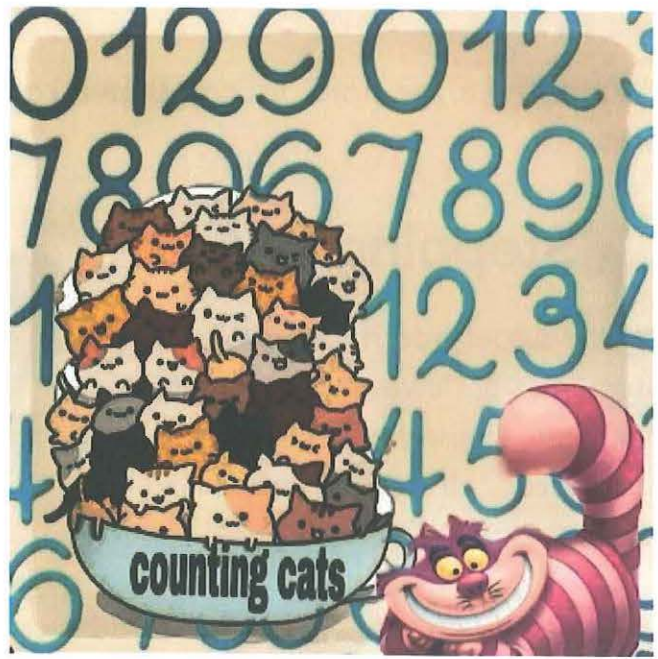
"Inspectors said a staff member walked a dog who had been impounded for biting a child through a customer service area, where the

dog almost bit a customer service representative in the face. According to the

documents, records showed the dog was not current on rabies vaccinations."

Unaltered female & male cats housed together

Further, the Colorado Department of Agriculture inspections "found healthy animals were sharing the same space with animals being treated for illnesses, or who were visibly ill," Kackley said. "A female and male cat were housed together, without either of the animals being spayed or neutered. Inspectors observed the cats appeared to be six months old," old enough for the female to become pregnant.



(Beth Clifton collage)

"Multiple medications were found to be expired, some from as far back as 2006," Kackley finished. "Other medications were specifically made for horses and cattle, which are not housed at the facility. Inspectors said they also found some labels on the medications had faded away and some medications were not labeled at all."



Pit bull puppy.
(Beth Clifton photo)

Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region was ousted over euthanasias due to dangerous behavior

The campaign to oust the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region from the Community Animal Services of Pueblo shelter and bring in PAWS for Life appears to have gained momentum in April 2017 after activists objected to the scheduled euthanasia of a five-month-old pit bull.

The pit bull's "behavior since it arrived has been extremely high arousal, really won't calm down, very frontal, very controlling. This is all

behavior that's concerning in an adult dog, and even though this dog is five months old, it concerns me even more that this puppy is showing this behavior at that young of an age," then-Pueblo Animal Services director Julie Justman told Danielle Kreutter of KKTV.

The pit bull puppy was eventually rehomed.

That fracas had barely settled when an organization called Reform Pueblo Animal Services initiated a media campaign in response to the May 2017 euthanasia of a five-year-old border collie mix who had repeatedly demonstrated aggression toward other dogs at the shelter, and had flunked several behavioral assessments.

"Perfect storm of events"

After PAWS for Life relinquished operation of the Community Animal Services of Pueblo shelter, the PAWS for Life board of directors in an April 10, 2019 social media statement blamed their failure to run the shelter successfully on a "perfect storm of events," and complained of having

"been forced to sit quietly while being vilified and threatened by individuals both privately and publicly and through social media, much of the hatred fostered by state and national organizations that have a far different agenda than what our vision was for the shelter."



(Beth Clifton collage)

The apparent PAWS for Life choice to take over running the shelter was the Humane Society of Fremont County, headed since 2014 by Doug Rae. The Humane Society of Fremont County had not bid on the Community Animal Services of Pueblo sheltering contract, but Rae indicated before the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region returned to the shelter that his organization might be interested in it, if PAWS for Life withdrew.

Why Doug Rae?

Founded in 1951 by Hazel and Ralph J. Wann, the Humane Society of Fremont County currently handles about 3,000 animals per year, mostly as the animal control housing contractor for Fremont County, the cities of Cañon City and Florence, and the towns of



Doug Rae

Coal Creek, Rockvale, Westcliffe and Williamsburg.

Rae arrived at the Humane Society of Fremont County after brief and often controversial animal shelter management stints in Phoenix, Maryland; Philadelphia, Indianapolis; and Warren, Rhode Island.

Rae in a 2009 interview credited his interest in humane work to having met No Kill Advocacy Center founder Nathan Winograd at a Best Friends No More Homeless Pets conference in 2002.

(See Doug Rae hired at HS of Fremont County, Colorado.)

Rae was not among the eight co-signers of a March 28, 2019 joint statement entitled "Front Range shelter leadership responds to Community Animal Services of Pueblo conditions and closure."

"Suffering unacceptable"

Opened that statement, "The suffering that happened at Community Animal Services of Pueblo (CASP), operated by PAWS for Life, is unacceptable. In an effort to adhere to a damaging local ordinance, it appears animals were allowed to suffer and die from their illnesses and injuries rather than being humanely euthanized. The animal welfare community's priority is to ensure these animals are properly cared for and that they are protected from situations like this in the future.



(Beth Clifton collage)

"Upon the closure of CASP, animal shelters across the front range worked together to respond to this critical situation and collaborated to help the animals in Pueblo. Animal welfare organizations who either assisted in efforts to transport these pets, accepted

animals from Pueblo or are on standby to accept them, include the [Denver] Dumb Friends League, Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, Foothills Animal Shelter, Denver Animal Protection, Humane Society of Boulder Valley, Larimer Humane Society, Longmont Humane Society, Aurora Animal Shelter, Adams County Animal Shelter, Humane Society of Weld County and Intermountain Humane Society.



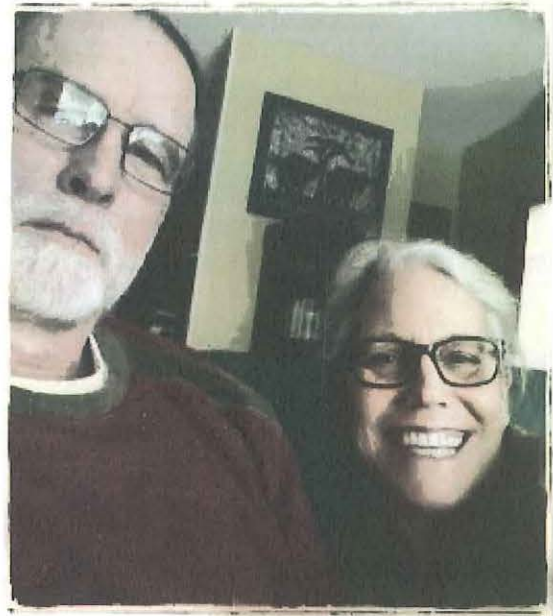
Apryl Steele, DVM.

"Regretful example"

"This is a regretful example of how the 'no kill movement,' when taken to the extreme, preys upon compassionate people's desire to protect animals," the joint statement finished. "Animals deserve respect, nurturing, support, and it is never acceptable to allow them to suffer. Our entire community is deeply saddened by this situation."

The co-signers included
McHugh-Smith,
Denver Dumb
Friends League

president Apryl Steele, Larimer Humane Society chief executive Judy Calhoun, Denver Animal Protection director Alice Nightengale, Humane Society of Boulder Valley chief executive Lisa Pedersen, Longmont Humane Society chief executive Liz Smokowski, Intermountain Humane Society chief executive Richard L. P. Solosky, and Humane Society of Weld County executive director Elaine Hicks.



(Beth Clifton photo)

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<http://www.animals24-7.org/donate/>



As you may know, the RedRover Readers curriculum uses 19 high-quality children's books to help teachers facilitate discussions that promote critical thinking and develop emotional intelligence while helping students develop their social-awareness and self-awareness skills with attention to both human and animal behaviors and emotions. Teachers who have used the program in their classrooms report children have an easier time discussing prosocial behavior in relation to animals than to people, and that the RedRover Readers program has made a positive difference in their students' attitudes towards animals and people.

The RedRover Readers program is designed for five classroom readings by either trained volunteers or teachers. Each RedRover Readers program book comes with a teaching guide that is aligned with current academic state standards and the Core Competencies for social and emotional learning (SEL) identified by CASEL (the Collaborative for Academic, Social and emotional Learning). The RedRover Readers Objectives have been included in this packet for your review.

Developing Social and Emotional Learning skills is recognized as an effective strategy to create positive classroom and school climates and has been identified as a key component in preventing and combating bullying. Research shows that "students with good perspective-taking skills are less likely to be physically, verbally, and indirectly aggressive to peers" (Kaukiainen, et al., 1999, as cited in Committee for Children, 2012). The connection makes sense: When we are better able to take others' perspectives and empathize with others, we are less likely to mistreat them.

The RedRover Readers program helps teachers develop their students' social-awareness and self-awareness skills with attention to both human and animal behaviors and emotions, allowing students to make responsible decisions about how to treat others. RedRover's president and CEO Nicole Forsyth put it like this: "RedRover is passionate about building empathy skills as a way of preventing animal cruelty and abuse. These skills are valuable for kids not only in effecting their interactions with animals all their lives, but also in helping create positive connections with people and positive school culture."

For more information, including a full research report on a pilot study, please visit www.redrover.org/readers and view this video about the program: <https://redrover.org/take-redrover-readers-training>

Please contact me at Tlenehan@redrover.org or (916) 429.2457 ext. 308 about bringing the RedRover Readers training to your community. We have online and in-person workshops available. The training is three- to five- hours depending on your needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara".

Tara Lenehan,
Education Coordinator



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Animals are interesting. The question and discussion style will **increase students' engagement**.

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EDUCATORS & VOLUNTEERS
TRAINED



69,333

CHILDREN REACHED

RESEARCH

“Children's self-reported quality time spent with their pets predicts their empathy scores and in turn **predicts social behaviors**.”

—2016 The New School for Social Research, Dr. Emanuele Castano

“The program builds **self-esteem** and students' **empathy** for pets.”

—2009, Inverness Research, Inc. L. Stokes & D. Robles. Developing Children's Awareness of the Human-Animal Bond

“I saw a **positive change** in how children treat people and animals after they participated in the RedRover Readers program.”

— 2017 Parent Survey, RedRover

TESTIMONIALS

★ “This curriculum helped my students show compassion to others. Highly recommend it to other educators.”

— **Brett Glennon, Teacher, Marshall Elementary, CA**

★ “I learned how to have trust in someone or something.”

— **Gabriel, Student, Aspire Elementary School, CA**

★ “The RedRover Readers program is so impactful, and it is appropriate for any age. It is a strong, moving, and meaningful program. I recommend it to educators everywhere! The questioning techniques pull students in. They are non-biased and non-threatening techniques that encourage peer-to-peer teaching.” — **Brenda Fiorini, Teacher, IL**



Los Angeles RedRover Readers Professional Development Workshop

Workshop Information

Date:

Saturday, October 27, 2018

Time:

9:00am to 2:00pm

Location:

South LA Animal Shelter,
Community Room
1850 West 60th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90047

Workshop Fee:

\$55 workshop fee

Workshop Includes:

- RedRover Readers discussion and activity guides
- Volunteer ID badge
- RedRover T-Shirt
- Mandatory background check for volunteers



Learn how to implement the RedRover Readers program.



Help children explore the human-animal bond through stories and discussion.



Teachers, humane educators and volunteers are welcome.

RedRover Readers training includes:

- How **stories** about animals illustrate the **human-animal bond**
- Using questions to generate **critical thinking**
- Tips for **reading aloud** and for effectively working with children
- The relationship between reading and **developing empathy**
- Implementing **RedRover Readers** discussion and activity guides

Learn more and Register:

RedRover.org/Readers-Training



tel 916.429.2457 • RedRover.org/Readers • Readers@RedRover.org

Helping kids learn how to be kind to animals has never been more fun!



Kind News™, an 8-page magazine for kids, is available in two reading levels and is aligned with academic standards, as well as the core competencies for social and emotional learning identified by CASEL, the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning.



Kind News, Jr. ages 5–7

Colorful photos, puzzles, fun activities and age-appropriate stories help kids, ages 5 to 7, learn about animals and explore what it means to be kind, while sparking curiosity and a love of reading.



Kind News ages 8+

Colorful photos, fun activities, riddles and age-appropriate stories and comics help kids, ages 8 and up, understand animal behavior, issues affecting animals, how to care for pets and how to take action to improve the lives of animals, while sparking curiosity and a love of reading.



Subscriptions are delivered 5 times a year, September through May

Classroom subscription includes 28 copies of the magazine, plus a Teacher Guide for \$30 per year.

In-home, individual subscription includes the magazine, plus a Parent Guide for \$10 per year.

Please visit KindNews.org for more information and to subscribe.

Discounts may be available for multiple subscriptions. Sample issues, lesson plans, links to resources, and ideas on how to bring *Kind News* to a classroom are also available on the website.

"The magazine offers students the opportunity to practice critical thinking skills with relevant and meaningful text and promotes not only strong reading skills but builds globally compassionate individuals."

— Principal
Newport Elementary
Newport, NC

"My second grade students LOVE when their *Kind News* arrives. I have seen my students talk about the issues that are in the article and continue their learning through research. Thank you for inspiring a new generation of children to learn more about animals!"

— Teacher
Ridgewood Elementary
Hilliard, Ohio

"The entire magazine heightens awareness and prompts rich discussions at every grade level! Even my most reluctant readers are engaged — now what could be better than that?"

— Teacher
Hilton Head Elementary
Hilton Head, SC

RedRover Readers Objectives

The RedRover Readers program is aligned with the Core Competencies for social and emotional learning (SEL) as identified by CASEL (the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning). Below is a list of books used in the RedRover Readers program that best align with the stated objectives and SEL competencies.

The program aligns to other standards as well. For a complete list of Common Core standards aligned with the program, visit our [Standards Guide](#).

Students who participate in the RedRover Readers program shall be able to:

1. Observe animal behavior through illustrations and use prior knowledge and experience, as well as evidence in a narrative to provide support for how an animal may be feeling; explore a variety of emotions and mixed emotions animals have, as well as emotions they may not have or may not be observable, such as: pride, guilt and judgement.

| CASEL alignment | RedRover Readers books (teaching guides given at workshop) |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Social awareness: | A. <i>Max Talks to Me:</i> |
| Perspective-taking, affective empathy | B. <i>Buddy Unchained:</i> |
| | C. <i>The Restricted Adventures of Raja:</i> |

2. In the context of a narrative, analyze and understand similarities and differences between how people and animals respond to environmental and behavioral cues.

| CASEL alignment | RedRover Readers books |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Social awareness: | A. <i>Ginger Finds a Home:</i> |
| Cognitive empathy, perspective-taking | B. <i>Orville</i> |
| | C. <i>Nobody's Cats</i> |

3. Relate narratives to their own lives to understand how people and animal characters in a story may feel and do things differently or the same as they would.

| CASEL alignment | RedRover Readers books | |
|--|--|--|
| Self-awareness: | Social awareness: | A. <i>The Forgotten Rabbit</i> |
| Label one's feelings, Relate feelings to thoughts and behavior | Cognitive and affective empathy, perspective-taking | B. <i>Buddy Unchained</i> |
| | | C. <i>Oh, Theodore! Guinea Pig Tales</i> |

4. Understand how relationships with animals or people can serve as a social support; and understand how the decisions people make and how people treat others impacts individual lives, communities and society.

| CASEL alignment | | | | RedRover Readers books |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Self-awareness: Relating feelings and thoughts to behavior | Social awareness: Understanding social and ethical norms for behavior; recognizing family, school and community supports; | Relationship skills: Communicating clearly, working cooperatively | Responsible decision making: Considering the well-being of self and others, recognizing one's responsibility to behave ethically | A. <i>Lucky Boy</i> B. <i>Rescue and Jessica</i> C. <i>Mrs. Crump's Cat</i> |

5. Identify and evaluate problems by weighing factors such as safety, responsibility and impact on others while developing self-motivation and self-reflection skills and applying these skills to various situations.

| CASEL alignment | | RedRover Readers books |
|--|---|--|
| Self-management: Self-motivation | Responsible decision-making: Considering the well-being of self and others, recognizing one's responsibility to behave ethically, basing decisions on safety, social and ethical considerations | A. <i>Call the Horse Lucky:</i> B. <i>Nobody's Cats:</i> C. <i>Cookie's Fortune:</i> |

Why PETA is Wrong About No Kill

PETA Says: Animals are turned away at the shelter door, but they don't magically vanish. "No-kill" shelters are usually at capacity, so they stop taking in animals, including those in emergency or abusive situations.

No Kill shelters do not turn people away and are not "closed admission." Austin, TX is a No Kill shelter and saved 99% of their animals last year. They are an open admission shelter. Sacramento, which practices No Kill programs and is almost there, also is open admission. No Kill is about putting effective programs in place and removing roadblocks to adoption. No Kill is not about open or closed admission. It's about working proactively to get animals safely out of the shelter through progressive programs like foster, adoption, medical and behavioral rehabilitation programs, low cost spay/neuter programs, and working with rescues.

PETA Says: Animals still die—but in pain. Instead of a peaceful death in a caring person's arms, animals die slowly and in agony on the streets, in backyards, under sheds, on chains, and at the hands of abusive people.

No Kill shelters do not result in more abandonment of animals. In cities where the shelter is No Kill, there is no reason to abandon animals in the street. The shelter works with the community to keep animals out of the shelter through counseling and resources like low-cost spay/neuter, help lines, and pet pantries. When animals are taken in to the shelter, they are openly accepted, and a pathway out of the shelter is created through adoption, foster and community partnerships. No Kill realizes that the strength of a community are the many responsible people who care for their animals. That is the strength of No Kill.

PETA Says: Animals spend months or years in cages.

No Kill shelters that practice the No Kill Equation (key programs, including adoption, foster, low-cost spay/neuter) most definitely do not keep animals in cages for months or years. In fact, the whole goal of No Kill is 1) to support owners so they can keep their animals, and 2) get animals who arrive at the shelter into good homes quickly. This is done through comprehensive adoptions (off-site adoptions, mobile adoptions, family-friendly hours of operation, and adoption promotions); reaching out to the community; and maximizing every opportunity to save a life, including fully-utilizing social media, implementing creative adoption events and promotions, and networking with rescues). No Kill, in short, always has a plan for every animal, and it involves finding a positive outcome for him or her by mobilizing the strengths of the community.

PETA Says: Animals are cast out and keep on reproducing. To increase "save" rates, some shelters promote animal abandonment.

What PETA means here is community ("feral") cats. PETA opposes trap-neuter-return efforts, which research shows is a humane and effective way to manage community cat populations. No Kill supports trap-neuter-return for community cats. So does Best Friends, Maddie's Fund, ASPCA, the Humane Society of the United States, and the UC Davis Koret Animal Shelter Medicine Program. PETA would rather see community cats dead than spay/neutered and living out their lives. This is an inhumane and regressive approach to community cats that has been abandoned by everyone but PETA.

PETA Says: Animals are handed over to abusers and hoarders.

Again, nothing could be farther from the truth. No Kill shelter screen adopters just like any other shelter, but do not require adopters to jump through unreasonable hoops to adopt an animal. (Potential adopters have been turned away from non-No Kill shelters for things like "the energy between you and the animal isn't right," or the potential adopter has a five-foot fence instead of a six-foot fence. The vast majority of the people who want to give a home to animals in this country are, in fact, willing and able to give an animal a good home. The people who abuse or hoard animals is in the minority. Putting millions of animals to death because a minority of people are abusive to animals is in itself abusive – but on a massive scale.

PETA had a 72% kill rate in their own shelter in 2018. This is why they oppose No Kill. Don't be taken in by falsehoods. Find out the truth about No Kill. Visit the No Kill Advocacy Center at www.NoKillAdvocacyCenter.org.

No Kill and Euthanasia

Of course, euthanasia exists in No Kill. **Euthanasia** is a merciful death for an animal for whom there is no other hope; an animal **that is truly irremediably suffering**. It is the merciful death we give our own beloved pets when they need release.

Killing is putting an end to a life for **any other reason**: Not enough space, not enough time, too young, too old, treatable illness, rehabilitatable behavior. In making this distinction between **euthanasia** and **killing**, we are able to see why the words No Kill are not meant to offend, but to be more precise in our language around what we are doing to animals in our shelters when we choose to kill those that are *not* irremediably suffering.

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09 Apr Colorado veterinary leaders approve statement supporting the socially conscious animal communities and opposing the no-kill movement in animal welfare

Posted at 19:06h in [CVMA News](#), [Of Note](#) by [Katie Kethcart](#) • 3 Likes

(Denver, CO) – In a unanimous move, the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Board of Directors has approved a position statement supporting the socially conscious animal community movement and opposing the no-kill movement in animal welfare.

The statement comes after a no-kill organization running an animal shelter in Pueblo relinquished its license amid a state investigation into shelter conditions and high number of animal deaths.

“As veterinarians, we have a responsibility to prevent and relieve animal suffering,” said CVMA President Will French, DVM. “The idea of the no-kill movement is misleading, and often increases animal suffering with unintended consequences. A Socially Conscious Animal Community is a more positive approach to animal welfare that treats animals respectfully and alleviates their suffering. As a board, a socially conscious approach is more in line with our mission of enhancing animal and human health and welfare in the state.”

The Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) strongly supports the socially conscious animal sheltering movement and opposes the no-kill movement in animal welfare.

The socially conscious animal community movement strives to create the best outcomes for all animals by treating them respectfully and alleviating suffering. Fundamental goals of Socially Conscious Animal Communities are achieved through shelter and community commitments to:

- Ensure every unwanted or homeless pet has a safe place to go for shelter and care

- *Place every healthy and safe animal*
- *Assess the medical and behavioral needs of homeless animals and ensure these needs are thoughtfully addressed*
- *Align shelter policy with the needs of the community*
- *Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions*
- *Consider the health and wellness of animals for each community when transferring animals*
- *Enhance the human-animal bond through thoughtful placements and post-adoption support*
- *Foster a culture of transparency, ethical decision-making, mutual respect, continual learning, and collaboration*

Protecting animal health and welfare, preventing and relieving animal suffering, and promoting public health are causes every veterinarian supports. Policies and legislation that remove professional judgement and knowledge in animal welfare and public health are counter to those causes; we cannot and will not support them.

In Colorado, we have worked hard to build a thriving collaboration among animal shelters, animal welfare professionals, and veterinary professionals. Our established Colorado animal shelters have a reputation for doing amazing things in the name of animal welfare:

- *Collaborating with the veterinary medical profession to achieve high standards of care.*
- *Collaborating between shelters to maximize resource use.*
- *Reaching out to community partners to minimize the number of animals relinquished by people in need.*
- *Reaching out to other regions to share expertise and provide new forever homes.*
- *Finding placements for all adoptable animals.*

The no-kill movement increases animal suffering and threatens public health with unintended consequences:

- *Animals in need are turned away from shelters because shelters are not able to meet required live release rates if they are admitted.*
- *Animals languish in cages until they die to avoid euthanasia.*
- *Dangerous dogs are placed in the community or remain indefinitely in shelters because of release requirements*
- *Shelters can no longer accept lost or homeless animals from the community because cages are full of behaviorally or medically-challenged animals who cannot be placed in homes.*
- *Animal welfare is at risk because shelters are beyond capacity-of-care.*

CVMA believes a socially conscious sheltering approach provides greater benefits for animals and for the community; as such, we strongly support socially conscious sheltering and oppose the no-kill movement.

#####

The Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) exists to enhance animal and human health and welfare and advance the



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April 11, 2019

Dear Long Beach Councilmembers:

We are writing in support of Long Beach adopting no-kill philosophies within Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS).

As a nation, the number of dogs and cats killed per year in shelters is approximately 800,000. In the state of California alone, our state's animal shelters account for more than 110,000 of these shelter deaths, making the Golden State #2 for highest kill rates in the country.

We understand there is a lot of misinformation surrounding what no-kill is. Below we have outlined a few key tenants of the no-kill philosophy. It is also important to note that some communities opt to use alternative no-kill language but if the spirit, philosophies, and programs rooted in no-kill are implemented, that's what is most critical to achieve maximum lifesaving in a community.

- A no-kill community acts on the belief that every dog and cat deserves a chance to live — and focuses on saving lives through pet adoption, spay/neuter, foster/volunteering programming, community cat programming and other community support programs. While cross-collaboration with local agencies is a critical part of saving the savable animals in a community, it will be important that Long Beach Animal Care Services has the support and resources to implement key lifesaving programs at the right scale in order to have long term success and sustainability.
- A percentage is not the goal; however, a quantitative benchmark can help guide lifesaving efforts. Saving 90 percent or more of the animals who enter shelters is the current benchmark for no-kill and modern shelters. As of 2018, LBACS achieved an 80% save rate, so achieving a no-kill benchmark is within reach.
- No-kill does not mean placing dangerous animals back in the community. No-kill programming, however, does believe in behaviorally rehabilitating non-dangerous animals whenever possible, as many underlying behaviors can be successfully managed in and outside of the shelter walls.
- No-kill supports true euthanasia — that is, ending the life of an animal in order to end irremediable suffering. No-kill does not support the killing of healthy or otherwise treatable animals due to lack of time, space or lifesaving programming.
- The no-kill philosophy is accepted and implemented in government-operated open admissions shelters nationwide and has been achieved by thousands of cities and towns across the country.



**Best
Friends
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SAVE THEM ALL[®]

- No-kill is about embracing the community by proactively and transparently engaging them in the solution.

This is a pivotal time for animal welfare in Long Beach. We are encouraged by the City's desire to host a study session on the department and seeking third-party assessments of the operations for strategic planning. We are also excited about the onboarding of Staycee Dains, who has a long history of successfully implementing strategic lifesaving programs. If everyone works together, we believe Long Beach can be a model community.

We appreciate Council's ongoing support of Long Beach Animal Care Services and hope we all can make it a priority to work together to ensure even more lives are saved in LBACS's care. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sheila McLalin

Sheila McLalin
Regional Manager, Pacific
Best Friends Animal Society