



 No-Kill Strategies

- Main Topics
 - Shelter Policies
 - Governing Structures
 - Engaging the Community
 - Making Change



No-Kill Strategies: Community and Shelter Policies that Work

Shelter policies



What are shelter policies?

Shelter policies are the *written* procedures outlining how shelter staff must perform their job duties in a variety of situations.

A shelter's policies dictate how animals are cared for, adoption procedures, impoundment requirements, volunteer duties, and all other aspects of shelter operations.



Types of policies

- State law
 - Statutes adopted by each state legislature
- Local ordinance
 - Laws that apply locally adopted by city councils and county government
- Shelter policies
 - Set by director and/or governing entity



Problematic policies

- Prevention of trap-neuter-return programs
- Breed discrimination
- Maximum hold times
- Medical treatment procedures
- Euthanasia criteria (or lack thereof)
- Others



Identifying policies

How do I find my shelter's policies?

- Ask!
- Websites
 - Shelter's website
 - Local government's website (city code)
- Beware lore: Know for a fact the actual policy



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Governing structures



Who is in charge?

Various types of structures:

- Local government has ultimate responsibility
 - Public shelters
 - Owned and operated by government: city, county, special district
 - Private shelters
 - Usually a nonprofit with a government contract: SPCAs, humane societies



Who is in charge?

- Public shelters
 - Elected officials of governmental entity
 - City council members
 - County council/commission
 - Special service district board
- Private shelters
 - Elected officials of contract governmental entity
 - Board of directors for the nonprofit



Who is in charge?

How do I contact policy makers?

- Elected official contacts
 - Website of local government
- Board of directors
 - Website of nonprofit
- Email, phone, in person



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Engaging the community



Engaging your community

- Rally support
 - Social media
 - Traditional media
 - Create a coalition of community partners
 - Tell your story, share your passion
- Find an elected official ally (or elect one)
 - Who owns animals?
 - Volunteers?
 - Is sympathetic, responsive?



Engaging your community

Working with policy makers

- The goal is education; know your argument
- Utilize your elected ally
 - Relationship with colleagues helps overcome objections
- Utilize community partners
 - Public input is crucial
 - Ensure policy makers hear the support for change
- Do NOT be adversarial; NEVER give misinformation



Engaging your community

Overcoming budget objections by policy makers

- No-kill does not drastically increase budgets
- Offsetting fees
- Encourage donations
- Seek alternate forms of revenue: grants
- Be creative
 - Pit Crew, Cat Crusader T-shirts
 - Shelter-specific nonprofit
- Effort to save taxpayer money is noticed, and often rewarded, by elected officials



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Policy change case study:
Davis County Animal Care & Control



Davis County ACC profile

- Suburban county with 330,000 residents
- 15 cities served by 1 animal services agency
- Approximately 2,300 cats enter the shelter each year
- Prior to 2014
 - Save rate for cats between 14% and 27%
 - Local ordinances prohibited TNR



The policy problem

- Community cat caregiver confronted by animal control officer
 - Told that community cats must be impounded
 - No positive outcome option from shelter under current policies
 - Caregiver immediately set forth to make change



The policy solution

- Implement TNR throughout Davis County
 - State of Utah has permissive Community Cat Act
 - NKUT Coalition supports TNR
 - Shelter interested in policy change



The process

- Caregiver met with shelter director to explain TNR and the state's Community Cat Act
 - Contacted Best Friends, other community partners
 - Each city had to change their local ordinance to expressly allow TNR/SNR
 - Shelter director, Best Friends and caregiver met with each city council
 - Local newspaper covered the effort



The outcome

- TNR has been implemented in 14 cities
 - Best Friends–Utah and NKUT Coalition members actively engaging caregivers and providing spay and neuter support
 - Shelter’s save rate in June 2015 achieved a 90% save rate for cats for the first time; September and December were also at 90% or more
 - In 2016, shelter now maintains a save rate for dogs and cats combined of 90% or better



Questions?

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