

The No Kill Advocate

A No Kill nation is within our reach

Issue #1 2011

No Kill Conference 2011

Last year's No Kill Conference was the sold-out, must-attend event of the year. And we are doing it again! Registration is now open for No Kill Conference 2011.

The No Kill Advocacy Center is teaming up with the Animal Law program at George Washington University Law School and the No Kill Nation to bring together the nation's most successful shelter directors and the nation's top animal lawyers. They will show you how to create a No Kill community and teach you how to use the legal system to save the lives of animals.

Learn from animal control/shelter directors who are now saving over 90% of all animals using the building blocks to No Kill success—programs and services that have saved lives in both urban and rural communities—to increase adoptions, reduce length of stay, increase redemption rates, rehabilitate animals, and much more.

Learn from animal law experts who have challenged our legal system to help animals: Whether it's drafting model laws, fighting breed specific legislation, filing impact legislation, or protecting condemned dogs, learn how to use the legal system to save the lives of animals.

Learn from activists fighting entrenched and regressive shelters in their own community as they show you how to launch successful campaigns for reform.

The *only* national conference that says we can and must stop the killing and we can and must do it *today*.

Join No Kill advocates nationwide at this ground-breaking event. A No Kill nation is within our reach!

What: No Kill Conference 2011

When: July 30 - July 31, 2011

Where: Washington DC

Register: www.nokillconference.org

Please note: *Last year's conference sold out months in advance. If you are considering attending, do not delay. Once sold out, there are no waiting lists and no exceptions.*



What's New in 2011

"Amazing!" "This was the best conference I have ever attended!"

"It was one of the best experiences I've had in animal rescue. To see so many with the same passion that I have which I didn't think was possible - was wonderful."



Last year's No Kill Conference was great. This year's will be even better, with new and more workshops, and new and more speakers.

Austin Pets Alive, for example, saves and finds homes for thousands of sick, injured, unweaned, and traumatized animals ever year. Learn how they do it and how you can to. APA's Dr. Ellen Jefferson will be leading a workshop at the No Kill Conference on "Innovation in Saving Lives."

The Longmont Humane Society's Aimee Sadler says 98% of all dogs entering shelters are savable. And she would challenge any shelter that thinks they have left no stone unturned at less than that. She'll lead two workshops at No Kill Conference 2011. She will give you the overall

approach to help get your shelter to 98% in her first workshop. Her second workshop will cover the details, the "how to."

Want to learn how to get a law passed to reform your shelter or close down markets for puppy mills? Attorney Kate Neiswender, the former chief of staff for Senator Tom Hayden of California, will present a workshop on doing just that. Everything from how to write a law, how to navigate the political process, finding a legislative sponsor, testifying at hearings, overcoming opposition, and more.

Other workshops include:

- Turbocharging Pet Adoptions
- Turbocharging "Pit Bull" Adoptions
- No Kill Animal Control
- The 90% Club
- Shelter Medicine for Non-Veterinarians
- Saving Shelter Cats
- Saving Community Cats
- Using Technology to Save Lives
- Leadership
- Shelter Enrichment for Dogs
- Harnessing Community Compassion
- Overcoming Internal Obstacles to Success
- How to Build a Membership Program and Raise Funds
- Getting More Media
- Innovative Shelter Design
- Innovation in Saving Lives
- Legislating No Kill
- Litigating No Kill
- Rethinking Pit Bulls
- And more...

www.nokillconference.org

No Kill Conference 2010



From left to right, top to bottom: The George Washington University Law School, lunch at the conference, the Honorable Micah Kellner talks about Oreo's Law, speaker Brent Toellner of Kansas City Dog Advocates listens to his fellow speakers, an attendee reads *Irreconcilable Differences* during a break, Sara Elliott of the Royal New Zealand SPCA shares their No Kill success, Mitch Schneider of Washoe County Regional Animal Services explains how his agency got to a 90% save rate, attendees listen to speakers, Susanne Kogut of the Charlottesville SPCA says "patience is not a virtue when animals are being killed," while fellow 90% Club speakers Bonney Brown of the Nevada Humane Society and Schneider listen on, and Animal Ark's Mike Fry talks about using technology to save lives. For more, go to www.nokilladvocacycenter.org.

No Kill Advocates Honored

The top companion animal activists were awarded the No Kill Advocacy Center's Henry Bergh Leadership Award, for unwavering commitment to ending the systematic killing of animals in shelters. Five recipients share the honor.

The recipients are:

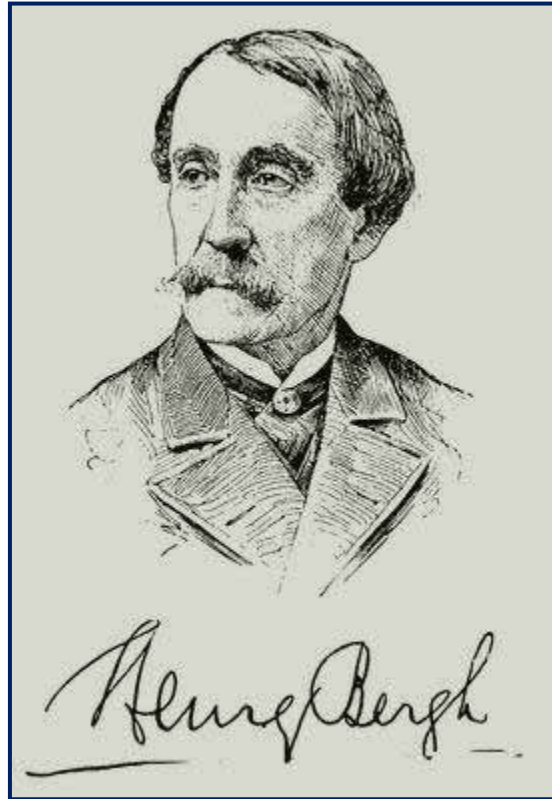
[The Honorable Micah Kellner](#), New York State Assembly Member, who fought to reform New York State shelters in order to save the lives of tens of thousands of animals every year. He also fought to protect the First Amendment rights of shelter volunteers.

[Kelly Jedlicki](#), Shelby County No Kill Mission, who helped create Kentucky's first No Kill community in Shelby County. In 2010, Jedlicki worked tirelessly to maintain its No Kill status for a second straight year despite significant challenges.

[Jane Pierantozzi](#), Faithful Friends of Delaware, spearheaded the nation's most progressive shelter reform legislation, the Delaware Companion Animal Protection Act.

[Mitch Schneider](#), Washoe County Regional Animal Services, not only shepherded Washoe County to a 95% rate of lifesaving despite a significant economic downturn, he worked to export that success to other communities.

[Robyn Kippenberger](#), Royal New Zealand SPCA, is leading a nationwide campaign to make New Zealand the world's first No Kill nation. She is the



first international recipient of the award.

About Henry Bergh: Henry Bergh was a 19th Century animal advocate who launched the humane movement in North America. He gave the first speech on animal protection in the U.S., incorporated the nation's first SPCA, and enforced anti-cruelty laws with passion. Every night, Bergh would patrol the streets of his native New York City looking for animals in need of protection.

Upon his death, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote of him:

*Among the noblest of the land;
Though he may count himself the least;*

*That man I honor and revere;
Who, without favor, without fear;*

In the great city dares to stand;

The friend of every friendless beast.

To those who opposed Bergh's attempts at saving the lives of animals, he was known as "The Great Meddler." The recipients epitomize the unwavering commitment of Bergh to save lives, even in the face of criticism and opposition.

Past winners include Bonney Brown of the Nevada Humane Society, Ryan Clinton of FixAustin, and Susanne Kogut of the Charlottesville SPCA.

Q&A with the RNZSPCA's Chief of Saving Lives



Robyn Kippenberger is the first international recipient of the No Kill Advocacy Center's Henry Bergh Leadership Award. As the National Chief Executive of the Royal New Zealand SPCA, she has one simple goal: make New Zealand the world's first No Kill nation. Here's what she had to say about her goal, the award, and what the future holds.

How did you become involved in animal welfare and the No Kill movement?

My passion and ethics came from my mother who raised me on a diet of animal welfare literature and who passed on her high level of empathy for all animals – not just our cats and dogs but mice, rats and rabbits and farm animals too.

Then, while serving as a minister in our New Zealand Government from 1996 to 1999, I sat on the Primary Production (Agriculture and Fisheries) Select Committee through many animal related Bills including our present 1999 Animal Welfare Bill.

I was invited to apply for the SPCA CEO position by a recruitment agency, was chosen and appointed at the end of 2004, and have been the SPCA National CEO for the past 6 years. This includes responsibility for 48 regional branches of the New Zealand SPCA.

Our euthanasia/kill rate nationally was above 60% then with some centres killing as many as 87% of their intake of animals – a great shock to me as I was under the impression that the SPCA saved animals! I can remember that my first address to our National Conference – less than 4 months after taking up my role – was informing the assembled attendees that this needed to be addressed immediately. I don't think it was a very well received presentation!

What are some of your accomplishments from this past year that led to your being chosen for this honor?

The first of our SPCAs [have] reduced their kill rate into the 20s – and some to mini single figures!!!! Two centres have zero euthanasia.



We have done all of this in a falling economy – a challenge on top of the radical change in culture we are asking of our SPCAs.

Tell us about the nationwide campaign to make New Zealand the first No Kill country.

It's called Saving Lives – No Kill has a connotation in New Zealand – we have been fed the usual about no kill centres – “they are not open access – that would never work for us because we have to take all animals”, “they kill animals anyway and don't count them”, “it won't work here because...”

We wanted to avoid that initial easy dismissal by putting our own ‘stamp’ on the campaign making it impossible to deny. Do they really want to say they don't want to save lives?!

We added “Every life is precious” as the byline so that they considered every animal – even the tiniest kitten, the fiercest- looking pit bull or the wildest feral cat – and really made the best attempt to save it...

And it had to be a nationwide campaign so that everyone was coordinated in their efforts. We do a lot of swapping of animals from one SPCA to another to give the animals the best chance of adoption.

We have a national memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a very reputable pet store chain. They will take our kittens and pups and promote them as SPCA Special Animals. This has already achieved several ends. Back yard breeders and puppy mills are being frozen out of the pet market, people are feeling great about helping an SPCA orphan and we now have 20 plus more ‘outlets’ for our de sexed, vaccinated and micro-chipped babies. The next step will be enabled off site adoptions of adult animals in the pet store environs – more adoptions to a target audience!

What would you do differently?

Nothing so far – I just wish I had started sooner. This is really feeling as though it is a culture change whose time has come.

What was your biggest disappointment?

When, having put so much in place to reduce the kill rate it wasn't working – at least not quickly or effectively enough. Now we're cooking!

When did you realize you were succeeding?



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When, straight after National Conference where I exhorted SPCAs to share their successes and ask for help to achieve what we were asking of them, I had centres ringing and emailing, telling me of their Saving Lives initiative and more asking for help!

What does this award mean to you?

Being recognized by an American award is 'important' here in New Zealand – it really means something special and is a great honor.

The reward for this work is the lives of all the animals we save daily now that

would otherwise have died and that is so precious that you don't look for anything else. But the Henry Bergh Award also gives us a chance to highlight the importance of what we are doing here and we will use it both within our organisation and to the wider public to promote the importance of Saving Lives and thus increase its chances of success.

What are your plans and goals for the future?

To make New Zealand the first No Kill Nation of course.

But immediately, by next May, to have achieved that no animal coming to an SPCA throughout New Zealand is killed for lack of space – that looks very much achievable already. Then to drive our kill rate down below 20% nationwide by 2012.

And finally to secure funding streams to both SPCA National and our SPCA centres throughout the country that are robust and match the tasks prescribed to ensure

Saving Lives is maintained and entrenched.

What was the most surprising thing you learned along the way?

That my leadership really matters – and that an organisation that has been established more than 125 years in New Zealand can absorb and effect a huge culture change really quickly and with a great deal of joy.

Robyn Kippenberger will lead a workshop on leadership at No Kill Conference 2011.

Interview conducted by Atlanta Animal Welfare Examiner Valerie Hayes. Reprinted with permission. This is an excerpt. To read the whole interview, go to www.examiner.com/animal-welfare-in-atlanta/valerie-hayes

A Voice for Compassion



In 2010, New York State Assembly Member Micah Kellner fought for Oreo's Law, a bill named after an abused dog killed by the ASPCA despite offers to save her from other organizations. Her case was not isolated.

According to a statewide survey, over 70% of rescue groups have been turned away by NYS shelters which and kill the very animals the rescue groups offered to save. By some estimates, 25,000 animals rescue groups are willing and able to save are instead killed each and every year.

Assembly Member Kellner wanted to make sure it never happened again. But the large national organizations, including the ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, and the Mayor's Alliance for NYC Animals, either failed to support the bill and/or tried to derail it as a threat to their fundraising, their power, and their reputations. And they succeeded.

In fact, over 14,000 animals rescue groups would have saved are instead dead since Oreo's Law was defeated. But Kellner has vowed to bring the bill back this year.

If an award could be given out to the bravest and most giving people in this movement, it would be rescuers and shelter volunteers. They not only sacrifice their time and money, they are the backbone of lifesaving in this country and often receive nothing but scorn from the national leaders who take credit for their work and from the shelters who benefit from their largesse.

At great personal and emotional cost, but out of great love and compassion, they spend their days at a place where they are often not wanted and in fact mistreated, a place that is the hardest for them to go because they care so much: a regressive pound where they are forced to watch animals neglected, abused, suffer, and die.

But most of them operate under the radar and there are too many of them to highlight. So we have to award others, bearing in mind that the work of people we award would be meaningless if not for the rescuers and volunteers. 2010 was the year of great successes in the movement. It was the year of No Kill success in

Michigan, Kentucky, California, New York, and elsewhere.

Thanks to social media, the internet, smarts, good deeds, good sense, and even just good writing, the voices for the No Kill movement multiplied exponentially. And while a lot of new faces and new people became national No Kill figures, most notably and not without good reason, one voice for compassion towered above all, a champion of an abused and betrayed dog, a defender of rescue groups, an advocate for shelter volunteers: the Honorable Micah Kellner.

While the large national organizations could not summon the courage to champion the animals and their rescuers, even though that is the very core of their mission, a state assembly member from the very district that includes the ASPCA, the Mayor's Alliance, and the New York City fundraising office of Best Friends, Assembly Member Kellner did just that.

And given that he was the assembly member for their district, it could not have come from someone who had more to lose in doing so. His courageous introduction of Oreo's Law was the single, most powerful act of 2010 to combat the humane movement's corruption. And when the NYC pound retaliated by subverting Federal Civil Rights law in order to try to silence volunteers, he fought back on their behalf, too.



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Ban the Gas Chamber



Some shelters say that "while sodium pentobarbital injection is the preferred method of killing dogs and cats in shelters, gas systems are acceptable if used correctly or for other species of animals." Those shelters are dead wrong. We call for their ban.

Webster's dictionary defines euthanasia as "the act or practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly sick or injured individuals in a relatively painless way for reasons of mercy." Unfortunately, in most shelter environments, animals are not solely being killed because they are hopelessly sick or injured, but rather as "population control." In this environment, shelter killing—particularly of healthy and treatable animals—raises a host of ethical

questions and dilemmas, many of which are being raised by the public in communities across the country. At the very least, shelters who kill, particularly those which kill large numbers of animals, are obligated to ensure that employees are technically proficient, competent, skilled, compassionate, properly trained, and doing everything in their power to make sure the animals are as free from stress and anxiety as possible. The use of a gas chamber does not allow this.

A "relatively painless" death can only occur in an environment where sensitivity, compassion, and skill, combine with efforts to minimize distress and anxiety. By contrast, gas systems take time to kill—during which animals experience distress and anxiety, and can struggle to survive. They can result in animals surviving the gassing, only to suffer even more. And they take longer to kill if animals are young, old, or have respiratory infections, which is common in some shelters. They are designed for the ease of shelter workers, not care and compassion for the animals.

The use of such systems to kill animals is universally condemned by humane advocates and progressive shelters, and has been outlawed for dogs and cats in several states including New York and California. According to Dr. Michael Moyer, V.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania College of Veterinary Medicine:

"There is no progressive sheltering agency of any scope or stature willing to philosophically embrace gas systems for the killing of any species of animals.

No Kill Webinars



*Can't come to the No Kill Conference?
We'll bring it to you... every month.*

Animal Ark, Minnesota's premier No Kill shelter, and the No Kill Advocacy Center will be teaming up to offer a monthly series of low-cost web-based seminars to help shelters, rescue organizations, private citizens, and municipalities learn more

about and begin implementing the programs and services of the No Kill Equation.

Topics will include reforming animal control, turbocharging adoption programs, building a volunteer and foster care program, non-lethal community cat initiatives, using legislation and litigation to save lives, and much more.

The interactive sessions will be hosted by Nathan Winograd and Mike Fry from Animal Ark and feature some of the most successful shelter directors, animal law attorneys, and advocates in the USA and beyond. One Friday afternoon each month, the webinars will be streaming live to computers worldwide.

For more information and/or to register for the webinar, go to the "What's New" page of our website at www.nokilladvocacycenter.org



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The Truth Will Out

*A message for No Kill Advocacy Center
Director Nathan Winograd*

It will come as no surprise to anyone with a television, newspaper, or access to the internet that the news of the last couple months has been, until very recently, dominated by the Wikileaks documents. I have encountered every possible angle on that story, from those focused on the enigmatic founder of that organization, to the impact on geopolitics, and finally to the changing nature of news reporting in light of unfiltered sources.

Those I have found most interesting reevaluated current events as a result of the information the memos contained. It is refreshing and instructive to learn what those in positions of power throughout the world are *really* thinking and doing—laid bare in memos of naked unvarnished truth—so different from the carefully crafted messages and spin we receive from our own politicians, news outlets, and other world leaders in this so-called “age of information.”

A recent poll suggests that one in three Americans has lost faith in our

elected representatives to do what is in our collective best interest. Putting aside some voices who are never satisfied, for a good many thoughtful and genuinely concerned Americans, government has become the “other” — the enemy—rather than what our founders intended: a government of the people, by the people and *for* the people. And that is why despite the voyeuristic interest generated by the Wikileaks documents, notably absent in the news is any discussion of their “shocking” nature. Few of us are surprised to see a different reality than we have been led to believe behind the curtains those memos pulled back.

And that is why I believe that despite its bitter edge, the cynicism of our age comes with a silver lining. We are not the naïve, drugged-up, mindless cogs serving Orwell’s Big Brother. We are Orwell’s heroic protagonist, Winston Smith—awake to the true nature of

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reality, or rather the untrue nature of the fabricated reality, around us. And because the first step to fixing a problem is recognizing that you have one, that is good news. It is, in fact, the very reason I wrote *Redemption*.

When I first went on my book tour in 2007, there were just a handful of people with whom I could have knowing conversation about what was really killing five million animals a year in our nation's pounds. Everywhere I went, and most of the conversations I had with animal activists prior to the release of that book generally devolved into three unsupportable myths: 1. how to make the public, which was to blame for the killing, more responsible; 2. how to get more people to spay/neuter so as to end "pet overpopulation;" and, 3. the need for collaboration as the solution.

My personal experiences—both in San Francisco and Tompkins County and then as part of my consulting work visiting shelters nationwide—gave me a unique perspective on these issues, experiences which with time evolved into an understanding of both the true causes of the killing: misplaced blame coupled with institutional uncaring and inertia; and the true nature of the antidote: changing the way a *shelter* operated by embracing and cooperating with, rather than mistrusting and punishing, the American public.

It was, in fact, my trust in animal loving Americans and my belief that if they were armed with the truth about what was *really* going on inside the humane movement, that they would inevitably demand change, which inspired me to write my book, and tell the "inside" story.

And I have not been disappointed. By rejecting old dogmas that once defined the paradigm under which we all operated, and by holding accountable those individuals and organizations which claim to represent the interests of animals but who, in reality, have very different motives and allegiances, grassroots No Kill activists are re-orienting the humane movement away from control and killing, and back to compassion and life-saving. We have rejected the excuses. We have accepted—not always without heartbreak—the bitter reality that many of the emperors in



the humane movement have no clothes. And after decades of killing and decades of spin to justify it, all of this became possible only when the truth came to light.

It is the truth, after all, and not our wishful thinking, that determines the course of history. Without it, we are groping in the dark, fighting phantoms, and, as history as shown, misplacing our faith and allegiance in those who abuse that trust by undermining and misrepresenting our cause, its solution, our urgency, and our unequivocal determination.

I believe in telling the truth, however unpleasant it may be. Truth is a weapon and truth is armor. And given the strong, moneyed, and entrenched forces we must battle to achieve success, we need all the power and protection we can get. And here is the truth:

Today, the No Kill Equation remains the only hope for achieving and sustaining a No Kill nation for the simple fact that it is the only model that has had proven successful in creating No Kill in the United States. It is a programs-based model that seeks to change the way shelters operate.

And it is a comprehensive model that can result in the immediate overnight achievement of No Kill in those communities that implement it with

Truth is a weapon and truth is armor. And given the entrenched forces we battle against, we need all the power and protection we can get.

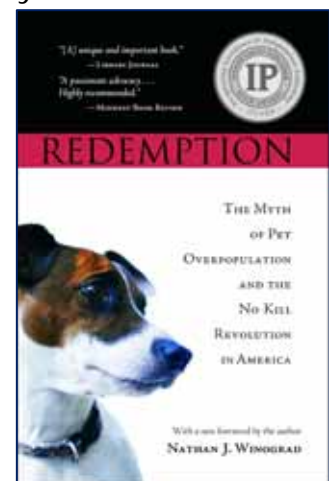
rigor. But too many shelter directors refuse to do so. Too many shelter directors find killing easier than doing what is necessary to stop it. Too many are firmly grounded in killing and find no ethical quandary with allowing animals to remain in medieval barbarity in what would rival the cruelty of 19th Century pounds, whose

philosophy they continue to embrace two centuries later.

Our animal shelter system is broken. It is draconian, it is filthy, it is uncaring, and it is abusive. And standing in the way of our immediate

achievement of a No Kill nation; standing in the way of the will of 100 million Americans who love and cherish companion animals, are 3,000 regressive shelter directors and the large national organizations that have become wealthy and powerful by promising to help these animals, even as they protect and legitimize those directors.

Only time will tell how long groups like the Humane Society of the United States will maintain their allegiance to their kill-oriented colleagues, to their antiquated philosophies, and to their failed models, which holds them back from the success they



and this movement can achieve the moment they decide to embrace it. But the cost in animal lives demands that we not wait for them to wake up to this realization. If we are going to achieve a No Kill Nation sooner rather than later, we must come to accept that our "friends" are in actuality our enemies and we must stand up to them. Five years ago, my saying so would have been heresy. It now hardly registers as controversial.

Except, of course, to those who continue peddling the fiction that killing is ok, it is challenging the killing that is the problem and labels you "divisive."

We are told groups like HSUS are changing, but that change comes slowly. On the eve of 2011, 16 years after the achievements in San Francisco first showed us a compassionate, life-affirming alternative to traditional sheltering models, this is what we know to be true: every animal put to death in an American animal shelter is being killed because of the paradigm that those organizations helped create. No honest person can suggest we are on the same team. And no compassionate one can argue that the miserly crumbs they offer to save animals make us friends, rather than adversaries.

After 16 years of waiting for them to champion abolition of killing, we've not a drop of patience for their miserly gradualism left. But we outnumber them by the millions. And not only do we have the hearts and minds of the

people on our side, we have the truth. And the truth will out.

Never surrender, never give in, never doubt that we will succeed. A No Kill nation is within our reach.



Join the discussion:
[facebook.com/nokilladvocacycenter](https://www.facebook.com/nokilladvocacycenter)



The No Kill Declaration

The Humane Society of the United States was asked but refused to sign the U.S. No Kill Declaration. In fact, they continue to fight efforts to end the killing of dogs and cats in shelters and have gone so far as to call No Kill “radical” and insisting on the right of “shelters” to kill animals, even in the face of readily available lifesaving alternatives.

But almost 30,000 No Kill shelters, rescue groups, and animal lovers have signed it.

No Kill is a revolution. And behind every revolution is a declaration—a statement of grievances, and a listing of rights and principles that underscore our great hope for the future. We assert that a No Kill nation is within our reach—that the killing can and should be brought to an end.

Join us in endorsing The Declaration of the No Kill Movement in the United States. Add your name at nokilldeclaration.org.

I. Preamble

One hundred and fifty years ago, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals and other humane organizations were founded to establish standards for humane treatment of animals, to promote their rights, and to protect them from harm. This marked the formal beginning of the humane movement in the United States.

The scope and influence of these early humane organizations were testament to the public’s concern for animals. It did not take long for them to set their sights on the abuse of homeless



animals and cruel methods of killing by public pounds. It was common practice at the time for city and town dogcatchers to beat, drown, or shoot homeless animals.

Many humane agencies responded by entering into animal control contracts with towns and cities to ensure that the killing was done more humanely. But in taking on municipal animal control duties, these agencies abandoned their lifesaving and life-enhancing platforms when those beliefs conflicted with their contractual responsibilities. In the current era, where laws require killing by even more “humane” methods, these contradictions have become starker.

Increasingly, the practices of both humane societies and municipal animal control agencies are out of step with public sentiment. Today, most Americans hold the humane treatment of animals as a personal



value, which is reflected in our laws, cultural practices, the proliferation of organizations founded for animal protection, increased per capita spending on animal care, and great advancements in veterinary medicine. But the agencies that the public expects to protect animals are instead killing more than five million animals annually.

Lifesaving alternatives to the mass killing of animals in shelters have existed for decades. These lifesaving methods are based on innovative, humane, nonlethal programs and services that have proven that the killing can be brought to an end. Too many of these agencies, however, remain mired in the kill philosophies of the past, unwilling to or hampered from exploring and adopting methods that save lives. This is a breach of their public trust, a gross deviation

from their responsibility to protect animals, and a point of view that we, as caring people and a humane community, can no longer accept or tolerate.

We assert that a No Kill nation is within our reach—that the killing can and must be brought to an end. It is up to each of us working individually and together to implement sheltering models that have already saved tens of thousands of animals in progressive communities. If we work together—with certainty of purpose, assured of our own success, with the commitment that “what must be done, will be done”—the attainment of our goals will not be far off.

II. No Kill Resolution

Whereas, the right to live is every animal’s most basic and fundamental right;

Whereas, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals and other humane organizations were founded to establish standards for humane treatment of animals, to promote their rights, and to protect them from harm;

Whereas, traditional sheltering practices allow the mass killing of sheltered animals;

Whereas, every year shelters in the United States are killing millions of healthy and treatable animals who could be placed in homes, and are also killing millions of feral cats who do not belong in shelters;

Whereas, life always takes precedence over expediency;

Whereas, the No Kill movement in the United States has successfully implemented new and innovative programs that provide alternatives to mass killing;

Whereas, lifesaving change will come about only if No Kill programs are embraced and further developed;

Whereas, failure to implement No Kill programs constitutes a breach of the public's trust in the sheltering community;



Now, therefore, be it resolved that No Kill policies and procedures are the only legitimate foundation for animal sheltering; and,

It is incumbent upon all shelters and animal groups to embrace the philosophy of No Kill, to immediately begin implementing programs and services that will end the mass killing of sheltered animals, and to reject the failed kill-oriented practices of the past.

III. Statement of Rights

We acknowledge the following:

Sheltered animals have a right to live;
Feral cats have a right to their lives and their habitats;

Animals, rescuers, and the public have a right to expect animal protection organizations and animal shelters to do everything in their power to promote, protect, and advocate for the lives of animals;

Animal protection groups, rescue groups, and No Kill shelters have a

right to take into their custody animals who would otherwise be killed by animal shelters;

Taxpayers and community members have a right to have their government spend tax monies on programs and services whose purpose is to save and enhance the lives of all animals;

Taxpayers and community members have a right to full and complete disclosure about how animal shelters operate.

IV. Guiding Principles

No Kill is achieved only by guaranteeing the following:

Life to all healthy animals, and to all sick, injured, or vicious animals where medical or behavioral intervention would alter a poor or grave prognosis;

The right of feral cats to live in their habitats.

These conditions can be achieved only through adherence to the following:

Shelters and humane groups end the killing of healthy and treatable animals, including feral cats;

Every animal in a shelter receives individual consideration, regardless of how many animals a shelter takes in, or whether such animals are healthy, underaged, elderly, sick, injured, traumatized, or feral;

Shelters and humane organizations discontinue the use of language that misleads the public and glosses over the nature of their actions, such as "euthanasia," "unadoptable," "fractious," "putting them to sleep," and other euphemisms that downplay the gravity of ending life and make the task of killing easier;

Shelters are open to the public during hours that permit working people to reclaim or adopt animals during nonworking hours;

Shelters and other government agencies promote spay/neuter programs and mandate that animals be spayed or neutered before adoption;

Public shelters work with humane animal adoption organizations to the fullest extent to promote the adoption of animals and to reduce the rate of killing;

Shelters provide care and treatment for all animals in shelters to the extent necessary, including prompt veterinary care, adequate nutrition, shelter, exercise, and socialization;

Shelters are held accountable for and make information publicly available about all the animals in their care.

V. No Kill Standards

The implementation of these lifesaving procedures, policies, and programs must be the immediate goal of every shelter, and animal control and animal welfare agency:

Every animal in a shelter is entitled to individual consideration, regardless of whether such animals are healthy, underaged, elderly, sick, injured, traumatized, or feral;

Formal, active commitment by shelter directors, management, and staff to lifesaving programs and policies, and dedication to promptly ending mass killing of shelter animals;

Immediate implementation of the following programs by all publicly funded or subsidized animal shelters:

High-volume, low- and no-cost spay/neuter services;

A foster care network for underaged, traumatized, sick, injured, or other animals needing refuge before any sheltered animal is killed, unless the prognosis for rehabilitation of that individual animal is poor or grave;

Comprehensive adoption programs that operate during weekend and evening hours and include offsite adoption venues;

Medical and behavioral rehabilitation programs;

Pet retention programs to solve medical, environmental, or behavioral problems and keep animals with their caring and responsible caregivers;

Trap-Neuter-Return or Release (TNR) programs;

Rescue group access to shelter animals;

Volunteer programs to socialize animals, promote adoptions, and help in the operations of the shelter;

Documentation before any animal is killed that all efforts to save the animal have been considered, including medical and behavioral rehabilitation, foster care, rescue groups, neuter and release, and adoption.

An end to the policy of accepting trapped feral cats to be destroyed as unadoptable, and implementation of TNR as the accepted method of feral cat control by educating the public about TNR and offering TNR program services;

An end to the use of temperament testing that results in killing animals who are not truly vicious (e.g., shy/timid cats and frightened dogs) but who can be placed in homes, or are feral cats who can be returned or released;

Abolishment of trapping, lending traps to the public to capture animals, and support of trapping by shelters, governments, and pest control companies for the purposes of removing animals to be killed;

An end to owner-requested killing of animals unless the shelter has made an independent determination that the animal is irremediably suffering or cannot be rehabilitated;

The repeal of unenforceable and counter-productive animal control ordinances such as cat licensing and leash laws, pet limit laws, bans on feeding stray animals, and bans on specific breeds.

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with guest Nathan J. Winograd

A Third Door

An article in a Milwaukee, WI newspaper highlights a sanctuary that cares for animals who would have faced certain death in animal shelters: a blind dog with brain damage who was savagely beaten, a paralyzed Chow, a tabby cat also the victim of cruelty. According to the article, the animals are well cared for, loved, enjoy a good quality of life, and are even described as playful and "content." It is heartwarming. But not everyone is applauding.

As usual, the animal sheltering world criticizes it. At issue is not the quality of the animal's care. Although they are trying to sound benign, saying that the resources used to care for these animals are better spent on spaying and neutering or on more easily to place through adoption animals; once again, the voices of tradition are chanting "kill, kill, kill." They do this, while ignoring the fact that saving lives is not zero-sum and compassion is not limited. We can do all three (spay/neuter, adopt out savable animals, and provide lifetime care and hospice to those who need it).

Calling for more killing and criticism of lifesaving efforts is, once again, their default point of view. It doesn't matter how caring people are towards animals, it is irrespective of our efforts to be kind, and it ignores the call of compassion. They continue to preach a defunct philosophy represented by the 19th Century policy of the Animal Rescue League of Boston:

We keep all dogs we receive, unless very sick or vicious, five days; then those unclaimed are humanely put to death except a



limited number of desirable ones for which we can find good homes. We keep from twenty to thirty of the best of the cats and kittens to place in homes and the rest are put to death... We do not keep a large number of animals alive...

This policy is not limited to the 19th Century ARL of Boston. They just happened to memorialize in writing the effective policy of most shelters at the time. It is illustrative of what the national policy was then, and shockingly what remains policy to this very day in far too many communities and in far too many shelters. That we are living in the 21st Century and this hasn't been eradicated as easily as many shelters eradicate the animals is nothing short of a tragedy and a travesty. But with this viewpoint either supported or legitimized to some degree by the large national groups... no act of kindness by people like those who operate the sanctuary described in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* article goes unpunished by those with a darker agenda.

Once again, we need to find our inspiration elsewhere. Once again, we need to ignore the Naysayers. Once again, they get it wrong. Sanctuaries



are vital, and their importance is going to continue to grow. This is something we should all support and applaud. As stated in the Sentinel article:

But others say it plays an important role, especially as the no-kill movement gains momentum. "This is where I think Home for Life is ahead of the curve," said Nathan Winograd, founder of the No Kill Advocacy Center and author of the book "Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No-Kill Revolution in America." "As the no-kill movement becomes dominant, we're going to start to have ethical debates about those animals at the margins. But that doesn't mean we have to wait to save those animals," Winograd said. "If someone is willing to take care of these animals- even if it's not a traditional home - and it's funded with private dollars, what's wrong with that?"

In the No Kill paradigm, shelters save over 90% of all impounded animals. Communities across the country and abroad have shown that upwards of 98% of all impounded animals are savable. This includes feral cats. It includes blind, deaf, animals missing limbs or paralyzed animals because these animals are considered "healthy" or in the parlance of the day, "adoptable." According to the No Kill Advocacy Center's lifesaving matrix:

An animal does not have to be cute and cuddly or easy to place to meet this definition [of healthy]. Healthy is not the same as easy to adopt. The animal may be blind, deaf, old, or missing a limb. But as long as the animal is healthy, she meets the definition [of savable].

All of these animals can and should be adopted. But do we need to kill those remaining? Is it ethical to kill aggressive dogs or even hopelessly ill or injured animals who still have quality of life, at least for some time?

No one wants hopelessly ill or injured dogs and cats kept alive while irretrievably suffering, because that is cruel. No one wants truly vicious dogs adopted into the community, because that is dangerous. And while over 90 percent of dogs and cats entering shelters are neither hopelessly suffering nor vicious, we shouldn't be satisfied with killing the remainder. Because, truth be told, some of those in the remaining seven or eight percent are not suffering. And as long as they are not suffering, their killing raises a host of ethical issues. In fact, not only are some "unadoptable" animals living without pain, they enjoy

a good quality of life and can continue to do so, at least for a time. These include FeLV-positive cats. It includes animals in the early stages of renal disease. It even includes some aggressive dogs.

The fact that shelters cannot and should not adopt out vicious dogs, for example, does not mean that their killing isn't ethically problematic...

Right now, our great challenge in sheltering is between No Kill advocates who seek to modernize shelters and make them more progressive, and the voices of archaic tradition ("killing is kindness"). After the latter voices are silenced and No Kill's hegemony is established, we will then have to confront other ethical quandaries within our own philosophy. These ethical quandaries (e.g., killing dogs who are aggressive but can lead happy lives in sanctuaries, giving animals hospice care as opposed to what we call "mercy" killings in shelters) will become more paramount and [we] look forward to those debates. Because, at the end of the day, we deceive ourselves when we think our ethical cost/benefit analysis will not change as our movement grows, as animals become further integrated into our communities, and as our society evolves to have greater compassion towards animals.

But instead of leading us to a more ethical future, the nation's shelters and large "animal welfare" groups are the nation's leading voices of draconian policies which

favor death for animals in shelters. And when others act with kindness and compassion by refusing to add the ultimate insult (killing) to animals who have already faced a life of injury, they criticize the effort. The people who are supposed to be the animal's protectors would take that blind pup, or paralyzed Chow, or abused tabby cat described in the article and simply kill them. It is the height of obscenity.

And it begs the question: Why is saving lives controversial? But, alas, in an Orwellian shelter world where groups like HSUS and PETA tell us, in some variation or another, that "killing is kindness," "killing is not killing," and even that "killing is a gift," it is.

That is why [it was] said in the *Sentinel* article that the sanctuary is "ahead of the curve." They, like other sanctuaries, have opened "the third door" between adoption and killing. It was also said this in [the] book, *Redemption*: "killing is also being challenged by sanctuaries and hospice care groups, a movement that is also growing in scale and scope and which



all compassionate people must embrace.”

That we have not rigorously debated these issues as a movement does not mean we have to wait to save those animals. We should all be working fervently to keep that door open. We must always support compassion whenever it presents itself, especially when it gives meaning to an animal’s right to live—even when that right is not supported by the groups who (falsely) claim to be the standard bearers of our relationship to animals, [but which instead are] complacent about shelter killing or mired in the failed philosophies of the past.

And thankfully, the public shares our view and supports this vital and important work. Not only do approximately 165 million dogs and cats share our homes and not only are we spending \$50 billion per year on their care and comfort, but giving to animal related charities has become the fastest growing segment of American philanthropy. Indeed, the average American is far more progressive about dogs and cats than every animal welfare and animal rights organization in the United States, with rare exception.

But at the end of the day, it is not about how much we spend, how many animals share our homes, or even about what we seek. We don’t need to win the hearts and minds of the American public either for No Kill to save upwards of 98% of the animals or for lifetime care/hospice sanctuaries for

the small percent of animals who are not irremediably suffering and need a third door between adoption and killing.

Gaining their support is a non-sequitur because we already have it. While the voices of tradition chant “kill, kill, kill,” most dog and cat lovers, armed with the facts, find it abhorrent.

Nathan J. Winograd is the author of Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation & The No Kill Revolution in America. You can find out more at www.nathanwinograd.com. He is also the Director of the No Kill Advocacy Center.

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Reforming Animal Control



Get the tools you need for success...

The power to change the status quo is in your hands. The No Kill Advocacy Center's Reforming Animal Control/Building a No Kill Community packet has the information and tools you need to achieve success in your own community including copies of

Redemption and Irreconcilable Differences.

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You can also download free guides, model policies, and more on the Reforming Animal Control page of our website.

Learn more at the No Kill Advocacy Center's website at:

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A yellow rectangular advertisement. On the left, a circular photo of an orange and white cat is surrounded by the text 'Circle of Compassion For Animals' in a red, stylized font. To the right of the cat, the text reads: 'Save a Life ADOPT A PET', 'Save Lots of Lives SPAY/NEUTER'. At the bottom right, it says 'Paws & Claws Society with New Jersey Animal Advocates'. At the very bottom, it says 'PARTNERS IN PREVENTION, NOT DESTRUCTION' and 'Funded in part by the Staats Foundation of Thorofare, New Jersey'.

A No Kill Nation

A *National Tragedy.* This year, roughly 4,000,000 dogs and cats will be put to death in our nation's animal shelters. Their only "crime" is that they have no human address. Others may be sick or injured, but they could be saved with little effort. Unfortunately, they, too, will be killed. And still others are feral cats who should never enter shelters in the first place. But there is another way.

A Reason for Hope. In the last decade, several progressive shelters have put into place a bold series of lifesaving programs and services which have dramatically reduced the death rate in their communities. The resulting success proves that there is a formula for lifesaving, and that if we are to achieve a No Kill nation, it is incumbent upon shelters nationwide to embrace the programs and services which have been proven to save lives.

The No Kill Advocacy Center is the nation's first organization dedicated solely to the promotion of a No Kill nation. And it is the only national animal welfare agency that is staffed by people who have actually worked in and created a No Kill community.

Join the Crusade. But the challenges we face are great. From entrenched bureaucrats who are content with the status quo, to uncaring shelter directors hostile to calls for reform; from agencies mired in the failed philosophies of the past to those who have internalized a culture of defeatism—the roadblocks to No Kill are substantial, but not insurmountable.



We have a choice. We can fully, completely and without reservation embrace No Kill as our future. Or we can continue to legitimize the two-prong strategy of failure: adopt a few and kill the rest. It is a choice which history has thrown upon us. And a challenge that the No Kill Advocacy Center is ready to take on.

Your tax deductible contribution will help us hasten the day when animals find in their shelter a new beginning—instead of the end of the line. Working together, we can build an alternative consensus to traditional sheltering models—one which is oriented toward promoting and preserving life. An alternative which seeks to create a future where every animal will be respected and cherished, and where every individual life will be protected and revered.

No Kill Advocacy Center
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