



Dallas Companion Animal Project Background

The City of Dallas has officially joined the ranks of cities and towns across the country that have taken on the challenge of ultimately becoming “no kill,” with the goal of ending the killing of homeless dogs and cats. The Dallas Companion Animal Project (Dallas CAP) task force, was appointed in July 2011 by the City of Dallas to develop the blueprint that will guide the community in identifying, and ultimately implementing, programs and initiatives that reduce the number of animals given up and abandoned by their owners; make it easier and more affordable for owners to spay and neuter their pets; increase the number of stray and loose animals returned to their owners; offer alternatives to people considering giving up their pets; and increase the number of animals adopted and those transferred to other shelters and humane organizations.

For years, the City of Dallas has tried to increase the number of animals adopted and send more to rescue groups and private shelters, but the numbers are staggering. This past year, 20,684 dogs and cats—or 75 percent of the 28,392 companion animals that ended up in the City’s shelter—were put to death simply because there weren’t enough homes for them. With a finite number of homes available, and a limited number of space in shelters and rescue groups, the task force plans to focus heavily on decreasing the number of animals entering the shelter to begin with. They will be leading a cooperative effort – a “new breed” of no-kill – that partners individuals, businesses, corporations, associations, nonprofits, advocacy groups and animal-welfare organizations with City of Dallas, Dallas Animal Services, the Mayor and City Council in a cooperative effort to engage and energize the community, and to embrace all the components of a successful plan: spay/neuter, education, adoption and rescue, owner retention, behavior hotlines, responsible pet ownership.

Dallas Animal Services new manager Jody Jones, who played a leading role in making Richmond, VA, a no-kill community, knows from experience that in addition to saving lives, reducing euthanasia rates community-wide would have other benefits as well. “Working together to develop a successful no-kill plan will engage the community in the welfare of our animals and make Dallas a more pet-friendly place to live,” said Jones. “It will save taxpayer dollars and result in a more educated and informed public. It also will encourage private/public partnerships, and, most important, it will improve the quality of life for companion animals and people in the City of Dallas.”

Would you like to be a part of this historic effort and help stop the killing of adoptable pets? Here’s how you can help:

1. Partner with us. Go to our website www.dallascompanionanimalproject.org and provide us your contact information so we can add you to our mailing list and keep you up to date as we move forward.
2. Like us on Facebook
3. Follow us on Twitter @DallasAnimals
4. Share our website with friends, family, co-workers, and others who want to be part of this historic and life-saving project.

As we launch this new exciting venture, we will continue to identify opportunities to engage everyone interested. We look forward to having you join the cause!