



**NAPA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY  
2021-2022**

**FINAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
MAY 31, 2022**

**NAPA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER**

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# **NAPA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER FINAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

## **SUMMARY**

In March 2021, the 2021-2022 Napa County Civil Grand Jury learned of public concerns regarding compliance with a modification to the Napa County Municipal Code, Section 6.04.230 (see Appendix A), the result of a 2016 ballot initiative known as Measure A which became effective January 2017. Measure A required new practices and procedures for the Napa County Animal Shelter in euthanizing animals and was designed to reduce the number of animals that might otherwise have been destroyed.

Over several months the Grand Jury's investigation included interviews, document review, and a Shelter tour. At the conclusion of its investigation, the Grand Jury determined that the Shelter was adhering to the new requirements, an important result to alleviate public concerns about compliance with the new Napa County Code. However, during the investigation, other areas of concern were identified and the investigation was broadened to examine the impact of Measure A on animals, either with irremediable suffering or where aggressive behavior posed a danger to Shelter staff.

## **BACKGROUND**

In March 2021, the Napa County Civil Grand Jury began an investigation initially focused on whether the Napa County Animal Shelter was in compliance with Measure A regarding the handling of animals, particularly as regards euthanasia. The investigation responded to concerns expressed by some Napa County residents.

Pursuant to that Ordinance and the Asilomar Accords Agreement,<sup>1</sup> the Shelter publishes a quarterly and annual report of Live Release Statistics. The complete text of the Accords can be found in Appendix B of this report.

The Asilomar Accords Agreement is a set of criteria, guiding principles, standardized definitions, and a statistics table for tracking shelter populations, with a formula for determining live release rates in shelters. The purpose of the Accords and the live release rate formula is to create a uniform system so that shelters and other concerned individuals can understand the progress of lifesaving efforts by shelters on a nationwide basis.

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<sup>1</sup> In August 2003, Animal welfare organization leaders throughout the United States participated in a conference at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California, designed to develop uniform definitions to standardize the categories of treatment for dogs and cats in both public and private shelter/rescue organizations. The goal was to create standard definitions for annual reporting as a first step toward collecting and reporting reliable data on the number of at-risk animals across the nation.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Grand Jury's Animal Shelter investigation included three activities:

- A review of the Shelter's population and Live Release Statistics;
- Interviews with multiple Shelter and related personnel; and
- A tour of the Shelter facility.

The Grand Jury received and reviewed documentation that formed the basis for the quarterly and annual reports required by Measure A. This documentation included results of blood work, x-rays, and conclusions from the attending veterinarian. The Grand Jury also requested and received documents regarding the policies and procedures governing Animal Services officers and their training requirements.

Interviews were conducted both in-person and via Zoom with seven individuals: three Shelter personnel, two volunteers, and two Animal Services members.

Shelter staff provided the Grand Jury with an extensive tour of the Animal Shelter facility, focusing on areas for housing dogs. The shelter area devoted to problem animals not suitable for adoption was also toured.

## **DISCUSSION**

### A. Overview

The Napa County Animal Shelter is a part of the County's Public Works Department. In March 2021 this Grand Jury began an evaluation of the Animal Shelter's compliance with Napa County Ordinance 2016-03, Measure A. As a result of a 2016 general election ballot initiative, this measure became effective in January 2017 and its full text was incorporated in the Napa County Code of Ordinances, Title 6, Chapter 6.04, Section 6.04.230 (see Appendix A). The Ordinance laid out specific practices required for Shelter personnel to follow prior to the destruction of any surrendered or impounded dog, cat or rabbit. The investigation's focus was to validate compliance with the Ordinance requirements by assessing the actual Live Release rates between 2018 and 2021.

In general, the Ordinance requires that the Shelter publish (on a website, or other publicly accessible location), the Live Release Rate for (a) the prior calendar quarter and (b) the annual Live Release Rate for the prior three years, using the methodology and formulas developed pursuant to the Asilomar Accords. A higher percentage indicates that more animals are being adopted, reclaimed, or transferred to another shelter or animal rescue group. Both quarterly and annual Live Release Statistics are available in report form on the Animal Shelter's website on the Napa County Government website.

Annual reports were obtained from 2018 through 2021, as well as two random quarterly reports, from 4Q2020 and 4Q2021. The Grand Jury requested and received timely

backup documentation for both of those quarterly reports, including the following documents:

- Copies of veterinary reports on animals euthanized in this period,
- The written mitigation plan when adoption challenges were determined,
- Copies of documents demonstrating that two county personnel authorized and consented to euthanasia of each animal,
- Documentation demonstrating that a minimum 48-hour notice be given to active non-profit animal welfare organizations prior to euthanasia, and
- Copies of any complaints and/or records of non-compliance violations for this same period.

This information allowed the Grand Jury to conclude that of 14 animals euthanized during the fourth quarter of 2020, 11 were determined to have irremediable suffering by an attending veterinarian and were subsequently euthanized. One dog had completed five weeks of socialization training through a local animal rescue site, but was ultimately unsuccessful in controlling its aggressive behavior, including biting. A second dog participated in behavioral assessment during this period but bit a handler who required medical attention. The third animal, a cat, was reported by its owner to demonstrate significant aggression, an assessment with which an Animal Services officer concurred and the cat was euthanized.

The Grand Jury also requested and received backup for the fourth quarter of 2021 Live Release Statistics. The outcomes reported were for one dog, one rabbit, and 11 cats and consisted of documents from participating veterinary hospitals providing euthanasia due to irremediable suffering.

#### B. Interviews and Site Visits

From July through October 2021, the Grand Jury interviewed seven county staff associated with the Shelter and participated in a tour of the facility. It learned that the Shelter has approximately 150-200 animals under its care at any given time. Animals are assigned a specific identification number, and all pertinent information is tracked on a paper record called the Daily Observation & Treatment Chart attached to each animal's enclosure. Examples of notations include consumption of food and water, urination, and visual cues as to health and vitality. This information is also entered into a database known as "Shelter Buddy." During the tour, the Grand Jury observed all containment facilities, including quarantine areas, an examination room, supply storage areas, an exercise yard, and a medical room used for first aid and the administration of vaccines and/or antibiotics.

The Grand Jury also learned that intake for cats and dogs includes administering specific vaccinations and that the Shelter has, when space is available, cared for pigs, cattle, chickens, and horses during emergency situations such as a wildfire.

The Grand Jury interviewed two volunteers, selected at random, in order to learn what activities volunteers handled. Each had 20 or more years' experience working with animals. They explained that some volunteers are dog walkers only, while others spend time helping cats and kittens learn to socialize. They described walking dogs, occasionally fostering animals, and administering medications when necessary. Both volunteers expressed a sense of personal satisfaction with their volunteer work.

The Grand Jury also interviewed Napa County Animal Services Officers, who report to the Napa County Undersheriff and are responsible for the control and care of wild or stray animals found in the county; these officers are required to have a valid P.C. 832 certificate (Arrest and Firearms). Due to the responsibility for impounding injured or stray animals, these officers interact with the Shelter personnel on a regular basis and have office space located in the Shelter building. When an owner cannot be immediately identified through licensing or microchipping, the animal, typically a dog, is impounded. In such cases, the Shelter will take the necessary steps prescribed by Measure A, among other things, providing necessary medical care, re-homing, locating the owner, or release to an animal rescue (501c) organization.

### C. Non-Adoptable Animals

All animals, either surrendered or impounded, are subject to the provisions of Measure A. Animals may not be destroyed, regardless of health, injury, feral nature, or age, unless the Shelter has taken specific steps set forth in the Napa County Municipal Code, 6.04.230. "Feral nature" includes animals that are aggressive, pose a danger to the community, and/or are dangerously reactive to some type of triggering stimulus.

Upon intake, all medical and behavioral issues of the animal are evaluated by staff, and that information is recorded in the Shelter Buddy database; additional steps, required by the Ordinance are also followed:

- Notifying non-profit animal rescue organizations when material adoption challenges exist.
- Providing prompt and necessary veterinary care, training or fostering.
- Providing notice within 48 hours of all impounded or surrendered animals, and prior to destruction, to any active non-profit (501c status) who have requested such information.

Prior to the destruction of any impounded or surrendered animal, two county personnel, neither of whom may report to the other, must attest to meeting the required Ordinance steps. Each county official must also sign an acknowledgment statement and consent to euthanize.

To address unmanageable animals, the Shelter can engage an animal behaviorist, but only on a pro bono basis. This step may be limited with respect to modifying aggressive or reactive behavior, a process that can take weeks or months to complete. Such delays with animals (generally dogs) present a challenge to achieving adoption.

Obtaining the services of a pro bono animal behaviorist, even for one animal, can be a difficult and lengthy process. Often such efforts have not been accompanied by assurances of success, and consequently, the animal will not be suitable for adoption.

#### D. Irremediable Suffering

When an animal is surrendered or impounded and determined to have serious health and/or injury causing irremediable suffering, that animal *cannot* be euthanized without the prior approval of a licensed veterinarian. This restriction can lead to unreasonable time-consuming efforts.

The Shelter maintains a contractual agreement with one or more local veterinarians. To the extent possible, sick or injured animals are turned over to the care of these pet hospitals. In some instances, the Animal Services officer may take an animal directly to the veterinarian. Nonetheless, occasionally that step is not immediately possible or practical, and the animal may remain in the shelter and continue suffering.

The Shelter is able to perform euthanasia when requested by an animal's owner. This action is often taken when professional care becomes too expensive for the owner due to the need for prolonged medications, x-rays, surgeries, or repeated visits to the veterinarian. The Shelter will attempt to offer other alternatives such as re-homing, but this rarely succeeds, given the likely need for extensive medical care.

#### E. Live Release Outcomes

The two charts below represent data collected from the Shelter's website. The Live Release Statistics for cats are historically lower than that of dogs due to their free-roaming nature, greater risk of being hit by a vehicle, an absence of licensing and chip identification, venturing too far away from their owners, or un-spayed females without a home while caring for kittens.

**NAPA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER  
LIVE RELEASE OUTCOMES BY YEAR**

	Adoptions	Reclaimed	Trf /Other *	Total	Euthanized**
<b>2018</b>					
Dogs	423	515	44	982	24
Cats	521	145	95	761	97
Rabbits	40	0	6	46	0
<b>2019</b>					
Dogs	338	478	27	843	11
Cats	574	53	94	721	79
Rabbits	28	0	23	51	0
<b>2020</b>					
Dogs	190	441	63	694	12
Cats	308	135	159	602	46
Rabbits	18	1	13	12	0
<b>2021</b>					
Dogs	183	350	36	569	9
Cats	353	67	43	463	49
Rabbits	19	4	1	24	1

\* Transferred to Rescue Organizations/Re-homing \*\* Does not include owner Requested

**LIVE RELEASE STATISTICS AS A % OF TOTAL SPECIFIC ANIMALS**

2018	Dogs = 97.6%	Cats = 87.3%	Rabbits = 100%	Total = 93.2%
2019	Dogs = 98.7%	Cats = 89.0%	Rabbits = 100%	Total = 94.4%
2020	Dogs = 98.3%	Cats = 92.4%	Rabbits = 100%	Total = 95.6%
2021	Dogs = 98.4%	Cats = 90.7%	Rabbits = 95.8%	Total = 94.4%



## **FINDINGS**

- F1. The Napa County Animal Shelter cares for approximately 150-200 animals every month. The Shelter has the ability to quarantine animals, administer medications, isolate problem animals when necessary, and rehabilitate some animals demonstrating problematic behaviors.
- F2. Impounded or surrendered animals with significant behavioral problems create an immediate barrier to adoption or foster care. The Napa County Code requires that a pro-bono Animal Behaviorist attend to these problematic situations; this can be difficult and time-consuming to manage. During the Grand Jury's visit to the Shelter, several dogs were observed to be agitated inside their enclosures and were generally unapproachable due to the potential for injury.
- F3. A dog with a feral nature must be offered to a non-profit organization for possible adoption.
- F4. Socialization, including a mitigation plan to deal with the behavior problems of aggressive animals, may not be achievable given the obstacle of obtaining a pro bono behaviorist. This path is rarely viable since the time devoted to the animal is limited and may be insufficient to change the animal's behavior and make it suitable for adoption.
- F5. Shelter managers explained that the requirement for approval to euthanize animals must be obtained by a licensed veterinarian via a telephone consultation. This requirement can result in unintended consequences when a veterinarian's approval cannot be quickly obtained. There may be requests for vital signs, injury identification, or other specific information, which take time to provide and are likely to lead to the same conclusion held by the Shelter personnel in the first case, i.e., the animal cannot be saved.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R1. In order to resolve animal behavior problems more rapidly, this Grand Jury recommends that the Shelter secure a contract with a Certified Animal Behaviorist. This specialist would be asked to commit to a defined period of time each week/month to develop a program for each such animal that may ultimately lead to adoptability. In the contrary situation the Behaviorist, with concurrence from a Shelter supervisory person, may determine that no amount of behavior modification training will guarantee that an animal will be able to thrive in a home environment without the possibility of future aggression or unpredictable impulsive actions.
- R2. The Ordinance currently states that two county personnel, neither of whom reports to the other, have the authority to euthanize animals after seven specific steps outlined in the Ordinance have been completed regardless of health, injury, feral nature, or age. An exception to these conditions should be made when the suffering cannot be relieved, i.e., irremediable suffering. In this instance, this Grand Jury recommends that the two county personnel (a Shelter Attendant and

the Shelter Manager) should have the authority to euthanize an animal without having completed these steps, if it has been determined that an animal is suffering needlessly. A ballot measure with voter approval would be required to expand this exception to include Animal Shelter staff. Shelter personnel are fully trained and competent to perform owner requested euthanasia; this Grand Jury recommends that they should have the authority to do so when necessary to relieve irremediable suffering.

- R3. **COMMENDATION:** The Shelter personnel have a unique responsibility within Napa County governmental agencies. They must accommodate the needs of the public and provide shelter for animals sometimes under trying emotional circumstances. They are able to care for many species of animals besides dogs, cats, and rabbits, which are the focus of the Live Release Statistics. They have on occasion housed various birds, chickens, rodents, cattle, pigs, and horses particularly when a natural disaster occurs, such as recent wildfires.
- R4. **COMMENDATION:** Shelter personnel seek to find alternatives for surrendered animals, such as non-profit animal welfare organizations able to adopt animals and locate foster homes, often a difficult task.
- R5. **COMMENDATION:** Based on site visits and interviews with Shelter personnel, two Animal Services officers, and two volunteers, the Shelter has performed a very credible job in improving the Live Release outcomes while meeting Measure A requirements.

## **REQUEST FOR RESPONSES**

### **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

A response from the following governing body is requested within 90 days:

R2: Napa County Board of Supervisors

R1: Director, Napa County Public Works

### **INVITED RESPONSES**

The following unelected local government officials are invited to respond:

Napa County Sheriff's Department, Undersheriff, Animal Services  
Manager, Napa County Animal Shelter

## APPENDIX A - NAPA COUNTY CODE, ANIMALS

### 6.04.230 - Impounded and surrendered animals—Notice to owner—Disposition.

A. The animal control officer and the animal shelter shall observe the following rules in the course of managing the lives of impounded and surrendered dogs, cats and rabbits:

1. Subject to the provisions of subsection (A)(3) of this section, in the case of impoundment of a dog, cat, or rabbit whose owner can reasonably be expected to be positively identified, the animal shall continue to be impounded for a period of six days while all reasonable steps necessary to notify the owner of the impoundment are taken. Such steps shall not be required to include publication of notice in a newspaper. If the owner or a representative of the owner is successfully notified, the animal shall continue to be impounded for a period of not more than four days from the date of notification, during which period the animal may be redeemed in accordance with Section 6.04.240 of this code. If at the end of the four-day period the owner has not redeemed the animal, it shall be handled in accordance with subsection (A)(3) of this section.

2. Subject to the provisions of subsection (A)(3) of this section, in the case of impoundment of a dog, cat, or rabbit whose owner cannot be reasonably expected to be positively identified, the animal shall continue to be impounded for a period in compliance with applicable California Food and Agriculture Code sections, during which period the animal may be redeemed in accordance with Section 6.04.240 of this code. If at the end of such period the animal has not been redeemed, it shall be handled in accordance with subsection (A)(3) of this section.

3. Subject to the exclusions in subsection (A)(4) of this section, any impounded or surrendered dog, cat, or rabbit being considered for destruction may not be destroyed, regardless of health, injury, feral nature, or age, unless the animal shelter shall have first taken the following steps:

a. Complete for each animal:

i. A written behavioral and medical evaluation of the animal by qualified staff, which evaluation shall be made available to the public and to non-profit organizations described in subsections (A)(3)(c) and (d);

ii. Notify the non-profit organizations described in subsections (A)(3)(c) and (d) upon initial identification by staff of material adoption challenges; and

iii. A mitigation plan when such adoption challenges are determined to exist for the animal;

b. Provide prompt and necessary veterinary care; appropriate socialization; exercise; reasonable accommodation of special needs in situations such as nursing mothers, un-weaned animals, geriatric animals, or extremely frightened animals; and seek a live

outcome in partnerships with non-profit animal welfare organizations, including, but not limited to, training, fostering, and veterinary/medical support.

c. Make provision for not less than forty-eight hours notice of all impounded and surrendered animal scheduled for destruction to any active non-profit (501(c)(3) status) animal welfare organizations who have requested such notification;

d. Permit the release of an impounded or surrendered animal scheduled for destruction to any active non-profit (501(c)(3) status) animal welfare organizations upon request of the organization, provided that owners shall retain the same right of reclamation as if the animal was still in the shelter; and no such request has been made within forty-eight hours of such notice; and

e. Prior to destruction of an impounded or surrendered animal, two county personnel, neither of which reports directly to the other, have each determined that the shelter has acted in accordance with this section and has each signed an acknowledgement and consent to euthanize the animal.

4.Exclusions. Subsection (A)(3) shall not apply to:

a. An animal suspected to carry and exhibiting signs of rabies, as determined by a licensed veterinarian;

b. A dog that, after physically attacking a person, has been determined to be dangerous either by:

1) qualified staff pursuant to the American Professional Dog Trainers' Dog Bite Scale or similar industry standard; or

2) a dog trainer or behaviorist provided by a non-profit organization described in subsections (A)(3)(c) and (d) at no cost to the shelter. A written record of the assessment prepared by qualified staff, dog trainer or behaviorist shall be made available to the public;

c. An animal experiencing irremediable physical suffering as determined by a licensed veterinarian via telephone consultation.

B. The animal shelter shall dispose of or destroy all other impounded animals in accordance with applicable provisions of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

C. The animal shelter shall maintain and publish on its website, or other publicly accessible location, the following:

1.List of active non-profit (501(c)(3) status) animal welfare organization partners who have requested notice of any animals scheduled for destruction;

2.Live release rate for the prior calendar quarter, and the annual live release rate for the prior three years, utilizing methodologies and formulas developed in the

Asilomar Accords of 2004D. For the purpose of this section, animal means dogs, cats, and rabbits.

(Ord. 1305 § 1 (part), 2008)

## APPENDIX B – ASILOMAR ACCORDS

### ASILOMAR ACCORDS

#### I. Preface

In August of 2004, a group of animal welfare industry leaders from across the nation convened at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, California for the purpose of building bridges across varying philosophies, developing relationships and creating goals focused on significantly reducing the euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in the United States.

Through hard work, lively discussion and brainstorming, a common vision for the future was adopted. The leadership of the following organizations participated in the original, and/or subsequent meetings, and were involved in the drafting of the "**Asilomar Accords**":

Martha Armstrong	The Humane Society of the United States
Richard Avanzino	Maddie's Fund
Pamela Burns	Hawaiian Humane Society
Mark Byers	Spanish Fork Animal Control (UT) & the National Animal Control Association (NACA)
Perry Fina	North Shore Animal League and The Pet Savers Foundation
Mark Goldstein, D.V.M.	San Diego Humane Society and SPCA
Belinda Lewis	Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control
Dave Loftus	Pet-Ark
Jane McCall	Dubuque Humane Society
Jan McHugh-Smith	Humane Society of Boulder Valley
Steven McHugh	Unison Business Development
Nancy McKenney	Humane Society for Seattle/King County
Dan Morrison	Southeast Area Animal Control Authority
John Nagy	Dumb Friends League & the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA)
Cheryl Naumann	Arizona Humane Society

Robert Rohde	Dumb Friends League
Edwin Sayres	American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
John Snyder	The Humane Society of the United States
Karen Terpstra	Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA
Gary Tiscornia	SPCA of Monterey County & the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA)
Marie Belew Wheatley	American Humane Association

## II. Guiding Principles

1. The mission of those involved in creating the Asilomar Accords is to work together to save the lives of all healthy and treatable companion animals.
2. We recognize that all stakeholders in the animal welfare community have a passion for and are dedicated to the mutual goal of saving animals' lives.
3. We acknowledge that the euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals is the sad responsibility of some animal welfare organizations that neither desired nor sought this task. We believe that the euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals is a community-wide problem requiring community-based solutions. We also recognize that animal welfare organizations can be leaders in bringing about a change in social and other factors that result in the euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals, including the compounding problems of some pet owners'/guardians' failure to spay and neuter; properly socialize and train; be tolerant of; provide veterinary care to; or take responsibility for companion animals.
4. We, as animal welfare stakeholders, agree to foster a mutual respect for one another. When discussing differences of policy and opinion, either publicly or within and among our own agencies, we agree to refrain from denigrating or speaking ill of one another. We will also encourage those other individuals and organizations in our sphere of influence to do the same.
5. We encourage all communities to embrace the vision and spirit of these Accords, while acknowledging that differences exist between various communities and geographic regions of the country.
6. We encourage the creation of local "community coalitions" consisting of a variety of organizations (e.g., governmental animal control agencies, nonprofit shelters, grassroots foster care providers, feral cat groups, funders and veterinary associations) for the purpose of saving the lives of healthy and treatable animals. We are committed to the belief that no one organization or type of organization can achieve this goal alone, that we need one another, and that the only true
7. solution is to work together. We need to find common ground, put aside our

differences and work collaboratively to reach the ultimate goal of ending the euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals.

8. While we understand that other types of programs and efforts (including adoption, spay and neuter programs, education, cruelty investigations, enforcement of animal control laws and regulations, behavior and training assistance and feral cat management) play a critical role in impacting euthanasia figures, for purposes of this nationwide initiative we have elected to leave these programs in the hands of local organizations and encourage them to continue offering, and expanding upon, these critical services.

9. In order to achieve harmony and forward progress, we encourage each community coalition to discuss language and terminology which has been historically viewed as hurtful or divisive by some animal welfare stakeholders (whether intentional or inadvertent), identify "problem" language, and reach a consensus to modify or phase out language and terminology accordingly.

10. We believe in the importance of transparency and the open sharing of accurate, complete animal-sheltering data and statistics in a manner which is clear to both the animal welfare community and the public.

11. We believe it is essential to utilize a uniform method for collecting and reporting shelter data, in order to promote transparency and better assess the euthanasia rate of healthy and treatable animals. We determined that a uniform method of reporting needs to include the collection and analysis of animal-sheltering data as set forth in the "Animal Statistics Table." These statistics need to be collected for each individual organization and for the community as a whole and need to be reported to the public annually (e.g., web sites, newsletters, annual reports). In addition, we determined that each community's "Live Release Rate" needs to be calculated, shared and reported annually to the public, individually by each organization and jointly by each community coalition. Both individual organizations and community coalitions should strive for continuous improvement of these numbers. The "Animal Statistics Table" and formulas for calculating the "Live Release Rate" are set forth in Section IV of these Accords.

12. We developed several standard "definitions" to enable uniform and accurate collection, analysis and reporting of animal-sheltering data and statistics. We encourage all communities to adopt the definitions which are set forth in Section III, and implement the principles of these Accords.

13. While we recognize that many animal welfare organizations provide services to companion animals other than dogs and cats, for purposes of this nationwide initiative we have elected to collect and share data solely as it relates to dogs and cats.

14. We are committed to continuing dialogue, analysis and potential modification of this vision as needs change and as progress is made toward achieving our mission.

15. Those involved in the development of the Asilomar Accords have agreed to make a personal commitment to ensure the furtherance of these accords, and to use their professional influence to bring about a nationwide adoption of this vision.

### III. Definitions

In order to facilitate the data collection process and assure consistent reporting across agencies, the following definitions have been developed. The Asilomar participants hope that these definitions are applied as a standard for categorizing dogs and cats in each organization. The definitions, however, are not meant to define the outcome for each animal entrusted to our care. A glossary and more specific details and examples are included in the appendix portion of this document.

**Healthy:** The term "healthy" means and includes all dogs and cats eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, a congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

**Treatable:** The term "treatable" means and includes all dogs and cats who are "rehabilitatable" and all dogs and cats who are "manageable."

Rehabilitatable: The term "rehabilitatable" means and includes all dogs and cats who are not "healthy," but who are likely to become "healthy," if given medical, foster, behavioral, or other care equivalent to the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community.

Manageable: The term "manageable" means and includes all dogs and cats who are not "healthy" and who are not likely to become "healthy," regardless of the care provided; but who would likely maintain a satisfactory quality of life, if given medical, foster, behavioral, or other care, including long-term care, equivalent to the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring owners/guardians in the community; provided, however, that the term "manageable" does not include any dog or cat who is determined to pose a significant risk to human health or safety or to the health or safety of other animals.



**Unhealthy and Untreatable:** The term "unhealthy and untreatable" means and includes all dogs and cats who, at or subsequent to the time they are taken into possession,

(1) have a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that poses a health or safety risk or otherwise makes the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and are not likely to become "healthy" or "treatable" even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community; or

(2) are suffering from a disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the animal's health or is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future, and are not likely to become "healthy" or "treatable" even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community; or

(3) are under the age of eight weeks and are not likely to become "healthy" or "treatable," even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community.

## **Glossary of Terms**

**A) Beginning Shelter Count (date):** The number of dogs and cats in your shelter or in your care including fosters at the beginning of the reporting period. The reporting period is annual – either a calendar year or a fiscal year. (date) refers to the first day of the reporting period written in the following format: month/day/year.

**Intake (Live Dogs & Cats Only):** This table only deals with live dogs and cats for which your shelter or animal group assumed responsibility. Dogs and cats categorized as "dead on arrival" or DOA are not included in these statistics. For intake animals, status is determined at the time paperwork is initiated.

**B) From the Public:** The number of live dogs and cats your shelter or animal group received from the public. This includes dogs and cats turned in or surrendered by their owners/guardians; stray dogs and cats turned in by the public; stray dogs and cats picked up in the field; and dogs and cats impounded for cruelty investigation, custody care, and statutory/ordinance impoundment.

**C) Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition:** The number of dogs and cats your shelter or animal group received from other animal organizations participating in your collaborative group. (This only applies if the reporting organization is working collaboratively with other shelters/groups

in their area.) NOTE: On the community or coalition level, C (*Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition*) should equal J (*Outgoing Transfers to Organizations within Community/Coalition*)

**D) Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Community/Coalition:** The number of dogs and cats your shelter or animal group received from animal organizations that are not participating in your collaborative group. NOTE: If you are not part of a collaboration that is compiling statistics, then all your incoming transfers would be listed here.

**E) From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia:** The number of dogs and cats turned in or surrendered to your shelter or animal group by their owners/guardians for the purpose of euthanasia. This includes all categories of dogs and cats (healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable, treatable-manageable, unhealthy & untreatable). [See M, N, O, P for definitions of healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable, treatable-manageable, unhealthy & untreatable.]

**F) Total Intake:** The sum of lines B through E. This includes all live dogs and cats for which your shelter or animal group assumed responsibility.

**G) Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only):** The number of unhealthy & untreatable dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians and the number of dogs and cats ordered to be euthanized by legislative, judicial or administrative action. Do not include any dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians and who were considered to be healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable or treatable-manageable at the time of death. [See M, N, O, P for definitions of healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable, treatable-manageable, unhealthy & untreatable.]

**H) Adjusted Total Intake:** Lines F minus G. Total Intake minus the number of unhealthy & untreatable dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians. [See P for definition of unhealthy & untreatable category.]

**I) Adoptions:** The number of dogs and cats your shelter or animal group placed with members of the public. Do not include dogs and cats in foster homes or dogs and cats transferred to other animal welfare organizations.

**J) Outgoing Transfers to Organizations within Community/Coalition:** The number of dogs and cats your shelter or animal group turned over to other animal organizations within your collaborative group.

(This only applies if the reporting organization is working collaboratively with other shelters/groups in their area.) NOTE: On the community or coalition level, J

*(Outgoing Transfers to Organizations within Community/Coalition) should be equal to C (Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition)*

**K) Outgoing Transfers to Organizations outside Community/Coalition:** The number of dogs and cats your shelter or animal group turned over to animal organizations that are not part of your collaborative group. NOTE: If you are not part of a collaboration which is compiling statistics, then all your outgoing transfers would be listed here.

**L) Return to Owner/Guardian:** The number of stray dogs and cats your shelter or animal group reunited with their owners/guardians and the number of dogs and cats reclaimed by their owners/guardians. **Dogs & Cats Euthanized:** The number of dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized, broken down into the following categories: healthy; treatable-rehabilitatable; treatable- manageable; and unhealthy & untreatable. Dogs and cats are categorized at the time of euthanasia. [See M, N, O, P for definitions of healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable, treatable-manageable, unhealthy & untreatable.]

**M) Healthy (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia):** The number of healthy dogs and cats that your shelter or animal group euthanized including the number of healthy dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians.

*The term "healthy" means and includes all dogs and cats eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.*

**N) Treatable – Rehabilitatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia):** The number of treatable – rehabilitatable dogs and cats that your shelter or animal group euthanized including the number of treatable – rehabilitatable dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians. (These conditions are generally considered to be curable.)

*The term "treatable" means and includes all dogs and cats who are "rehabilitatable" and all dogs and cats who are "manageable." The term "rehabilitatable" means and includes all dogs and cats who are not "healthy," but who are likely to become "healthy," if given medical, foster, behavioral, or other care equivalent to the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community.*

**O) Treatable – Manageable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia):** The number of treatable – manageable dogs and cats that your shelter or animal group euthanized including the number of treatable – manageable dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians. (These conditions are generally considered to be chronic.)

The term "treatable" means and includes *all dogs and cats who are "rehabilitatable" and all dogs and cats who are "manageable."* The term "manageable" means and includes *all dogs and cats who are not "healthy" and who are not likely to become "healthy," regardless of the care provided; but who would likely maintain a satisfactory quality of life, if given medical, foster, behavioral, or other care, including long-term care, equivalent to the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community; provided, however, that the term "manageable" does not include any dog or cat who is determined to pose a significant risk to human health or safety or to the health or safety of other animals.*

**P) Unhealthy & Untreatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia):** The number of unhealthy & untreatable dogs and cats that your shelter or animal group euthanized including the number of unhealthy & untreatable dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians and the number of dogs and cats ordered to be euthanized by legislative, judicial or administrative action.

The term "Unhealthy and Untreatable" means and includes *all dogs and cats who, at or subsequent to the time they are taken into possession, (1) have a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that poses a health or safety risk or otherwise makes the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and are not likely to become "healthy" or "treatable" even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community; or (2) are suffering from a disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the animal's health or is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future, and are not likely to become "healthy" or "treatable" even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community; or (3) are under the age of eight weeks and are not likely to become "healthy" or "treatable," even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community.*

**Q) Total Euthanasia:** Sum of lines M through P. This includes all dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized (Healthy, Treatable – Rehabilitatable, Treatable – Manageable, and Unhealthy & Untreatable). [See M, N, O, P for

definitions of healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable, treatable-manageable, unhealthy & untreatable.]

**R) Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only):**

The number of unhealthy & untreatable dogs and cats that your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians and the number of dogs and cats ordered to be euthanized by legislative, judicial or administrative action. Do not include any dogs and cats your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians and who were considered to be healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable or treatable-manageable at the time of death. [See M, N, O, P for definitions of healthy, treatable- rehabilitatable, treatable-manageable, unhealthy & untreatable.]

**S) Adjusted Total Euthanasia:** Total Euthanasia minus Owner/Guardian Request Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only). [See P for definition of unhealthy & untreatable category.]

**T) Subtotal Outcomes:** Sum of lines I through L plus S. This includes the number of dogs and cats that your shelter or animal group adopted, transferred, returned to owner/guardian. Do not include the number of dogs and cats who died or were lost while in your shelter or in your care or the number of unhealthy & untreatable dogs and cats that your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians or the number of dogs and cats ordered to be euthanized by legislative, judicial or administrative action. [See P for definition of unhealthy & untreatable category.]

**U) Died or Lost in Shelter/Care:** The number of dogs and cats for which your shelter or animal group assumed responsibility and who died or could not be accounted for. This includes the number of dogs and cats who died of medical complications (and were not euthanized), died in foster care or in transit, or were lost or stolen from the shelter.

**V) Total Outcomes:** Sum of lines T and U. This is the total number of dog and cat outcomes which includes the number of dogs and cats your shelter or animal group adopted, transferred, returned to owner/guardian plus the number of dogs and cats for which your shelter or animal group assumed responsibility and who died of medical complications (and were not euthanized) or were lost or stolen (from the shelter or foster care). Total outcomes do not include the number of unhealthy & untreatable dogs and cats that your shelter or animal group euthanized at the request of their owners/guardians or the number of dogs and cats ordered to be euthanized by legislative, judicial or administrative action. [See P for definition of unhealthy & untreatable category.]

**W) Ending Shelter Count (date):** The number of dogs and cats in your shelter or in your care including fosters at the end of the reporting period. The reporting period is annual – either a calendar year or a fiscal year. (date) refers to the last day of the reporting period written in the following format: month/day/year.