

No Kill Equation - Rescue Groups (a "get them out" element)

One of the “get them out” elements of the equation is a strong relationship between the shelter and rescue groups. Many shelters have ongoing relationships with trusted rescue groups, allowing those groups to put a "rescue hold" on animals to keep them from being destroyed and then later allowing them to "pull" animals for free. Those shelters which do not see local rescue groups as a life-saving resource to be respected and valued are setting themselves up for failure in terms of the number of animals which can be saved.

In some no kill communities, the relationship between the shelter and rescues is refined and honed through ongoing communication about animals at risk. Rescues are notified electronically of animals needing rescue by age, gender, suspected breed, special needs, etc. This helps rescues understand the need and do a better job of pulling animals out as quickly as possible. While rescue groups should be given every opportunity to save animals at risk, they should not be relied upon to be “the” solution to life-saving; the shelter must do its part to place animals through comprehensive adoption programs like Pets for Patriot and Seniors for Seniors while also offering periodic adoption promotions to place older animals and special needs animals.