

**Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering**

Best practices relating to animal welfare continue to change as we gain a better understanding of prior sheltering tactics. Some “no-kill” policies have shed light on the unintended consequences of these practices, including selective admission policies and surrender fees; overcrowding, grossly extended lengths of stay for animals, failure to provide basic necessities of life, unsafe adoption decisions, and a failure to respond to calls about animals in need in the field.

Examples of these failed operational practices have caused many to move away from the “no-kill” philosophy and toward humane policies that best prioritize animal welfare and public safety. One animal control agency characterized the consequences of “no-kill” as “euthanasia by proxy,” causing tens of thousands of animals to suffer and die on the streets after being abandoned and getting hit by cars.

In the 2018-19 Fiscal Year, the County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) took in over 60,000 animals. DACC is currently adopting new philosophies to ensure safe and humane results for animals and people. This philosophy of “Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering” strives to create the best outcomes for all animals and is being adopted by many other animal welfare organizations across the nation.

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER**

August 6, 2019

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The Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) recently stated, “CVMA believes a socially conscious sheltering approach provides greater benefits for animals and for the community; as such, we strongly support socially conscious sheltering and oppose the no-kill movement.” Incorporation of the Socially Conscious Sheltering philosophy ensures that communities have access to appropriate information to demand that animals receive the care, consideration and respect they deserve.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Animal Care and Control to report back to the Board in 90 days with updates on efforts toward embracing the socially conscious animal sheltering model and recommendations for informing the community of sheltering updates, including but not limited to, increased canvassing for licensing of animals and utilization of vouchers for subsidized spay/neuter services.

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