

The High Cost of “Revenue-Generating” Animal Services



For decades, local animal services departments have operated under two extremely costly and inaccurate assumptions:

- Animal services should be a revenue-neutral or profitable endeavor for local governments.
- The ability of a community resident to satisfy financial requirements (adoption fees, licensing fees, etc.) is a good indicator of worthiness.

Local governments do not operate these critical services under similar assumptions:

- Public education
- Human services
- Transportation
- Public safety

So why do local governments operate animal services in this way?

What does this status quo look like?



Animal services is treated as a revenue generator.



There are financial barriers to adoption and return-to-home.



Animals remain in shelters at taxpayer expense.



Dogs and cats are killed at taxpayer expense.

The status quo means fewer adoptions, higher costs and more killing. **We can do better.**

Transforming animal services starts with a perspective shift.

Investing in animal services today creates a healthier, happier community tomorrow. **Together, we can:**



Change the perspective on animal services budget expenditures from an expense to an investment



Provide shelter staff with discretion to waive fees and requirements to secure an adoption or return a lost pet



Equip families with information and supplies to be successful pet owners



Seek partnerships with businesses and nonprofits in the community to support animal services programs and efforts



Pursue grants and other funding opportunities for animal services and shelter programs

Best Friends Animal Society partners with local governments, shelters and the animal-loving community to keep pets and people together and to find lifesaving outcomes for homeless pets. We bring materials, supplies, legal and human resources, program expertise and dedication to the mission to save as many lives as possible. [Learn more at bestfriends.org.](https://bestfriends.org)