

Modernizing Our Approach to Animal Services



Technologies have changed. Society has changed. It's time for policy changes.

Many local governments treat animal services as a means to manage nuisance complaints and to better promote community safety. Through this lens, situations on the ground become extremely uncompromising. This simplistic approach separates well-meaning families from their beloved pets and causes adoptable dogs and cats to fill shelters, where many are eventually killed, at taxpayers' expense. **It's time for a perspective shift.**

Animal services are humane services. The new approach:

- **Institute genuine case-management procedures:** Intervene, identify core issues and track progress, recognizing the unique challenges of each situation.
- **Provide support to keep animals with their families:** Information, services and even basic supplies like food and proper restraints can change everything.
- **Treat separation of an animal from a family as the last resort, not the first step:** Acknowledge that it is cheaper, safer and more compassionate to keep pets with well-meaning owners.

The current approach unfairly punishes local taxpayers, healthy animals and our most vulnerable residents.

LOCAL TAXPAYERS fund the current system, which separates pets from families, shelters them, gives them food and care, but then potentially kills them.

HEALTHY PETS are taken from their homes and the families they know, and face an uncertain future.

VULNERABLE RESIDENTS disproportionately lose their beloved pets because systemic barriers prevent access to resources that affluent families easily acquire.

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.**