

# Strategic or Managed Intake: Saving Resources and Lives

Currently, most shelters operate under a limited or open admission system in which they take in abandoned, lost, stray or surrendered animals and attempt to find homes for them, while managing available resources and space. **If shelters convert to a strategic, or managed, intake model, they can better serve their communities, save more lives and keep more pets with their well-intentioned and loving families.**

What is strategic or managed intake? In a nutshell, it's a method of animal intake that attempts to limit the number of abandoned and surrendered animals entering shelters, and that supports pet owners to help them keep their pets.

## EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIC OR MANAGED INTAKE IN PRACTICE:



- Scheduling appointments with pet owners before allowing them to surrender their animal and having conversations with them to identify areas of need and alternatives to the pet entering the shelter



- Expanding services (e.g., pet food pantry, low-cost spay/neuter) offered to pet owners to help them keep their animals



- Partnering with private organizations to better assist loving pet owners with low incomes



- Offering temporary foster care and boarding services for pet owners in need with the intent to reunite them after a short period of time
- Having animal control officers return lost animals to their homes in the field, rather than bringing them to the shelter
- Implementing community cat programs to stabilize and reduce outdoor cat populations