

## What can you do?

There are countless things you can do as an individual.

Here are a few:

**Spread the word.** Tell your neighbors, friends, township board members, councilpersons, commissioners and state legislators: Euthanasia is NOT an acceptable method to address the homeless pet situation. We need to move into 21st century solutions.

**Hold your elected officials accountable.** Your tax dollars are used to operate your local animal shelter. Are your officials wasting your dollars to kill animals, or are they investing your tax dollars in humane 21st century practices that really solve the problem? Do they employ compassionate shelter management? Do they have a killing perspective or a life saving perspective?

**Become a volunteer.** Volunteers are the lifeblood of the "no-kill" movement and the MPFA. Your time and talents can be used in countless ways to help make the difference between the success and failure of our programs. Work with one of our shelter/rescue partners, or directly with the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance on one of our program areas.

**Spay/neuter your own pet.** This not only prevents unwanted births, but also provides many health benefits for your companion animal.

**Open your home.** Consider becoming a foster parent for a dog or cat on their way to finding their forever home.

**Visit the MPFA website.** Support our events and projects along with those of our partners. Sign up to be kept informed by the Pet Fund.

**Make your voice heard.** Respond to your legislator(s) when there is legislation that will help us reach our goal.

**Financially support the MPFA.**

If you are a rescue organization or shelter, become a partner with the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance by signing the partnership collaboration agreement. MPFA is here to support your every step of the way toward becoming "no-kill".

**Working together we will reach our goal and Michigan will become a No More Homeless Pets state.**



877-FUR-PALS  
[www.oaklandpetfund.org](http://www.oaklandpetfund.org)



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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Phone: 877-FUR-PALS  
877-387-7257

Email: [info@michiganpetfund.org](mailto:info@michiganpetfund.org)

Your tax dollars  
are used to  
**euthanize**  
**118,000**  
**companion animals**  
every year in  
Michigan



There are *responsible and compassionate* ways to solve Michigan's pet overpopulation problem!

**Killing  
is not one.**

**Michigan Pet Fund Alliance**

An all volunteer, not for profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization dedicated to creating a "no-kill" State for Michigan's companion animals.

[www.michiganpetfund.org](http://www.michiganpetfund.org)



**T**he Michigan Pet Fund Alliance (MPFA) was established to bring the *No More Homeless Pets* (*no-kill*) philosophy and programs to Michigan.

This 21st Century approach combines new thinking about animal welfare with effective programs and best practices. When Michigan shelters and rescue organizations follow the *No More Homeless Pets* program approach, we will solve the problem of companion animal overpopulation – eliminating the need to euthanize both healthy and treatable animals due to lack of shelter space.

## We have taken the first step – a commitment to reject killing as the primary shelter population management tool.

### Key Elements of a comprehensive approach

Animal Control agencies and some nonprofit shelters have been euthanizing animals for more than fifty years, yet the pet overpopulation problem still exists. MPFA's solution is to work with various groups putting key elements in place tailored to the needs of specific areas. This will *save lives* and ensure our success in making Michigan a *No More Homeless Pets* state.



*Studies show that people get their dogs from shelters only 15% of the time and cats less than 10%.*

### High Volume, Low-cost Spay/Neuter Programs.

MPFA, through its partners, currently supports one full-time and one part-time Low Cost Spay/Neuter clinic. We need to expand these efforts throughout the state. Spay/Neuter programs reduce future homeless pets, provide health benefits to the animals, and reduce the taxpayer costs of managing unwanted pet births. Our goal: No animal is adopted unless it has been spayed/neutered first!

### Adoption Programs.

Increasing adoptions is paramount. MPFA produces and supports our partners' adoption events. We are striving to help shelters and rescue organizations better promote their adoption events. Adoptions are vital to our goal.



**Rescue Groups & Foster Homes.** Rescues and Fosters increase shelter capacity, reduce shelter expenses and *save lives*. MPFA collaborates with over 40 rescue groups, critical for freeing up scarce shelter space and improving overall adoption rates. Foster homes are crucial for animals requiring medical or behavioral rehabilitation. MPFA matches foster volunteers with shelters and rescue organizations.

**Medical & Behavior Rehabilitation.** Each shelter must analyze its specific needs and create programs for treating the animals it takes in to make them healthy and adoptable. Keeping shelters clean, and administering common vaccines and antibiotics to treat simple illnesses are key. MPFA has experience with no-cost programs ensuring the cleanest shelters possible, and in 2008, received foundation funding to create a medical fund. Numerous behavior resources are available on our website, including a free Training DVD for new companion animal guardians. MPFA also matches volunteer professional trainers to shelters and rescues with companion animals that need behavior modification to become adoptable.

**Feral Cat TNR Programs.** MPFA is fashioning its first comprehensive TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) program collaborating with spay/neuter clinics, volunteers, and animals control officers. This program will allow feral cats to continue their natural lifespan in a managed colony while reducing shelter intakes, future population, public complaints and diminishing the colonies to extinction.

**Pet Retention.** Helping people who want to keep their pets can be as simple as matching resources to needs. MPFA is working to fashion a "meals on wheels" program where dog or cat food is delivered with a housebound recipient's normal meals. Foster homes can be provided for the animals of military personnel on tour, or of home-displaced families. Food banks help in hard economic times, and, of course, MPFA's Training DVD can help owners eliminate behaviors that might otherwise cause them to give up their pet.



### Public Relations/Community Education/Needed Legislation.

MPFA is dedicated to working with shelters committed to becoming "no-kill." With strategic plans, policies and procedures that *save lives*, these facilities can redefine their community image as life saving agencies. Through newsletters, billboards, blogs, speaking engagements, press-releases, and collaborations, MPFA continues to educate Michigan residents about the current plight of 225,000 homeless animals and how it can be changed.

