


Creating a no more homeless pets (no-kill) state



## What does "no-kill" really mean? | March 2009 |

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You may hear a shelter or rescue group describe themselves as "no-kill" and other people comment that "no-kill" is unrealistic - - - after all, we have animals that are very ill or aggressive and the kindest thing you can do is to put them out of their misery or protect the public by euthanizing the animal.

"No-kill" is a rallying cry; a slogan that defines a movement. The term "no-kill" clearly and powerfully protests the status quo - - - that being the killing of savable animals. At the same time, it describes a new approach to animal sheltering and a new commitment to saving lives within animal welfare organizations and communities.

So what does the Michigan Pet Alliance mean by the term "no-kill"? We use the [Maddie's Fund](#) definition which is saving both healthy and treatable dogs and cats, reserving euthanasia only for unhealthy and untreatable animals.

Some organizations call themselves "no-kill" while at the same time they "select" which homeless animals they take into their care or close their doors when they are full. These rescues and shelters are more accurately described as Adoption Guarantee organizations.

Other shelters, either by law or charter have no choice in what animals come through their doors - they must accept them all whether there is room for them or not. These are the organizations which should rightly wear the moniker of "no-kill" if they can meet the litmus test. With an overpopulation of companion animals in Michigan it takes a real commitment to work towards a "no-kill" status and a REAL ACHIEVEMENT to meet the criteria.

Status quo is not only an ethical question - - - it is just bad government. We have been euthanizing animals in shelters for over 60 years and have not solved the over population problem. Einstein

This is the first discussion blog sent to engage Michigan Pet Lovers in a conversation about improving companion animal welfare throughout the state. It is only when we join our voices and efforts that things will change. Please share this discussion blog with your friends, family and co-workers..

Michigan Pet Fund Alliance, formerly the Oakland Pet Fund, was formed to bring the *No More Homeless Pets (no-kill)* philosophy and programs to Michigan.

This 21<sup>st</sup> Century approach includes new thinking about animal welfare, effective programs and best practices. When Shelters and Rescues follow the program, we will solve the problem of companion animal overpopulation - which will eliminate the need to euthanize both healthy and treatable animals to provide sheltering space. For more information, call 877-FUR-PALS or visit <http://www.michiganpetfund.org/>

described insanity as doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. We must hold our government leaders accountable in solving the pet overpopulation problem.

The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance, formerly the Oakland Pet Fund has worked with the Oakland Pet Adoption Center (Oakland County Animal Control) for the last 5 years. The county committed to working to become a "no-kill" shelter. It has not been easy and it has not happened overnight but they are just about there and will be there by our established goal of 2010.

We as an animal welfare community and pet lovers need to commit to changing the status quo. We need to commit to collaborating with each other. We need to keep focused on a vision where no healthy or treatable animal is euthanized and pour our energies into achieving that goal. We welcome your commitment in creating a "no-kill" state for Michigan and encourage all shelters to adopt Maddie's definitions, so we begin to speak the same language.

Let us know what you think come [blog....](#)



All pets deserve a chance for another home if they are adoptable or treatable. It shouldn't make a difference if they are older or the "wrong" color, size or breed.

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