

"Ending the killing of Michigan's homeless, healthy and treatable dogs and cats!"



## Michigan Rescue Certification Program



### Purpose of the Michigan Rescue Certification Program

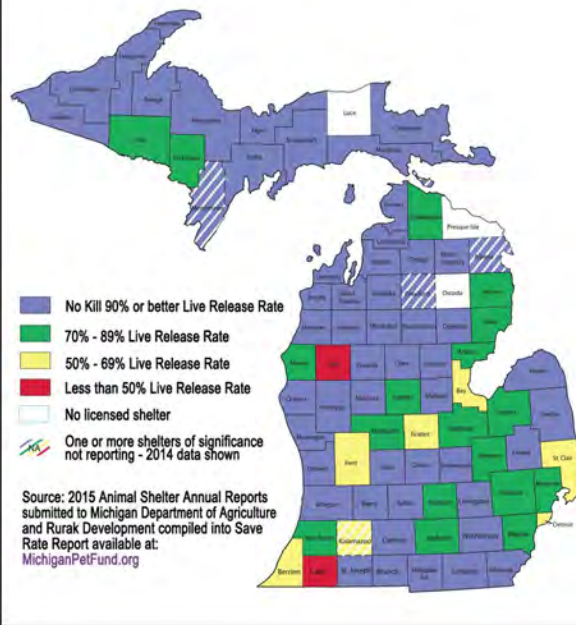
- Save more lives and maximize the capacity of animal shelters
- Establish best practice and a code of ethics
- Encourage more collaboration between rescues and shelters
- Advance Michigan to become a no-kill state

### Benefits of Becoming a Michigan Certified Rescue Organization Include:

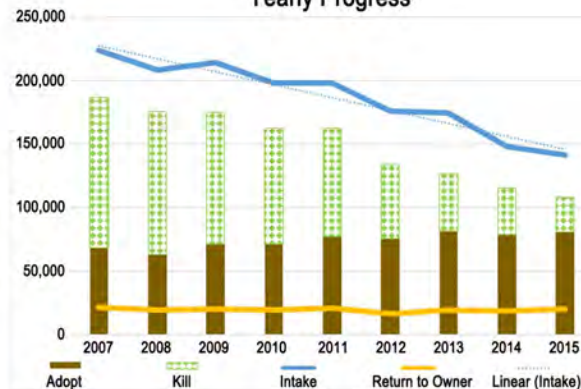
- Use of the MPFA Certified Rescue badge
- Organization listed on the MPFA website as a Certified Rescue
- Grant funds for pets pulled from Michigan shelters via the Judithe Middleton Kroon program
- Inclusion in the MPFA umbrella of Michigan State Employee Charitable Campaign
- Registration discounts for MPFA workshops and conferences

### Getting to the Goal - Making Michigan a No Kill State

Michigan Homeless Cats & Dogs: Live Release Rate by County



### Yearly Progress



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## Michigan Pet Fund Alliance

is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization advocating the nationally-recognized No Kill Equation model to End the killing of healthy and treatable homeless cats and dogs in Michigan.

Your tax dollars and charitable donations are used to kill

# Over 27,000 Dogs and Cats



every year in Michigan



There are responsible and compassionate ways to address Michigan's homeless pet situation



[MichiganPetFund.org](http://MichiganPetFund.org)

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## Michigan Pet Fund Alliance

is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization advocating the nationally-recognized No Kill Equation model to *End the killing of healthy and treatable homeless cats and dogs in Michigan.*

### The MPFA Vision

is to collaborate with Michigan animal shelters and rescue organizations to achieve No Kill through training, technical assistance, education and advocacy.



### What is No Kill?

The No Kill model of animal sheltering is a 21st century approach to animal sheltering where euthanasia is only used in the true sense of the word, when animals are irremediably suffering or vicious, and not for healthy or treatable animals.

The model employs best practices, business models, collaboration, and partnerships. Using the model, open-admission shelters (those who don't turn any animals away) throughout the country are achieving save rates of over 90%.



### How does MPFA advance No Kill in our state?

- Produces state-wide No Kill conference and workshops
- Publishes annual shelter Save Rate Report
- Recognizes top-performing shelters with awards
- Administers Rescue Certification program to promote collaboration among shelters and rescues
- Offers Judith Middleton Kroon grants to save at-risk shelter pets
- Provides support and technical assistance to shelters that are trying to save all healthy and treatable animals
- Provides support and technical assistance to citizens and advocacy groups seeking to improve their local shelters
- Participates in advocacy efforts

## The No Kill Equation Model

The following key programs are necessary to save 90% or more of the homeless cats and dogs in our state:

### 1. Compassionate Shelter Directors

A hard working, compassionate leader who is committed to implementing the other 10 programs is key to the success of No Kill.

### 2. High-Volume, Low-Cost Spay/Neuter

This will quickly lead to fewer animals entering the shelter system, allowing more resources to be allocated toward saving lives.

### 3. Rescue Groups

An adoption or transfer to a rescue group frees up limited cage space, reduces expenses for feeding, cleaning, medical treatment and killing and improves a community's rate of lifesaving.

### 4. Foster Care

Using volunteers for foster care is a low - or no-cost way of increasing a shelter's capacity, improving public relations, rehabilitating sick, injured or behaviorally challenged animals, and saving lives.

### 5. Comprehensive Adoption Programs

Adoption programs responsive to community needs, such as accessible hours, off-site adoptions, adoption incentives and effective marketing can replace killing with adoptions.

### 6. Pet Retention

Innovative strategies, such as counseling and resource referrals can keep people and their companion animals together. Preventing owner surrenders reduces the number of animals that a shelter must re-home.

### 7. Feral Cat TNR

Trap, Neuter, Return programs are an effective and humane method of reducing the number of free-roaming cats, allowing shelters to focus resources on dogs and cats that can be re-homed, thereby reducing death rates.

### 8. Medical and Behavior Programs

A shelter must implement comprehensive vaccination, handling, cleaning, socialization and care policies for healthy animals, as well as rehabilitative efforts for those who come in sick, injured, unweaned, or traumatized.

### 9. Public Relations/Community Involvement

Increasing adoptions, maximizing donations, recruiting volunteers and partnering with community organizations are all dependent on a shelter's consistent public relations and marketing, which are the foundation of a shelter's activities and success.

### 10. Volunteers

In most shelters, there is never enough staff or enough funds to hire more staff. That is where volunteers come in, making the difference between success and failure and, for the animals, life and death.

### 11. Proactive Redemptions

Also known as Return to Owner, proactive programs to reunite lost pets with their owners reduces the number of animals which must be cared for and placed in adoptive homes.



## Common MYTHS about No Kill

### No Kill allows sick animals to suffer, and keeps vicious animals alive.

No Kill advocates that animals in shelters should be treated as we would treat our own pets, that irremediably suffering or vicious animals should be considered for euthanasia. These animals are actually quite rare in shelters, making up less than 10%. As a result designated No Kill communities typically save over 90% of animals.

### No Kill promotes hoarding or warehousing.

Shelters following the No Kill model work diligently to prevent animals from being placed in shelters at all using pet retention, medical, and behavioral programs. Once placed, animals are moved OUT of the shelter by transferring them to rescue groups, returning them to their owner, placing them in volunteer foster care and promoting their adoptions.

### No Kill is more expensive.

Not so! Adoptions generate money and are more cost-effective than impounding, housing, and then killing animals. Additionally, reliance on private philanthropy, such as rescue groups and volunteers shifts costs of care from public taxpayers to private individuals and groups. A national, multi-state study found no correlation between per capita funding for animal control and save rates.

### No Kill shelters only take the animals they want to take, and leave the rest to be handled by a Kill shelter.

The No Kill movement does NOT advocate that municipal shelters become limited admission in order to achieve No Kill. This is different from a private rescue group with a shelter facility that chooses not to kill the animals in its care, and therefore limits its intake. There are currently 55 open admission, No Kill municipal shelters operating in Michigan.

### Resources:

[michiganpetfund.org](http://michiganpetfund.org)  
[nokilladvocacycenter.org](http://nokilladvocacycenter.org)  
[rescue50.org](http://rescue50.org)  
[theshelterpetproject.org](http://theshelterpetproject.org)



Cutty - our founding dog