

Resolution to Reaffirm the "No-Kill Animal Shelter" Policy in DeKalb County

WHEREAS, the killing of healthy and treatable animals as a method of managing animal shelter populations has been contested by numerous communities nationwide, with hundreds of these communities ending the unnecessary killing in their municipal shelters;

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners passed a no-kill resolution in November of 2017, affirming the support of the no-kill policy for the DeKalb animal shelter, becoming the 2nd county in Georgia to do so;

WHEREAS, the No Kill Equation, which is a comprehensive model of programs and services like foster care, marketing and promotion, offsite adoptions, and robust adoption campaigns during convenient hours, has repeatedly showcased its humane and effective nature;

WHEREAS, by embracing the No Kill Equation, various communities have reported a nationwide shelter death rate decline of 95%, a 30% decrease in puppy mills, and notable shifts from buying to adopting pets;

WHEREAS, the financial burden of traditional impounding, holding, killing, and disposing of animals averages about \$135.00 per animal, making it a revenue-negative process;

WHEREAS, in stark contrast, the No Kill Equation's programs not only prove to be cost-effective but also serve as potential revenue sources, such as through adoptions and partnerships with private entities, ultimately reducing costs for taxpayers;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive six-year study revealed that a city with a No Kill ordinance experienced a 67% increase in dog adoptions and a 49% increase in cat adoptions. In this same city, dog killings dropped by 94%, and cat killings decreased by 91%. Furthermore, this commitment to No Kill policies resulted in an economic injection of over \$157 million, with an investment of just over \$30 million;

WHEREAS, global companies like Google have recognized and applauded communities that prioritize animal welfare, stating that such communities are attractive to "a young, vibrant, pet-loving workforce";

WHEREAS, it is vital to note that the No Kill Equation is meticulously designed to maintain public safety, with studies confirming that regions with No Kill mandates have seen dog bites classified as "severe" fall by 89%;

WHEREAS, the belief and understanding of the public are clear, with 96% of Americans advocating for our moral obligation to care for animals and endorsing strong legislative protections for them. Such powerful bipartisan support underlines that a No-Kill ordinance isn't just ethically sound and economically beneficial, but it's also a manifestation of responsive governance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Commissioners of DeKalb County, strongly urge CEO Michael Thurmond to:

1. Recommit to the "no-kill animal shelter" policy in DeKalb County, ensuring that it aligns with best practices and the public's wishes;
2. Prioritize the holistic implementation and continual improvement of the No-Kill Equation in all of DeKalb County's animal shelters;
3. Advocate for the consistent application of the No-Kill policy to save animal lives, foster economic growth, and reflect the values of our community.
4. Form an animal welfare task force made up of relevant departments, animal advisory board members, judicial system, Board of Commissioners, the Law Department and community stakeholders to review, advise and act on full implementation of the "no-kill equation" program and policy framework

Through these actions, we believe that DeKalb County can solidify its position as a beacon of compassion, innovation, and responsible governance in the realm of animal welfare.

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ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ROBERT PATRICK
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this _____ day of _____, 2023.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
County Clerk
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Office

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia