



Pet Lifesaving Dashboard Designation Exemption Form

A 90% total save rate for all animals in a shelter system is an effective benchmark for measuring a community's progress towards no-kill. Being able to reach that percentage indicates that shelters have the relationships and resources that make it possible to save the life of every cat and dog who can be saved.

The number of pets brought to shelters who are suffering from irremediable medical or behavioral issues that compromise their quality of life and prevent them from being saved typically does not comprise more than 10% of all pets entering the shelter system. Therefore, any shelter operating at or above a 90% save rate will automatically receive the designation of no-kill in the Best Friends Pet Lifesaving Dashboard.

We recognize in some cases that there may be shelters that provide needed services to their community and practice the philosophical principles of saving every savable cat and dog, yet do not meet the 90% benchmark. For these shelters to be designated as no-kill on the Pet Lifesaving Dashboard, the following exemption process has been developed. It must be displayed on either the shelter's page in the community dashboard itself and/or the shelter's website and lifesaving status must be updated annually:

Our shelter is committed to saving every animal in our care who can be saved. We do not end the life of healthy or treatable pets even at an owner's request. We only euthanize a pet if:

- *A veterinarian has assessed that there is no chance of recovering an acceptable quality of life, or*
- *It would be clearly inhumane or unsafe not to do so immediately, or*
- *In cases of irremediable canine aggression when (1) a veterinarian has eliminated medical*
- *treatment as a solution; (2) rehabilitation by a specialist in canine behavior has failed; and (3) staff and public safety cannot be reasonably assured, or other management protocols seriously compromise quality of life.*

Additionally, we ask that shelters use the list below to provide information explaining the services they provide that align with no-kill philosophy, but that may also have a negative effect on their community's save rate. These programs and services are integral to the mission of saving cats and dogs, so we encourage shelters to display them on their websites to show all of the hard work and dedication that they have for pets in their community.

The reason(s) our shelter falls below the 90% benchmark is (please check all boxes that apply):

Died in care – *our shelter has a relatively high number of animals who die in care because:*

We have a neonatal kitten program. Neonatal kittens have fragile immune systems and often arrive at the shelter as orphans and with compromised health. We make every effort to treat and care for kittens until they are eating on their own and healthy enough to go to a foster home, but some lives are still lost despite those efforts.

We accept and provide medical care to old, injured and sick animals. Some do not make it, despite our best efforts.

Euthanized – our shelter has a relatively high number of animals who are euthanized in our care because:

We serve a community that has few, if any, veterinary resources. We provide a compassionate end-of-life service for members of our community who request euthanasia and could not otherwise afford the service at a veterinary clinic.

We provide emergency/ambulance services for stray animals.

We provide hospice and/or sanctuary care for animals and are responsible for end-of-life care for that population.

Other. Please describe (450 character limit with spaces):

Will you post this language on your shelter's website? Yes No

If yes, please enter the URL: WWW.SANJOSEANIMALS.COM

Please note that all shelters completing this agreement will have the language displayed on their shelter page in the Pet Lifesaving Dashboard.

In certain cases, if a shelter displays the above statement but credible claims suggest otherwise, we may request that the shelter undergo a review process to **retain an exemption designation** on the dashboard. This process will be conducted by a review panel convened by Best Friends and including other independent animal welfare experts.

In order to preserve the collective credibility of the dashboard and its users, Best Friends reserves the right to remove the no-kill designation of shelters and communities where there is credible evidence of serious and ongoing misconduct. Best Friends reserves this right to account for the extremely rare cases of gross misrepresentation and/or illegal behavior.


By signing below, Signee attests that they are an official representative of the Organization, and that they agree to the terms of this Agreement.

Organization: San Jose Animal Care and Services

Name: Jay Terrado

Title: Deputy Director

(authorized representative, executive director or equivalent)

Signature:  _____

Date: 3-6-21 _____