

No Kill Huntsville - No Kill Equation Elements Wish list

High volume/low cost spay neuter



Market the Fixin' Alabama Program more, perhaps with the help of city council members; a lot of people just don't know about it

Microchip animals spayed/neutered in the Fixin' Alabama Program to help them get back home (perhaps using chips supplied by the city)

Refer people to the North Alabama Spay and Neuter Clinic or some other affordable location if they do not qualify for the city's low-income program

Community cat programs



Market the barn cat program to reach people in rural areas, perhaps with the help of city council and county commission members – a lot of people don't know about it

Educate the public about the value of TNR and SNR with the help of city council members in town hall meetings

Ongoing liaison with nonprofit groups performing TNR in the community – Forgotten Felines and Cattyshack

Pet Retention Programs



Provide resource and re-homing counseling to people who think they have no alternative to surrendering their pet to try to divert shelter intake

Create a waiting list for those who want to surrender their pet in all but the most extraordinary cases (death of the owner, incapacitation of the owner)

Encourage people to create plans for their pets in the event of their death, incapacitation, hospitalization or incarceration so they don't end up at HAS or any other shelter

Proactive Redemptions



Market the Lost and Found GIS map maintained by the engineering department so people can find their lost pets and help find those who belong to neighbors

Ensure officers in the field are scanning for microchips, checking for rabies or license tags, checking with people or businesses in the area to locate owners and prevent intake

Ongoing liaison with the Madison County Animal Control Department to encourage them to do the same (since county intake has risen sharply)

Comprehensive Adoption Programs

Ongoing fee waived events, reduced fee events and special promotions like seniors for seniors, discounts for active-duty service members and veterans; perhaps funding through grant funding



Change HAS hours to be open from 10-6 Monday, Wednesday and Friday (closing at 5 on Tuesday and Thursday) and add Sunday hours from 10-4 using staggered scheduling to make it easier to adopt (and reclaim) a pet; your animals compete with those from other shelters and rescues and people get animals from other locations with better hours – both Florence/Lauderdale and Marshall are open 7 days a week

Hold periodic off-site adoption events at city parks in each district to take animals to the people; it's harder for people who use public transportation to adopt

Foster Programs



Ongoing requests using social media, the city's website and the media to seek fosters (including those who stopped fostering during the previous shelter leadership)

Market the concept of fostering using short videos created the help of the communications department and the city videographer

Reinstitute the hospice program for elderly and/or terminally ill animals with fosters to live out the rest of their days

Rescue Group Liaison



Ongoing liaison with rescue groups to manage those relationships and so they pull from HAS - and focus less on locations outside Huntsville and Madison County (not one animal was pulled from HAS by rescues in July)

Consider offering a nominal financial incentive to rescues to pull HAS animals to offset their costs (paid from the nonprofit fund)

Volunteer Programs

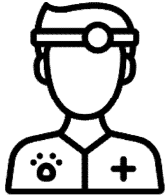


Seek volunteers on an ongoing basis (now that the volunteers are allowed back in the shelter)

Invite people who volunteered previously, but who were told not to return, to consider volunteering again now that there has been a change in leadership

Ensure all staff (including senior staff) understand they cannot bar someone entry to HAS as a public building for being critical of HAS

Medical and Behavioral Programs



Consider enacting the HAPA to codify the proposed standards for animal care and to have more guardrails related to euthanasia (including for behavior)

Bring Kelley Bollen back to HAS in the spring for training related to dog behavior (since the city originally planned to have her conduct training in October that was instead conducted by Trish McMillan)

Consider using a portion of the 10-acre parcel south of HAS for dog enrichment using outdoor dog outdoor kennels (for day housing of 8-10 dogs per kennel) to reduce stress and by clearing a simple oval walking trail around the kennels to exercise dogs instead of walking them along A Cleaner Way

Community Outreach/Public Relations



Host a “meet the director” forum to invite the public to learn more about the shelter director and so the public can voice concerns about past operation of HAS and be assured things will change

Do one community outreach meeting a month (each city council and county commission district) with help of elected officials to help reduce intake and help educate the public (spay/neuter, chipping, keeping dogs contained, finding a lost pet, fostering, adopting)

Use the media and billboards to market the Fixin’ Alabama program and to promote fostering, volunteering and adopting

Proactively market HAS as a place for answers and assistance to divert shelter intake since animal problems are people problems

Compassionate Leadership

Consider enacting the HAPA to further codify the operation of HAS and to prevent further decline in lifesaving at HAS

Create an environment of no excuses in which each animal is treated as an individual who either was, or could be, a beloved family member

Focus on helping the public make better choices and being judgment-free rather than treating the public (or advocates) like the enemy

Seek grant funding on an ongoing basis to offset costs for fee-waived events or special projects (a list of grants is on the National Animal Care and Control Association website and a city employee could be trained in grants specific to shelters)



<https://www.nacenet.org/grant-opportunities/>

<https://www.grants4animals.com/TrainYourOwnGrantWriter>