



## AUNTIE JEN'S ANIMAL CRAZY, ISSUE 192 5/22/14

*TIME TO NO KILL in HUNTSVILLE*

*"Picture this:*

*A press conference is called by the City of Huntsville. The public is invited to attend. Media outlets are there. At a podium stand Mayor Tommy Battle, City Administrator John Hamilton and Huntsville Animal Services Director Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard. They are accompanied by a host of local public officials, public figures, animal rescuers and animal advocates, some of whom have leashed dogs with them. And the press conference begins.*

*Mayor Battle announces that a decision has been made to make Huntsville and the Madison County region a 'No Kill Community.' He tells all those present that after some soul searching and networking with people across the country, the city has decided it is no longer going to destroy healthy and treatable animals using our tax dollars because doing so is just not consistent with our culture, with the values in our community and with the values in our country. He says that there is much work to be done. That making this transition will take the support of the entire community but that he and city leaders have decided to draw a line in the sand and take a leap of faith that we can, and must, do this for the sake of the people who live and work here and for the sake of the animals we say we love. We are already known as a great place to live and work and we have an impressive resume as a community, but we want to add the description 'No Kill Community' to our list of attributes. Mayor Battle goes on to say that he is convinced we can do this because so many other communities have taken this step before us. We are the Star of Alabama. The Heart of the Tennessee Valley. We are smart, progressive and creative. And we will lead the way for our state and show that we can save the lives of animals which are homeless or lost while saving tax dollars in the process.*

*This is our vision. This is our goal.*

*The members of No Kill Huntsville banded together to speak with one voice for the sake of our community. We support and promote the No Kill Equation because it has been proven to work in every community where it has been fully implemented. It balances public safety with animal welfare and fiscal responsibility. It's just a smarter way to use our existing resources, it does not take increased cost output and saving the lives of animals stimulates our local economy.*

*It is a decision. It is a choice. Please join us as we seek to make this*

vision our reality." [www.nokillhuntsville.com](http://www.nokillhuntsville.com)

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### **Who is No Kill Huntsville?**

*The current membership of No Kill Huntsville includes well-respected members of the community you already know: Nina Beal (The Ark), Karen Borden (Dixie Dachshund Rescue), Dianne Burch (World of Pawsabilities), Susan Burlingame (Challenger's House), Jean Douglas (animal welfare advocate/former GHHS board member), Jane Jattuso (North Alabama Spay/Neuter Clinic), and Aubrie Kavanaugh (Paws4Change.com). No Kill Huntsville was founded in January 2012. I met them July 29, 2013 at the public library for their first public seminar, which was attended by city and regional shelter directors (minus Huntsville Animal Services Director Dr. Hill-Sheppard), rescue groups and animal advocates.*

### **What is the No Kill Equation, and how do we know it works?**

*It's an 11-point equation that works to both keep animals out of the shelter and get animals out of the shelter. The No Kill Equation can be found at [www.nokillhuntsville.com/The-No-Kill-Equation.html](http://www.nokillhuntsville.com/The-No-Kill-Equation.html). Over 230 communities across the U.S. have already put the No Kill Equation into effect and are saving 90-99% of all their shelter animals ([www.nokillhuntsville.com/No-Kill-Communities.html](http://www.nokillhuntsville.com/No-Kill-Communities.html)).*

### **So why does Huntsville need to get serious about adopting the No Kill Equation ASAP?**

*In 2013, only 56% of the dogs and only 32% of the cats Huntsville Animal Services (HAS) took in walked out alive. 80% of those dogs and 83% of those cats destroyed in 2013 were healthy and treatable. (Visit [www.nokillhuntsville.com/Our-Shelter-Data.html](http://www.nokillhuntsville.com/Our-Shelter-Data.html) to verify this data and review HAS shelter data from 2008-2013).*

### **What can HAS do?**

*Accept that current methods are not working - and embrace the proven No Kill Equation now.*

*Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter (UPAWS) of Marquette County, Michigan is one of the No Kill shelters that have invited Dr. Hill-Sheppard and John Hamilton to visit and tour their award-winning No Kill facility.*

*"UPAWS is very excited at the possibility of hosting a visit from Dr. Hill-Sheppard and Mr. Hamilton," states UPAWS director Reva Laituri. "We would welcome the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences."*

*On May 9, the members of No Kill Huntsville invited Dr. Hill-Sheppard to participate in "Just One Day." For the day of June 11, shelters across the U.S. and Canada are pledging to put down the lethal injection needle and refrain from killing healthy animals - and instead will do things like "pick up a camera" and socially network those healthy dogs and cats on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. More info at [www.justoneday.ws](http://www.justoneday.ws).*

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- **WHAT THEN MUST WE DO**

***What can you and I do?***

*Tell our city officials we want to live in a No Kill Community in 2015.*

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**City Administrator John Hamilton**, (256) 427-5000, 308 Fountain Circle, Huntsville, AL 35801, [John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov](mailto:John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov)

**Shelter Director Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard**, (256) 883-3782, Huntsville Animal Services, 4950 Triana Blvd, Huntsville, AL 35805, [Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov](mailto:Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov)

*Please contact these Huntsville officials (and any other friends you may have in city government) today, tomorrow, as much as you need to until healthy dogs and cats are no longer needlessly destroyed in our city. We're Huntsville. We can do this!*

*Follow No Kill Huntsville on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NoKillHuntsville](http://www.facebook.com/NoKillHuntsville). Send comments to me at [writers@valleyplanet.com](mailto:writers@valleyplanet.com).*

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