

Ordinance 18-952
City of Huntsville Statements of Intent

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville values the life of each and every one of its shelter animals, and therefore strives to provide these animals with the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare, which are freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury or disease; freedom from fear and distress; and freedom to express normal behavior; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville recognizes and accepts the substantial responsibilities that come with proper sheltering and caring for its shelter animals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville will provide proactive field services by prioritizing education and the provision of resources and information, discretionary of the issuance of code violations or citations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville has increased opportunities for the live-release of its shelter animals, while balancing public safety, and animal health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville shall remain dedicated to and steadfast toward all of its existing life-saving programs and, as needed, the creation and development of additional life-saving programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville is firmly committed to an adoption and placement decision process that does not discriminate against or disparately impact any minority or under-served populations, while striving for efficient customer service; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville recognizes the vital role that robust volunteer programs is to its life-saving programs, and that the maintenance and development of this program provides improved opportunities for both its sheltered pets and the visiting general public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville seeks to quickly and reliably return pets to their owners; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville attempts to identify adoption or placement options for the shelter animals in care, while recognizing discretion is necessary to make the best decisions for animals and the communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville shall continue to provide operational transparency by closely monitoring and publishing statistical data; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville seeks to minimize euthanasia through procedural safeguards with a goal of eliminating euthanasia of healthy, treatable animals.