



Maddie's ® Pet Rescue Project
In Tuscaloosa County

The Pet Rescue Foundation

Adoption Guarantee/Zero Healthy Euthanasia Month(s)

February 2008

December 2008, and January, February 2009

April, 2009 through March, 2010

In Year Three, Maddie's Pet Rescue Project in Tuscaloosa County is expected to provide an adoption guarantee for healthy shelter pets for one month – that means no healthy shelter pets will be euthanized during that period. February 2008 has been designated as the Zero Healthy Euthanasia month for the Tuscaloosa County Project. The Project has successfully reached this goal, achieving an Adoption Guarantee for healthy dogs and cats in February 2008

In Year Four, the project is expected to provide an adoption guarantee for all healthy shelter pets for three consecutive months, December 2008, and January, February 2009. In Year Five, starting April 1, 2009, the project is expected to provide an adoption guarantee for all healthy shelter dogs and cats.

A plan and set of procedures has been developed to ensure that no healthy shelter animals will be euthanized during the designated adoption guarantee month(s).

- To guarantee a home for every healthy shelter animal in February 2008, and in December '08 and January, February of '09, and continuing to Year Five when all healthy dogs and cats will be saved, the Tuscaloosa partners have a plan in place to ensure placement of any healthy animals in danger of euthanasia at Metro Animal Shelter. Communication with all project partners will be critical to achieve this goal.
 1. The three participating adoption guarantee (AG) organizations — Alabamian's Defending Animal Rights (ADAR), Humane Society of West Alabama (HSWA), and T-Town PAWS (PAWS) — are focusing their efforts on transferring all healthy pets from Metro Animal Shelter.
 2. The Lead Agency, T-Town PAWS, will be in constant communication with Metro staff to make sure healthy animals will be moved out of the shelter before they are euthanized.
 3. Metro will email all AG groups on Monday of each week listing the healthy pets that need to be removed from the shelter.
 4. Metro will also call AG partners with information about pets that need to be removed at any point during the week should an animal be in danger of euthanasia.
 5. PAWS will be in contact with the AG partners disseminating information about animals that need to be taken out of Metro and encouraging them to take healthy animals from Metro.
- The plan of action will include the following strategies:

1. Phone calls, in-person visits and e-mails between PAWS and Metro will be used to assess and identify those healthy animals that are in danger of being euthanized.
2. All identified healthy shelter animals will be either placed for adoption by the shelter or taken into an AG partner's care and placed for adoption.
3. Should any AG partner not have the room for any healthy animal in danger of being euthanized, an emergency contingency plan will be used to temporarily place the animal in a boarding facility or in foster care until there is space available at the AG partner facility.
4. Communication between AG partner groups and the lead agency will be crucial.
 - a. AG partners should be ready to accept animals when the lead agency contacts them to help.
 - b. To do this, each partner should be making plans to have room available in their kennels, foster homes and adoption centers. Plan ahead by not filling all spaces that come available in the preceding months.
 - c. When space is available, animals can be moved into the Maddie's Adoption Room and Maddie's Adoption Center.
 - d. Should there be instances that there is absolutely no room in the Maddie's Adoption room or Center or within the AG groups, the lead agency will make arrangements to board the animals at a vet clinic or boarding facility.

Planning & Preparation

Preparing for zero healthy death month(s) in Years Three, Four and all of Year Five will take planning to identify practices and procedures that will become the model for future years. If successful, these implemented "model practices" will contribute to lowering and/or eliminating healthy and total euthanasia rates and increase adoptions.

- **Pet Evaluation Matrix**
 1. The Pet Evaluation questionnaire, developed by Mobile County, will be used by the Tuscaloosa partners to help establish the community standard of care and the matrix for Tuscaloosa County.
 2. The Matrix establishes a community standard of care and shows how Maddie's Fund definitions are being applied.
- **Capacity Building**
 1. Each organization will evaluate refining their hours of operation and consider expanding adoption days and times.
 - a. The Project will encourage Metro Animal Shelter to be open longer on Saturdays for adoptions.
 2. AG groups will work to expand their volunteer base and foster home networks.
- **Foster Care**
 1. Increases the number of lives that can be saved while at the same time providing an opportunity for community members to volunteer.
 2. Increases the number of healthy animals AG organizations can take out of the shelters should they reach their maximum kennel space.
 3. Creates a bank of foster parents to handle any overflow during Adoption Guarantee Month(s).
 4. These animals benefit from being socialized in a home environment.

5. Increases the medical and behavioral health of the animal and helps make a better match of pet and family.
 6. Actively recruit foster parents now for dogs and cats. Solicit the most dedicated and knowledgeable individuals from each AG partner base.
- Boarding
 1. Contact local pet boarding facilities and veterinary clinics to find out if they will offer discounted boarding fees during the Adoption Guarantee month(s) to house animals in case of emergency.
 2. Offer promotional consideration on each member's website and in newsletters.
 - Breed Rescue Organizations
 1. Update breed rescue contact information and create a master resource list for all partners to access and use during February and beyond.
 - Education & Resources
 1. We will continue to address behavior issues through a variety of educational tools and resources:
 - a. A series of pet behavior and training resources are available and are designed to unite pets and their people for life. The topics provide information and solutions to common behavior problems.
 - b. These resources will be actively promoted and provided to pet guardians.
 - c. Behavior and training sheets and DVD's are provided to each adopter of both dogs and cats.
 - d. Behavior and training sheets and DVD's are provided to the general public that request information on training.
 - Spay & Neuter Programs
 1. All dogs and cats adopted through the Maddie's Pet Rescue Project will be spayed or neutered before they are placed for adoption.
 2. The project will continue to educate, promote and provide resources to encourage the sterilization of all pets.
 3. Promote Maddie's Spay/Neuter Program through all member newsletters, mailings, PSA'S and paid advertising.
 4. Set up a S/N table at all Maddie coalition adoption events.
 5. Explore new opportunities to increase the reach and frequency of this message to a wider audience.
 6. Provide informational flyers to all participating veterinarians, pet-oriented businesses like Pet Supplies Plus and feed stores.
 7. Provide additional spay & neuter assistance through T-Town PAWS programs.
 8. Provide educational materials through flyers and brochures discussing the benefits of S/N.

Emergency Contingency Plan

Should any AG partner not have the room for a healthy animal in danger of being euthanized at Metro Animal Shelter in the Zero Healthy Death period, the animal will be placed in a boarding facility or in foster care until there is space available at the AG partner facility.

- Foster Care

1. Each partner group will have an established group of foster parents who will be called upon to temporarily take in a dog or cat should room not be available at the AG partner facility.
- Boarding
 1. If no foster care is available, then temporary boarding of the animal will take place until a foster home is available or room becomes available the AG facility.
 - Breed Rescue Organizations
 1. Breed rescue groups will be contacted should a healthy purebred animal come into the animal shelter that the adoption guarantee group does not have room for or cannot place.