

## RESOLUTION 2019-\_\_\_\_\_

### A RESOLUTION OF DAVIS COUNTY, UTAH, ADOPTING SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS ANIMAL SHELTERING PRINCIPLES

**WHEREAS**, Davis County has a vested interest in the public's safety with regards to domesticated animals and zoonotic diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, Davis County has a vested interest in providing the best possible outcome for all animals that enter the custody of Davis County Animal Care and Control; and

**WHEREAS**, Davis County has determined that the tenets of Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering principles are aligned with the communities' interests of public safety and providing a responsible and appropriate outcome for each individual animal that enters into the care and custody of Davis County Animal Care and Control.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the legislative body of Davis County, Utah as follows:

1. Davis County Animal Care and Control adopt and adhere to the guiding principles and tenets of Socially Conscious Sheltering; and
2. Davis County animal Care and Control continue to work diligently to ensure the public safety and provide the best possible outcome for animals as it has in the past and from this day forward.
3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

This Resolution was duly PASSED, ADOPTED, and/or APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of September, 2019, with Commissioners Randy B. Elliott \_\_\_\_\_, Lorene M. Kamalu \_\_\_\_\_, and Bob J. Stevenson \_\_\_\_\_, all voting as documented herein.

DAVIS COUNTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy B. Elliot, Chair, Board of County  
Commissioners of Davis County, Utah

ATTEST:

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Curtis Koch  
Davis County Clerk/Auditor

Approved as to Form:

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Davis County Attorney

# Exhibit

## Principles of Socially Conscious Sheltering

1. **Place every healthy and safe animal.** Every single one. Healthy is defined as either having no signs of clinical disease or evidence of disease that a veterinarian determines has a good or excellent prognosis for a comfortable life. Safe means that the animal has not exhibited behavior that is likely to result in severe injury or death to another animal or person.
2. **Ensure every unwanted or homeless pet has a safe place to go for shelter and care.** An animal's opportunity to be nurtured, healed, and rehomed should not depend on their age or condition—every community must have a shelter that accepts all animals brought to it. It is unacceptable to turn animals away because they are too old, too sick, too broken.
3. **Assess the medical and behavioral needs of homeless animals and ensure these needs are thoughtfully addressed.** Animals housed in shelters and rescues must be assessed for disease and injury and must have all medical conditions addressed so the animal does not suffer. These animals must also have their behavioral needs assessed and met, including enrichment sufficient to make them comfortable and to prevent self-destructive, obsessive-compulsive coping behaviors.
4. **Align shelter policy with the needs of the community.** Does the community allow trap-neuter-return programs? If so, offer them. Will members of your community adopt animals with chronic disease, are they willing to assume the time and expense of managing that disease? If so, with full disclosure, place them in these homes. Socially Conscious Shelters listen to their communities.
5. **Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions.** Compassionate euthanasia is a gift. It is not acceptable to let a terminally ill, suffering animal languish in a cage until it dies naturally when compassionate euthanasia can ease that endless pain. It is not acceptable to house a known dangerous animal who cannot be safely placed in the community for years until it goes crazy in a cage. Each euthanasia decision is difficult, and every decision must consider the welfare of the individual animal.
6. **Enhance the human-animal bond through safe placements and post adoption support.** Integrating a living being into a new home can be difficult. As adoption agencies, Socially Conscious Shelters have a responsibility to support the new family. This can mean post-adoption behavior advice, classes for new pet caregivers, addressing shelter related medical needs and being willing to accept the animal back if the pet and the family are not a good fit. It also means not placing animals into homes that disrupt the human-animal bond by injuring children, other pets and other people. There are many behavior issues that can be addressed through behavior modification and positive experiences. There are other behaviors that are dangerous and that cannot be mitigated.
7. **Consider the health, wellness and safety of animals for each community when transferring animals.** Moving dogs and cats from communities that do not have homes available for them to communities where people are actively seeking pets saves lives. However, bringing pets into a community is a responsibility. It is a responsibility to the animals already living in that community to not bring in infectious diseases that would make them sick. It is a responsibility to those living within the community to bring in animals that will live in harmony. And there is a responsibility to the community from which animals are being moved to impact that community's animal welfare struggles through humane education and spay and neuter programs.
8. **Foster a culture of transparency, ethical decision making, mutual respect, continual learning and collaboration.** Socially Conscious Shelters are committed to full transparency. This can include reporting accurate statistics, sharing policies, and fully and quickly admitting when mistakes are made. Integrity must be the foundation of all decisions. Every shelter can learn something from every other shelter—it is important to be curious and to share innovative solutions to common problems. Only by working together can we ensure the best outcomes for all animals.