

“Imagine the Possibilities When We Work Together”



For the dogs and cats of Muncie, Indiana, the city’s official slogan rings true as it embraces the strongest law for protection of shelter animals in the nation. Congratulations Muncie and thank you.



A beacon of hope for the millions of dogs, cats, and other animals still needlessly losing their lives in American shelters every year

In keeping with the spirit of Muncie, Indiana’s official motto, “Imagine the Possibilities When We Work Together,” the Muncie City Council just passed the strongest companion animal protection law in the nation, demonstrating that when it comes to caring for the community’s neediest dogs, cats, and other shelter animals, the city’s commitment to the will of its people is more than mere words. Not only has municipal shelter leadership in Muncie overhauled its operating procedures to protect animals and better reflect the community’s values, but it has empowered the animal-loving citizens of Muncie as collaborative partners in caregiving, transforming the city into one of the safest communities for shelter animals in the nation. Just as exciting, the city leadership of Muncie demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that those changes and the success they foster endure, giving them both permanence and continuity through the strength of law. As such, Muncie now stands as a model of both compassionate care and how to sustain it for communities across America.

What is to credit for Muncie’s success? Below is a side-by-side comparison of the sheltering policies and practices that Muncie has enshrined into legislation, protocols which have allowed its municipally funded, open-admission animal control shelter to stand in stark contrast to the majority of American shelters whose practises continue to result in the needless deaths of millions of dogs and cats nationwide every year. If every shelter in the United States adopted the same innovative and compassionate approach to sheltering now mandated by Muncie law, animals who now leave our nation’s shelters out the back door in garbage bags would leave out the front door in the loving arms of families. Just like they do in Muncie.

SHELTERING PROTOCOL	TYPICAL AMERICAN CITY	MUNCIE, IN
Minimum holding period for strays	3-5 days	7 days
Minimum holding period for animals who are surrendered	0 days	7 days
Allows animals to be killed immediately after holding period expires without making available for adoption or rescue	YES	NO
Allows animals to be killed even with empty cages/kennels	YES	NO
Allows an animal to be killed even if rescue groups or other shelters offer to take that animal	YES	NO
Requires shelter to notify “owner”/finder that animal will be killed in order to give that person an opportunity to reclaim the animal	NO	YES

SHELTERING PROTOCOL	TYPICAL AMERICAN CITY	MUNCIE, IN
Requires shelter to notify rescue groups and give them the opportunity to save an animal scheduled to be killed	NO	YES
Prohibits killing healthy and treatable animals	NO	YES
Mandated live release rate	NO	YES: 90%
Requires exercise and socialization of shelter animals	NO	YES
Requires prompt and necessary veterinary care, including vaccinations	NO	YES
Bans breed specific legislation	YES	YES
Bans discrimination based on appearance, age, or color	NO	YES
Requires microchip scanning and other efforts to match found animals with lost reports	NO	YES
Mandates transparency of sheltering statistics	NO	YES
Bans selling animals for research	NO	YES
Incentivizes adoption and transfer over killing	NO	YES
Reduces length of stay without killing	NO	YES



The No Kill Advocacy Center is a national, non-profit organization working to end the systematic killing of animals in our nation's shelters. NKAC was honored to work with Muncie shelter leadership to pass this revised version of our model legislation, the Companion Animal Protection Act. Similar assistance is available to shelter directors, legislators, and local animal lovers in every community as part of our

founding mission to ensure that every animal entering every shelter in America is guaranteed the compassionate care and second chance that is his or her birthright.

To request help expanding the safety net of care for shelter animals in your community through advocacy, legislation, or consulting, visit us at nokilladvocacycenter.org (follow us on [facebook.com/nokilladvocacycenter](https://www.facebook.com/nokilladvocacycenter)).

Model Legislation to Improve the Performance & Life-Saving of Animal Shelters



The Companion Animal Protection Act

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A No Kill nation is within our reach