



The Humane Society of the North Bay: “No-Kill” Policy

The Humane Society of the North Bay (HSNB) is a non-profit organization that:

- Offers refuge, medical care, nourishment and an opportunity for a second chance at life to homeless animals;
- Strives to protect animals from cruelty, neglect, carelessness and ignorance;
- Helps foster a public sentiment of humanity and gentleness toward all animals through education and encouragement;
- Promotes the lifelong commitment of responsible pet ownership.

As a non-profit organization, most of our funding comes from individuals and businesses in the form of generous donations of money, supplies and services, as well as from sales at our Happy Tails Thrift Store (*located at 1825 Springs Road in Vallejo*).

How do animals come to HSNB?

Owners surrender their pets, or the animals are found as strays, or they sometimes are rescued from abusive or neglectful situations. Based on space availability, financial resources, and/or the opportunity to place animals in temporary foster homes, HSNB accepts as many animals as possible into our adoption program.

How do you evaluate animals for adoption potential?

We evaluate all animals as candidates for adoption based on a professional assessment of temperament, behavior and general health. We do take in older animals, orphaned kittens and puppies, and those with treatable medical issues.

Do you keep animals with serious medical conditions?

Occasionally we keep animals with permanent disabilities or longer-term medical conditions because we have available space at HSNB or foster homes willing to care for them until they're strong enough for adoption. The number of “special needs” animals we're able to keep is wholly dependent upon donations for the costly medical care required.

If I surrender my animal, can I make sure that it stays with HSNB?

HSNB makes decisions on which animals to keep based on temperament evaluations, health and kennel/cage availability. Please be aware that the friendly animal you surrender may, in the difficult shelter environment, develop behavior problems that can make it unadoptable. When you surrender your pet, we can't promise that it won't be sent to the Solano County Shelter.

How long do you keep an animal available for adoption?

Once an animal has been accepted by HSNB for adoption, it lives with us until it finds a new home. There is no time limit on their length of stay.

If HSNB decides not keep my animal for adoption, can I take it back?

If you have surrendered your animal to our care, it becomes the “property” of HSNB. You will need to start a new application process for adoption, including paying fees for any medical procedures or micro-chipping we have provided.

What happens to animals that aren't chosen to stay at HSNB?

It's a sad fact that not enough people spay/neuter their pets, allowing unchecked breeding that results in an overwhelming number of homeless animals. In addition, some pet owners don't honor their commitment to their pets and leave them on the streets as strays, or surrender them to the shelter either because they're no longer able to care for them or simply don't want the responsibility. Right now, the number of animals coming into our shelter far outweighs the number of animals adopted.

As a small non-profit organization, HSNB faces continual financial challenges and space limitations, with a public adoption area consisting of just 20 dog kennels, 22 cat cages, and a few cages for rabbits and other animals. There are also a small number of kennels and cages available for animals waiting for space to be freed up in the public adoption area. Hundreds of animals arrive at HSNB each month, especially during kitten season, and there are many times when we simply don't have any kennel or cage space available. Sadly, we then have to make the very difficult decision to turn animals over to the Solano County Shelter, which makes an independent decision on what happens to those animals.

Does the Solano County Animal Shelter euthanize animals?

The Solano County Shelter does euthanize animals at their facility, although they try not to euthanize animals solely due to space limitations. But again, the sad fact is that there are more animals than there are adoptive families – animal overpopulation and available space is an issue for all shelters.

Does HSNB ever euthanize adoptable animals?

HSNB only authorizes animals to be euthanized in cases where they are gravely injured or become so ill or disabled that to prolong life would cause unacceptable and inhumane suffering.

How can I help?

- **PLEASE**, spay and neuter your pets – and encourage your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to do the same.
- Don't buy pets – **ADOPT!** In addition to our adorable mutts and beautiful mixed breed cats, we often get purebred animals surrendered to our shelter.
- If you can't adopt right now, consider becoming a temporary foster family and give a dog, cat or rabbit a second chance to find their forever home.
- We always need (and appreciate!) volunteers to walk dogs, socialize cats, clean kennels, do laundry, transport dogs to the groomer's or take them to adoption events. If you have a couple of spare hours, come down to the shelter and join our extended family.

How can I donate to HSNB?

- Consider one-time or regular monthly tax-deductible donations to HSNB. Our website has details on how to donate, or you can call the shelter and request that a printed monthly donor application form be mailed to you. Or you can write a check and send it to HSNB (1121 Sonoma Blvd, Vallejo, CA 94590, with the envelope marked to the attention of "Bookkeeper").
- Remembering HSNB in your estate planning will make a lasting donation that will help improve the lives of animals for many years to come.
- Attend one of our fundraisers throughout the year – meet fellow animal lovers and help us raise money to help more animals.
- Love helping the underdog? Donate to our Second Chance fund for "special needs" pets.

In the end, saving animals from euthanasia comes down to people taking responsibility for their pets. Ending pet-overpopulation is an ongoing and active partnership in our community – together, we can save more lives.