

# Why Natchitoches Needs a new Pet Adoption Center and Animal Shelter

*How a community treats its animals says a lot about a community's values.*

- Operating a high kill rate animal control facility is no longer an acceptable practice.
- Most U.S. cities have adopted low/no kill operations.
- The City of Natchitoches Animal Control takes in 575 – 720 unwanted or lost pets per year. Numbers from 2019 to 2021 show that over 55% of these pets are euthanized.
- If the transfers to the 2 local rescue organizations are subtracted, the Natchitoches Animal Control City Shelter kill rate would be as high as 64 to 74%, whereas the national average is just 17%. (<https://bestfriends.org/no-kill-2025/animal-welfare-statistics>)
- Our euthanasia rate is unacceptably high. In order to be considered low kill or no kill, (which opens up a LOT of outside grant money) the kill rate has to be below 10% and usually accounts for animals with severe medical or behavioral issues.
- Natchitoches has 4 facilities: City Animal Control, 2 rescue groups, and a non-functioning Parish structure. All are outdated and were not designed to handle the current intake of animals. Despite all efforts of all parties, all 4 facilities are subject to contamination and as they are shed/barn structures that are exposed to the elements and cannot be properly cleaned and sterilized, with insufficient space to meet the demands of our community.
- Our current facilities do not provide any indoor capabilities for the animals who are brought in. No isolation rooms for the treatment and healing of sick animals or quarantining space. No properly equipped veterinary facilities for the shelter animals.
- Because we have no Trap Neuter Release program, no transport partners set up for cats, hardly any fosters, and many cat colonies, cats and kittens are our biggest failure as a community. In 2021 82% were euthanized that encountered Animal Control, 254 lives lost out of 309.
- **Why is our kill rate so high?** Because we do not have a facility that is capable of housing the policies and programs necessary to achieve low kill status. While the rescues strive to save as many as possible, still 1 out of 2 pets never come back out of the City Shelter. Although there is no data recorded for the pets that go into the Parish “Green Mile” we know that they do not do adoptions and we would not be surprised if over 80% die.

## Numbers from Natchitoches City Animal Control:

Year	# Intake cats and dogs	# Euthanized or died	% Died	Transfer to rescues	Potential % dead if there were no transfers
2019	720	396	55.0%	69	64.6%
2020	575	325	56.5%	93	72.7%
2021	665	379	57.0%	115	74.3%

## Numbers from Natchitoches Parish Animal Services:

\*\*No data/records kept or provided, Parish Animal Services has the City Animal Control Shelter euthanize their animals which are tracked in City counts and skews their kill percentage.

**Rescues in Natchitoches saved 554 pets last year, sending 434 to northern rescues and homes, but it is still not enough as the kill rate here climbs.**

*See reverse for solutions and where we are headed!!*

## ***Where we are headed:***

### **What can be done in a larger, properly designed facility?**

- A new, properly designed, modern shelter will provide the space to operate the policies and programs necessary to achieve low/no kill status.
- It will have space to offer Spay/Neuter programs to reduce intake and offer Humane Education – reducing future intake and saving the City and Parish money.
- A new shelter will allow for operation of volunteer staffing programs that provide free labor and will allow animal control more time for enforcement of ordinances.
- Volunteer staff assist in coordination with rescue organizations, fostering programs, adoptions, animal evaluation and training, maintenance, and public awareness programs
- Space in a new shelter will provide for seminars and classes for children and adults – all focused on animal safety and proper pet care. Teaching opportunities for vet tech students at NSU.
- Corporate donors will be easier to attract. Many corporations make donations based on volunteer hours. An attractive new shelter will cultivate corporate friends. Driving up to our current shelter will not inspire them to partner with us.
- A new shelter would be eligible for grant funding. That's money we are losing now that our current shelter is not eligible to receive because of its size and condition.
- At a new facility with adequate space, we can offer rabies clinics and dog wash fundraising events to pay for veterinary care and other shelter expenses.
- The public donates vastly more to low kill shelters and almost nothing to kill shelters.
- With the right facility, we can partner with local businesses for events.
- Shelter services will improve for everyone in the community.
- A new facility will provide the administrative space necessary for the current shelter staff as well as the rescue organizations who work daily from their homes and cars while tackling the overwhelming calls and requests for help as well as the administrative requirements to prepare animals for transport.
  
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** These things would all be possible if we build the RIGHT shelter. If Natchitoches officials build a shelter that is inadequate (no education room, not enough kennel space, no operating room) we will be right back to where we are now. Building an inadequate facility will be a waste of taxpayer's money. We have one chance to get this right. It is a once in our lifetime project!
  
- For Natchitoches to be a competitive city, we need to be progressive with animal control. Peer cities and Parishes - St. Tammany Parish, Terrebonne Parish, Caddo Parish, Marshall, TX, Longview, TX, Mt. Pleasant, TX and others are low/no kill cities.

We commit to this project and hope you will too.  
Natchitoches Hope for Paws and Natchitoches Humane Society  
are combining to create:

#### **Friends All United for Natchitoches Animals (FAUNA)**

and we invite you to join us.

-facebook.com/FaunaNatchitoches -- [npfauna@yahoo.com](mailto:npfauna@yahoo.com) –  
sign up: <https://forms.gle/rZDVU7CfxeHwxB2dA> OR use QR code:

