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Recipe for Lifesaving: The 12 Ingredients Required to Reach >90%

1 **Analyze Your Data**

The Recipe for Lifesaving contains 12 ingredients essential for achieving No Kill success. Your data will help you decide how to order your ingredients. Use this list as a guide as you develop your community's lifesaving strategic plan. Begin by comparing your data (all intakes and all outcomes with no exclusions of any animals) to *Best Practices. Then, go deeper by looking at your organization's data to identify groups of animals most likely to be euthanized, and analyze the pets that were taken in and how they were outcomed, broken up by species, and, if possible, by age. Once you have this data, you're ready to make a plan!

2 **Select Your Ingredients**

We encourage you to focus on two to four ingredients at a time, selecting based on your largest needs and which animals are most at-risk. Make sure to fully implement each ingredient, adding more as you become increasingly successful at working towards the goal of ending the needless killing of shelter pets.

- Lifesaving Vision
- Targeted Safety Net Programs
- Immediate Make Ready
- Sheltered Community Cats
- Large Scale Transfer/Transport
- Appropriate Capacity for Large Adult Dogs

- Population-based Foster Program
- Progressive Adoption Policies
- Intake Diversion
- Disease Prevention
- Progressive Return-to-Owner Policies
- Euthanasia List Scrutiny & Sharing

View backside for examples of the 12 Ingredients

3 **Apply the 3 R's**

Apply the 3 R's to each ingredient you select. While you'll start with implementing just a couple ingredients at a time, you can increase lifesaving immediately and, eventually, you should implement all 12 ingredients to complete the recipe.

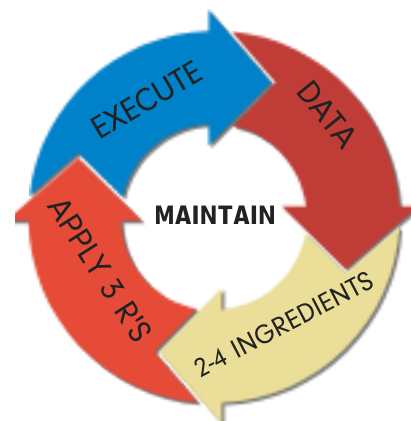**?** RESULTS — What are our measurable goals & key performance indicators?

? RESOURCES — What resources will my organization need to implement this?

? RESPONSIBILITY — Who is responsible for implementing & overseeing the success of this project?

EXECUTE · DATA · MAINTAIN · 2-4 INGREDIENTS · APPLY 3 R'S

Note: This is an overview of methods proven to increase lifesaving in a range of cities, and is not comprehensive. More in-depth information may be needed to fully execute these steps. Please visit americanpetsalive.org/resources/lifesavingworkbook.pdf to learn more and to review *Best Practices.

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The 12 Ingredients & Implementation Examples

These ingredients take the form of policies, procedures or protocols in your organization. This list is not comprehensive and examples may differ by community. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) should be used to track progress towards your goals. The overarching goal of any ingredient is to increase lifesaving and decrease euthanasia.

Lifesaving Vision

Prioritizing the No Kill philosophy in your community and instituting a culture of lifesaving in your organization.

For example: workplace culture agreement, municipal No Kill resolution, organizational core values, annual report on website charting progress towards goal, tying lifesaving into overall city strategic planning, etc.

Progressive Adoption Policies

Implementing adoption policies that focus on increasing shelter live release rates and safely removing barriers to adoption. Moving animals out the shelter as fast as they come in to prevent death for space.

For example: open, conversation-based adoption counseling, reduced fees and adoption specials, full day adoption hours 7 days a week, constant creative adoption marketing, etc.

Progressive Return-to-Owner Policies

Policies that prioritize reuniting people and pets before and after they enter the shelter.

For example: waived or reduced reclaim fees, empower Animal Protection Officers to have the option to return animals to their homes after they've been in the shelter and/or without bringing them into the shelter (return in field), proactive call to possible owners programs, etc.

Large Scale Transfer/Transport

Developing and maintaining partnerships with outside organizations who will support your shelter's lifesaving vision by helping to move animals from shelter to permanent home.

For example: make at-risk animals available to rescue partners, incentives and in-kind support provided to rescue partners, implementation of programs that prevent disease spread while waiting on transport/transfer, etc.

Disease Prevention

Identifying, rectifying and adequately overseeing processes where disease can spread. Procedures in place to control how animals physically move through the shelter from intake to outcome, addressing disease when it occurs.

For example: intake diversion/straight to foster, intake vaccine protocols, appropriate flow implementation, 72-hour quarantine before movement amongst general population, flow charts to show where each type of animal moves, immediate review process of movement, etc.

Euthanasia List Scrutiny & Sharing

Preventing unnecessary deaths of animals by providing quality control, checks and balances and ensuring there is no duplication of efforts within the community.

For example: make euthanasia list public, give the public adequate time to market and advocate for at-risk animals, policies & procedures to ensure the shelter director is aware of and approves of any & all deaths, policies to ensure that no single person has the power to euthanize without question, protocol to review all deaths weekly & find gaps in lifesaving that could prevent same future deaths, etc.

Immediate Make Ready

Making all animals available for adoption, foster, or transfer immediately, in order to compete with the clock that is set on euthanasia for space. An "every second matters" approach to finding placement for an animal.

For example: timely medical treatment protocols, making injured and sick animals available to foster or adopt with follow up care, all animals viewable with photos published ASAP, etc.

What is a KPI?

A quantifiable measurement used to evaluate the success of your program, policy or procedure.

Population-based Foster Program

Cultivating a large network of fosters to increase your capacity & meet your needs for cage space. Programs should appropriately reflect the number of animals in your care & provide fast-as-possible turnaround time for adoption once in foster.

For example: diversified foster programs for cats & dogs, communication and philosophy of team around "fosters = cages" so that as cage space is pushed to move faster, foster space is pushed, etc.

Intake Diversion

Identifying solutions and resources outside of the shelter to keep animals in homes or habitats.

For example: Pet Resource Center, PASS Programs, managed intake, return in field, found foster program, Animal Protection Officers provide assistance to keep pets with families, etc.

Sheltered Community Cats

Releasing all outdoor healthy cats back to their communities after spay and neuter.

For example: Feral Freedom Program, SNR Program, SCRAP Cat Program, community cat programs, etc.

Targeted Safety Net Programs

Developing proven lifesaving programs that address the entirety of each high-need population.

For example: neonatal kitten or puppy programs, barn cat placement, FeLV adoption program, Large dog behavior program, parvo program, ringworm program, etc.

Appropriate Capacity for Large Adult Dog Population

Planning for live release of the large dog population in your community, including their placement and shelter wellness needs while in your care.

For example: large, adult dog foster programs that house 40% percent of dogs, procurement of addition of large kennels to support dog intake, enrichment for dogs with longer length of stay, volunteer, adoption and advocacy programs that target adoption and shelter wellness for large breed dogs, etc,