

What is this no-kill goal all about?

Nevada Humane Society (NHS) is committed to making Washoe County one of the safest communities for homeless animals. We're nearly there for homeless dogs – over 90% of all dogs entering NHS or Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) leave alive. This has been made possible by the joint efforts of local rescue groups and hundreds of volunteers. WCRAS is our partner too, as they do a great job of reuniting lost pets with families, facilitating adoptions, and helping us save lives.

Quality of life for animals residing in any shelter is important. Bedding, toys, and playtime is provided, dogs go on walks, and longer term cats are moved into spacious colony rooms. Many of our 900 volunteers donate their time, providing the animals with individualized, loving attention. New volunteers are always needed, working with animals and helping in many other ways.

While WCRAS no longer handles pet adoptions, the public can view animals in their shelter, putting their names on any they would like to adopt. NHS contacts potential adopters as soon as the animals' stray holding periods end. We also review the euthanasia list each day and, along with local rescue groups, work hard to take in and find great homes for the animals. Through the end of August NHS has transferred 1093 dogs and 884 cats from WCRAS. Last year, during this same time, only 502 dogs and 207 cats were transferred to NHS.

This dramatic increase in transfers is due to the marvelous community response in adopting pets. In August, NHS found homes for 803 animals. Year-to-date adoptions are up 70% for dogs and 101% for cats over the same time last year.

NHS launched an Animal Help Desk in July providing free public assistance in resolving pet problems. The hope is to help people keep their pets, rather than turning them into shelters or abandoning them.

The no-kill community goal – save rates for dogs and cats that exceed 90% – has been achieved in many other communities and we're well on our way here. Of course, there will always be some animals (usually under 10%) who need to be euthanized because they are too ill or injured to recover or too aggressive, posing a public safety risk.

The combined save rate for NHS and WCRAS, year-to-date, is over 91% for dogs and over 73% for cats. During this same time last year, 82% of the dogs and only 52% of the cats were saved. You can view the full statistics on our website at www.nevadahumanesociety.org.

If you agree that all life is precious and the effort and care put into saving the animals of our community is worthwhile we hope you'll consider getting involved. Nevada Humane Society is a non-profit organization that depends on donations to make our work possible. If you would like to help the animals by donating your time, money, or services, please contact us at 775-856-2000 or info@nevadahumanesociety.org or just stop by the shelter – we're open 7 days a week. Thank you for caring about the animals.