

How We Do It: Smart, Sustainable Rescue

DOG BEHAVIOR PROGRAM — PROVIDING LIFE SKILLS FOR HARD-TO-PLACE PETS



No Kill Barrier:

Shelters rarely give dogs who display challenging behaviors a chance to make it out alive.



APA! Solution:

Properly assess complicated dogs and provide them with training to develop skills they need to live well with people and other animals.



Vision:

Continue improving processes so that big dogs, who typically stay in-shelter longer, have a higher quality of life while they are with us.

Though it's common for dogs to display atypical behaviors in a frightening, unfamiliar kennel, most shelters are quick to kill animals deemed "aggressive" without conducting a proper assessment.

BECAUSE ALL DOGS DESERVE A CHANCE TO PROVE THEY ARE ADOPTABLE, AUSTIN PETS ALIVE! DEVELOPED A DOG BEHAVIOR PROGRAM THAT HAS GIVEN HUNDREDS OF ANIMALS A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE BY FULLY ASSESSING THE ROOT OF PROBLEMATIC BEHAVIORS AND PROVIDING THE TRAINING AND SOCIALIZATION OPPORTUNITIES THEY NEED TO BECOME ADOPTABLE PETS.

Since 2008, APA! has provided all dogs in our care with resources to enhance their quality of life and prepare them for living in a forever home. Today, the Dog Behavior Program is organized into three parts: dog playgroups, Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and Total Obedience Program (TOP) training, and adoption follow-up.

While playgroups provide a major lifestyle improvement within the shelter, training programs give staff a better idea of each dog's unique traits, which in turn has a significant impact on the number of high energy dogs we can save and results in shorter stays in-shelter. Free adoption follow-up services such as phone consults and private lessons with APA! staff mean fewer adopted animals are returned.

The APA! Dog Behavior Program contributes to Austin's No Kill status by redefining what is adoptable, providing all dogs in our care the resources needed to enhance their quality of life and prepare them for life outside our walls.



A QUANTIFIABLE DIFFERENCE



- WE HOLD **DAILY** AM AND PM PLAYGROUPS—RAIN OR SHINE.
- MORE THAN **130 DOGS** ATTEND PLAYGROUP EACH DAY.
- IN 2018, WE TRAINED **60 CGC DOGS** AND **145 TOP DOGS**.
- **50 VOLUNTEER TRAINERS** AND **20 CANINE COACHES** PARTICIPATE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
- CGC DOGS SEE AN **80% DECREASE** IN SHELTER TIME, AND A **30% HIGHER** ADOPTION RATE.



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PARVO PUPPY ICU PROGRAM — IMPLEMENTING A LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT PROTOCOL



No Kill Barrier:

Parvovirus is a death sentence in the shelter world.



APA! Solution:

A first-of-its-kind quarantined ICU program to care for and rehabilitate shelter dogs exposed to parvovirus.



Vision:

Continue research into parvovirus treatment and lead the transformation of veterinary medicine's approach to the disease, so that many more puppies can be saved across the country.

Puppies sick with parvovirus are scrawny, lethargic and miserable from the vomiting and bloody diarrhea that accompany the contagious disease. Though many dogs can recover within one week of beginning treatment, shelters are quick to kill all animals hit with the virus as well as those who may have been exposed.

BECAUSE SICK PUPPIES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO RECOVER AND THRIVE, AUSTIN PETS ALIVE! DEVELOPED AN AFFORDABLE PARVO PUPPY ICU PROGRAM THAT HAS SAVED THOUSANDS OF ANIMALS STRICKEN WITH PARVO IN THE SHELTER ENVIRONMENT.

In 2008, APA! began pulling all dogs with parvovirus from the city shelter and developed a protocol for treating sick puppies using well-trained staff and volunteers who help keep survival rates high and treatment costs low. Since inception, our first-of-its-kind Parvo Puppy ICU Program has provided shelters an alternative to euthanasia that has saved more than 5,000 animals.

The APA! Parvo Puppy ICU is one of seven key programs that contribute to Austin's No Kill status. In addition to saving local animal lives, APA! hosts and educates students from around the country interested in taking knowledge back to their local shelters and rescue groups in order to save parvo puppies in their own communities.



A QUANTIFIABLE DIFFERENCE



- NEARLY **5,000 PUPPIES SAVED** FROM EUTHANASIA LISTS SINCE 2008.
- MORE THAN **800 PUPPIES SAVED** IN 2018 ALONE.
- ICU PROTOCOLS THAT ENABLE APA! TO TREAT PARVO PUPPIES AT **1/10TH THE COST** FOR THE SAME CARE IN A PRIVATE VET CLINIC.



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RINGWORM ADOPTION CENTER — TREATING, EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING TO SAVE LIVES



No Kill Barrier:

Ringworm is a death sentence for cats in most shelter settings.



APA! Solution:

A rescue-treatment-education-adoption program that destigmatizes ringworm and gets pets into adoptive homes.



Vision:

Save even more cats by teaching communities across the country how to implement their own Ringworm Adoption Centers.

Though ringworm is an easily-treatable, non-fatal skin condition, many shelters kill cats with the fungus rather than caring for them.

BECAUSE CATS WITH RINGWORM ARE CURABLE AND ADOPTABLE, AUSTIN PETS ALIVE! ESTABLISHED A RINGWORM ADOPTION CENTER THAT SAVES HUNDREDS OF LIVES EACH YEAR.

Since opening in 2010, the APA! Ringworm Adoption Center has kept all of Austin's ringworm cats safe, and placed many more with fosters willing to treat ringworm in a loving environment. Part of the program's success has been educating potential fosters and adopters that ringworm is a simple-to-treat skin fungus that can be cured within weeks. As a result of that education, and plenty of APA! staff support as adopters go through the process of treating their new pets at home, more than 600 ringworm cats and kittens went home with forever families in 2018.

The Ringworm Adoption Program contributes to Austin's No Kill status by destigmatizing ringworm and giving adopters the tools they need to treat their new pet.



A QUANTIFIABLE DIFFERENCE



- THE RINGWORM ADOPTION CENTER HOUSED AND TREATED MORE THAN **600 CATS** IN 2018.
- THE CENTER **HOUSED AND TREATED MORE THAN 240 CATS** IN 2016 AND **MORE THAN 375 CATS** IN 2017.
- **ZERO CATS** IN AUSTIN ANIMAL CENTER **HAVE DIED** BECAUSE OF RINGWORM SINCE THE APA! PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN 2010.

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MEDICAL TRIAGE AND WELLNESS CLINIC — FINDING WAYS TO TREAT ALL ANIMALS



No Kill Barrier:

Most shelters will not save animals brought in with medical needs.



APA! Solution:

A clinic where every animal has a chance to receive treatment for all medical issues, whether they are big or small.



Vision:

Sustain Austin's 95%+ save rate, as well as become even more of a "life raft" for surrounding community shelters whenever possible.

Though sick or injured dogs and cats are often treatable, many animal shelters either do not have a vet clinic, or resort to euthanasia rather than intervene.

BECAUSE ALL ANIMALS DESERVE A CHANCE TO LIVE, AUSTIN PETS ALIVE! ESTABLISHED A MEDICAL TRIAGE AND WELLNESS CLINIC WHERE CONDITION IS NOT A DECIDING FACTOR IN WHO GETS SAVED. EVERY DOG OR CAT WILL RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE, KINDNESS AND SOLICITUDE REGARDLESS OF THEIR HEALTH STATUS.

The APA! Clinic operates at least 70 hours a week, with five vets and fifteen vet techs responsible for all on-site and foster animals in APA!'s care. Careful budgeting and a creative approach to treatment allow staff to see around 10,000 pets each year, whether it's for vaccinations, spaying or neutering, critical illness treatment or life-saving surgery.

The APA! Clinic contributes to Austin's No Kill status by employing an "everyone gets a chance" approach that allows us to save animals other shelters would likely kill. About 85 percent of animals saved from surrounding city shelters come to us with mild to severe illnesses or injuries, and the City of Austin calls on APA! to save seriously ill or injured pets they receive from the public.



A QUANTIFIABLE DIFFERENCE



- APPROXIMATELY **2,300** ANIMALS IN ACTIVE CLINIC CARE AT ANY GIVEN TIME.
- OF THE 10,334 ANIMALS APA! TOOK IN IN 2018, **3,283** WERE **MEDICAL NEEDS** CASES OTHER SHELTERS COULD NOT HANDLE.
- IN 2018, MORE THAN **1,500** VOLUNTEER HOURS WERE DONATED TO THE CLINIC. APA! STAFF WORKED MORE THAN 30,000 HOURS.
- AROUND **7,800** SPAY AND NEUTER SURGERIES PERFORMED IN 2018.

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BARN CAT PROGRAM — CREATING A SAFE PATH FOR UNSOCIALIZED CATS



No Kill Barrier:

Most animal shelters kill unsocialized or feral cats unsuited for adoption into a home.



APA! Solution:

A path for undomesticated cats to avoid shelter euthanasia lists and be adopted into safe environments as working animals.



Vision:

Sustain this highly popular, valuable program for local cats, and save even more cats by teaching communities across the country how to implement their own Barn Cat Program.

Whether they are human-averse, introverted or feral, not all cats are suited for domestic life. Though they can thrive as working animals in outdoor environments, most shelters assume they are unadoptable and kill them as standard practice.

BECAUSE UNDOMESTICATED CATS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO LIVE HAPPY, SAFE, PRODUCTIVE LIVES, AUSTIN PETS ALIVE! ESTABLISHED A BARN CAT PROGRAM THAT HAS SAVED THOUSANDS OF LIVES.

Every year since 2009, APA! has placed around 300 cats into environments where they can hunt and live happy, safe, fulfilled lives working as organic pest controllers for families, land owners and businesses. While no cat should die simply because they can't be adopted or trapped, neutered and returned to their original environment, they do need shelter, access to food and water, and health care. Through our Barn Cat Program, animals are sterilized, vaccinated, microchipped and adopted to families who value working cats and can provide a safe, outdoor home with shelter, such as a barn, stable, garage or warehouse.

The Barn Cat Program contributes to Austin's No Kill status by providing a life-saving, humane path for a group of animals most shelters slate for euthanasia. It's one of our most popular initiatives and is replicated in shelters across the country.



A QUANTIFIABLE DIFFERENCE



- AROUND **3,000 BARN CATS PLACED** IN HOMES SINCE 2009.
- **50 BARN CATS** WITH MEDICAL NEEDS ARE **HOUSED** IN APA! SPECIAL ENCLOSURES.
- **SIX PARTNER SHELTERS** ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE STARTED THEIR OWN BARN CAT PROGRAMS AFTER ATTENDING MAD-DIE'S LIFESAVING ACADEMY THROUGH APA!.



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FELINE LEUKEMIA ADOPTION PROGRAM — REDEFINING WHAT'S POSSIBLE FOR AFFECTED CATS



No Kill Barrier:

Animal shelters automatically euthanize FeLV+ cats upon diagnosis.



APA! Solution:

A protocol for diagnosing, sheltering and rehoming FeLV+ cats, along with a revolutionary research program that has changed how the field views this misunderstood disease.



Vision:

Improve outcomes for the 60,000 cats affected annually by Feline Leukemia through funded research that explores the significance of different test result patterns as well as the survival of naturally infected cats.

Though cats afflicted with the disease can live happy, rewarding lives, Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) has long been viewed as grounds for immediate euthanasia in most animal shelters.

BECAUSE FELV+ CATS CAN STILL HAVE HAPPY, WORTHWHILE LIVES, AUSTIN PETS ALIVE! BEGAN ISOLATING AND CARING FOR AFFECTED CATS. AS A RESULT OF THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE, APA! LEARNED THAT THESE "TERMINAL" CATS LIVE LONGER, BETTER LIVES THAN THE VETERINARY FIELD PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED POSSIBLE AND LAUNCHED A GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH PROGRAM TO UNDERSTAND THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF THE DISEASE AND EXPLORE THE PROBLEM OF ERRONEOUS DIAGNOSIS.

In 2011, APA! took in four FeLV+ kittens and gave them a dedicated room to live out their lives in dignity and soon began adopting them out. That was the beginning of a landmark research program that has enabled APA! and researchers at the University of Florida to observe naturally-infected FeLV+ cats and collect data that revealed two key findings: erroneous diagnosis is not uncommon and it is possible for cats that do remain FeLV+ to have longer, fuller, more rewarding lives than previously thought.

One of seven key programs that has enabled Austin to become a No Kill city, our FeLV Adoption Program is conducting ongoing, funded, humane research to better understand FeLV testing and monitor long-term health status and survival. Meanwhile, hundreds of cats have been placed in forever or foster homes.



A QUANTIFIABLE DIFFERENCE



- **325 FELV+ CATS AND KITTENS ADOPTED** IN 2018.
- **570 FELV+ CATS AND KITTENS PLACED** IN FOSTER HOMES IN 2018 — FIVE TIMES MORE THAN IN 2016.
- **FELV+ CATS STAY** AT APA! AN AVERAGE OF **90 DAYS** BEFORE BEING ADOPTED
- APA! CURRENTLY SHELTERS **MORE FELV+ CATS** WITH VARIED MEDICAL NEEDS **THAN EVER BEFORE.**



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NEONATAL KITTEN NURSERY — GIVING ORPHANS A CHANCE TO LIVE



No Kill Barrier:

Orphaned, unweaned kittens are euthanized by default in shelters across America.



APA! Solution:

A groundbreaking, volunteer-driven, bottle-feeding program.



Vision:

Continue improving protocols in order to maintain bottle kitten survival rates of 90 percent or better, and sustain save rates into the future.

Born blind and defenseless, newborn kittens are totally reliant on their mothers to provide the round-the-clock nutrition they need to survive. When orphaned, kittens quickly starve to death. Though it is possible to keep motherless kittens alive with the right protocols in place, it is a time-intensive process and animal shelters kill tens of thousands of them each year.

BECAUSE NEARLY 90 PERCENT OF ORPHANED KITTENS CAN SURVIVE WITH THE RIGHT PROTOCOLS IN PLACE, AUSTIN PETS ALIVE! DEVELOPED A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND, HIGH-VOLUME, LOW-COST NEONATAL KITTEN NURSERY THAT HAS SAVED NEARLY 16,000 KITTENS.

Every spring since 2009, hundreds of APA! staff, fosters and volunteers step in to provide 24-7 care to the tiny orphans that historically overwhelm shelters during kitten season. These "bottle babies" are protected, fed every few hours and treated for myriad health problems. The program evolves each year as APA! continues to tweak and improve protocols that enable us to save more pets other shelters view as disposable.

The APA! Neonatal Kitten Nursery is one of seven key programs that contribute to Austin's No Kill status. In addition to saving local animal lives, APA! is spreading the program's impact by teaching other communities how to build their own neonatal kitten programs that include medical and shelter protocols, disease prevention, volunteer management and foster care placement.



A QUANTIFIABLE DIFFERENCE



- NEARLY **16,000 KITTENS SAVED** SINCE 2009.
- **100% OF UNWEANED KITTENS PULLED** FROM AUSTIN ANIMAL CENTER SINCE 2011.
- 2,215 KITTENS AND **162 MOTHER CATS WERE SAVED** IN 2018.