

Austin's No Kill Timeline

1997-2001: No Kill Millennium Era

Austin Pets Alive! formed as an advocacy group to address the lack of lifesaving in Austin. The group, along with every other animal welfare group and the city of Austin, drafted a "No Kill Millennium Plan" specifying what each entity would need to do to for the city shelter to reach No Kill (which was not defined by a percent save rate). Although there were a lot of activities mapped out, stakeholders blame a failing economy as the reason the Plan did not succeed. The major accomplishments that did occur included the institution of a volunteer program at Austin Animal Center (AAC), doubling the City Animal Center Budget, expanding adoption hours from very tiny to 11:30am to 7pm seven days a week. These efforts presumably caused a decrease in euthanasia from 85% to 50%.

2001-2006: Post No Kill Millennium

The "No Kill" goal was not met, and Austin Pets Alive! decreased activity to supporting spay/neuter which grew to >20,000 surgeries per year at low cost or free. AAC maintained the 50% euthanasia rate. Live Outcomes remained steady at about 11,000 per year.

2006-2008: Beginning of No Kill Movement through FixAustin.org

FixAustin.org was created and became active in politics and the media with Nathan Winograd's No Kill message. They fought and ultimately lost a battle to keep the city shelter downtown rather than move out by the airport.

2008-2009: Austin Pets Alive! takes off

Austin Pets Alive! was rebirthed as a rescue organization once again focused on stopping the killing of pets at the city shelter. With a laser like focus on the euthanasia list at the city shelter, APA! grew to address gaps in life-saving through innovative programs such as a Bottle Baby Kitten Nursery, Parvo Clinic, Cat Ringworm Program, and Off-Site Adoptions. Death rate at the Austin Animal Center reduced to 25% in less than 2 years.

2010-2011: City of Austin steps up to the plate

In March 2010, the City Council passed a No Kill Resolution stipulating that the city could not kill while cages are empty and must implement a large-scale foster and adoption program, as well as setting the expected benchmark at 90%. February 2011 marked the first month for a 90% save rate for the City of Austin. Austin Animal Center doubled adoptions.

2012-2013: Austin builds sustainability

Austin Pets Alive! moves into the old city shelter and continues growth to address large dogs with behavior issues. All kittens, cats, small breed dogs, and all puppies under six months of age are safe in Austin. A 90% save rate is maintained each year.

2017: Austin celebrates 6 years of a No Kill Austin

Austin reaches a 95% plus save rate and APA! continues to save more and more challenging dogs in the city shelter. APA! expands its focus to making the Central Texas region No Kill and creating a long-term home.