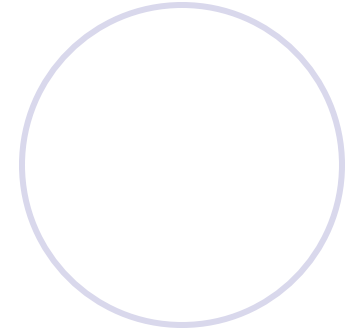
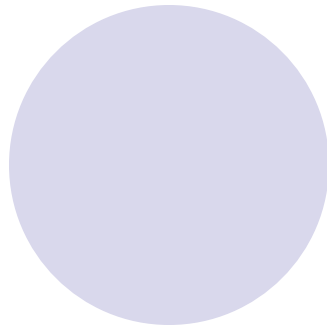
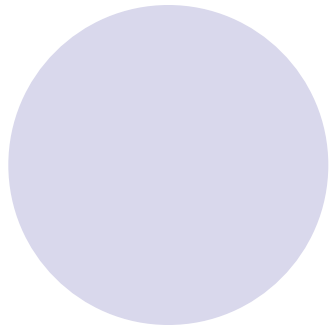
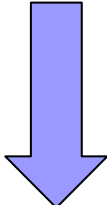


Shelters – functions and management



Companion animal issues

- Animal abuse
 - Pets/others abandoned by their owners
 - Puppy mills
 - Unwanted litters
 - Irresponsible pet ownership
- 
- Overpopulation of strays
 - Sick/injured animals
 - Disease transmission
 - Animal attacks

Shelters are temporary solutions

- If your primary aim is to resolve companion animal issues, is a shelter the solution?
- Shelters become a permanent reality when society does not take responsibility
- Shelters could be said to be increasing the problem – if no campaigning or education

Roles of a shelter

- Rescue
- Re-homing
- Re-uniting
- Neutering
- Public health and safety
- Permanent sanctuary
- Humane killing
- Campaigning
- Education

Shelter essentials

A good shelter, public or private, must have:

- Focus on its main purpose
- Resources sufficient to carry out its purposes
- A clear policy on the potential outcomes
- High standards of animal welfare – this should cover the five freedoms

Five Freedoms

- Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress

Factors for consideration

- Written procedures and records
- Accessibility to public
- Animal care and housing
- Adoptions
- Euthanasia
- Investigation of cruelty
- Humane education



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Human resources

- Staff
- Volunteers
- Training
 - Practical
 - Stress management

Is theory being put into practice?

- We all agree with good shelter practice in theory
- Stated roles need to be implemented effectively
- Long term efforts may be sacrificed for immediate results

Two big mistakes

1. Not considering the entire shelter from the animals' perspective – to take care of mental as well as physical health
2. Looking with a micro perspective on your shelter as a sole entity - work on cutting down overpopulation to minimize how much animal space you need in the first place. E.g. Do a workshop with a vet school to neuter animals

Quality or Quantity?

- Everyone agrees that quality of life is important – in theory
- A shelter has a defined capacity for optimum welfare
- There are more animals needing shelter than can be accommodated appropriately
- Overcrowding results in deterioration of health and welfare

Should a shelter turn animals away?

The decision will substantially affect the role of the centre



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Kill or no-kill?

- Limited resources, unlimited animals
- Killing is not necessarily contrary to the objectives of a private shelter
- Public shelters must also solve this dilemma
- Strategies for removing animals from the shelter
- What is best for the animal?



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Facilities vs management

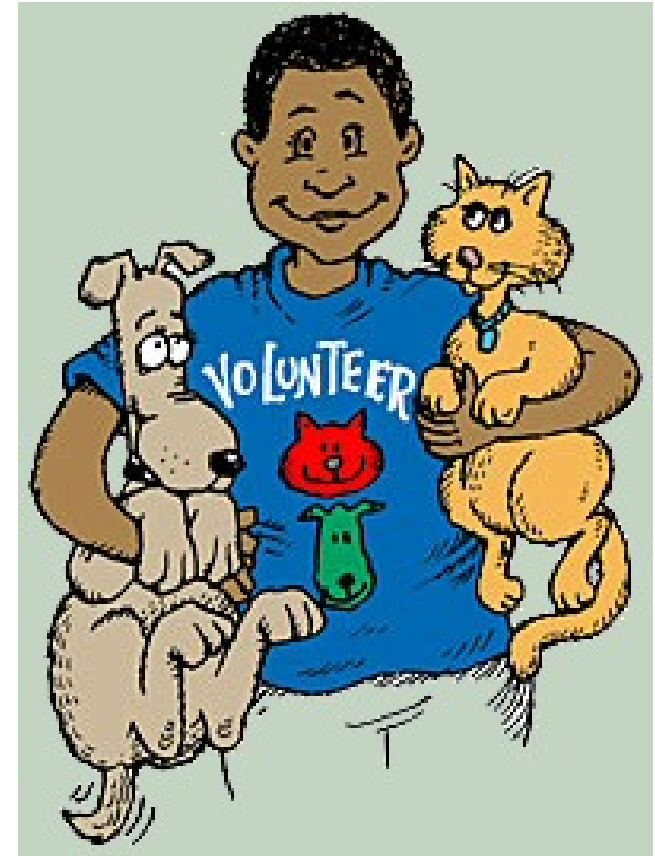
- Focus on the superficial at the expense of the fundamental
- Short visits to well-developed facilities can reinforce this view
- Good management experience needed to construct and develop a good shelter
- Unrelated to size or ostentation



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Staff vs volunteers

- Core and ongoing responsibilities – staff needed
- Treating volunteers as staff
- Financial reliance on volunteers
- The dangers of good intentions without knowledge and experience
- Training and education



The way forward

Proactive approach needed:

- Focus on the individual animal
- Private-public partnerships
- Formal education
- Public awareness and education
- Alternatives to long term sheltering
- Legislation – and enforcement

Public-private partnerships

- Two major stakeholders: governments and NGOs
- Win-win situation:
 - Staff whose primary objective is animal welfare
 - Long term funding
 - Legal and technical support
 - Incentives to implement humane management programmes
 - Reduction of public pressure on municipality
 - Allows municipality to focus attention on other issues

Public perceptions

- Dumping ground for unwanted animals
- Responsible for solving stray animal issues
- Animal prisons
- Execution centres
- Places to find a new companion animal
- Responsible for all sick/injured animals on the streets
- Rescuers of abused animals
- Prosecutors of animal abusers

Alternatives to long term sheltering

- Establishing or supporting low cost neutering schemes
- Providing veterinary treatment for low-income groups
- Introducing a stray fostering service
- Helping to improve the local dog pound
- Helping an existing animal shelter

Conclusion

- Shelters are a temporary solution to a complex problem
- Involvement of all stakeholders is needed to find permanent solutions
- Shelters have a primary responsibility to ensure good welfare for animals
- A shelter's most valuable resource is its people
- Shelters need to become more involved in long term solutions