

Report of Animal Welfare Focus Group Public Responses

On September 16, 2014, Agenda Item 62 was presented to the Board of County Commissioners for possible action. The item, in which staff sought to report findings and recommendations to the Board regarding proposed renovations to the Lied Animal Shelter operated by the Animal Foundation, drew a significant amount of public comment. Citizens addressing the Board, citing high euthanasia rates and lack of transparency, opposed The Animal Foundation's request and implored Commissioners to explore alternative vendors for animal sheltering services in Clark County.

Commissioners expressed interest in acquiring further comment from the community regarding animal welfare issues including sheltering, euthanasia, spay/neuter, trap-neuter-release (TNR) as well as any other pertinent topics, and directed staff to provide a forum for this to occur.

On October 28, 2014, a 3-hour facilitated focus group was conducted in the Mead Rooms at the Las Vegas Valley Water District. The meeting was advertised via news releases and social media. Animal welfare/rescue groups in the community were encouraged to forward the meeting information to their members. Those who attended were asked to provide input in response to the following questions:

1. How can the current system be improved to reduce the number of animals entering the shelter, and increase the number of animals adopted?
2. How can spay/neuter and trap-neuter-release programs be improved to maximize the number of animals sterilized?
3. What type of statutes, ordinances, or regulations do you think would be most effective in addressing issues such as backyard breeders, maximum number of animals allowed to be fostered, etc.?
4. How would you go about reducing the numbers of animals that are euthanized?
5. What can be done to increase partnering opportunities for, and communication about, community outreach and prevention programs?
6. Is there anything else relevant to the topic that you'd like the Commissioners to know?

Approximately 50 citizens attended the outreach session, and they were organized into groups of 8-10. Following a brief presentation, County staff facilitated discussion of each question, and recorded participants' responses. Those who wanted to provide input but were unable to attend the session were given until 5 p.m. on October 31 to submit responses in writing.

The following document lists the direct input provided by citizens at the October 28 input session as well as the email input received after that time. The input is organized by each question posed to the group.

Question 1: How can the current system be improved to reduce the number of animals entering the shelter and increase the number of animals adopted?

More money for S/N from CC and other government agencies

Providing transportation to mobile services

Targeted spay and neuter program for communities that need them most (low socio-economic)

More animal control officers

Determine who can enforce spay and neuter laws

Door to door education

Explore implementation of community cats

Return feral and un-owned cats that have been spayed/neutered back to the community

Shelter intervention/owner support

Regulate pet store adoptions. No pet store sales!

Increase social media; tackle Craigslist problem

Managed intake

Advance notice of animal surrender

Uniform spay/neuter

Offer an intervention/owner assistance program

Work with trainers, have more education, and include private companies

Offer ½ hour education on pet ownership (for example) socializing a pet with family/new surrounding

People need to be aware of what it means to be a pet owner and thorough screening of the owner

Animal Control needs to have more resources e.g., Craig's List regarding TAF and more funding

Task force of college students because they have the time and they are on the computer- use their computer skills

Training resources for returning animals to the field

Offer free spay/neuter and be able to ticket/fine the owner- it's the law

More signs and signage saying spay/neuter is mandatory need to be present

Post a mandatory sign at the vet hospitals on the spay/neuter law

More collaboration and target spay/neuter.

More aggressive TNR program and return to field

Make the spay and neuter van more visible out in the community

More education in the community

Have a signed agreement for owners at the vets and adoption sites making the owner accountable

Vet hospitals need to educate the community and turn in the fines on owners who do not comply

Do not make it convenient and guilt free for owners to surrender a pet--force them to make an appt. with a counselor beforehand

Better criteria for dogs/pets to be euthanized

More thorough medical check up to pet

Make more of an effort to find the address and scan the pet's microchip before returning to the field

Shelter Intervention Programs

Owner turn-ins must meet with counselors

Free behavioral training

More aggressive spay/neuter programs

Return to the field (feral cats)

Transparency of the Animal Foundation

Home checks for the potential adoptions to ensure it is a safe home

No charge to animal rescue groups

Utilize money from PETSMAART; the money is just sitting there; this will help with more "no cost" adoptions

People heading up programs should have appropriate credentials (i.e., worked with rescue groups, have fostering experience, etc.)

Reduce adoption waiting time

Online adoption options to get paperwork pre-established

Coordinate mass pet adoptions and fairs

Lower adoption fees and have more adoption specials

At intake or in the field, pets should be scanned for a microchip, then the pet owner should be notified so the animal can be returned to home within 6 hours

Reduce rescue group waiting time

Lied must work with approved rescue groups

Increased outreach—more into neighborhoods (i.e.: online, website, face book, new stations...)

Signage should be posted in the front of the shelter clearly stating annual euthanasia statistics at the shelter (to inform owners that the pet may be euthanized)

Should research the best practices of LA, Salt Lake City, Boston, San Francisco, etc.

Remove the UNWANTED sign from the front of the building

Uniform spay/neuter is currently hard to enforce with the number of animal control officers

There are tons of advertisements on Craigslist involving backyard breeders

Increase the number of advertisements for animals available for adoption at Lied

More funding for animals to become spayed/neutered

Target low income people who may not have a phone/transport

Animal Foundation could implement a mobile unit

Increase the legal number of animals a person can have – determine what is a “responsible number”

Look at what Henderson does to increase adoptions

Put down all feral cats – target them as an invasive species (volunteers could trap cats for euthanization)

There are 4 main things to do with the cats: do nothing, trap and relocate them (return to field), trap and kill them, TNR

Look at other humane options

Understand that nothing is ideal for everyone

Better statistics--where are the numbers?

Consider that the number of animals euthanized and the economy fluctuates

Targeted spay/neuter programs

End feeding cats in public

Return to Field is working better

More Animal Control

Consider effect of TNR on wildlife – wildlife killed

Tie regulations to Zoning (Urban v. Rural, Population Density)

Adoptions

Increase the number of animals people are allowed to have

Reduce the whole pool first before implementing new programs

People don't want to adopt pit bulls and chihuahuas

Adoption fees are too high, people turn to backyard breeders instead

Advertise better

Educate staff at Lied better

Increase the number of lost animals returned to their owners

Spay/neuter targeted by zip code

Loosen TNR restrictions so that stray cats can be returned to the area they were removed from after being spayed/neutered

Add chips to feral cats that are picked up so they can be returned to their colony.

Provide behavior training help line for those pet owners who want to relinquish their pet due to behavior

Hotline could also provide resource for pet owners who cannot afford spay/neuter services or food.

Screening/database to identify animal abuse history

Do not pick up cats with clipped ears.

All animals should be available for adoption to the general public

When an animal is surrendered, the previous owner should provide a history

Increase hold times from 72 hours to 5 days

Cut down on the number of backyard breeders by increasing the number of animal control officers

Advertise animals available for adoption through social media and targeted outreach (e.g., senior centers)

Create a one stop shop for information on programs that work with animals

Have the Nevada Humane Society run the animal shelter.

Owners should have to make appointments to relinquish their pets (last opportunity to understand and correct problems pet owners may be dealing with causing them to relinquish)

Increase fostering program

Lower adoption fees across the board; not just specials

More thorough adoption process

Screen potential adoptive resources for pets

Designated funding stream for spaying/neutering

All vets should be required to do a certain number of spay/neuter procedures per year to give back to the community

Target high risk animals likely to breed

Spay/Neuter

Stricter enforcement of S/N

More officers

More low cost S/N clinics

Release of ear tipped cats

Uniformity of jurisdictions

Task force of community members, agencies, utility companies

Funding

Labeling of breeds- more accurate (pit bulls, chihuahuas). Renters, homeowners insurance sometimes doesn't allow certain breeds

Naming of dogs--more sensitivity in what they're named

Partnering with the new task force to promote adoptions

Eliminate/reduce barriers for animals that may move to other rescue/adoption groups

Additional adoption location

More affordable fees for adoption / consistent fees

Separate area for rescue groups in order to increase efficiency

New owner orientation--support and education

Education (task force)

Task force--community buy-in; animal advocates, elected officials, media, large employers, etc., partner to help educate employees, large venues (Ex. Pet expo), rescue groups, S/N groups, PSA, unions, volunteer groups

Owner retention program – help them address behavior issues and provide financial assistance for those in need

Reduce supply/sale of animals by social media (Craig's List, Facebook, etc.)

Return to owner- improve lost/found service by improve photos to assist with ID, allowing payment plans or financial assistance to recover pets, work off fees with community service @shelter, mandate registered microchips

Improve public perception/trust of LIED/Animal Foundation

Address the reasons why animals are entering the shelter (lost)

Trust in system

Current lost/found system needs a total overhaul

Increase hold time

Submitted via email *(transcribed verbatim, unless otherwise noted)*

- Las Vegas (i.e. the Animal Foundation) offers no education programs or public service campaigns in the valley regarding spay/neuter, animal cruelty, anti-dog fighting, preventing animal abuse, not buying animals online, checking into "free" pets, educating kids about being kind to animals, caring for your pet on holidays were they are likely to get lost like July 4th, etc.. They have lackluster marketing of their adoptables as well. Nor are there any help lines, resources, or programs to try and keep pets and pet parents together during times of struggle. I would highly recommend the commission take a look at what The Denver Dumb Friends League does. They have education programs, resource libraries, training classes, a help line, a food closet, grief counseling, etc. www.ddfl.org
- The current shelter system could be improved to reduce the number of animals entering the shelter by implementing a shelter intervention program which would give many people the assistance they may need to keep, rather than surrender their pets. The shelter intervention program in Los Angeles has worked wonders in reducing shelter admissions there. The Animal Foundation has thus far refused to allow or implement such a program here.

The number of animals adopted could be vastly improved by reducing adoption fees. The Animal Foundation currently charges \$105-250 to adopt a dog. Just across town, the open-admission Henderson shelter only charges \$65 for any dog. Last year the kill rate at the Animal Foundation was 53%. Last year the kill rate in Henderson was only 23%. I believe that the difference in adoption fees is almost certainly entirely responsible for this difference in kill rates. Last year the Nevada Humane Society, who run the open-admission no-kill shelter in Reno, NV, adopted out just 100 fewer animals than the Animal Foundation. Reno is a city one-fifth the size of Las Vegas. With a committed, competent management, the Las Vegas shelter should be adopting out 4-5 times as many animals as it is under the Animal Foundation.

Please don't be fooled, the Animal Foundation is now running adoption specials non-stop to temporarily bring down their horrendous kill rate in time for their contract expiring, but they have not, and will not permanently lower their public-gouging adoption fees.

- Lower Adoption fees- This is an obvious immediate response to this question, but to me I feel it's a "shaky" line to walk. Do you offer lower prices so the abusive, dog fighter & animal sadist come in for a "Free-for-all", yet on the other side of the fence are you giving a family a chance to offer a loving home to those furbabies that have only known pain, sadness and rejection. I do have a few ideas that I think would justify the price and help our community and the furbabies in the end. Work with the local Vet Tech School in a joint venture in exchange for Veterinarian services. Start a Veterinarian Clinic/School in the Shelter, one that will offer Vet Tech students the education and

experience they will need to be excellent future Vets. Certification and Accreditation will cost money, but I am sure there is an opportunity in there somewhere that will benefit both the County, the Shelter and a Vet School just READY WILLING and ABLE to come to Las Vegas.

Reducing the number of animals entering or returning is a tough one. Education is the first options/solution that comes to mind. Offer Low cost obedience "Get to know your Pet Classes" – If the Adoption fee is going to be High, then add a "Get to know your Pet Class" to the Welcome Package. Most people return their pet because they are too much to deal with, something they weren't "Totally" ready for or "it wasn't what I expected". Don't allow adoptions to happen "just because" We owe it to those who cannot speak up, to speak for them. Have a Lifestyle questionnaire, some people think they want a large dog but don't live the life to accommodate a large breed; they may be better suited for a smaller dog or a cat. Log all of the people that adopt from all the shelters and the returns. Note the condition of the animal upon the return. Share this database with all Shelters If and when we have an Animal Abuser Registry check the name(s) of the adopter to that.

Increase the number of animals adopted. I know there is a Senior 4 Senior program however it's only a \$50 discount on adoption fees, this program should be changed to Fostering, where the Senior (human) can Foster a Senior (pet), with most if not all seniors living on a fixed income they could use the help of a pet food program and the wonderful unconditional love of a pet. If the senior (human) foster fails, then only charge the rate of chipping, and licensing. Start a food bank for pet food, PetCo local pet stores and Pet food providers, there are tax benefits for the companies involved. Food Bank campaigns like, "buy one give one". The food bank can be used for Fostering food assistance, senior adoptions/fostering and low income adopters. Offer Vaccination Clinics, I used to take my dogs to PetSmart/Petco and get their vaccinations I was a single mom and I couldn't afford the shots from the Vet. Again Joint venture with the local Vet School to offer these as a chance for the students to gain experience, low cost shots and a quick exam can make a world of difference. Maybe get a Bus that goes around to different areas of town to offer these clinics. A lot of the returns are because the owner can't afford the vet costs. Something as simple as an ear cleaning can save a family pet, because at the Animal Foundation they will be killed.

- The shelter should collect statistics on why an animal is being relinquished. Only then can the shelter determine the exact reasons for animals to be dropped off. If animals are being brought in due to moving and they can't take the animals with them, then the county/city should work with the apartment complexes to promote animal friendliness and perhaps give tax credits to apartments that allow pets. The shelter can also provide a listing of animal friendly apartments for people so they don't have to get rid of their animals.

If a reason is due to medical needs and no way to pay for it, the shelter should partner with a non-profit veterinary service or a vet that can perform medical procedures for a very little cost? This can help keep the pet with the owner and allow the monetary issue to be resolved. Many seniors have to relinquish their pets going into an assisted living home, not because they can't take care of the animal, but due to the policy of the home. The shelter should help promote to seniors the assisted-living areas that allow animals. The city/county can also provide tax credits to assisted living places that will allow residents to keep their animals.

To prevent so many animals from being brought to the shelter, requires law enforcement to actually enforce the laws of spay/neutering.

- Reduce the number of animals entering the shelter by (implementing a) SHELTER INTERVENTION PROGRAM. As shown by programs such as Downtown Dog Rescue in South L.A. these programs can help keep thousands of animals out of the shelter every year. A local organization, Incred-A-Bull, earlier this year offered to partner with the Animal Foundation to implement one but TAF has

not gotten them the info they were promised in order to put together a business plan. TAF dropped the ball.

MOBILE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC: Get it out into the neighborhoods where it is needed!

TRANSPARENCY: TAF needs to stop deceiving the public by trying to portray themselves as "only killing the very sick or vicious". We know they kill healthy and easily treatable animals but many of the general public do not. The public thinks they are doing a kind service by taking a found animal there or their own pet they do not have the resources to keep and that all these animals will find homes. To not be truthful with them is to betray the community trust. TAF should have a sign on their intake door stating the percentage of animals killed. Intake staff should similarly counsel the public as to this and not tell them "oh she is cute, she will get adopted no problem"!

INCREASE STRAY HOLD TIME. 72 hours is often not enough time for people to locate their lost pet. What if they are on vacation? Also TAF needs to work more with people with payment plans to help them pay fees to get their pet back.

Increase the number being adopted: PERMANENTLY LOWER ADOPTION FEES. Just lower them and stop with the revolving door of disjointed and overlapping promos. Just lower the fees.

AGGRESSIVELY MARKET THE ANIMALS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA. TAF is just not effectively utilizing social media. On average they only promote 1 or 2 animals a day, if that on their facebook page. They should be promoting at least 4 times that, especially the Pit Bulls and Chihuahua's who need the most promotion because they are the most killed there. We know they don't promote them that much because they don't want people asking what happened to them (there's that lack of transparency)but that in turn is why they don't get adopted more (lack of promotion).

MORE INFO ON THE ANIMALS ON THEIR WEBSITE. Give info on their personality, etc.

STOP LABELING EVERY DOG WITH A LARGE HEAD A PIT BULL (and every small dog a Chihuahua). Pit bulls/mixes are great dogs but the name can not only give a bad connotation to some people it can also hinder their adoption due to ignorant housing restrictions. "Pit Bull" is NOT a breed and unless TAF is doing DNA testing they have no idea if there is any American Pit Bull Terrier in these dogs at all. These dogs are simply "mixed breeds" and shelters that have stopped the breed labeling all together have seen adoptions increase. And please don't tell me TAF can't change the breed (as they like to say) because they DO change them when it suits them (like for the Best in Show or dogs going to the Petsmart adoption center).

MORE OFFSITE EVENTS. And not just with a few animals. They need to go where the people are.

- The current system can be improved by implementing an intervention program and providing assistance to families who need help in caring for their pets. Transparency is a must as well. For the longest time, I was under the impression the Animal Foundation did not euthanize the animals unless it was absolutely necessary, which is not the case. I believe that there are many others in the community who are under the same impression. When people drop their pets off at the shelter, they should be informed of the chances the pet will be put to sleep. In order for more animals to be adopted, the shelter needs to do more promoting of the animals housed there through social media and adoption events. Lowering adoption fees would also help in getting more animals into homes.

Possible options to reduce intake include bold and obvious signage stating that TAF is a HIGH-kill shelter to dissuade owners from surrendering their pets, frequent and well-publicized community outreach programs to microchip and spay/neuter pets belonging to families who may not be able to afford to do so otherwise, effective TNR programs for feral cats, and buckling down with steeper

restrictions and repercussions for backyard breeders. In order to increase the number of adoptions, TAF should be willing to do adoption events more frequently including waived/reduced adoption fees when the shelter is at or nearing capacity, more proactive marketing of these events as well as daily posts of several animals to their social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) pages. Doing these things every once in a while just isn't enough. Permanently lower adoption fees, as other shelters in the area have much more reasonable rates.

- Remove AF, do not renew their current contract. Replace with a group that has a proven No Kill track record. Lower adoption fees, lower fines for those that have a dog that escapes on accident. If it happens more than once increase the fines to retrieve the animal but don't make it impossible for first time runaways. In these economic times as much as a family loves their animal if they can't pay the ridiculous fees then the animal stays in the shelter.
- It appears that the stats are moving in the right direction. If The Animal Foundation continues doing what they are currently doing I think the stats will continue to improve. I think maximizing social media sites and creative adoption campaigns will help achieve increased adoptions.

I disagree with the suggestion to lower pet adoption fees. I think we need to look at "retail" stores. People love sales and bargains! If the fees are permanently reduced it affects the perceived value of the pet but if there are "sales" the person feels like they got a bargain. If anything the public perception is that shelter pets are flawed. We need to get the word out that shelter pets are desirable and sometimes are available at attractive fees.

- We need more aggressive action taken on the front end so not as many animals enter the shelter to begin with. We need more animal control officers enforcing the spay/neuter laws by having the vets release their records to authorities when animals are brought in unaltered and the owner refuses to alter their animal after being explained the law. AC needs to send a letter to the residence issuing a fine and ordering it to be done within 30 days or they will get another more expensive fine when they don't show proof of it being done. Provide a list with the original letter of low cost or free spay/neuter clinics. We need more of these clinics and more vets to participate in keeping fees low for low income families.

We need to crack down on backyard breeders and pet stores. No one should be allowed to breed animals until there are no more being killed in our shelters every year, and after that it needs to be strictly regulated to ensure quality conditions. Crack down on internet sales of puppies and kittens or any you see sold out in a public forum. Make only adoptable animals from reputable rescues or independent rescuers allowed to be shown online for an adoption fee. Outlaw pet stores from stop selling animals which are always gotten from filthy inhumane puppy and kitten mills, and only use their space for adoptable ones from rescues, working w/the local rescue for a percentage of the adoption fee so it's fair. This is a great strategy that has worked well in other places.

We need a small group of people in the shelter to be solely focused on public outreach and advertising of low cost spay/neuter clinics around the city besides just their own. The shelter needs to work much better with rescue groups they partner with and open up more animals to all the reputable rescue groups here and public alike for pulling. They can warn ordinary people of health issues of an animal but if that person is set on adopting that animal, then let them take them home after questioning them on their experience w/the type of animal and his/her illness or injury. I've personally heard of many times established rescue/foster groups have asked AF for animals that were deemed "rescue only" and they were denied and the animal was put to sleep for no good reason. Why would a shelter do this if they were dedicated to not killing needlessly??

Specials on adoption fees and cute marketing tricks can really improve visibility of the animals and access of them to the public. I've seen AF start to do this, but they need volunteers to print flyers

and put in different public places with permission, like Starbucks, the gyms, movie theaters, libraries, bus stops, etc. to maximum visibility to the public besides just social media. Ads in all the local papers too. Better pictures should be taken of all adoptable animals. Adding extra props to them can really help "sell" an animal!

Adopters should be screened better though. I've personally adopted two small dogs from the Animal Foundation in the last two years, and they don't verify enough info to make sure the dog is going to a good home. I would ask for pictures of the home and outside property verifying there is a solid fenced in yard when applicable, and lessor's written acknowledgment and permission to have that animal in a renter's residence with them, so there are no problems later if they do not own their home. Also a short quiz on animal care, when the potential adopter applies for an animal. So many people don't know basic pet care tips.

- Require the contractor, The Animal Foundation, to publish on its website the number of animals admitted each month and the number killed, and the reasons why they were killed. This could motivate potential adopters to adopt an animal and save a life when they are able to see the number of animals killed by the shelter that could have been saved.

Require that the contractor post large, legible signs in both English and Spanish in their public receiving area advising that it is a high kill shelter and post the number of animals admitted in the last 30 days and the number killed in that time period.

Require that owners surrendering animals do so by appointment, and provide immediate and required counselling to encourage owners to seek other alternatives/correct behavior issues, etc. for those that show up without a scheduled appointment.

If a healthy and adoptable animal is surrendered and owners request that it be euthanized (I've seen this happen) draft a form which the owners must sign giving the shelter final authority to determine if the surrendered animal will be killed or placed for adoption.

Lower the adoption fees and follow up each adoption with a thank you card mailed to the adopter. All healthy and treatable animals should be available for adoption to the public.

- Community outreach following proven methods laid out in the Best Friends Animal Society website and on-site seminars. Copy successful owner outreach, owner retention, spay/neuter, and trap, neuter, release programs that already exist through Best Friends partners and The Nevada Humane Society in Reno. Both organizations will be more than happy to lend assistance in setting up the programs. I have personally spoken with the director of the Nevada Humane Society as well as higher up staff at Best Friends.
- The Animal Foundation needs to stop deceiving the public into thinking that they are a no-kill facility. Though they have never outright said that they are, the typical response from typical local citizen is that they assume they are no kill. My friend's wife took their rabbit, who they could no longer care for, to The Animal Foundation. When I found out they had surrendered their rabbit, I asked where they took it. She said "the no kill shelter downtown". I asked if she meant The Animal Foundation and she said "yes". She was devastated when I told her that they are not, in fact, a no kill shelter. She said she wouldn't have ever taken their rabbit there had she known that. The Animal Foundation is consistently killing healthy, adoptable animals. There should be clear signage at their facility that informs people who are about to surrender their animals that The Animal Foundation is killing animals every single day. Their remarkably high kill rate should be posted as well. People need to know whose hands their animals are being left in. There should be an intervention program where, if someone comes to the shelter to surrender an animal, people are there to find out WHY they are surrendering a pet and what, if anything, can be done to help them

keep their pet. The Animal Foundation refuses any and all suggestions to limit their intake all while they kill healthy animals with available space to keep them. Also, our city and county need to enforce the spay and neuter laws that are on the books. Veterinarians need to adhere to the laws and require these procedures take place on their patients and/or offer available low cost clinics that can provide these procedures at a reasonable price. Citizens need to be made aware that it is illegal to not spay or neuter their animals and punishments need to be enforced.

Question 2: How can spay/neuter and trap-neuter-release programs be improved to maximize the number of animals sterilized?

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Targeted spay and neuter geographically

Multi-lingual info

Get community involvement in all areas

Increased TRN, SNR

Re-education of animal control officers with people who are feeding cats

Educate HOA's on conflict resolution (regarding TNR programs)

Educate other government organizations (Wildlife, National Park Services, etc.)

Amend/Delete part of CCO that calls for trap and remove

Community education--alternatives to dumping or surrendering pets, short term financial assistance, education in schools

Look at model with North Las Vegas Police Dept.

Many community members want to help, but lack an organized community wide outlet to do so

Re-direct community

See task force

Sponsorship from large employers--get on same page

Educate public about TNR (what it means, pros/cons, impact)

Grants

Corporate sponsorship (employee benefit- free S/N)

Local businesses to offer grants to local S/N rescues

Celebrity endorsement of programs S/N

Reorganize/redistribute current funding to other local groups

Funding (task force)

Community philosophy

Government

Many pet owners require subsidy in order to S/N

More vets to provide service/facilities for low/no-cost S/N

Sponsorship

Pets for life program--increase events

Outreach--Spanish/Multiple languages

Reach more volunteers for S/N clinics

Allow pet stores to only sell rescue dogs

Stop pet expo and other events not required to adhere to our laws

Incentives for pet owners to S/N

More funding

More volunteering for trappers

Cats are high in certain demographic areas

Homeowners can set their own traps

Let people know about this

Educate the public about programs

Trap availability

Return to field

Some cats are being re-caught

Euthanasia is not working well

Be proactive instead of reactive

Many are ignorant of the spay/neuter ordinance

Require S/N unless there is a permit

Educate owners

Those selling animals should be required to S/N first

Responsibility

Correct permits

Support good breeders

Education System

Look at what they did for flood control and do a similar campaign to educate

There are too many of some breeds, shortage of others

People generally don't want a pit bull

Make the adoption fee competitive to those of backyard breeders

Some breeds are more/less sterilized/neutered based on the breed/owner

A lot depends on public influence

Funding opportunity

Put a tax on pet food

Prevent those feeding the cats in neighborhoods

Possible to just focus on low income areas

Educate and communicate with one another

Funding of the Animal Shelter

Why are there empty kennels? Does TNR, reduce numbers?

Look at what other places are doing (no kill shelters)

Try to not make the shelter the enemy

Spend more money on spay/neuter programs

Foster animals could be a solution to the problem

Advertise more

Establish a funding program

Offer a monthly clinic by all jurisdictions

Allow Lied to return feral cats out to field

Why is it bad to euthanize a feral cat?

Community outreach

All spay and neuter are not the same

Expand “pets for life”, etc.

Spanish or other language education by using ads or newspapers

Funding other outside sources like Heaven Can Wait

Mandatory chips for pets and keep them updated

More education/advertising on billboards, HOA newsletters and TV commercials

Selective enforcement

Set up mobile van for low income areas and properly equip to hold animals before and after surgeries

Target spay/neuter service to zip codes with the highest need

Offer subsidies/vouchers to veterinarians to go into targeted areas

Work with area animal hospitals and clinics to share the space

Animal Control must enforce the law—they (pet owners) must be held accountable

Increase Animal Control staff—ensure they are properly trained and qualified

Animal Control should be more “proactive” and less “reactive”

Free services for spay/neuter offered by Animal Control at the time of citation

Changes in ordinance: 1st offense: offer assistance and referral, 2nd and subsequent offenses: fines and citations.

Outreach, advertisement on spay/neutering because It’s the Law!

Ordinance changed to allow cats to be sterilized and returned (vaccinated/ear tipped) to where they were found

Ear tipped cats should not be picked up by Animal Control

Implement programs to “socialize” feral cats so they can be adopted

Animal Control should not provide “taxi service” to healthy, stray or feral cats. By doing so, this will free up their time.

Establish community campaign on TRAP RENTAL programs

Improve the advertisement and collaboration of the Animal Foundation and local organizations, leverage resources

Better policing of ads on Craig’s List, street corners, grocery stores, classifieds, etc. There should be designated staff assigned to this effort

Bilingual education to Hispanic community (cultural stigma of fixing dogs)

All cats returned to the area they were picked up from (accepted to colony)

Discount vouchers to private owners for spay/neuter

Increase funding for Heaven Can Wait

Public education

Advertising

Target geographic locations animals came from

Track performance of rescue organizations

All rescues/shelters required to spay/neuter before release

Vets spay/neuter before release

Establish a food bank for colony caretakers

More \$ for spay neuter

Volunteers access programs/public awareness

Shouldn't have to register a colony

All areas communities embrace TNR

Outreach to CCSD/partner to educate the children

Submitted via email *(transcribed verbatim, unless otherwise noted)*

- TNR is a cat-centric program and the kill rate for cats is very high in Las Vegas, so this would be a great investment. This type of program can greatly reduce the feral cat populations and unwanted litters entering our shelter system. TNR has been very successful across the country and Heaven Can Wait has already done a great job getting this type of programming off the ground here in Las Vegas.
- Some way must be found to enforce our spay/neuter law. The Animal Foundation has a mobile spay/neuter clinic sitting idle on their lot. Also, regarding our trap-neuter-release program, The Animal Foundation is still killing cats that Animal Control brings in with their ear tipped, indicating that they have been spayed/neutered. This is simply undermining the work and purpose of this program.
- My only experience with this is with the Feral Cats: The County supports a few companies that do this TNR, maybe start a facility instead of relying on someone's garage and hope for room in a volunteer's bathroom. Start an actual facility that is funded equally with the Animal Foundation. Fundraising for these volunteer run programs is something desperately needed.

- If you look at the Heaven Can Wait Society group, they actively go into poor neighborhoods and bring the spay/neuter truck to that location. This helps tremendously for those that can't drive or don't have the means to get to the shelter. Cost is also an issue, so provide low cost services.

Promote spay/neuter via the Home Owners associations too, by focusing on the top Property Management groups who can send out information to their clients. Since the majority of HOA's use a PM group, this will get the word out that pets must be spayed/neutered and they can provide locations/cost, etc to the homeowners. It should also be mandatory that homeowners buying a home in Clark County sign a real estate document that states they were made aware that spay/neuter is the law and provide them resource names for where to go for low-cost surgeries. Renters should also have to be told by their landlords that this is the law.

TNR should be promoted much more in this city. If people have trapped feral cats and brought them into the shelter, the shelter should work harder to find Designated cat colony owners and release the cats to that area. A designated cat colony can be registered with the city where the person agrees to feed and provide TNR for the cats. It also allows the cat the right to live, and not be killed or trapped and taken away. Shelters need to do more in establishing these cat colonies in the area and stop killing feral cats being brought in. They should also partner with other shelters in northern Nevada where there are barns that can use barn cats. This would allow the feral cats to be released outside of the city and would be guaranteed shelter and food.

- GET THE MOBILE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC...MOBILE! You have to go out to the neighborhoods. Many people do not have a means to transport their dog or cat to TAF to be spayed/neutered.

TAF SHOULD NOT BE TAKING IN FERAL CATS AT ALL! TAF should be directing people to C5 for TNR instead of accepting feral cats. Actually any cat has a better chance on the streets than at TAF where last year they killed 76% of the cats.

- Offering low cost or free spay and neuter programs, especially directed to lower income areas, and public awareness campaigns could help improve these programs and the number of animals sterilized.
- Members of the community should be made aware of the TNR programs, since many aren't even sure they exist. The price of a spay or neuter procedure should be much more reasonable and affordable. Community outreach programs such as the spay/neuter truck should be scheduled much more frequently around the valley. If these community outreach programs are better promoted (on the news, on Facebook, radio, etc.) more people will attend, leading to more animals being sterilized.
- More advertisements for reduced spay/neuter clinics and the costs. Higher penalties for unregistered backyard breeders as well as limits on litters of registered breeders. Require licensed breeders to offer spay/neuter (certificates, gift cards, ect.) For non show/breeding pups or felines. Buyer must show proof of show/breeding license
- Spay/Neuter Services: Make the services more available with increased public awareness and education. The general population doesn't know what to do and know how to access the services.
- There are hundreds of thousands of feral cats in Clark County. I've seen many myself and know of many people who help care for them and feed them which is expensive. They work with C5 and Heaven Can Wait to get them spay/neutered and all their shots done for free, but they can only do so much. We need more resources to help get this done or else the problem will only get

worse. There should be a portion of our county shelter dedicated to TNR for feral cats with a way for volunteer trappers to take humane traps out, trap the cats, then return them to a holding area of the shelter for vetting the next day. Then there should be a separate area for the just fixed cats to stay overnight for observation to make sure the procedure went well. We can start a volunteer force for the shelter dedicated just to this, and they can pick which shifts they can work. It only requires a few hours preferably in the evenings (it seems to work better for trapping) whenever they want to help. Also enforce spay/neuter laws like I mentioned above whichever way you can. A private person or pet store shouldn't sell any animals w/o first being altered unless they make the customer very aware in writing of the law and the time period in which it must be done.

- In the immediate communities where community cats live, there should be education for the public regarding community cats. Fliers, billboards, even door-to-door outreach. Then the community members will be aware and assist with the community cat population. They will also be aware that they should not turn in the cats to the shelter. On site spay/neuter clinics have proven to be the most effective. Mobile units go to impoverished areas. Other services are offered upon arrival such as food and veterinary care. Look up Downtown Dogs for an amazing model in Los Angeles. They work with pet owners right where they are without judgement. Again, there are proven tried and true national models which can be copied and reproduced.
- This might be the easiest question you've asked. You can look at my above answer regarding the spay/neuter issue in our city and county. As for improving trap-neuter-release programs, The Animal Foundation can actually participate in trap-neuter-release programs. The Animal Foundation has a contract with Animal Control which states that when Animal Control picks up an animal, they immediately take them to The Animal Foundation. Why not allow Animal Control to place humane traps and bring feral cats to The Animal Foundation for their low cost spay/neuter and then release them? Why isn't The Animal Foundation participating in a trap-neuter-release program right now AND promoting it? There isn't money in saving lives and therefore, this option is quickly disregarded. In the recent Las Vegas Weekly article and interview with The Animal Foundation's Executive Director, Christine Robinson from August 7, 2014, writer April Corbin described Robinson's reaction to NOT bringing in cats to the shelter system for eminent euthanizing as an "epiphany". This is nothing less than appalling as animal activists in this town have been using the trap-neuter-release system for years! We have been talking about it for years! We will continue to talk about it for years as there is no reason to believe that Christine Robinson, no matter how many fluff pieces are published by a periodical published by a family with a member on The Animal Foundation's board, has any interest in saving the lives of our community's homeless pets. Change needs to happen and it needs to happen now.

Question 3

What type of statutes, ordinances, or regulations do you think would be most effective in addressing issues such as backyard breeders, maximum number of animals allowed to be fostered, etc.?

Require spay and neuter for rescue groups

Consistency throughout all jurisdictions--all issues

Spay and neuter for all rescue groups

Ordinances to allow SNR/Community cats; disallow trap and kill

Enforcement of current ordinances

Allowance for 501C3 to house more animals

Clarify number of animals which can be fostered in one home

Improve level of requirements for living conditions/quality of life

Stricter laws

Lied makes adoption process stricter

Animal Control should be able to enforce breeding law

Animal Control needs more funding and authority

Make Animal Control officers into Peace Officers to have more power

Change feral cat "return" law

Keep out of shelter to save money

Community should be a part of fostering

Mandatory home (pet owner) checks

Application to foster or the screening process should be stricter

Check home environment/follow-up after owner has fostered (similar to F.S.)

Can't put a number on amount of animals that can be fostered

Asking to see breeder's registration

Miami Animal Control does stakeouts like they do with Craig's list and newspaper ads

Staff and resources are necessary for Animal Control

Anonymous hotline should be 24 hrs. a day

App for your cell phone that sends it to Animal Control

Education (needed for the community on animals like puppy demographics vs. adult dog demographics to avoid owners returning dogs once they are adults)

Training video needed for prospective owners

Backyard Breeders must be certified by State of Nevada

Increased enforcement by Animal Control

Pet Stores should be required to sterilize a pet prior to sale/adoption OR this should be the required responsibility of the prospective owner

Fostering limitations should be established (i.e.: space size per animal, exceptions for mothers of litters, etc.)

Partner Animal Control with METRO

METRO and City Marshals should be trained on basic Animal Control

Hire more Animal Control staff to reduce response times, become more proactive and increase enforcement

Animal Control need to be branded; there needs to be a different approach (i.e.: polo shirts instead of uniforms, a more community-centered approach, etc.)

Partnerships with Community Champions like how Fletcher Jones and Bob Barker used to do it

Modify ordinances to reduce reclaim fees

More enforcement

State says one thing, county says another, city says something else--make consistent for all law enforcement and areas

Small number of animal control officers in NLV

Have animal control officers actually write up issues at events

Increase education

Make sure that enforcement is happening from the top

Post ordinances in all pet places

Establish what the goal of enforcement is

Compliance

Officers do enforcement just to punish others

Process gets held up in court--need to work to reduce the number in the court system

Look at what other counties in the state are doing

Is there a limit on number of fosters?

Backyard Breeders

Deputizing neighbors

Need more animal control officers to go after ads on Craigslist

Provide an incentive to turn backyard breeders in

Backyard Breeders will move to another county if cracked down and just come in and sell

Supply/demand

Selling breeds that people don't even want

Certain breeds are always at the shelter

Lassie doesn't stay at the shelter long, unlike a pit bull

People will go elsewhere when they don't find the breed they want at the shelter

Look at the backyard breeders and the demographic groups they are targeting

Socioeconomics

Location in the community

People view animals as disposable

Costs money to get an animal out of the shelter, so they just go get a new one

Zig/Zag policy exists

People are ignorant of the pet overpopulation

Look at Los Angeles v. Lied

Look at NYC v. Lied

Scale of the problem could be the ignorance of people

Las Vegas is transient

People would rather leave their animals at an empty house than give to a kill shelter

Get rid of backyards breeders

Changing laws--some cities choose not to touch the law and just act, they look at the bigger picture

All 4 jurisdictions have different ordinances

Need to create better partnerships

Even animal control officers don't know the law

What about grandfathered laws?

How successful is the permit program?

Numbers needed

Enforcement of those being given licenses

Number of issues

Number of applicants

Number of rejects

Enforcing these areas as well to see what is happening

Mentioned that the perfect solution might already be out there, but no one is enforcing it

Finding responsible pet owners is needed

Increased/aggressive fines for backyard breeders could help fund additional enforcement officers

Required class/education in addition to fines for backyard breeders and/or volunteer service hours

Additional education for judges/elected officials who are identifying the penalties for these individuals

Use social media/Craigslist as a tool for animal control to identify and fine backyard breeders

Improved enforcement of current statutes/ordinances/regulations

Provide clarification of who is in charge of whom

Remove restrictions on # of animals owned/fostered but increase enforcement of laws around animal/neighbors quality of life issues, i.e., sanitation, noise

Fines should be imposed on backyard breeders that exceed what they can earn through animal sales

Require pet shops to spay/neuter before selling any animals

Licensed breeders have a max number of animals per year

Potential hearing officer to hear these issues and impose fines/penalties

Submitted via email *(transcribed verbatim, unless otherwise noted)*

- Without a doubt there needs to be more animal control officers and probably an "animal cops" division. This would help with dog fighting issues, backyard breeders, animal abuse, etc. A team to watch for kitten/puppy sales in parking lots and on Craigslist would also be helpful or even have a hotline or mobile app to report it.

The fees and cost to get your pet out of the shelter is also ridiculous. I once donated \$200 for a lady to get her cats out after she had been hospitalized and her kids turned them into the shelter without her knowledge. I understand the need for the fees because there is a cost to care, but there is no programming to assist low income owners or any kind of graduated scale based on income. Nor are there donated funds set aside to use as "scholarships" to help. If someone couldn't afford to get their pet out, why not have them complete a class about animal care so they know how to prevent it from happening again, or allow them to volunteer to pay off their debt. There has to be better solutions to reunite good owners and their pets. More than 72 hour holds would probably help too.

Vegas' law is also low for the number of pets you can own as a responsible person. In previous cities we've lived in, responsible citizens could have up to 5 pets, not 3. I think that by raising the responsible pet ownership, the cities (LV and Henderson) would see more licensing fees because responsible owners would send in licensing fees without the fear of being "caught" with more than 3 pets. Also, it would be nice to be able to just pay the licensing fee at a kiosk or online instead of having to mail it in.

- We need ordinances restricting backyard breeding and Animal Control officers dedicated to investigating and citing those operating outside of the law. Also, we need a law on the books making it illegal for the shelter to kill healthy/treatable animals while they have empty kennels.
- With regulations, ordinances, statues all of these are great, but if you don't have anyone enforcing these it's useless. The violators will continue as they are...no crime unless caught mentality is prevalent unless we have an agency enforcing these regulations, ordinances, and statues. Start an Animal Enforcement Agency, this agency will enforce the law; respond to the animal abuse calls. Maximum number of animals allowed to be fostered should expand based on the Foster Parents living conditions and life style. Do they have the space, the time and the proven capability to foster multiple pets?

Senior 4 Senior Idea...applies here too.

- Law enforcement needs to start taking this seriously and enforce the current laws! The only way to reduce the amount of animals coming into the shelter is to stop the breeding. If citations are written to people who do not have a breeders license and their pet is not spayed/neutered, this will generate a lot of income to the city and also mandate spaying. All you have to do is look on Craigslist and type the word "puppy" or "puppies" and over 200 listings will show. Why not have a policeman pose as someone who wants to buy a puppy, go to the house (maybe dressed out of uniform) and ask to see the license. No license?..write out a citation for \$300, or even up to \$500. It can be reduced to \$100 if the person gets their dog/cat spayed/neutered in 30 days. Do that just 10 times and you've got yourself \$3,000...do that 100 times, you've got 30,000 and more pets are stopped from breeding.

- ENFORCE THE ONES WE HAVE CONCERNING SPAY/NEUTER AND BACKYARD BREEDERS.

THERE SHOULD BE NO MAXIMUM # OF ANIMALS IF THEY ARE BEING TAKEN CARE OF!

- I think laws should be drafted that require breeders to pay a higher taxes, which would go towards the homeless pet population, and that they must spay/neuter the dogs they sell. Regulations need to be put in place that would limit the number of litters a breeder can have per year. Laws regarding the maximum number of dogs that are allowed to be fostered should be based on the size of the home and lot.
- Backyard breeding should be made 100% illegal with steep repercussions. There should be a clear and concise way to report offenders, as many of these backyard breeders post their puppies for sale on Facebook and Craigslist. The animals involved should be sterilized if the owner does not have a breeder's license, and there should be fines for each individual animal they're attempting to sell.
- Backyard breeders are a huge issue, not only for the welfare of animals but the spread of disease. The penalties should be increased. Higher fines, more jail time. Banned from owning or running a breeding group and if found to violate again increase fines and increase jail time. Similar to a sex offender list should be created. For Fosters- require every animal in foster MUST be spay/neutered. However increase the number of fostered animals and require the rescue/shelter to do welfare checks often.
- Statutes, ordinances and regulations: I would track intake of animals – is there a correlation between effective TNR work and enforced spay/neuter programs? This will help determine the geographical areas that need to be targeted.

Encourage veterinarians to report pets that are not spay/neutered. The current laws need to be enforced.

- As I said above, make it illegal to do any animal sales on the internet through sites like Facebook and Craigslist and any others found to do this. Try to work with the websites themselves for cooperation in monitoring posts. Make it well known that every pet should be licensed and fixed in this county, and see if there's another way to make sure pets are tracked better at every point of sale, so they can be checked up on if not fixed early. Outlaw the selling of any animals from breeders or pet stores until all pets are saved and have a home for a solid two years first. Then strictly regulate and keep the sales low of animals. I don't think any one person should have more than seven animals at a time including fosters or ones who are a part of their family

permanently. Each animal needs proper care and attention, and I don't see how it's possible even staying home all day to care for more than about seven, especially if they're all dogs and need to be walked at least once a day. I've known of rescue people who take in more than this and I don't see how it helps the animals' quality of life, although I know their heart is in the right place.

Make it perfectly legal for anyone to feed an animal in need anywhere in the county and to provide them with shelter, and protect that individual from being harassed by uneducated or uncaring people for doing a good thing or having their property stolen or trashed such as shelters and food dishes they leave out for cats. A person interfering with a caretaker taking care of a feral colony should be fined. Make sure people participating in dog fighting are caught and punished to the fullest extent of the law and don't allow them to ever own an animal again in this county, or for at least 10 years and after counseling and education on why dog fighting is wrong.

- Sting operations by animal control officers would be effective against backyard breeders who sell on Craigslist. But the county needs more Animal Control officers to be effective and to enforce the ordinances that are already on the books.
- Regarding backyard breeders, there should be a delegated animal control officer to check on breeders the same as any county inspector would. The breeders should have to be registered and licensed. They should be subject to spot checks and heavy fines. People buying from a breeder should have a tax levied on the purchase of a bred animal and that tax should go to support spay/neuter programs in the county. I'd like to see legislation that eliminates the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. That is the national trend. It has been proven that pet store sales of dogs and cats can be replaced with on-site adoption only and the store is often more successful once it stops selling animals. This is the law in many cities and states now. The trend is banning the sale of companion animals in pet stores as it only encourages the horrors of what goes on in puppy mills.
- One only has to go on websites like "Craigslist" and the like to find suspicious backyard breeders. If we want to take this issue seriously, it's simple. Enact laws that make this practice illegal. Then, find these people by using websites like I mentioned, have law enforcement pay them a visit, and shut them down by taking their animals and enact swift and appropriate punishments for breaking the law. However, as it currently stands, whatever animals found at these backyard breeders would be taken to The Animal Foundation and what happens to them after that is anyone's guess. If The Animal Foundation no longer ran Lied Animal Shelter, this seems like a workable solution. If an individual has the ability and has received a thorough home check by a rescue group, they should be able to foster as many animals as they want/can. One size does not fit all. Someone in a one bedroom apartment shouldn't be able to foster as many animals as someone who lives in a large house. Home checks are key in this process to make sure we aren't created hoarding situations. The point of a foster is to make the animal more comfortable in a home than in a shelter so we should have regulations in place to assure that that is happening.

Question 4

How would you go about reducing the number of animals that are euthanized?

See response to questions 1, 2 and 3!

Reduce or redirect number of impounds

Shelter intervention/owner support

Longer hold times

No fee for rescue groups

Rescue groups-microchip, take animals back

Community cats (implement program)

Eliminate trap and kill

Increase positive placements

Implement hotline for guidance (behavior, training)

TNR, spay and neuter

Community dedication (e.g., cat alliance, dog rescue)

Use money from license plates sales

More adoption events

Hold a week for senior adoption program and discount adoptions for seniors

No free events for free adoptions (to avoid owners with bad intentions)

Fix adoption fees when it relates to the animal's breed (e.g., AF changed the breed to get a lower rate)

Training video for prospective owners

More consistency on the money/sliding scale and not related to breed

Up the promotions

One price for animals—price should not be based on breed

Reduce the amount coming in to the shelter so that there are fewer to be adopted

Don't kill if there is room in the kennels

Look at Jacksonville , San Antonio and San Jose, CA

Have stronger fosters and have them run like a business

Reach out to the 501C's and, they need to be monitored

Business License should regulate one set of rules

Pet stores – have mandatory spay/neuter law

Adoption process is overwhelming--it's not easy and it's a sad experience

Revisit the mission statement of the Animal Foundation "...reduce the animal population" implies euthanasia...it should include "lifesaving"

Increased TNR

Illegal to euthanize if not vicious, sick, or injured

Increased outreach on adoptions

Incentives for home owners renting homes and apartments to allow larger pets to reside in these homes

Mega-Adoption Events

Establish a panel to determine if euthanasia is warranted (like the one that the Nevada Humane Society has). This will increase the oversight of the Animal Foundation. There would be approximately 40-50 animals seen through this process daily if implemented

Increase in qualified staff at the Animal Foundation

Need the community to be more engaged and willing to adopt

Decreased intake

Community Cat Program/Return to the field should be tried

Adopt more animals legally increase the number of animals that can be owned

Adoption Drives

Change the culture of the shelter—make it more visible to the public

Adopt the animals even with teeth problems and earaches

Why are animals being euthanized (out of room, not adoptable, disease?)

Publish the numbers of adoptable animals being euthanized

Establish what the definition of adoptable is

Opportunities to become more proactive

Move money to different sides *of the problem*

Focus on San Francisco, New Hampshire as a solution/model

Look at demographics

Look at money

Need to create an equal balance between proactive/reactive

Both money and resources

Don't give cats away

Fostering program

Need to find a balance of what can be fixed today and what can't be

Enforcement side through an ordinance

Look at the protective custody animals that are held until the court case happens

Get 50+ animals at once

12 countries and a few cities already ban pit bulls

Not setting a good example by euthanizing all these animals

Consequences of actions through enforcement

Reduce shelter intakes

New county code: Illegal to kill animals if you have space available (exception: seriously injured animals)

Increase foster/adoption rates

More adoption events

Lower adoption rates

Protocol to let interested animal finders adopt the animal instead of euthanization

Increase hold times to 5 days

Chipping all animals

Recourse when Lied doesn't honor the 72 hour hold

Treat animals with medical issues or allow them to be adopted

Lied doesn't have to fix all animal problems, just allow them to be adopted

Let a panel make determinations on euthanasia; make decision a team choice; community member on panel

Make decision less arbitrary

Awareness that animal is stressed in shelter when making behavioral decisions

Tend to label dogs as pit mix making them less adoptable

Don't label pit/shepherd mix; could be shepherd mix

Eliminate restriction on # of animals

All animals should be available for fostering not just young and ill

Foster to adopt programs

Returned animals given additional chance to be adopted

Warning that owner released animals may be killed in 24 hours—need signage in front of shelter stating this

Submitted via email *(transcribed verbatim, unless otherwise noted)*

- I'd get rid of the Animal Foundation who euthanizes pets for the most ridiculous reasons. That alone would drop the figures because they're the worst. There's no reason to be killing adoptable animals when you have space and over things like being scared of the shelter environment, needing a dental cleaning, getting a foot injury in adoptions, being fat, being old, having a cold, etc. Minor medical things that can be treated need to be addressed and they need to stop dumping the responsibility and the cost on the small rescues around the valley.

Also, there needs to be more locations to adopt animals and receive lost cost spay/neuter and vaccinations. The Animal Foundation is SO FAR AWAY. There is no centralized location or centralized satellite locations - and the one they opened was in Henderson which is ridiculous because the Henderson Animal Shelter should be there!! They supposedly have a mobile adoption truck but I've never heard about it being anywhere. They make a few appearances with pets at a Ford dealership, MGM, and maybe Whole Foods, but that's it. If you don't go to their campus, forget it. PetSmart Charities in Phoenix holds massive adoption fairs in huge facilities and they are wildly successful.

There also needs to be better adoption programming. One of the best programs I've seen is the Meet Your Match program from the ASPCA. <https://www.asPCA.org/adopt/meet-your-match> This program provides coding and information on a pet and then has adopters also take a survey so they can be compatible. This would also help stop adoption returns.

- Regarding reducing the "euthanasia" rate, you should use the word "kill", because the word "euthanasia" is defined as "the painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease". Being lost or homeless is not a disease. There are some animals that enter a shelter in such condition as to require being euthanized, but, as has been shown in so many no-kill communities, those numbers are always less than 10%, not the 53% killed by the Animal Foundation.

There are now hundreds of communities in this country that have managed to go no-kill, achieving kill rates less than 10%. In every one of those cases, this was achieved by completely replacing the current shelter management with a new organization with a different vision. It simply doesn't happen any other way. To believe that the Animal Foundation, who has had the contract for 10 years can change is a pipe dream. To believe that the current Animal Foundation management team who have been failing our community, killing from 53% to 70%+, for the last 6 years can form a coalition with others and be part of a no-kill solution is likewise a pipe dream. The only way to bring our community a shelter that we and our pets deserve is to open the contract to bidding and replace the constantly failing Animal Foundation with a no-kill management team.

The formula of strategies that make no-kill possible is now well understood (low adoption fees, treating treatable animals, keeping kennels full, not charging pull fees to rescues, shelter intervention programs, etc., etc.). The Animal Foundation refuses to implement or comprehensively implement these strategies.

- A true No Kill is where euthanasia is reserved only for those dogs who are vicious and pose a threat to the public or those cats and dogs who are irremediably suffering, in which medical treatment cannot alleviate their condition. If there is space, there are fosters, rescues that can take these furbabies in then DON'T KILL THEM! Even a vicious dog can be rehabilitated. Create an Animal Behavioral School that works with these animals, there has to be tax advantages for a school to be started. Through this school you can offer the Get to know your Pet class, future and mandatory obedience classes for ALL adopted pets. Low cost obedience classes for the general public, I took my Chow to a County run dog obedience class back in 91/92 it was held at the park behind Hyde Park..it was affordable it worked WONDERFULLY!! My Theo may not be with me but I still rave about how well he was with EVERYONE because of those classes, and they were affordable.
- Currently the shelter kills animals for miniscule health issues that can be treated with very little cost. These animals seem to be put on a 'rescue only' list and can easily be adopted out if the adopter agrees to have their vet resolve the issue right away. Many dogs need dentals and the shelter will just euthanize them or put them on rescue only lists, where an adopter would be more than willing

to spend the money on a dental for the animals. The shelter determines that any animal with a small health issue is not adoptable, and that is WRONG! Allow the animals to be adopted. Partner with another organization that can treat the animals health issues if needed for a low cost.

Invite more volunteers to help training the dogs that might need additional training. Try to assertively recruit more volunteers that can foster animals and partner with rescue groups so it is easier to communicate and network with them.

The shelter killed puppies this last year because they couldn't find a foster for the dogs. There was no media on tv, facebook or on their website requesting one, they just killed the puppies. The "management" of this shelter needs to be replaced by people who actually want to help the animals and will do whatever they can to do that.

- GET A QUALIFIED PROGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR EVALUATION TEAM. The current team has no prior experience or qualifications to be evaluating dogs... as far as we know because TAF won't say (lack of transparency) except for Andy Bischel saying one of them has a degree in Animal Husbandry (which has nothing to do with evaluating dog behavior). They still are doing nose-to-nose intros which any trainer will tell you is setting dogs up to fail. They are still using the asses-a-hand to push dogs away from their food (even ones who 72 hours prior were scrounging for food on the streets) and then label dogs as food aggressive (and then kill them) when progressive shelters have discarded that antiquated method. Studies have shown 50%+ dogs failing those tests do not exhibit any food aggression once in the home. These current behavior evaluations are just excuses to kill dogs (mostly pit bulls).

They need to hire a real dog behaviorist. They need to get experienced pit bull people to keep these high energy dogs properly stimulated while in the shelter environment. Get Incred-a-Bull to offer suggestions for play groups and other methods.

Also stop killing cats just because they start to squirm after being held for awhile. That is normal cat behavior! Or cats they say are "hand shy" but then they say they also "allow all handling"!!

- I would implement a public awareness campaign, work closely with rescues, volunteers, and local veterinary, and promote each and every animal.

Ensure that animals are only euthanized when absolutely necessary. Things such as tooth decay, blindness, or being frightened of a shelter environment are not reasons to euthanize an animal. If treatment or rehabilitation are possible, either instill these skills and options in the employees of TAF or eliminate fees for rescue groups, who will take these animals and see that they are properly handled and not destroyed. Make it illegal to euthanize 'for space'. Make it known to the public exactly what the kill statistics are each month.

- Allow for a household to foster a larger number, Make requirements that to euthanize an animal it absolutely cannot be rehab due to extreme behavior or abuse. Not allow Euthanasia for animals that need dental work, are afraid (all animals smell fear in the shelter and they react t that fear) broken nail, cut that can be treated, ear infection that can be treated, Manners training that can easily be rectified. Many animals that are blind/deaf do just fine when placed in a home. bad mannered animals can be trained to be well mannered and typically if they are worked with steadily they can be turned into well behaved within 2-4 weeks. Better trained staff at the shelter or replace with a group that understand rehabilitation.
- One idea is to develop a community pool of "fosters" or "volunteers" who are trained to deal with behavioral issues or health concerns. These are people who are available to step in quickly to take a pet on a short-term basis. Sometimes it seems like the rescues wait until a pet needs to be pulled

immediately or a “crisis” situation. In communities where “No Kill” is successful there is huge community support and a strong volunteer/foster system.

- Doing a combination of cracking down on backyard breeders and individuals who are irresponsible and don't get their pets fixed, as well as not allowing any pet stores in this area to sell animals, but rather they need to display adoptable ones from rescues and the shelter, doing aggressive TNR of all neighborhoods until all known feral cats are ear tipped, and a very well cleaned and organized shelter with vaccinations always happening as soon as an animal comes in should keep them all healthy and do the trick.

The county shelter could possibly build more buildings to house more animals, especially cats, and fill up every cage instead of only leaving them in every other one. They're spaced out enough between each cage that w/proper daily cleaning they shouldn't spread disease even if they have it. If some cats have FIV or FELV (which they should be tested for upon coming into the shelter if not known) keep them in a separate room, apart from the rest as that is highly contagious. If any animal is sick with something that is contagious there should be a separate room for them to be housed in.

Animals needing minor things like dental work or a broken leg, etc. should not be put to sleep, yet I've heard AF has done this several times to avoid the costs of caring for the animal. This is unacceptable! Animals with any injuries or illnesses need to be cared for by the shelter and nursed back to health. There should be at least two full time veterinarians and a couple vet techs on hand to help properly care for the animals. There are also times that I've heard people took a found animal into the kill shelter to hopefully find its owner, and they left their contact info w/the person at the shelter with the directions to call them if their owner can't be found or no one else adopts the animal, and they would come back to get the animal. Instead of following through, the shelter just euthanized the animal when the owner couldn't be found, and the person found out later. That's happened to several people I know, and there's no excuse for that! If they're losing the person's contact info, then better organization of files for each animal should be maintained.

Also there should be a help desk put there as a consultation service to any owners thinking of surrendering their animal due to various reasons which could be helped. The help desk person should educate the person on possible programs they're eligible for if they need help caring for the animal or if they're having behavioral issues they need to get them in contact with a trainer to help them. The help desk people should do anything and everything they can to keep animals in their homes as long as the owners do not seem to be abusing or neglecting the animal. Moving is a lame excuse to dump your animal, as many places allow them.

The shelter needs to do more public outreach consistently and keep things positive to attract more needed volunteers. Do programs that work with non-violent inmates who can come out and walk the dogs and socialize all the animals, or the kids in local schools can start a program volunteering there, either socializing the animals or helping to clean up simple things.

- Pass ordinances that protect animals admitted to the shelter. A violation of an ordinance would be a violation of the contract by the contractor operating the shelter and could be cause for voiding the contract and/or substantial fines. Among the issues the legislation should address:
Make it illegal for the shelter to kill any animal when there are kennels/cages available.
Make it illegal for the shelter to kill any animal if a rescue organization requests possession of the animal.

Require the shelter to maintain a list of rescue organizations and no kill shelters and notify them by **verifiable** electronic communication of any animals scheduled to be killed.

The above provisions wouldn't apply to a vicious animal or an animal that has irremediable physical suffering.

The only way to insure the shelter is doing its job of saving animals' lives is to codify and regulate shelter operations, no matter who is running the shelter and require compliance in the contract.

Require the shelter to provide veterinary services and treat any admitted animals with minor medical conditions. Augment the treatment services by partnering with PIMA and local veterinary hospitals to provide treatment for conditions beyond the capabilities of shelter veterinarians.

- Las Vegas should contact The Nevada Humane Society in Reno which has a 5% kill rate compared to our 53% rate. Tisk, tisk. As stated, I recently visited the facility in Reno as part of my group NKLTV and had a tour with the director. He informed me that when an animal is euthanized there is only if there is no medical treatment left and the animal is suffering so much. If it is for behavioral reasons, many steps are implemented before euthanasia comes into play. The animal is worked with regarding behavior with a specialist. All files and notes are transparent for the public and staff to see at any time. Every effort of remediation which is possible is attempted. If then the animal is still not successful and is deemed dangerous in some way, there is a six-person panel which meets and the case is discussed with all notes and files. There is a discourse which occurs. There is a vote. Suggestions are made. If the panel agrees that sadly, yes the animal must be euthanized the group cries. They buy McDonald's as a last supper for the dogs. They hold them in their arms and weep. All files and records regarding everything with the animal are kept in a file which is open to the public to view at all times. Quite a contrast to the willy nilly killing spree happening at TAF.
- The highest cause of death for domesticated, companion animals in the United States is the shelter system. How do you stop this? First thing, shut down the kill rooms. Stop killing animals and animals will stop dying. Pass legislation like the Companion Animal Protection Act which in addition to many other things, "makes it illegal for a shelter to kill an animal if a rescue group or No Kill shelter is willing to save that animal" and "makes it illegal for shelters to kill owner relinquished animals without making them available for adoption or transfer to a rescue group, even in cases where the owner wants the animal killed unless the animal is suffering". For more information about the Companion Animal Protection Act, please visit <http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/shelter-reform/companion-animal-protection-act>. Next, lower adoption fees. This has proven to work, not only in other cities, but right here in Las Vegas. Since The Animal Foundation has realized that their contract is in doubt, they have had events where they have lowered, and sometimes, waived adoption fees and it has worked! More animals were adopted during those events. If only they had been listening to us for the past several years begging for them to do that. Again, now with their contract approaching expiration, they finally make an attempt to help animals in this town. Next, put in place leadership that are in favor of compassion and love as opposed to the "business first" mentality of Christine Robinson, Andy Bischel, and Carly Scholten. Two of those three individuals have no previous experience working with animals. I'm not sure that being an assistant county manager or an assistant coach for the UNLV men's golf team really prepares you for running an animal shelter. Build a better foster system and work to expand that network. Don't just SAY you partner with local and regional rescue groups...actually do it. Putting healthy animals on a "Rescue Only List" is not a partnership. Remember, also, that a lot of the animals considered "rescue only" and are not made available for adoption are deemed this way for reasons like chipped teeth, shyness, under weight, overweight, and in need of a dental cleaning. I'm looking at my dog right now who could use a dental cleaning...I don't think that he should be put down because of it. The Animal Foundation has a track record of not working with other rescues and not accepting suggestions and or assistance. They are a "go it alone" organization who is content with their broken system. Only recently, with the rise of organizations like No Kill Las Vegas, are The Animal Foundation even

attempting to appear at events where the no kill conversation is being had. 10 years, hundreds of thousands of animals murdered...it's too little too late.

Question 5: What can be done to increase partnering opportunities for, and communication about, community outreach and prevention programs?

More community focus groups, small

Leave out politics and competition

More opportunities for rescue groups to discuss issues, find common ground

Broaden views of community happenings education, advertising

Potential euthanasia awareness at shelter intake

Share "do not adopt" list

Better communication between CC and animal welfare groups

Knock and talk (on doors in neighborhood)

Canvas communities/educating

Target low income/high crime communities

Ambassador in community like Heaven Can Wait (paid?)

Work with vet hospitals to help with outreach

Gain trust in community (by having Ambassador)

Look into LA County laws

Encourage a "Night out" Block party with free food and drink

Work with different rescues

Offer free services in low-income areas

Target male neutering (such as) a mobile service

Have open house at various locations throughout the valley including the County, with Lied and Animal Control at community centers

Offer a drop off center for donated medication

Have schools give out information to students

Offer a life science class in the schools

Find grants and other funds for relinquishment prevention programs

Animal Foundation to admit to the community that they are dedicated to work in partnership with the community--too much dissention

Bring Bonnie Brown from Reno or another neutral third party from another like area to help mend the relationship and trust of the Animal Foundation and the community

More increased websites and info on pet ownership and better owner training

More regular meetings with the rescue partners and the community

Create partnerships with community trainers for fosters and public

Vouchers to PETSMART for training

Training in various locations throughout the community for better accessibility

Animal Foundation should be inclusive of the community--too many people want to help and volunteer but many times they are shut out

Increase spay/neutering in observed communities

More transparency in the numbers—Los Angeles posts theirs monthly

Come to a presentation and there are no animals or costs presented before discussion

Make information open to everyone

Provide information on the different types of outcomes

Cities of Las Vegas and Henderson don't post anything

If you can find them, you have to dig for the numbers

The community doesn't really know how bad it is

More animal oriented people at the shelter

Coalition building can bring education and outreach

Cities of Las Vegas, Henderson, and North Las Vegas should be at this meeting (*the focus group*)

Exotic animals need a voice and discussion as well

Community groups--some work together, others don't, too many leaders out there

Animal Advisory Committee meetings need to be better advertised to people who want to attend

Hold a Mega adoption/spay/neuter block party

Knocking the shelter is not creating a healthy environment--easy to bash

Makes it hard to partner with others

Taxpayers don't want to pay for shelter improvements

There are concerns about the Shelter staying neutral

Shelter needs to be more accountable

Heaven Can Wait stated they don't want to work with the shelter due to negative feedback

Return to the Field would put animals first

Community Outreach

Need to focus on zip codes that have the biggest problems

Provide the cages to trap animals

People don't know about low cost spay/neuter options

Other cities don't make it as easy to give up animals

Intervention programs when people try to surrender animals

Provide animal food for those who lost jobs

Create guidelines to help people

Too easy to give up an animal right now

Show a video of euthanasia

People need to understand that animals are valued

Have members of the Animal Advisory Committee at meetings such as this one

Meetings such as this shouldn't be held in the middle of the day

People have made this problem, have the people solve the problem

Target low income neighborhoods

Increase awareness of volunteer opportunities to students

Improve customer service - current contract provider needs to answer the phone/be more responsive to inquiries received over the phone

Vendor needs to increase funding for outreach efforts through grants (federal and private) including Maddie's

Fund

Partner with CCSD to educate students on the problem of overpopulation; create an after school program

Vendor should give community presentations

Partner w/utility companies and large corporations to promote the needs of the shelter and educate their staff

Identify a champion

Establish emergency/short term respite program for pet owners who cannot afford boarding costs

Coordinate efforts/resources between programs

Improve relationships between rescue groups with each other and the shelter through regular meetings

No fees for rescue groups would improve relationships

Consistency in the way each rescue group is treated

No preferential treatment

Reduce fear of retribution

Task Force--educate

Employers--sponsorship/benefit to EE

Unions

Media

Schools; CSN, CCSD, UNLV

Celebrity sponsorship

Incentives for S/N

Elected officials

PSA

Encourage vet offices to educate families about S/N pros/cons

Educational meetings should e provided by AF

Offer more free regularly offered education at libraries, community centers, fire stations, schools, churches, etc.

Accountability and transparency of contractor

Submitted via email *(transcribed verbatim, unless otherwise noted)*

- There needs to be a city group or foundation of the shelters and the rescues so they can work together without intimidation. The Animal Foundation pulls all the strings and rescue groups are silenced and must shut up and just obey in order to stay eligible to pull from the rescue list. It's like the mob runs that place. Sad and ridiculous. And the fact a rescue has to pay to pull a sick or injured animal the Animal Foundation wants to kill is the biggest slap in the face to the rescue community I've ever seen. They're dumping medical care issues off onto these small groups and then want to charge them. Are you kidding me??

There needs to be more awareness of all the shelters and rescue groups, and a televised telethon would be a great start. The Denver Dumb Friends League and a number of others do this around

the country. In addition, groups like DDFL have massive events such as the Furry Scurry which raises \$1M for pets in their care. They also do a Cat Fest and a number of other initiatives. <http://www.ddfl.org/events-calendar>

The Animal Foundation also needs to stop doing the Best In Show event. It's a horrible idea to "auction" animals and "selectively" pick them for presentation based on looks or breed. They've also offered pets for "auction" at other events such as a Dress For Success event I went to with an auction. That is the worst message about adopting a pet I've ever seen. It's just more ignorance on their part and a lack of understanding on how to positively communicate and relate to the community regarding homeless animals. Hold a ball or open a thrift shop if you want to raise money. Don't hold a pet auction.

- Transparency is sorely needed by our shelter. The Animal Foundation simply deceives the public about the number of animals they kill, while continually fundraising for their "life-saving efforts". A sign advising of a surrendered animal's chances at the shelter at the receiving desk would go a long way to getting caring but uninformed people to find better solutions for their pets. Also, board meetings for whoever is running the shelter should be open to the public.
- Community Outreach is just that, reach out to the community.

The Leaders of this State and all the counties and cities in-between need to get involved. They don't have to be "Animal Lovers" they just have to do what is RIGHT and leading this Nevada to a better more compassionate State is the RIGHT thing to do., all this Community wants a leader to show them the path, give them the tools to be a part of a better place to live.

Advertise Volunteer opportunities

Offer Foster training to those that want to foster but don't know how to get started

Use the Prison system to offer a tech trade of Vet School and Fostering, obedience training to the less "Harden" criminal to learn a trade when they are released. – To add to my idea above about the School in the Shelter you can start with Prisoners adjusting to life and learning a trade, they can earn good behavior and come learn at the State/County Run School as a part of their release program.

- The shelter should try to partner more with rescue groups, instead of thinking of them as annoyances. We all need to work together but for some reason, the shelter just wants to have people stop bothering them. A good managing director would be more transparent and listen to improvements that could be made.

Partner with the area grocery stores to setup donation stations for the shelter, maybe once a month. Smiths also has a program in place that you can register your Smiths card to donate a certain percentage of your grocery amount to a non-profit. I see some rescue groups doing this but not sure if the Shelter does.

Have more companies/organizations/church groups work with the shelter to volunteer and promote the animal adoptions. School kids can also volunteer and receive some high-school credit, maybe as an internship. Why not have grocery stores promote on the back of their receipts? TV news stations are covering some adoptable animals, why not partner with the casinos that have the changing neon signs and put up advertisements of the Shelter.

Expand community service by allow misdemeanor violators to work off their community service hours at the shelter.

- TAF needs to stop deceiving the public and be more transparent. They need to be WILLING to work with the community. My experience in meeting with Ms. Robinson and Ms. Scholten is that their attitude can be summed up in what Janie Greenspun once said to me "All these outside people want to come here and tell us how to run things"... We are not "outside people" we are the COMMUNITY and these are OUR homeless animals who we entrust into the care of OUR municipal shelter. The vast majority of people in this community do not want healthy and easily treatable animals killed at our shelter. And the community deserves a shelter that is run by people who have the same principles. TAF has had 10 years and are still killing the majority of animals who enter their doors. They have not been willing to implement the programs and policies that have been proven to work in other shelters. That they are starting to (half-heartedly) implement some promotions and attend meetings such as this one only now that their contract is coming up for renewal makes their motives suspect. What is to prevent them from abandoning all that if they get another 10 year contract? I strongly urge the Commissioners to put the shelter contract up for bid so a more progressive organization can bid on it.
- These programs are essential to lowering the euthanasia rate, they should be budgeted appropriately for and made a priority of the shelter.
- Rarely have I ever seen TAF informing the public about a community outreach event, and if I have, it's been a post on Facebook maybe half an hour before the event ends. Adversely, I've seen them pimp 'Best In Show' for weeks on end. Clearly they are capable of marketing. They need to proactively inform the public about these events through SEVERAL Facebook posts, radio ads, newspaper ads, spots on the local news, etc.
- Create an animal welfare site. Where citizens can report abuse, post discounted clinics, free or discounted chips, set up a newsletter that citizens can subscribe to. Bring several rescue groups together for Rescue Expo. Offer grants to rescue groups to support their continued work with rehab and home placement. Invite groups in and allow them to take animals into special groups for free (Wounded warriors, Service animals)
- There does seem to be a serious lack of cooperation between the shelter (TAF) and the rescues. Is it legitimate? Is it procedural? I would recommend reaching out to the rescues either by phone, email, or perhaps small groups to determine the cause of the lack of cooperation. Is it true for all the rescues or for just some of the more vocal ones? If it is truly representative of the relationship between the shelter and the rescues then a solution needs to be created with input from those in rescue work and the shelter staff.
- I've addressed this some above. Partner with all levels of schools to get kids in there and educated about our homeless animals in need. Partner with local jails for inmates to do some community service which ends up benefiting them as well. Also partner with places like Pets for Patriots: <http://petsforpatriots.org/about-us/>. Have a marketing team to market each animal to the public through social media like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Have a better functioning website that has better pics of every animal, not ones where it shows them scared coming into the shelter. People want to see happy cats and dogs in order to come down to adopt. Do adoption specials like they have been lately. Promote them on local news as they have been, and also in all public places they can. Create a low-income family program who can get their pets spay/neutered and vaccinated for free or little cost to them. Make sure people are notified of what the law is. This will save the tax payers more in the long run. Create a TNR squad of caring volunteers and willing vets to get all of our feral cats fixed over the next year. Do fundraisers like community pot lucks or bake sales, or pet walk events to promote the animals, the shelter, and raise money for them. No auctioning off dogs like AF has done with "Best of Show" though as it's not the right way to go about

it, and looks at the dog as a thing and not a being who should go to the right home not the highest bidder. Also if there are other shelters in other areas of the country who are low on animals and people are requesting the types of animals our shelter has, there needs to be open communication between them/a network setup, and let our shelter transport some of our animals to another shelter where the demand for pit bulls or chihuahuas may be higher than here. There are nonprofits already out there who have truckers who will transport adoptable animals for free. Here's a website with a whole list of them: <https://afurryfriend.wordpress.com/animal-transport-services/>

- Require that the contractor operating the shelter make their Board of Directors meetings open to the public and publish the date, time and place of the meetings on their website at least 14 days before the meeting.
- Restore the Humane Education Program with the schools.
- Require transparency in the contractor operating the shelter and require public financial reports and full disclosure - itemizing all sources of income, identifying all philanthropic donors who contribute \$100 or more, and itemize all expenditures.
- Eliminate pull fees charged to rescue organizations. The contractor saves money by not having to feed and house the animal in the shelter. The animals placed with rescue groups are provided far more social interaction than those caged at the shelter.
- If TAF wasn't such an abysmal horror, it would make sense for the animal rescue organizations to have a central hub inside the facility. This would be a natural center for fostering, volunteerism, etc. The entire foster program would shift from one of a Schindler's List rescue ASAP as an animal is about to be one of 60 plus killed today to a smooth operation that is coordinated through a large network fueled by social media. The chaos that exist now could be replaced by a central command in a proactive way. The foster and community needs section could all be in one. For instance, if an adopter was having trouble with a pet, the outreach center could send over a behavioral specialist. Or perhaps if an adopter fell on hard times and was thinking of returning the animal, instead food could be delivered for a few months. These methods are in play all over the nation. It is not difficult to copy and paste so to speak.
- Much like my answer to question 2, The Animal Foundation could make a real, true attempt to increase partnerships and communicate to the community. They have always played the victim and put their failed policies on the shoulders of the citizens. When there are animals being let down by the shelter system in this town, they point the finger at the community and then promptly kill the animal. This is, not only not working, but is also an offensive practice. There is no partnering with The Animal Foundation. They refuse help from rescue groups, concerned citizens, and volunteers. They push people away to the point that caring citizens no longer want to work with them. Look at other cities like Reno who have brought their kill rate down to nearly 5%. The Nevada Humane Society works diligently there to work with the community and be part of events constantly to get their animals out there. The Animal Foundation has only recently offered pet adoptions at local pet stores. Rescues have been doing that for years. The Animal Foundation is an embarrassment and only now, with their contract in doubt, have they decided to make any adjustments.

Question 6: Is there anything else relevant to this topic that you'd like the Commissioners to know?

Vets need to contribute time, money to assist with medical cases, S/N

Public forum for every day pet owners--find out why the public is not seeking S/N

Why doesn't the AF work more directly with the rescues--the Animal Foundation not seeking/accepting assistance from rescues

Concern exists about retaliation against rescues that speak out against the Animal Foundation

Some rescues have to pay adoption and vet fees

Define County mission and vision regarding animal welfare, what does the community see?

Umbrella policy--regardless of who you are and what animals you have, if you are licensed, zoned and in full compliance then you aren't part of the County's problem. Therefore your personal information should not be made available to the public

If the Animal Foundation takes in an animal, they should be required to provide care for it

Maintenance--need businesses, casinos, etc. to contribute to welfare of animals that are cared for on their properties by volunteers

Better allocation of funds and donations to Animal Foundation

Focus on animals

Community involvement in allocation to Animal Foundation

All animals includes pocket pets, exotics, and reptiles

More funding is needed for Animal Control and it should go to a direct source--we need more officers

Pet hoarding is out of control

A/C officers should be designated in certain areas of the valley

Animal Control should not prioritize calls (e.g., dog parks)

I don't believe in TNR program

Euthanizing is not a solution to the population problem

Be proactive and not reactive

There is no way to track hoarders--we would like for there to be a way to do this

We want more money for Animal Control

Redo the Animal Foundation like a business

The Clark County Commission should ask the tough questions to the Animal Control and Animal Foundation monthly for better accountability

The Commission should look at oversight and establish uniform goals

The Commission should ask Best Friends to share their best practices

The contract should be RFP'd for more transparency

No Kill centers usually receive increased donations (visit bestfriends.org)

Animal Foundation meetings should be open to the public

County to submit reports to the community monthly (i.e.: euthanasia stats, etc.)

More effort on adopting exotic animals

More transparency – county post monthly TAF reports online; breakdown report by agency; TAF meetings should be open to the public (board meeting)

Euthanasia rate should be used to determine how vendor is doing their job

Per animal cost

501 shouldn't be running the "pound"

Deliverables more defined when the contract is opened up

Automatic renewals removed from contract; renewal should require commission approval (not just admin approval)

Open for bid RFP/RFQ

Staff bias toward TAF – commission led to approve TAF renewal

Pigs are pets too

Exotic animal ordinance

Millions on construction is not best way to solve problem

\$ spent on A.C. officers and animals directly

Contract requires that animal injuries should be treated

Revisit mission of animal advisory board

Need exotic animal ordinance

More opportunities to talk and brainstorm

Wider use of shelter Chameleon software

Not to renew the contract with the Animal Foundation

Get someone who likes animals (Humane Society, SPCA listed as options)

Need to create competition and open it up

Commissioners have a conflict of interest with the Animal Foundation

Enforce the laws on the books before enacting new ones

Increase enforcement

Address unfair enforcement of certain species

Targeting big animals (*e.g. lions*)

Tried to bring in mandatory spay/neuter ordinances for exotic animals

Enact an insurance policy for pit bulls

Already proposing insurance policies for exotic animals when they're already licensed

Insurance policy issues regarding certain animals

Liability requirement of proposal for exotic animals is in violation of NRS

There is no cost to license a dog in the County

Keep consistency among municipalities

What happens in Clark County, spills over to Nye County

Protective custody animals

Submitted via email *(transcribed verbatim, unless otherwise noted)*

- I've referenced the Denver Dumb Friends League a number of times and it's because they do things right. They're very transparent and they work their asses off providing an attitude of listening, care and joy to be doing what they do. And the SPCA in Reno is another outstanding example. When people feel that things are done right, donations and volunteerism pours in at record rates. I do not donate or volunteer for The Animal Foundation based upon their horrible practices and leadership. I instead give my money to local rescues and the NVSPCA here in Vegas because they are dealing with the messes the Animal Foundation causes.

The leadership at the Animal Foundation is a joke. None of them want to be in the business of community action and care for animals and they want to just point the finger at the community they're failing to help. They are not advocates. They have got to go. The innocent animals and the uneducated population of this town deserve a group that is going to raise the bar, bust their asses and make this community one that gets noticed for it's dedication and care.

The reason I'm so passionate about them losing their contract is because in December 2013, I was at the Animal Foundation and found a dog in his kennel who had been in adoptions for awhile and had an injured leg. His injury happened in their care. The moment I saw him I knew he was in trouble because I knew they'd kill him and not treat him despite the fact he was "their property". And they did kill him. His name was Paolo and I tried to work with a rescue group to pull him and help him, but they killed him before we could get him. He went on the rescue list and was dead 48 hours later. And he was a sweet boy at only 10 months old... he limped over to me and licked my hand the day I found him and I sobbed at his kennel knowing the odds were against him... the senseless loss of his life and TENS OF THOUSANDS of others pets cannot go unanswered. No one else should have to cry over a boy like Paolo ever again or feel as helpless as I did that day not knowing how to get him out of that horrible situation.

Las Vegas doesn't need to be like this. We can be better. We should be better. We have to be better.

- Please put out an RFP, and open the contract for shelter management to bidding. Please consider giving the contract to Nevada Humane Society, who have achieved such amazing results in Reno, or some other no-kill organization. The Animal Foundation has had 10 years to demonstrate that they are only capable of a achieving a 53% kill rate. We and our pets deserve better.

- I just want them to know, we need Education, Involvement and Information and there are so many people ready and willing to help, just let us and empower us.

Offer animal awareness workshops through the school system.

Start a Junior Volunteer program to get our younger animal lovers involved

Offer Vet Tech as a Vocational Option in our School System--High Schoolers can volunteer at the shelter to earn credit

Animal Abuser Registry - No person convicted of animal abuse should be allowed to have an animal

In closing the most important idea I want to emphasize is EDUCATION. Start early and start now. It's never too late to train a human, "old dog new tricks" ... Get the community informed, educated and involved.

I hope my ideas; my vision is something that runs parallel in the goal that is ultimately trying to be achieved.

No Kill is possible

- The current management of Animal Foundation needs to be replaced. They have no true desire to help the animals and the community itself. It is a great injustice to keep them in their positions, with so many citizens and animal rescue groups trying so hard to make it easier to adopt out the animals, care for them, and reduce the euthanizing of adoptable animals. The current management has little to provide moving forward.
- An animal shelter should be a place of safety, hence the term shelter. The animal shelter needs to put the animals first. They need to treat treatable conditions and do everything they can to help the homeless pets of Las Vegas. I do not believe that the Animal Foundation does this and it is time for change.
- If other major cities can turn their shelters into no-kill shelters, Las Vegas can easily do the same. If TAF is not willing to change their ways permanently, not just to save face and get their contract renewed, then another organization is easily capable of stepping in and taking over. Please visit <http://nklv.org/> if you have just a moment; their ideas could help change the lives of all of the helpless animals in our community.
- Yes Las Vegas is truly tired of AF's record of destroying animals that can be saved. They have a bad track record with volunteers whom has witnessed some pretty horrible things. The lies of saying they put an animal down due to space when they have multiple spaces available. And the excuse of Rescue only list for minor issues such as ear infection, broken tooth, broken nail, skittish. I can only say that I would invite you to meet my rescue Shelton, hear why they were going to kill him and then after you meet him tell me if it was worth saving him
- A few words of caution regarding the No Kill Las Vegas movement – they present a one-sided view – Nathan Winograd's approach. They present it as being simple, etc. The problems of pet overpopulation are complex and cannot be solved with a simplistic approach.

See attached article on the No Kill movement from Rescue Me (*attached as an addendum to this transcription*).

Another good article: <http://hsus.typepad.com/wayne/2007/11/not-killing-pet.html>

- The current management of the Animal Foundation needs to go. They've proven over and over again that they do not care about the animals and only see this as a business when this needs to be treated as a nonprofit. There's no money to be made in rescuing animals day in and day out, but it is a valuable community service that needs to be there for all, and done with compassion and a willingness to change when there are better methods to do things. The shelter needs to really act as the safe haven for all animals in our county, not the end of the line as it has been for so many helpless souls. Let people come in and share their ideas w/o being turned away as the current management has done to past volunteers wanting to help. We know of proven no-kill policies which have worked to turn places like Reno and L.A. into No-kill regions. We must implement these now to see results, and have a caring and connected management overseeing it all who's not afraid to get their hands dirty working towards this goal like the rest of us. And transparency is key. People surrendering their animals need to know that this is a kill shelter (as long as it is one) and that there's a 50% chance their animal will be put to sleep if they leave it there. Posting publicly the shelters euthanasia rates monthly on the outside of its doors and at all the desks inside as well as on their website is a great idea too, so the public knows exactly how the shelter is operating.
- I would like the Commissioners to have access to this site: <http://bestfriends.org/Resources/For-Shelters-and-Rescuers/> This is only one example of blueprints for success that already exist out there. It is not hard to copy successful programs. It is time to let go of what is a dismal failure and blight to Las Vegas. This will soon become a national embarrassment with negative press. It is the civil rights movement of the animal world. Over sixty percent of American households have a treasured family pet. It is long overdue to correct the medieval nightmare that is TAF before it reflects adversely on both the Commissioners and the municipality of Clark County.
- The County Commissioners need to know that The Animal Foundation is an embarrassment to our city and our county. They need to know just how mismanaged The Animal Foundation is. They need to know that when animals arrive there for whatever reason, more than HALF of them are killed and taken out the backdoor in garbage bags while space is available to house them. They need to know that Adoption Directors have been fired because leadership says their focus was on saving animals and not on the "business". They need to know that when The Animal Foundation receives surrendered exotic birds, they have been known to SELL them out the backdoor. So much for being NON-PROFIT. They need to know that other cities, some larger than Las Vegas and some smaller, have made the changes to make no kill a reality and that at every turn, The Animal Foundation has REJECTED the same changes. Again, only recently with the rise of criticism and their contract hanging in the balance next year, has The Animal Foundation taken any steps whatsoever to help animals. It is important that you know that a lot of people were not made aware of your focus group event earlier this week until less than 24 hours before the event began. As a full time employee working between the hours of 9am-6pm, I was unable to make attend on such short notice. Had I not been turned onto this by a friend of a friend, my voice would not have been heard in this process. Why wasn't the event publicized? My understanding is that The Animal Foundation was to publicize the event. Please let it be known that they did not. There are members on the Commission who seem truly open to hearing about the truth of The Animal Foundation and the need for change and there are some who seem fine with continuing the status quo. To those who think that The Animal Foundation is doing everything they can, please remember that for over 50% of animals that come in the front door and are taken out the backdoor after being killed, they have let them down. They have silenced a soul who did nothing wrong. They refused to adjust to give these animals a chance. Can we really say they are doing everything they can when they are killing over half of the animals they take in? Can we really see it their way? Can we really sit silently and allow them to continue to do this? This is our chance to

make a difference...our chance to give a voice to the truly voiceless members of our community. These animals have done nothing wrong...why punish them to the death? The Animal Foundation has to go. We can do better. With your help, we will!