

# SMART SHELTERS & RESCUES

## SAVING MORE ANIMALS RESPONSIBLY TOGETHER

A better way to think about animal welfare.

Animal shelters and rescue organizations serve animals and the communities they call home.

Animal welfare is complex. No single number, outcome, or philosophy can define success.



Live Release Rate can be useful information—but it should never be the sole measure of whether a shelter is succeeding.

When a single metric becomes the goal, the metric itself can become more important than the mission.



**SMART**  
ANIMAL SHELTER

## SMART LOOKS AT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY



Access to Care  
Animal Welfare



Public Safety  
Public Health

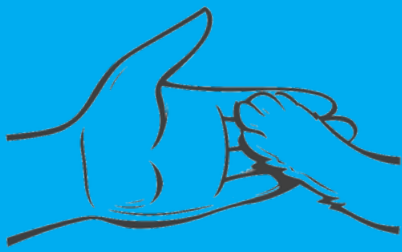


Community Needs  
Community Well-Being



CONTACT US  
[info@keepithumane.com](mailto:info@keepithumane.com)

[www.keepithumane.com](http://www.keepithumane.com)



# WHAT DOES SMART MEAN?



Here are the principles that guide SMART Shelters & Rescues:

**SMART provides a framework for responsible animal welfare decisions—looking beyond shelter metrics to consider the health, safety, and needs of the entire community.**

## ACCESS TO CARE

Expand access to veterinary care, spay/neuter, education, and resources that help people keep their animals.

## COMMUNITY-BASED DECISIONS

Balance animal health, behavior, welfare, public safety, and community needs to make responsible decisions.

## MEANINGFUL GOALS

Set meaningful goals based on animal welfare, public safety, and community needs—not arbitrary targets.

## COLLABORATION

Work together with animal control, shelters, rescues, veterinarians, and the community to create better outcomes.

## MEASURE WHAT MATTERS

Measure community health through access to care, available resources, pet retention, public safety, and reasonable pet ownership policies.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT SMART: [keepithumane.com/smart](https://keepithumane.com/smart)**