

# A Whole Community Change Model

Developed by AWLQ, Gold Coast, Australia



**GETTING 2 ZERO**

This model provides the key elements for Getting 2 Zero killing of healthy and treatable abandoned cats and dogs in YOUR city or shire. It has been developed and trialed successfully over the last few years by AWL Qld.

It can be adopted by local government animal management departments or animal welfare shelters, and preferably, partnerships between the two.

① COMMUNITY VET CLINIC

② SHELTER VET CLINIC

**PREVENT  
ABANDONMENT**



**SAVE EXISTING  
LIVES**

③ COMMUNITY EDUCATION,  
LEGISLATION & SUPPORT

④ REHOMING CENTRE

## Principles for Getting 2 Zero

### Community Responsibility

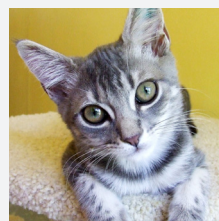
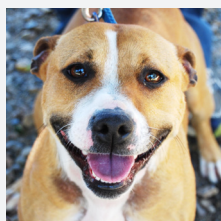
**Each community takes responsibility for saving its own abandoned animals.**

Pounds and shelters inform the community of the number of animals who are abandoned and killed each year in their community and involve them in the solutions. Animal owners, breeders, pet shops, vets, dog trainers, governments, animal shelters, rescue groups, wildlife groups, teachers, students and community groups all contribute to prevent abandonment and save existing lives.

### 90% Savable

**Zero killing of at least 90% of all incoming animals in a given community (i.e. all healthy and treatable cats and dogs) is achievable.**

The managers and staff of pounds and shelters believe it and want to achieve it. They continually add and improve strategies to get closer to zero killing every year.



### Save Healthy **and** Treatable Animals

**All cats and dogs are equally deserving of our utmost efforts to preserve and enhance their lives.**

This includes the stray and unowned animals, the cross-breeds, the boisterous untrained adolescent dogs, the timid cats, the sick, the young, the old, and those lacking the “cute” factor. Only those animals that are irremediably suffering, or vicious with a poor prognosis for rehabilitation should be killed.

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## 1 Community Vet Clinic

### Preventing Abandonment of Owned Animals

A **Community Vet Clinic** is owned/managed by an individual or group with a strong commitment to saving all healthy and treatable animals in the particular community. It provides access to affordable veterinary care to ensure that no animal has to lose his/her life because of owner's financial disadvantage or mismanagement. It also allows access to desexing services to prevent unplanned litters and for ease of compliance with legislation e.g. breeder permits, desexing for subsidised registration.

#### Services:

- a. Low cost desexing and microchipping as standard practice
- b. Early age desexing from 8 weeks of age and 1 kilo in weight for kittens; puppies approx 2 kg for average size breeds
- c. Desexing campaigns and regular promotion
- d. Other veterinary services at reduced rates (where possible)
- e. Ongoing subsidies/free services to end the cycle of unwanted litters through:
  - i. Last Litter Fund – desex mother cat or dog of a surrendered litter
  - ii. Pound Fund – desex reclaimed animals at point of release
  - iii. Membership of the National Desexing Network
- f. Wholesale desexing prices prior to sale or transfer for pet shops, breeders and rescue groups.
- g. Volunteer pick up service for collection of animals so that all animals can access services



## 2 Shelter Vet Clinic

### Saving and preventing further breeding of pound/shelter/rescue animals

A **Shelter Vet Clinic** offers full veterinary services for all pound/shelter animals preferably on site. For smaller pounds and shelters/rescue groups, shelter vet clinic services can be provided by the Community Vet Clinic.

#### Services:

- a. Desexing, microchipping, health checking, worming, providing flea treatment and heart worm testing prior to being placed in the rehoming area
- b. Early age desexing from 8 weeks of age and 1 kilo in weight for kittens; puppies approx 2 kg for average size breeds
- c. Daily health checks of all animals
- d. Treatment of sick and injured pound/shelter animals
- e. Free veterinary support for foster carers of pound/shelter animals
- f. After sale health guarantee work for rehomed pound/shelter animals
- g. Training of vet students in early age desexing (where possible)
- h. Veterinary support for Trap Neuter Release programs in appropriate environments



Image © Charlotte Reeves Photography 2011



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## 3 Rehoming Centre

A **Rehoming Centre** saves all healthy and treatable stray and surrendered animals in each community (i.e. at least 90% of the community's animals)

### Care of Pound/Shelter Animals

#### Services:

- Capacity of rehoming pens sufficient in relation to numbers of incoming stray and abandoned animals
- Efficient movement through the system for animals to be rehomed as quickly as possible
- Substantial fostering program
- Large network of volunteers
- Size and structure of pens allows animals comfort and ability to express normal behaviour
- Enrichment and socialization for each species to reduce stress
- Training of animals to increase rehomability
- Rehabilitation for treatable cats and dogs with emotional disorders

### Finding Responsible Homes

#### Services:

- Focus on increasing reclaim rates each year
- Focus on increasing rehoming rates each year
- An easily accessible location
- Open when public are available – late in afternoon, weekends, public holidays
- Positive communication, promotion and marketing of animals
- Bright inviting environment
- Pre-adoption interviews to find the best match
- Off-site adoptions through pet shops/mobile rehoming units
- Involve the community in the zero euthanasia goal
- Involve community networks to help rehome animals
- Data gathering to assess rehoming progress



## 4 Community Education, Legislation & Support

### Community Education, Legislation and Support

provides knowledge and sets the standards for all stakeholders to prevent animals from being abandoned.

### A. Whole Community Involvement

#### Services:

- A coalition of stakeholders including state and local governments, breeders, vets, pet shops, wildlife groups, and shelter & rescue groups to develop cooperative involvement in solutions
- Education of the whole community on euthanasia rates in their own community and how they can help get to zero

### B. Legislation

- Responsible breeding legislation to include:
  - A user-pays Government Breeder Permit system with pre-inspections based on a Code of Practice for the well-being of breeding animals and their litters.



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## 4 Community Education, Legislation & Support *continued...*

- ii. Desexing of kittens by breeders prior to sale or transfer (unless being sold to another person with a breeder permit)
  - iii. Publishing of Breeder Permit Numbers for consumers to recognize responsible breeders
  - iv. Microchipping of all cats and dogs, including all kittens and pups prior to sale or transfer with the microchip of the breeding animal, breeder and breeding address on the microchip details of all kittens and puppies.
- b. Legislation which supports rehoming i.e. foster carers and rescue groups, excess animal permits for owners of desexed rehomed cats and dogs (based on inspection to determine capacity to care for responsibly rather than set numbers of animals)
  - c. Research and development to implement best solutions for the care of responsibly managed cat colonies

### C. Owner Education and Support

#### Services:

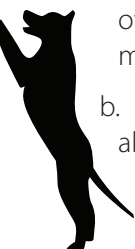
- a. Animal Management Officers return animals home rather than impounding, provide advice/support to owners to prevent straying, and efficient systems for matching lost and found animals
- b. Pre-surrender interviews to educate and offer alternatives to surrender e.g. training courses, advice

- c. Comprehensive information and support for new and inexperienced owners
- d. Post adoption support - phone calls, and problem-specific information and training
- e. Pet friendly accommodation support
- f. Cat safe fencing education
- g. Early age desexing education

### D. Pre-school to University Student Education

#### Services:

- a. Presentations to schools, P -10 curriculum units (on-line) and teacher support to develop awareness of the numbers of abandoned animals and commitment to responsible animal care: DESEX IDENTIFY TRAIN KEEP SAFE
- b. Hands-on programs working with shelter animals for primary & secondary students
- c. Trainee teachers visit pounds/shelters and are well-informed of the problem and solutions for inclusion in their teaching.
- d. All vet student courses to include a shelter medicine component, work experience in pounds / shelters, benefits and hands-on training in Early Age Desexing for private practice.



## Working Together

Through implementing and sustaining these services, each community in Australia can Get 2 Zero.

A G2Z website [www.g2z.com.au](http://www.g2z.com.au) is being developed to offer information and assistance to governments, pounds, shelters, rescue groups and interested community members. All groups working towards zero killing of healthy and treatable cats and dogs are encouraged to share their progress and strategies through this website.

### Funding G2Z

The Elsie Cameron Foundation has provided some funding for community vet clinics and other approved G2Z services to assist Australian organizations with Getting to Zero.

Substantial donations from governments, other organizations or individuals to implement G2Z infrastructure and services around Australia are needed.

**To get involved or to donate email: [info@g2z.com.au](mailto:info@g2z.com.au)**