



March 28, 2013

Position Statement on Low Cost Adoptions

Adopted by the Sonoma Humane Society Board of Directors

The Sonoma Humane Society (SHS) believes and advocates in the best policies, procedures, and practices as they apply to the animals of Sonoma County and beyond. To advocate for these positions, the SHS Board of Directors adopts the following:

The Sonoma County Humane Society supports and participates in discounted adoptions for animals. Our goal is to increase the number of pets adopted into loving homes.

Some argue that the cheaper the cost of an animal the more disposable it becomes; that lowering the cost of adoption will lead to poor animal care or even abandonment. This mindset is counterproductive to good animal adoption management. Over the course of the year, there are times when shelters become flooded with animals. During these times, it is important for the shelters to make room for the newcomers. Discounted adoptions is one way to alleviate this overcrowding. Shelters with empty cages can rescue more animals. Too many shelters use euthanasia as the answer to this problem. This is not an acceptable solution.

- 1. We encourage people to consider adopting before purchasing a pet of any kind. Today, there are millions of loveable, healthy pets that desperately need homes.**
- 2. An animal stands a better chance of survival if it is adopted rather than left in a shelter. In most shelters not being adopted is a death sentence. It is estimated that due to overpopulation 4 million homeless animals are euthanized in the US every year. That amounts to 11,000 pets every day.¹**
- 3. A study has shown that low cost and no-fee adoptions, while greatly increasing the number of placements, do not put animals in any greater danger.² This study has demonstrated that**

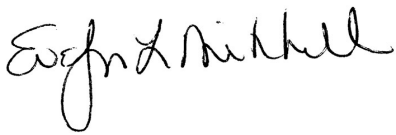
1 ASPCA , <http://www.asPCA.org/about-us/faq/pet-statistics.aspx>

2 S.L. Mac Arthur, J. K. Levy, P. A. Dingman, S. J. Tucker Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL USA.

adopted animals are treated with the same care and attachment regardless of their adoption fees.

In order to better manage overcrowding , the prudent solution is to sometimes lower or even forgo adoption fees. This simple action will result in an increase in animal adoptions and provide needed space for incoming animals. It also offers the opportunity to provide a companion animal to someone who otherwise could not afford one. This is one of the easiest ways to increase the placement of animals into loving homes.

We adopt this position today, [DATE], and declare it to be in accordance with the Sonoma Humane Society mission statement: *Ensuring every animal receives protection, compassion, love and care.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Evelyn Mitchell, President
Sonoma Humane Society Board of Directors**