



Safe Coalition in Nashville, Tennessee

<http://www.safe-coalition.org/>

Mission: To build and sustain a community that saves all healthy and treatable cats and dogs in Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County (Metro).

Vision: To create a community where 90 percent or more of the dogs and cats in Metro are saved by the end of 2018.

History: In 2016, a group of key stakeholders in Nashville came together to form an ad-hoc animal welfare advisory committee at the request of Mayor Megan Barry. This committee was charged with determining how Nashville could accomplish 100 percent safe placement of all healthy and treatable animals. One outcome was the recommendation to form a coalition that would continue the work of the ad-hoc committee. Best Friends Animal Society was asked to lead this effort, and in June of 2017 we began the work of building the coalition.

Structure: The coalition is an unincorporated voluntary association governed by a steering committee, as outlined in the bylaws. This is not a Best Friends program. It's a community-owned and operated initiative, with Best Friends providing leadership assistance in the initial phases.

Steering committee: Initial steering committee is made up of representatives from five organizations: Best Friends Animal Society, Metro Animal Care and Control, Nashville Humane Association, Pet Community Center, and Crossroads Campus. As the governing body of the coalition, the steering committee is responsible for:

- Developing the bylaws and other documentation
- Defining goals and program priorities
- Seeking funding for coalition activities
- Disbursing funds by awarding grants to partners
- Reporting back to the coalition

Membership: Open to animal welfare organizations providing services in Metro and operating as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or government animal shelter. Members must agree to:

- Align with coalition mission
- Respect the coalition and each other (non-disparagement)
- Be dedicated to transparency

Members receive:

- Presence on coalition website
- Access to steering committee for guidance
- Eligibility to apply for receive coalition funding

Key programs: Our goal is to reach at least a 90 percent save rate at Metro Animal Care and Control (MACC) by the end of 2018. To that end, we're focusing our efforts on awarding grants to coalition partners to help with the following:

- Adult cats through working/barn cat program
- Underage kittens (up to eight weeks)
- Targeted spay/neuter
- Pet retention services

We are directly working with MACC to support the following programs:

- Rescue pull incentive program
- In-shelter behavior support
- Safety net program

Timeline:

June 2017 – Form the steering committee and have first meeting. Steering committee meets monthly and will eventually transition to quarterly meetings once work is underway.

Accomplishments in the first six months:

- Established structure, bylaws, and memorandum of understanding
- Defined mission and vision
- Analyzed shelter statistics to determine key programs for 2018
- Held an info meeting for local groups to learn more about the coalition
- Built the coalition website
- Finalized details of the grant program to launch in January 2018

Ongoing work for 2018:

- Launch partner grant program in January.
- Kick off awards and programs by end of March.
- Hold public launch party by mid-2018 to announce the work of the coalition.
- Monitor progress on achieving the goal of at least a 90 percent aggregate save rate at MACC in 2018, while adjusting programs as needed to meet the goal.
- Meet quarterly with coalition partners to report back progress.

Financials: Because the Safe Coalition is not a 501(c)(3), it cannot have its own bank account. To house coalition funding, the Steering Committee established a Collective Giving Account (CGA) with a public charity that provides total management of charitable giving through donor advised funds. They define a CGA as:

“a charitable vehicle that can be established by individuals, families, organizations or small groups that want to raise funds as a group, or from multiple individuals and foundations for the purpose of supporting charitable organizations.”

All contributions to the Safe Coalition CGA are tax-deductible, and the public charity provides tax receipts to donors, manages the funds in the account, and completes all due diligence on grant

distributions. Two Steering Committee representatives serve as authorized signers on the account, and their responsibility on behalf of the Coalition is outlined in the Bylaws. Please reach out to us for the name of the public charity.

Documents:

[Introduction presentation](#) for member info meeting, November 9, 2017

[Bylaws](#)

[Partnership memorandum of understanding](#)