



Get your fix

BEST FRIENDS GRANT HELPS SPAY OR NEUTER MORE DOGS

Best Friends Animal Society has awarded the FiXiT Foundation a \$10,000 grant to help get pit bull terriers spayed or neutered in targeted areas in select states. Via GetYourFix.org, the FiXiT Foundation connects people who need to get their dogs fixed with sponsors who want to help. People who can't afford the surgery for their pets post a bio of their animal online, and anyone who sees the profile can then become a sponsor to help cover the expense. Sponsors have the opportunity to communicate directly with the dogs' people or go through the foundation.

"Twenty-five percent of the dogs profiled on GetYourFix.org are pit bulls, so getting a grant to help pit bulls specifically is quite impactful," says Dr. Kellie Heckman, co-founder of the FiXiT Foundation. "People have this myth that pit bull owners want their dogs intact so they can breed. What many people don't realize is that a large female dog can cost hundreds of dollars to get spayed, and many times these are rescued dogs in a multi-dog family. The expense can be prohibitive, and many guardians just can't afford it."

The Best Friends grant will go toward spaying or neutering dogs in the following states: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Texas and Utah. 🐾

To learn more, visit GetYourFix.org

Trending now:

No-kill Utah

ALMOST 9,000 FEWER ANIMALS DIE IN THE STATE'S SHELTERS

Last year saw more lives than ever saved in many shelters and rescue groups around the state of Utah. In fact, almost 9,000 more animals were saved in 2012 compared to 2011.

In total, 13 Utah shelters have now achieved a save rate of 90 percent or more. And two of the largest shelters in the state, Salt Lake County Animal Services and West Valley Animal Services, are also on the verge of a 90 percent save rate, the threshold for no-kill.

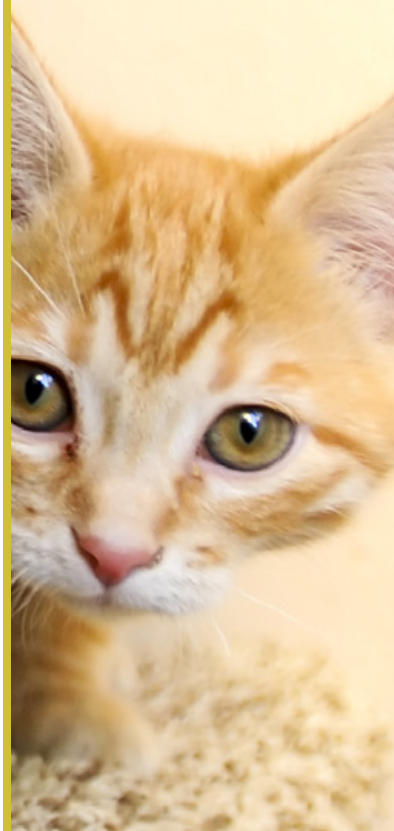
Anna Gonce, director of Best Friends Animal Society-Utah, says, "This past year was the most successful ever for our Utah program, which started in 2000 with the goal of achieving a no-kill state. In 2012, we had more than

19,700 shelter adoptions, the highest number of shelter adoptions since we started recording Utah stats in 1999. This success is mainly due to new partnerships between shelters and rescue groups. Through our shelter partnerships alone, Best Friends-Utah directly supported 3,057 adoptions." The lifesaving strategies behind the partnerships include holding more adoption events, offering more spay/neuter services to the public, and transferring animals out of kill shelters and into rescue groups, where the pets are adopted out.

Our Best Friends-Utah staff are dedicated to realizing increasing results by working even more closely with partner organizations in the No More Homeless Pets in Utah Coalition, which Best Friends created and leads. The coalition has a steering committee that includes representatives from Salt Lake County Animal Services, Friends of Animals Utah, Community Animal Welfare Society, Davis County Animal Care and Control, and the Humane Society of Utah.

Clint Thacker of Davis County Animal Care and Control is on the committee. He says, "Goals are an important part of any business. For [our organization], 2013 is the 'Year of 100.' Our goal is 100 adoptions every month, and we have made our goal every month so far. With help from Best Friends Animal Society-Utah and other rescue organizations, [our goal] is within reach." 🐾

To find out how you can help Utah reach no-kill, go to bestfriends.org/utah



Utah: Quickly becoming a no-kill state

UTAH IS BEST FRIENDS' HOME STATE and, for that reason, while we are committed to the animals nationwide, we have a special commitment to the animals here. Since the early 1990s, Best Friends has been creating innovative programs aimed at reducing shelter deaths in Utah. Through statewide collaboration with rescue groups, shelters and business leaders, Best Friends has been leading the charge to create a sustainable no-kill effort that will become part of the fabric of the communities in the state.

Today, thanks to adoption and spay/neuter campaigns, combined with the development of a statewide coalition of almost 30 partners, including shelters, rescue groups and passionate individuals, 10 Utah communities are now no-kill, and the entire state is on the verge of following suit. 🐾

PATSY LOUNGES IN A "CAT CAFÉ" AT THE BEST FRIENDS PET ADOPTION CENTER in Salt Lake City. The specially designed cat rooms house up to 15 cats each while the friendly felines await adoption. The cats have free rein in the rooms, and can play with one another or socialize with visitors.

Nearly **1,500** pets were adopted from our Utah pet super adoption events in 2012 alone.



VOLUNTEER KEN PASSARELLA poses at Best Friends' Sunshine of My Life adoption event at Salt Lake County Animal Services. The event resulted in 20 cats and 20 dogs being adopted. Best Friends-Utah often partners with local shelters for adoption events, providing support and marketing.



VOLUNTEER RACHEL shows off Luigi at the Salt Lake City super adoption event in May.



SQUISH, SHOWN HERE WITH KIP, a Salt Lake County Animal Services employee, was just one of the hundreds of dogs who found homes during a weekend-long super adoption.



WITH 1,142 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS, BEST FRIENDS-UTAH IS A HIVE OF ACTIVITY. By August of this year, these dedicated folks had already logged more than 13,700 volunteer hours, and showed no sign of stopping. Here, a volunteer walks adoptable Hero at the Salt Lake City pet adoption center. Over 40 volunteers walk dogs at the center each week, ensuring that the animals get lots of exercise and attention.

IN LIEU OF GIFTS FOR HER RECENT BIRTHDAY, NINE-YEAR-OLD CHARLOTTE asked for donations to Best Friends. She stopped by the adoption center on its first day in business, to deliver \$100 she raised.



LAWRENCE NICOLAS, BEST FRIENDS-UTAH SHELTER OUTREACH COORDINATOR, spends much of his time at West Valley City Animal Services helping to recruit volunteers and providing support to their adoption program. Since our partnership with West Valley City began last year, their save rate has risen dramatically, to 91 percent.

COMMUNITY CAT COORDINATOR AUTUMN WAGNER releases a recently spayed feral cat in West Valley City. Since Best Friends-Utah began tracking community cat programs in 2008, over 25,000 cats have been trapped, fixed and returned to their colonies. In 2013, 10 cities and three municipal shelters within Salt Lake County are actively participating in trap/neuter/return (TNR) programs.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF BEST FRIENDS-UTAH, VISIT:
BESTFRIENDS.ORG/UTAH



BEST FRIENDS IS PARTNERING WITH SALT LAKE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES to create a kitten nursery that opened last March and is designed to provide round-the-clock care for some of the most at-risk shelter pets: unweaned kittens. Staffed largely by volunteers, the nursery saved almost 200 kittens in the first few months of operation alone.

On the road to no-kill

Salt Lake County closes in on 90 percent save rate for pit bull terriers

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE WHY MANY INCREDIBLY SWEET, FRIENDLY DOGS ARE AT RISK OF BEING KILLED IN SHELTERS. But nearly 50 percent of the dogs who die at Salt Lake County Animal Services are pit bull terriers and pit-bull-terrier-like dogs. That's why Best Friends funds and supports the Pit Crew, a Salt Lake County Animal Services program with a laser-like focus on getting more of these dogs out of the shelter alive.

The Pit Crew tackles the issue from all angles by providing everything from free spay/neuter to low-cost training classes, thereby curbing shelter intake of both unwanted litters and dogs who just lack basic manners. And the fantastic Pit Crew volunteers work to save the ones who do enter the shelter.

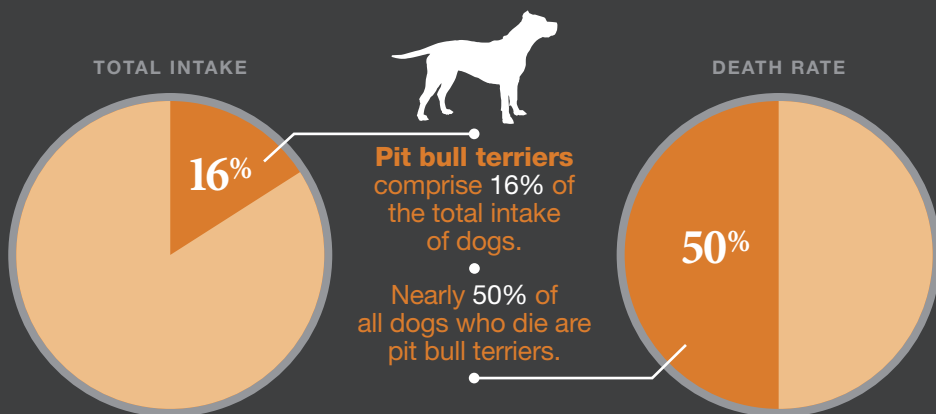
Often, an act as simple as getting a dog

out of her kennel for the day can save her life. Anna Gonce, executive director of Best Friends Animal Society–Utah, explains, “They’ll have this cute, cuddly dog sitting in the shelter lobby wearing an ‘Adopt me’ vest with a volunteer telling people a story about the dog. That alone can help get that pet adopted that day.”

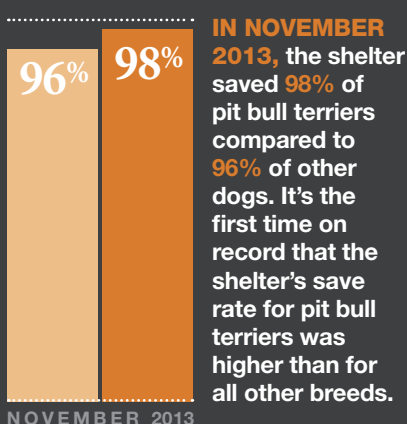
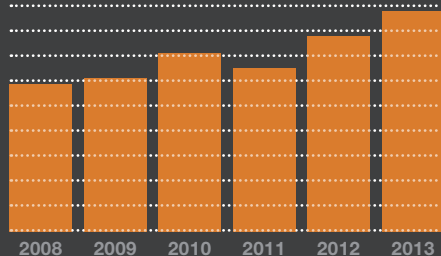
The Pit Crew’s work helps people get to know pit bull terriers, which is important because misperceptions about these dogs are common. Anna says, “The Pit Crew volunteers take the dogs out into the community to events, and they do fun contests and benefits. They promote all the great things about pit bull terriers, which has dispelled a lot of the myths.”

The combined efforts are working, and today more pit bull terriers are leaving the shelter alive than ever before. In fact, since the Pit Crew launched in 2008, the overall save rate of these dogs has increased from 59 percent to an impressive 88 percent. 🐾

SALT LAKE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES STATISTICS



Since the Pit Crew began in 2008, the overall save rate for pit bull terriers has increased from 59% to 88%.



IN NOVEMBER 2013, the shelter saved 98% of pit bull terriers compared to 96% of other dogs. It's the first time on record that the shelter's save rate for pit bull terriers was higher than for all other breeds.

Learn more about Best Friends–Utah programs: bestfriends.org/utah



The Salt Lake County Cat Crusaders help promote adoptable cats at the shelter.



Volunteer Colleen Kuhn pets Remy at the Salt Lake County shelter.

Many hands make successful work

Innovative partnerships mean more animals leave Salt Lake area shelters alive

AT BEST FRIENDS, UTAH PETS HAVE LONG HELD A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS. We've called the Beehive State home for 30 years, and while Best Friends' work to stop the killing of animals in shelters has since spread to all corners of the country, we haven't forgotten the pets right here in Utah. Thanks to new partnerships forged in 2012 and the community's desire to go no-kill, Best Friends has helped reduce the killing of pets at Salt Lake area shelters to a fraction of what it was. We're on our way to no-kill — together.

In 2011, the combined number of pets killed at West Valley City Animal Services and Salt Lake County Animal Services was 3,582. That's almost 10 pets every single day. The two shelters serving the state's most populous communities faced similar challenges: large numbers of animals coming in (especially cats) and not enough animals being adopted (especially cats and pit bull terriers).

Once Best Friends entered into formal partnerships with the cities and counties that make up the Salt Lake area, we swung into action, rallying shelter staff, providing leadership and funding, and implementing volunteer programs, all with one goal in mind: Stop killing so many pets. Some examples of current programs:

Volunteer Cat Crusaders promote cats available for adoption in the shelter.

Aggressive trap/neuter/return programs save the lives of community cats.

Targeted free or low-cost spay/neuter is available to low-income families through voucher programs.

The Pit Crew offers training, free or low-cost spay/neuter, microchips and promotions to educate people about pit bull terriers and help them get adopted.

A kitten nursery pulls cats under eight weeks old out of the shelter and provides them with around-the-clock care.

The Best Friends Pet Adoption Center features pets from Salt Lake County Animal Services and West Valley City Animal Services.

At the close of 2013, everyone eagerly awaited the final numbers. Thanks to a massive effort from all involved, the number of animals saved last year was higher than ever before; the save rates were 89.3 percent and 91.2 percent at the two shelters. And 2,623 more pets left the shelter alive than just two years earlier. Gregory Castle, CEO of Best Friends, says, "It's a real testament to what can be achieved with commitment, determination and collaboration." 🐾

Learn more and get involved: bestfriends.org/utah

NKUT.ORG



NKUT: A new day for Utah's pets

Best Friends committed to making the state no-kill by 2019

WHAT DO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND THE STATE OF UTAH HAVE IN COMMON?

A renewed sense of urgency, headed up by Best Friends, to stop the killing of healthy and treatable pets in shelters. We launched No-Kill Los Angeles (NKLA) in 2012, and now we're taking the playbook to our home state of Utah. We know Utahns are ready to get behind No-Kill Utah (NKUT) for the state's animals, and we're here to lead the charge.

NKUT, which officially launched March 30, will begin with a focus on Salt Lake and three surrounding counties, where a coalition

of groups led by Best Friends have worked in tandem for a decade. Now the coalition will come together under the new NKUT name with an arsenal of innovative tools and events and a fresh new look to rally the public, shelters, local businesses and the rescue community around one goal: to save as many pets as possible rather than kill them, making Utah a no-kill state by 2019. 🐾

nkut.org

Learn more. Get involved.

Closing in on a no-kill Utah



BEAUTIFUL COLLABORATION PUTS NKUT INITIATIVE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

GETTING TO NO-KILL IS AN AMBITIOUS GOAL — it won't happen overnight. And yet, in Utah, progress came fast and furious this past year. In 2015, our No-Kill Utah (NKUT) initiative moved ahead by leaps and bounds, thanks to a lot of dedicated people working together.

Closer than ever

The NKUT initiative brings together the efforts of individuals and 56 (and counting) coalition partner organizations committed to ending the killing of pets in Utah shelters by 2019. And, while we don't want to jinx anything, it looks like the initiative might be ahead of schedule.

We can only Save Them All by working together. And in 2015, Utah reminded us that it's true. Last year, NKUT Coalition partners found homes for nearly 26,500 pets — a 16 percent increase in adoptions over the year before.

Impressive stats

Ask just about anybody with four paws and a cold nose, and they'll tell you that Utah is a great state for dogs. Last year, Utah's save rate for dogs was 93.3 percent, and the benchmark for no-kill is a 90 percent save rate. But here's what's even more important to know: Utah has actually been a no-kill state for dogs for the past two years.

True to their feline nature, cats insist on making things a bit more challenging — which is why large-scale community cat programs are so essential. But Best Friends' trap-neuter-return (TNR) and

90%
More than 90 percent of
dogs are now being saved
in Utah's shelters. So, our
last push toward making
Utah a no-kill state is to
save more cats.

shelter-neuter-return (SNR) programs have had an incredible impact on reducing the number of cats entering Utah's shelter system.

Sure, there's still work to be done. Just for a moment, though, let's pause to celebrate NKUT's success. No-kill, here we come! 🐾

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Keep track of the
exciting progress
in Utah: nkut.org



1

Fall NKUT Super Adoption really is super

NEARLY 500 PETS WERE ADOPTED AT THE EVENT, PAVING THE WAY TO NO-KILL

UTAH IS ON ITS WAY to becoming a no-kill state, and events like last fall's Best Friends NKUT Super Adoption, presented by BOBS from Skechers, are helping to make it happen. It's all part of No-Kill Utah (NKUT), an initiative led by Best Friends that brings together passionate individuals, animal shelters and a coalition of animal welfare organizations to end the killing of dogs and cats in Utah shelters by 2019.

During the two-day event, nearly 500 homeless pets were adopted. That made it one of the most successful NKUT Super Adoptions to date, which means the dream of a no-kill state is one step closer to reality (or 2,000 steps closer if you multiply four paws by 500 adopted animals). 🐾

See all the ways we're working toward a no-kill Utah: nkut.org



2

1. Tim Sublette meets an adorable adoptable named Ariel.
2. Potential adopters are welcomed as the gates open.
3. Charlie is the newest member of the Berry family.
4. Vincent Morgan proudly shows off his new dog, Persian.
5. Bixsby gets a lift from Cache Humane Society's Melissa Smith.
6. An attendee wins goodies at the BOBS from Skechers tent.
7. There are big smiles all around as these girls adopt a new pup.



3

The state of no-kill in Utah

2,400 REASONS TO KEEP WORKING TOWARD NKUT



“We are poised to achieve a no-kill Utah by 2019. And together, we are setting an example for other states across the nation to become no-kill.”

~ Arlyn Bradshaw

DREAMING BIG IS PART OF Best Friends’ history. We’ve been working in Utah since 1984, and when we set a goal to make the entire state no-kill by 2019, it was with the same determination that led to creating our one-of-a-kind sanctuary and innovative programs across the country that save tens of thousands of pets each year.

Three years into our No-Kill Utah (NKUT) initiative, more pets are being saved in the state than ever before. It’s the most exciting time in the state’s history for pets. To celebrate the progress, let’s look at how far we’ve come and what still needs to happen to reach the goal of getting the state of Utah to no-kill.

What it takes to get to no-kill

Arlyn Bradshaw, executive director of Best Friends in Utah, says, “The goal of NKUT is to ensure that all healthy dogs and cats, and those with treatable illnesses or behavior challenges, who enter Utah shelters are saved. And we are so close to accomplishing that.”

We’ve been working in the Salt Lake City area for years, and have many partners across the state, but completing a task this large is only possible by working with many municipal shelters and nonprofit animal welfare organizations toward the shared goal. Today, nearly 60 NKUT Coalition partners are helping to move the needle toward no-kill by increasing spay/neuter, adoption and awareness that pets are dying in Utah shelters — a fact that, together, we can change.

In 2016, about 31,000 pets were adopted through the NKUT Coalition. And Best Friends performed or

supported more than 29,700 spay/neuter surgeries for pets of low-income people or through our trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs. By the end of 2016, the statewide save rate had reached 85.8 percent. Arlyn says, “If we can save just 2,400 more pets, we’ll reach the goal of a 90 percent save rate.”

Redoubled efforts to save cats

While there has been momentous progress in three years, cats and kittens are still at risk of being killed in shelters because shelters don’t have the resources to provide for their care. That’s why this year we’ve redoubled efforts to save more of them, and we’re also providing more free and low-cost spay/neuter programs.

“Our kitten nursery is saving hundreds of kittens each year, but it can’t save every kitten in Utah,” Arlyn says. This year, Best Friends gave large grants to two rescue groups to cover the cost of supplies and training so they could save kittens who arrive at two municipal shelters.

This is in addition to the lifesaving being done via Best Friends’ spay/neuter clinics, large events like the NKUT Super Adoption, TNR programs, the Best Friends Pet Adoption Center in Salt Lake City, and the tireless work that our NKUT Coalition partners do every day. Arlyn says, “We are poised to achieve a no-kill Utah by 2019. And together, we are setting an example for other states across the nation to become no-kill.” 🐾

➔ **Find out more about No-Kill Utah:**
nkut.org



NKUT
A BEST FRIENDS INITIATIVE

F Y I

➔ One-third of Utah residents live in Salt Lake County.

➔ In 2016, Salt Lake County reached a 90 percent save rate for the first time ever.

➔ There are 29 counties in Utah, and 19 of them are now no-kill.

➔ Six of the seven largest shelters in the state are partnering with Best Friends.