



Homeless|with|Pets

Homeless With Pets

Sonoma County Interfaith Alliance

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Living Homeless

Homelessness is more than shelterlessness

- It is living every aspect of life in public or quasi-public & attracting judgment
- It is traumatic & risky to personal well-being, identity and sense of personal agency
- Reasons for entering and remaining in homelessness are complex
- Many ways of 'doing homelessness' Important to never think of 'the homeless' as a homogeneous group
- Increasingly number of older people first time homeless

Living Homeless with an Animal :

- Opportunities for services and shelter can be reduced
- Opportunities to move into secure accommodation can be reduced or more costly
- People will not trade their animal for services/ shelter providers should take the human-animal bond into account
- People forced to live shelterless and can become increasingly disengaged
- Potentially 24% of people living homeless are with an animal

Some risks to the animal:

- 24/7 with a person – a plus, but also animal always 'on duty'
- Animals' needs can be discounted
- Animals can be passed around and are more at risk of accidents and health issues going unattended
- Possible risk of abuse (Anger, poor self-management, being bred for income, trained to attack)
- Possible risk of neglect and elevated risk (e.g. Parvo, heat, accidental intoxication, dehydration, not fed, fire, traffic accidents, lost)
- Health conditions can go undetected/untreated (unnoticed, no money, not the wherewithal to ask/think to ask)

HWP Operating Principles

We have two main principles:

To support the power of the human–animal bond *so long as it is not* detrimental to either the human or animal partner

To offer Compassion to Both Ends of the Leash

In practice this means:

Framework of Cultivated Compassion as basis for decisions

Working with multiple partners – signposting and assisting

Offering services to both people and animals

What does HWP do ?

- Wellness clinics & “Consult the Vet” sessions – triage, treatments and importantly human piece of mind
- Monthly flea and tick treatments, weight clinics etc. Opportunities to keep an eye on human and animal alike
- Funding and sourcing vet care
- Follow-up treatment compliance
- Distribution of donated food and other animal supplies – outreach and at events
- Partnership with county agencies e.g. spay and neuter, responding to animal problems
- Training humane treatment and animal wellbeing

- Landlords Pack : training and evidence of in responsible guardianship
- Sign-posting to human services – outreach and events. Partners welcome
- Breakfast With Pets
- Donated Professional Grooming Time
- Foster and adoption – access to treatment, human end of life issues
- Intervening in unhealthy human-animal bonds
- Workforce Development and internships
- Helping agencies with their 'pet policies'
- Opportunity for community compassion building

Questions ?

- How can we help you ?
- What partnerships /projects could we develop ?
- How could we act as consultants to your services to help them become more interspecies friendly ?
- What else would you like to know ?

Our asks

- Are there colleagues who need to be on our mailing list for clinics and grooming ?
- Any colleagues willing to help with fostering ?
- Any help with resources e.g. land that you could spare/rent for parking the trailer/truck
- A site that could be used for a clinic
- Any ideas about funding

Thank you



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