



Statements of Position

Mission

To further the compassionate, safe, and responsible relationship between animals and people.

Vision

NOCO Humane is a trusted, responsive community leader, providing programs and services essential to the high quality of life for animals and people in northern Colorado.

Values

Open Admission

- As an open door shelter, we believe all animals deserve a safe haven and to have their care and treatment guided by the Five Freedoms:
 - Freedom from hunger and thirst
 - Freedom from discomfort
 - Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
 - Freedom to express normal behavior
 - Freedom from fear and distress

Service

- We believe that our role is to serve our community, both animals and people, with respect, dignity, and compassion.

Ethical Behavior

- We will exercise the highest standards of ethics in all our actions, fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, honesty, and fiduciary responsibility.

Collaboration

- We believe our mission is best fulfilled through the exchange of ideas, talents, and contributions while practicing good and thoughtful communication.

Safety

- We are committed to the safety of animals and people in our community and workplace.



Positions

Animal Control

NOCO Humane believes that comprehensive, progressive, and effectively administered animal-control programs are essential to the protection of animals. Such programs lead to a reduction in animal suffering by helping to reduce pet overpopulation and decrease the incidence of animal injury and abuse. Furthermore, these programs improve public health and safety by reducing the number of animal bites and providing greater control over the spread of rabies and other diseases. Effective animal control also protects wildlife, farm animals, and the environment.

Animal Fighting

NOCO Humane is unequivocally opposed to any event that sets one animal against another or sets a person against an animal as combatants. NOCO Humane believes that an event in which an animal is tormented, wounded, maimed, or killed for entertainment is cruel and unjustifiable.

Animals in Biomedical Research and Testing

NOCO Humane recognizes the importance of animal research in the scientific community. While scientific progress has resulted from many animal experiments, NOCO Humane encourages the use of cadavers, simulators and models for use in experiments whenever possible, and looks forward to the day when the use of animals is obsolete.

NOCO Humane is opposed to the practice of releasing or selling live animals from public or private shelters to biomedical research laboratories, training institutes, or any other facilities that use live animals for experimental teaching or testing.

Animals in Elementary and Secondary Education

NOCO Humane recognizes that positive, responsible attitudes towards animals can be developed in youth by caring for and interacting with live animals. NOCO Humane believes that animals should be kept as classroom pets only if they are acquired for the purpose of educating students about the sentience of animals and the need for responsible, humane treatment, if they are treated as valued pets, and if arrangements are made for their life-long care. NOCO Humane is opposed to the use of any animal in a school-sponsored activity in a manner that would cause pain, stress or suffering. NOCO Humane urges educators to utilize alternatives to the dissection of animals through use of cadavers, simulators, models and computer programs.

Animal Racing

NOCO Humane opposes the use of animals for racing due to the generation of unwanted animals, opportunity for neglect and cruelty given financial incentives, and potential for restriction of freedoms through limited housing and socialization. NOCO Humane deplores the use of live-lure training that can accompany some forms of racing.

Circuses

NOCO Humane opposes the use of animals in circuses where animals are subjected to neglect and cruelty in their treatment and training. NOCO Humane also has serious concerns about the risk to public safety created by performing-animal use.

Cosmetic Surgery in Animals (ear-cropping, tail docking)

NOCO Humane opposes cosmetic surgical procedures that are painful, distressful, or restrictive to a body part when done solely for convenience or appearance and without benefit to the animal.

Declawing Cats

NOCO Humane recognizes that declawing operations for non-medical purposes are performed solely for the convenience of the pet guardian. NOCO Humane urges guardians to exhaust all humane, non-surgical alternatives prior to subjecting a cat to declawing. Elective declawing has been made illegal in nearby jurisdictions and other areas. If all other options have been exhausted, NOCO Humane recommends laser surgical methods and proper pain management. All declawed cats should be kept as indoor-only pets as their primary method of defense has been eliminated.

Devocalization of Animals

NOCO Humane believes that a responsible pet guardian chooses a pet carefully, taking into consideration that the natural behaviors of some pets can be disruptive. Guardians should be prepared to make personal adjustments if necessary in order to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with the animals. The responsible guardian is willing to socialize and train a pet that is vocalizing excessively, making every effort to determine and address the cause of the behavior.

NOCO Humane recognizes that devocalization of an animal is done for non-medical reasons and is opposed to veterinary procedures that do not benefit the animal.

NOCO Humane opposes the use of the term 'kill' to describe other agencies and their process of thoughtful euthanasia and use the term 'anti-euthanasia' instead of the divisive and misleading term, 'no-kill'. NOCO Humane takes the responsibility for making euthanasia decisions seriously and with every consideration for alternative outcomes that are in the best interest of the animal and the safety of the community.

Food & Fiber Animals

NOCO Humane believes that farm animals are creatures of intrinsic value, intelligence, complexity, and dignity. NOCO Humane further believes that the billions of animals raised each year in the United States for food, clothing, and other products are entitled to live their lives free of unnecessary pain, suffering, and stress, as well as to a humane death. Therefore, NOCO Humane is opposed to the exploitation of food and fiber animals and supports the enforcement and strengthening of current laws and the implementation of humane standards for animals in every phase of animal-based food or fiber production.

Furs

NOCO Humane deplores the killing of animals, whether wild-caught or captive-bred, solely for the purpose of producing fur garments and decorations.

Guard Dogs

NOCO Humane recognizes the need for certain commercial businesses to implement sufficient security to protect and defend property and life. It is preferable that electronic and police surveillance methods be used as a first means of defense. When other methods have failed, there are occasions it is acceptable for a dog to be used for guarding purposes. Guard dogs should receive nutritious food, clean water, clean, dry shelter, and veterinary care, should wear a current dog license and identification, receive sufficient socialization with people on a regular basis, and be cared for as a beloved family member.

Hunting and Trapping

NOCO Humane opposes the hunting or trapping of any living creature for the sole purpose of entertainment, trophy, or sport because it subjects animals to stress, suffering, injury and/or death solely for the entertainment of people.

Native and Exotic Wildlife as Pets

NOCO Humane is opposed to the illegal practice of catching and or keeping wild animals as pets. Whether captive-born or wild-caught, wild animals make unsuitable pets. An animal is defined as 'wild' if its species has not been domesticated.

Outdoor Cats

NOCO Humane believes that responsible cat owners protect their cats, other animals, the public, and the environment by keeping their cats indoors or supervised in an enclosed outdoor area.

Proper Outdoor Shelter for Dogs

NOCO Humane believes that dogs should be cared for as beloved family members. However, it is recognized that some dogs primarily live outdoors. In these cases, outdoor dogs should receive nutritious food, clean water, clean and dry shelter, and veterinary care. A dog living outdoors should wear a current dog license and identification and receive sufficient socialization with people on a regular and frequent basis.

Retail Sale of Pets

NOCO Humane opposes commercial breeders who house their animals in inhumane conditions without regard to their physical or social needs and the pet shops that support this industry by selling their animals.

NOCO Humane supports legislation that restricts or bans such commercial breeders and requires inspection and licensure for all breeding operations.

Rodeos

NOCO Humane opposes all rodeo events that involve cruel, painful, stressful, or potentially harmful treatment of animals—not only in performance at the events but also in handling, transport and practice for such events. Further, NOCO Humane is opposed to children's rodeo events that do not promote humane care and respect for animals.

Service and Emotional Support Animals

NOCO Humane recognizes the value and importance of highly trained service animals to individuals with disabilities in our community. These animals should be trained using humane methods to provide the desired assisting functions to disabled individuals. We advocate for the

responsible and humane care of service animals by their trainers and handlers through their lives.

NOCO Humane also acknowledges the growing use of emotional support animals in our community. We support the use of these animals assuming that they are well behaved, highly trained, and cared for as beloved family members.

NOCO Humane opposes the fraudulent use of service animals and emotional support animals as selfish and exploitative acts that harm the reputation of all service animals and the individuals they help.

Sterilization of Companion Animals

NOCO Humane supports the sterilization of companion animals as it not only reduces pet-overpopulation but may increase an animal's chance of living a longer life. NOCO Humane recognizes that sterilization may not be recommended or necessary under certain, specific circumstances. When sterilization options are not pursued, NOCO Humane believes that responsible parties will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that unsterilized animals do not contribute to the unwanted pet surplus. NOCO Humane also supports the existence of spay and neuter clinics and programs which allow guardians to access affordable pet sterilization.

Training Methods for Animals

NOCO Humane believes that animals learn best through positive reinforcement and opposes the routine use of inhumane punishment-based training, corrective devices, or methods that cause an animal to obey out of pain, fear or intimidation. We believe that trainers should always use the least intrusive, minimally aversive techniques possible.

Wildlife-Human Conflicts

NOCO Humane believes that before any measures are taken to control, translocate, or destroy wild animals, a careful analysis of the animals' behavior, environment, and the specific problem or threat posed should be conducted and all humane alternatives exhausted.

Zoological Parks and Aquaria

NOCO Humane believes that wild animals should be permitted to exist undisturbed in their natural environments. However, it is recognized that the widespread existence of zoos and aquaria serves a demonstrable purpose in the long-term benefit of animals, such as the preservation and restoration of endangered species and the education of people about the needs of wild animals and their roles in ecosystems.