



## A Brief History

In 1997, a small group of volunteers, motivated by the deaths of thousands of adoptable pets in our local shelters, recognized that Washoe County needed a new type of animal rescue organization -- an organization dedicated to giving the dogs and cats at our municipal animal control shelter a second chance at life before their time ran out. Originally founded as the "Reno SPCA", this new charitable organization began its work by taking dogs and cats from the Reno Animal Services shelter to off-site adoption locations every weekend, eventually placing over 700 pets in new homes during that first year. Then, in 1998, the SPCA began leasing a shelter building on 5<sup>th</sup> street, where we established Reno-Sparks' very first no-kill animal shelter. At that time, we began to add our first paid staff positions, although volunteers continued to make a crucial contribution to our mission. From that humble beginning, the newly renamed "SPCA of Northern Nevada" continued to grow, eventually rescuing and re-homing over 15,000 pets while establishing new programs and services, and promoting the goal of finding homes for every adoptable shelter pet in our community. Through these first 13 years, the SPCA of Northern Nevada has always remained faithful to a few core principles:

1. We make a lifetime commitment to every dog and cat that we shelter
2. We believe that every shelter pet deserves a chance at a life in a loving home
3. We celebrate and promote the mutually beneficial bond between pets and people
4. We are a local grass-roots organization, receiving no funding from government dollars or from national organizations

With major bequest from the estate of Stanley J. Walker in 2008, we began planning for a transition to a new home where we can more effectively pursue our mission and our vision.

## Accomplishments

- Reno – Sparks' **first no-kill animal shelter**
- First local shelter to focus on rescuing dogs and cats at risk for euthanasia from our municipal animal control facility
- Found loving "forever" homes for **over 15,000 dogs and cats**
- Provided the public with low-cost spay-neuter assistance through "SNIPS" (Spay-neuter Incentive Program), and as the administrator of Maddie's Spay-Neuter Project in Nevada. Through these programs we have been responsible for **helping to spay and neuter over 9,000 pets over 10 years.**
- Built dozens of partnerships within our metropolitan area and across Northern Nevada to facilitate pet rescue and the distribution of spay-neuter assistance
- Operate ongoing low-cost vaccination and microchip clinics for the public
- Provide the public with over **12,000 hours of volunteer opportunities** annually
- Currently operating Reno – Sparks only humane education outreach program



**The mission of the SPCA of Northern Nevada is to end euthanasia as a means of pet overpopulation control in Northern Nevada. Our adoption center philosophy is that once an animal is accepted at the shelter, he or she is cared for until a new loving home is found. The SPCA of Northern Nevada receives no tax dollars or funding from any national organization. We rely totally on our local community to support our ongoing programs.**