

RIO GRANDE VALLEY
HUMANE SOCIETY

What no-kill really means

No-kill, as a philosophical principle, means saving every dog or cat in a shelter who can be saved. But it's helpful to have a way to clearly measure lifesaving progress as we move forward together, and that's where the 90% benchmark comes in.

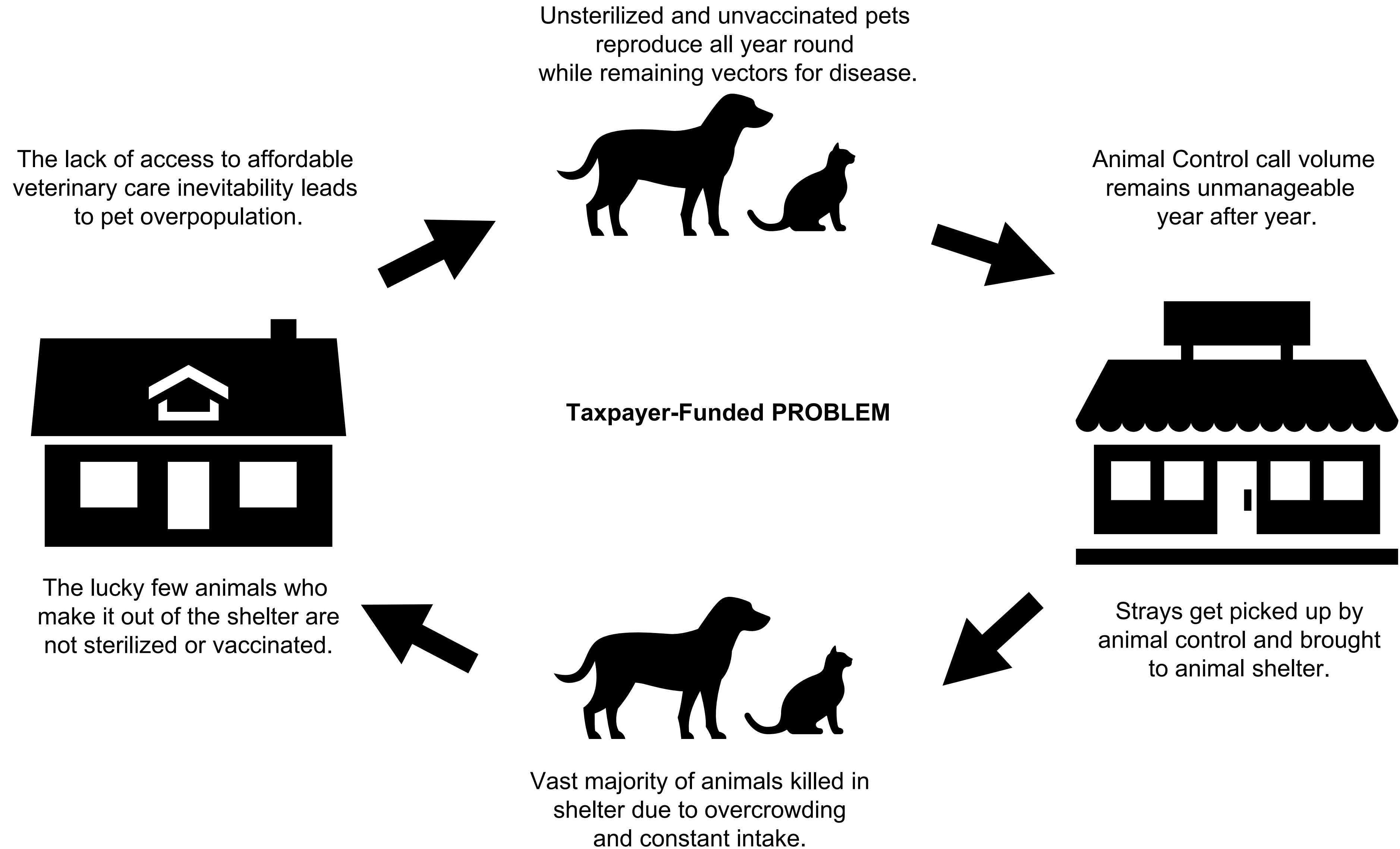
A 90% save rate for animals entering a shelter is a meaningful and common-sense benchmark for measuring lifesaving progress. Typically, the number of pets who are suffering from irreparable medical or behavioral issues that compromise their quality of life and prevent them from being rehomed is not more than 10% of all dogs and cats entering shelters. Therefore, we designate shelters that meet the 90% save-rate benchmark as no-kill.

What it means to be a no-kill animal shelter

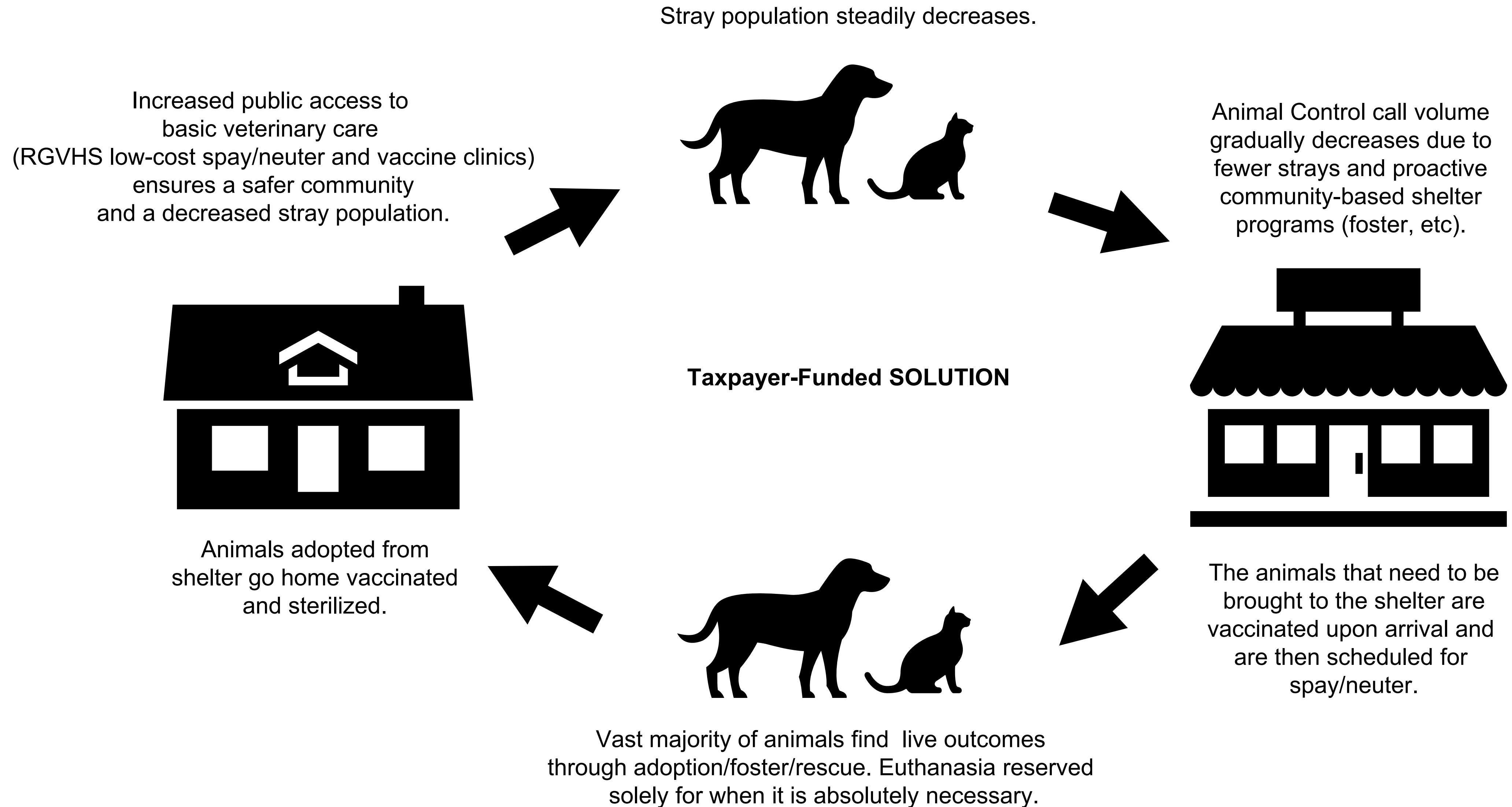
While the 90% benchmark offers a meaningful, consistent way to gauge progress, it is neither a floor nor a ceiling. For many shelters, a true no-kill save rate may be closer to 95% (or higher). For some shelters, particularly those offering care and services such as neonatal kitten programs or compassionate end-of-life services for residents with pets in under-resourced communities, the no-kill benchmark may be slightly below 90%.

The goal is for every shelter, no matter what type of shelter it is, to make a clear commitment to lifesaving and transparency while working to achieve and sustain no-kill in philosophy and practice, rather than simply working to obtain a no-kill designation.

The Old Way



The Right Way



Rio Grande Valley Humane Society's Vision:

The Rio Grande Valley Humane Society (RGVHS) is the leader for animal welfare in the Rio Grande Valley. For 3 years, RGVHS has kept Harlingen a no-kill city. In February 2023, The City of Mission partnered with RGVHS to bring the no-kill movement to Hidalgo County.

Stray animal overpopulation is a regional problem that requires a regional approach. RGVHS seeks to expand our reach and make the entire Rio Grande Valley a safer place for pets.

