

In 2004, animal welfare industry leaders from across the nation met at the Asilomar Convention Center in Pacific Grove, Ca. Its goal was to develop a unified philosophy and shelter data reporting procedures focused on significantly reducing the euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in the United States.

The Accords provide principles which guide animal welfare organizations to work together to save the lives of all healthy and treatable companion animals. The document aims to cut through the rhetoric of "no kill" vs. "limited admission" vs. "open admission" shelters and to clearly define "adoptable" animal. Before these agreements were developed, definitions and reporting methods varied from group to group, making cross comparisons of shelter statistics impossible. The Asilomar Accords now provide a standard language for developing and presenting shelter statistics.

Euthanasia statistics are represented in four categories: healthy, treatable/rehabilitatable, treatable/manageable, and unhealthy/untreatable. Definitions of these categories are available at www.asilomaraccords.org/definitions.html. These precise definitions now allow better understanding of the data from each of our local animal welfare organizations and the community as a whole.

The Live Release Rate (LRR) is the most focused and important information derived from formulas presented in the Accords. The Live Release Rate reveals the percentage of animals that leave the shelter alive regardless of their health or behavior status. This measurement eliminates subjective definitions of "adoptable".

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