

Making Euthanasia Decisions A Team Approach



The Association for
Animal Welfare
Advancement



Introductions

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Grand Prairie
— T E X A S —
ANIMAL SERVICES



Introductions





Introductions



Purpose

Not here to...

- Provide a magical answer
- Tell you what to euthanize
- Push cookie-cutter values



Will...

- Share our organizational journey
- Provide tools to encourage open communication

Which most closely resembles the individual/team that directs space-related euthanasia decisions?

A single lead staff member

A team of lead or specialized staff members

A designated team with participation from all levels

All staff

Other

Which most closely resembles the individual/team that directs space-related euthanasia decisions?

A single lead staff member

0%

A team of lead or specialized staff members

0%

A designated team with participation from all levels

0%

All staff

0%

Other

0%

Which most closely resembles the individual/team that directs space-related euthanasia decisions?

A single lead staff member

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A designated team with participation from all levels

0%

All staff

0%

Other

0%

Transition



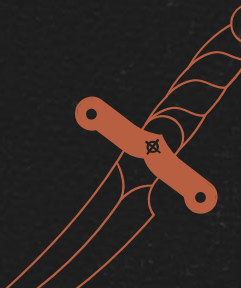
One Lead Staff



Designated Team



Focus List,
Generated by All





Barriers

- Inexperience
- Lack of objectivity
- Too upsetting



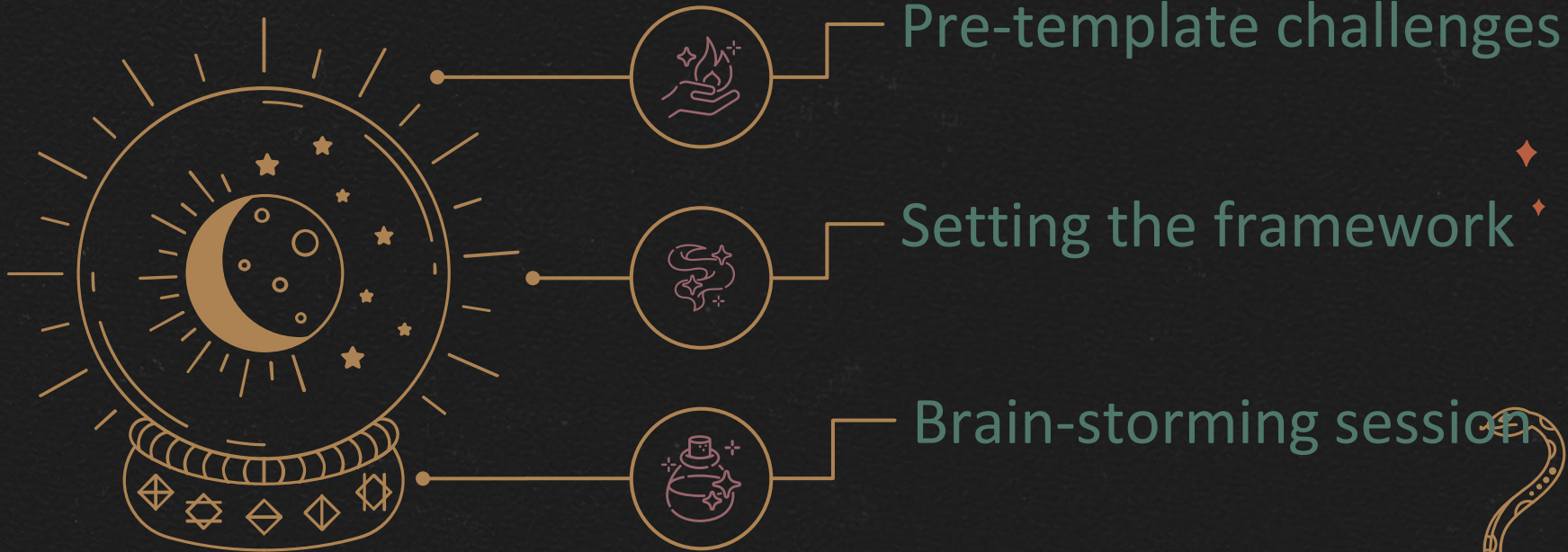


The Focus List

- Guidelines
- Open Meetings
- Proactive Efforts



Guidelines



Guidelines – Brainstorming Session



Acknowledgement

Tough conversation
Respectful
interactions
Rules of conduct



Specific Questions

Minimize the rabbit
hole
Reoccurring
conversations
Submissions from
team



Objective Behaviors

Actionable lists
Counter to
'subjectivity'
Critical element



Disclaimer

Think fro-yo, not cookies



Guidelines

Handle-ability	Redirection?	● ● ○ ○ ○
Human/Animal Reactivity	Incidents w/ smaller animals?	● ● ● ○ ○
Deteriorating Kennel Behavior	Repetitive behaviors?	● ● ● ● ○
"Adopt-ability"	Dog selectivity?	● ● ● ● ●

Handle-ability

Consideration: Behavior observed during normal day-to-day handling onsite.

- Unprovoked, offensive (towards handler) movement
- Un-mitigatable resource guarding
- Redirection on to people (contact is made to the handler to any degree)







Human/Animal Reactivity







Consideration: Behavior history with special emphasis on behavior witnessed across kennel AND home environments

Observations from <30 days placement may be categorized as transition vs established home behavior





Human/Animal Reactivity cont.

- Uninterruptable altercation with person or another animal (similar/larger in size)
 - Any bite incident beyond a single puncture wound or scratch
 - Escalating and/or varied bite history
 - Moderate to severe injury to another animal (similar/larger in size without barrier)
 - Escalating and/or repeated altercations with another animal (similar/larger in size)
 - Animal barrier reactivity manifesting in self-harming behavior
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Deterioating kennel behavior

Consideration: Noted change, specifically negatives change(s) compared to pet's initial kennel behavior

- Self-harming from repetitive behavior
- Spinning, even outside of the kennel
- Weight loss, despite mitigation efforts
- Licking kennel bars obsessively and/or hyper-salivating



“ADOPTABILITY”

Consideration: If other criteria is not met, more minor behaviors/factors listed below will be considered for animals that have most opportunity (longest LOS) to find placement without success

- Dog selectivity
- Stranger Danger
- Unmitigable bitey/mouthy/overstimulation
- Medical care requiring follow-up





Open Meetings



Critical Participants

Facilitator
Others?



Meeting Kick-Off



Default Consideration



Speaking Last (if at all)



OPEN MEETINGS



Email & Database

Focus List
Circulation



All Departments

Shared Responsibility



Critical Element

Proactive
Efforts

Proactive Efforts

Pet biography

Social Media Spotlight

Contacting
Interested Parties

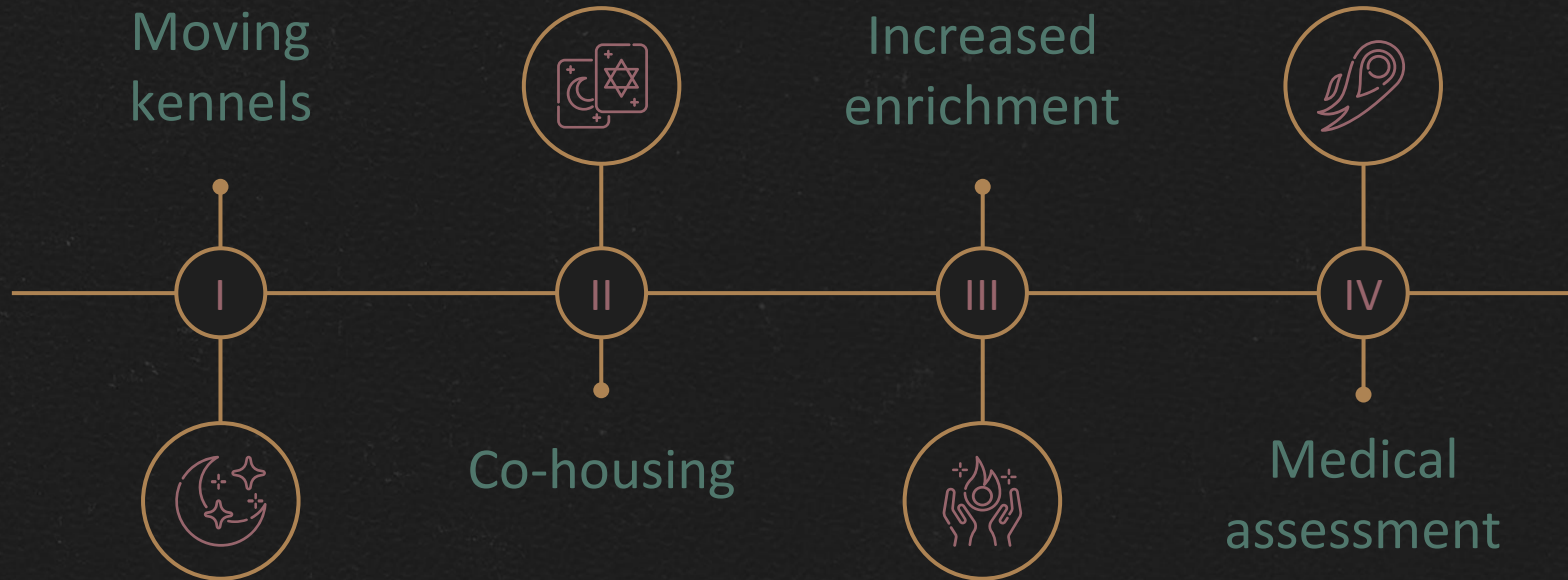


Playgroup
Assessment

Rescue Outreach

BMOD Plan

Proactive Efforts cont.





Focus

"The greatest test of courage on earth is to bear defeat without losing heart."
- Robert Ingersoll



YOUR Focus List

What
pieces fit
operations?

Who
to involve?

Where
to get
participation?

When/how
Frequently to
assess?

WHY?



Questions?



Thanks!

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