

## **YC PAWS Resource Binder Executive Summary**

### **Where we've been**

Animal welfare in Yolo County has been a focus of animal advocates in an array of forms for many years, each bringing their dedication and efforts to specific needs and locations. The economic shift of resources sparked many discussions of best practices for sustainable countywide animal welfare for Yolo County. These discussions have led to a coming together as a unified group consisting of citizens, community leaders and elected officials to collaborate on positive solutions for improving animal welfare. A steering committee was formed with a focus on reflecting the need for countywide change that addresses the unique needs of each community in Yolo County.

Yolo County Pet Animal Welfare Society (YC PAWS) is a countywide, community driven, animal welfare group focused on assisting all the citizens and governments of Yolo County in identifying, creating and maintaining progressive and efficient care and services for all pet animals.

YC PAWS focus will be on low cost/no cost spay neuter programs, effective licensure programs, animal sheltering, community education, the development of a well-trained community volunteer pool, and ongoing facilitation between jurisdictions and community advocacy groups.

### **Why we are questioning**

Worldwide there has been the need to address animal welfare, pet overpopulation and public health and safety. Animal welfare groups across the country have been making changes to the systems of care with many progressive successful models in California and world renowned experts here in Davis. With the understanding that need out weights available services, dwindling budgets and cutbacks the need to research, explore options and take action was a must for Yolo County.

### **Suggestions to move forward**

- Gather insights on each community's unique set of needs and current resources within Yolo County.
- Develop a community vision for countywide animal welfare.
- Assess our strengths and weaknesses and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Identify strategic issues that we need to address to support and sustain progressive animal welfare policies that reflect our community values and recognize current financial limitations.
- Explore and research sustainable and economically responsible models of progressive animal welfare programs.
- Create a timeline for specific actions to be evaluated by the County, cities, animal advocacy groups and other partners.
- Develop a YC PAWS plan for supporting the ongoing needs and changes long-term to offer assistance in meeting the needs of pet animals in our county.