

HUMANE COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE.

SAFE COMMUNITIES ARE HUMANE

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The Safe Humane® model piloted in Chicago is an unprecedented community-wide collaboration among non-traditional partners that recognize the benefits of the human-animal bond, as well as the connections between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. Human-welfare and animal-welfare advocates work together to break the cycle of violence and neglect by using the power of compassion for animals and their collective knowledge and community networks to demonstrate that communities can only be safe when they are also humane. Programs are conducted and refined in partnership with schools, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, courts, animal control organizations, animal rescues and shelters, and other community-based groups. They provide disadvantaged communities—those most affected by violence and lack of economic opportunity—with opportunities to form positive, beneficial relationships with companion animals that lead to safer neighborhoods.

“Human welfare advocates and companion animal advocates share a common goal. We all care about safe neighborhoods.”



The Safe Humane® concept is also a nexus, connecting issues central to public dialogue to those addressed by companion animal groups. It directly addresses public safety, public health, education, economic opportunity, and quality of life. Safe Humane® programs:

- recognize the documented relationships between violence against people and violence against animals;
- educate the public about the importance of preventing children’s exposure to desensitizing scenes of animal neglect, abuse, and violent crime;
- emphasize the connection between compassionate animal ownership and public safety;
- identify opportunities to replace violent behavior toward animals with positive, beneficial relationships;
- emphasize that dogs be treated as individuals;
- promote job opportunities with animals; and
- nurture empathy and compassion for animals and people in community members of all ages and from all walks of life.

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By promoting humane, responsible care of animals and providing access to resources such as adequate food and appropriate veterinary care for companion animals, we create safer, more stable homes and environments for both animals and people. We also reduce the number of animals abandoned to shelters, which has positive public policy and economic impacts. Ultimately, the goal of Safe Humane® is to change the way people interact with, care for, and think about animals in communities, neighborhood by neighborhood, person by person. Through education, advocacy, and direct work with animals, we seek to inspire positive relationships between people and animals, starting with our youth. By working together with diverse, non-traditional community partners who share our mission to reduce violence and nurture compassion, we can reach our goal of creating safer, more humane communities for both animals and people. By using the language and contexts of safety, health, education, economic opportunity and quality of life, we will reach a broader audience. Then we all can benefit from the respected, millennia-old human-canine bond, whether we live with a dog or even want a dog.

Learn more about the Safe Humane® model at www.safehumanechicago.org.