Sample Letter of Support for the New York CAPA - Version 1

This is a sample letter of support you can prepare for yourself and send to your elected officials to ask them to support the CAPA. We encourage you to modify the letter to suit your own opinions and that you remain respectful in all communication.

Dear Senator,

Dear Assembly Member,

[As your constituent,] I am writing today to urge you to co-sponsor the [Companion Animal Protection Act (CAPA)](https://newyorkcapa.weebly.com/capa.html), the model Shelter Reform legislation that was developed by the [No Kill Advocacy Center](https://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/) to protect the lives of shelter animals. In addition to establishing minimum standards that would improve the quality of care that most animals receive in shelters, CAPA would require that certain conditions be met before killing animals that would save the lives of thousands of adoptable dogs and cats who are being needlessly killed in regressive pounds across New York State.

Under the reasonable conditions that CAPA would mandate, pounds would be prohibited from killing a dog or cat when there is available kennel space or when an animal can be transferred to another facility. CAPA would also prevent pounds from killing animals when qualified rescue groups are willing to save them. CAPA would require shelters to notify participating rescue groups of all animals being threatened with death, and would grant registered 501(c)(3) organizations the right to rescue those animals on demand. CAPA would also end the policy of rounding-up and killing community cats who are not social with people and do not belong in shelters. Community cats would be spay-neutered and if they could not be adopted they would be released to their habitats in lieu of killing. CAPA would also require shelters to seek foster placement before killing an animal. And CAPA would end the practice of killing 'owner surrendered' animals within minutes of arrival at the shelter without ever giving them a chance at adoption.

At every turn, CAPA encourages shelters to follow the [No Kill Equation](https://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/no-kill-equation.html), the proven model for open-admission municipal shelters that has led to save rates of upwards of 99% of all animals in hundreds of No Kill communities across the nation.

CAPA has already passed in one state and several cities, including Austin, TX, where 98% of dogs and 96% of cats are being saved, and Muncie, IN, where 99% of dogs and 97% of cats are being placed. The open-intake No Kill shelters in both of these model communities achieved their phenomenal success after passing the common-sense statutes of CAPA.

New York should follow the lead of these progressive cities, as well as Saint Paul, MN, which passed CAPA in 2011 and saves over 90% of all animals; and the State of Delaware, where CAPA passed both houses of the legislature unanimously in 2010, and has resulted in save rates of well over 90% statewide.

CAPA is designed to be implemented at no additional cost to taxpayers. In fact, CAPA would most likely save New Yorkers money as it saves lives, as has been demonstrated in Delaware and in every city that has passed CAPA, where higher save rates have translated into an increase in the collection of adoption fees, and lower costs associated with killing and body disposal. Any additional costs resulting from animals living longer in shelters have been more than offset by the dramatic increase in adoption revenues and corresponding reductions in killing.

Moreover, CAPA mandates that shelters form partnerships with 501(c)(3) rescue groups which absorb the costs of animal care, transferring expenses from government-run shelters to private charities, thereby alleviating the burden on taxpayers. This has been demonstrated in every community where CAPA has passed, including California, which passed CAPA-like legislation (the Hayden Law in 1999) which enabled rescue groups to save threatened animals on demand.

A case study in the cost-efficiency of CAPA is Muncie, IN, which passed a sweeping version of CAPA in 2017, becoming the first community in the nation to make it illegal to kill a healthy or treatable shelter animal. With CAPA as their guide, Muncie Animal Care & Services transformed a hostile high-kill pound (killing roughly 50% of all animals) into the true No Kill shelter it is today, where 99% of all Pit Bulls are being placed in loving homes, a remarkable feat of lifesaving that was accomplished without requiring any increases in Animal Services' municipal budget allocations, which have remained fixed throughout the transition from high-kill to No Kill, proving that No Kill reforms mandated by CAPA are a cost-effective solution for poorly performing pounds, providing value to the community [at no additional cost to taxpayers](https://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/costs.html).

Please become a co-sponsor of this important lifesaving legislation that has a Sponsor in the Assembly and is coming soon to the New York State Legislature.

Thank You for considering the New York Companion Animal Protection Act: [NewYorkCAPA.weebly.com](https://newyorkcapa.weebly.com/)

Sincerely,

[Your Constituent,]

Jane Smith,

Place Where I Live, NY