



Position Statements

*Approved by the Board of Directors on
November 18, 2015*

MARIN HUMANE
BOARD POSITION STATEMENT

MARIN HUMANE ADMINISTRATION

Marin Humane is more than an animal shelter. Our mission is to transform lives through exceptional animal care, humane education, and advocacy. Every day, we inspire compassion and positive relationships between people and animals. Our values promote compassion, dedication to animals, continuous learning, courage and honoring differences.

Since the very beginning, we have fought to protect animals. In the early 1900's, Ethel Tompkins, our founder, blocked the road for livestock haulers trucking cattle through Marin and forced the drivers to provide water and care for the cows. We have followed in her footsteps by continuously expanding our ability to help homeless animals, by pursuing legislation to protect animals, and by providing extensive awareness and education programs. Advocacy for animals is a vital part of Marin Humane's soul.

Marin Humane takes positions on a wide variety of animal-related issues with careful thought and deliberation. These positions put our mission, vision and values into action and serve as a model for how to do what is right for animals.

Administrative position statements can have a direct effect on the way Marin Humane operates. Our organizational decision making practices are based on established criteria including but not limited to: making the best choices on behalf of animals, environmental stewardship, favoring humane alternatives, reviewing any and all legal mandates and looking holistically at the issue, problem or concern. We take pride in the strong roots of our organizational advocacy efforts and are willing to take brave stances for what we believe in, rather than what may be popular.

Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are: Marin Humane Mission & Values, Humane Philosophies, Euthanasia, Facility Rental, Food Served at Marin Humane Functions, Environmental Responsibility and Use of Language.

Adopted: November 18, 2015

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ANIMAL PLACEMENT

Animals that find refuge at Marin Humane are given every opportunity to find a lifelong loving home. Animals that are made available through our adoption program pass extensive health and behavior examinations. Our staff works diligently to carefully match these animals with appropriate prospective adopters. The animal's journey into a positive environment does not end with adoption, though. Marin Humane is also committed to serving people and their animals with important services that promote the human-animal bond for the life of their animal.

Marin Humane collaborates with many partners to provide positive outcomes for the animals that come through its doors. These partners provide alternative resources that lead to positive outcomes. No animal in the care of Marin Humane is ever euthanized solely due to time or lack of space. When an animal has a severe health problem or unsurmountable behavioral issues (or sometimes both) and cannot be rehabilitated or treated, the animal may not be a candidate for adoption at Marin Humane or elsewhere. However, alternative options are explored prior to making the decision to euthanize. In those cases Marin Humane insists on providing the most humane and compassionate treatment during the final moments of the animal's life, regardless of the circumstance.

Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are: Breed & Pet Placement Groups, Cat Adoptions, Dog Adoptions, Livestock & Barnyard Animal Adoptions.

Adopted: November 18, 2015

MARIN HUMANE
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COMMUNITY ISSUES

Marin Humane understands the significant role animals have in the lives of people and in our community. We believe in taking a leadership role in communicating the importance of animals when they may be impacted by community decisions. One of Marin Humane's strengths is our expertise in matters involving animals in our community and beyond. Being a key partner as well as an advocate for creating a more humane society is in our mission, vision and values. We feel obligated, and are proud, to share this with others. Some examples of community issues we have become involved in include, but are not limited to, animal hoarding, off-leash dog areas, animal cruelty and the link to human violence, classroom pets, and many more.

Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are: Animal Hoarding, Animals in the Media, Classroom Pets, Products Tested on Animals, Response to Animals in Crises, Animal Cruelty & the Link to Human Violence, Habitat Preservation, Human-Animal Bond, Marine Life & Oceans, Off-Leash Dog Areas, Pet-Friendly Retailers, and Pets in Housing.

Adopted: November 18, 2015

BOARD POSITION STATEMENT

COMPANION ANIMALS

Marin Humane has a long history of advocating for all animals. We have a solid reputation for establishing new approaches and standards for providing more protection to companion animals. We endorse the Five Freedoms* of animal welfare; we encourage standards that provide animals more protection from cruelty, neglect and irresponsible guardianship.

*The Five Freedoms were developed in the United Kingdom and applied to farm animals. The movement is to now apply them to domestic animals as well. The Freedoms define ideal states rather than standards for acceptable welfare. They are freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury or disease; freedom to express normal behavior and freedom from fear and distress.

Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are: Declawing, Ear Cropping & Tail Docking, Feral Cats, Free Roaming Cats, Free-Roaming Dogs, Invisible Fencing, Pet Overpopulation, Responsible Cat Guardianship, Responsible Dog Guardianship.

Adopted: November 18, 2015

MARIN HUMANE
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ANIMALS IN ENTERTAINMENT

Marin Humane believes that the well-being of animals should never be compromised for the purpose of entertainment. Marin Humane is opposed to the use of animals in any form of entertainment (including public performances, filming, photographic and print media) where animals could be victims of cruelty, harassment, or where pain or stress to the animals is involved. Marin Humane is opposed to and advocates for eliminating animals from circuses, fairs, public events or rodeos as all such events demean the animals' nature and convey to the audience a lack of respect for animal life.

Marin Humane is opposed to and advocates against the use of any great apes or primates, large cats, elephants, or other wild and exotic animals in any form of public media, display, or performance, other than unobtrusive depictions of these animals in their natural habitats.

Marin Humane encourages strong oversight of animal use in all forms of entertainment in order to protect animals from cruel and inhumane conditions and treatment, as well as to protecting public health and safety.

Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are: Use of Animals in Entertainment, Petting Zoos, Animals in Circuses, Domestic Animal Shows, Racing Pigs, Rodeos, Weight Pulling Contests, Wild & Exotic Animal Displays, Wild & Exotic Animal Photo Sessions, Zoos & Aquaria, Greyhound Coursing and Racing.

Adopted: November 18, 2015

MARIN HUMANE
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FARM ANIMAL WELFARE

Marin Humane recognizes that the majority of animals raised for food or fiber in America suffer extensively throughout their lives, in large part because of the use of high-volume intensive confinement systems. These systems are extremely stressful to animals and are designed to deprive the animals involved of all natural behaviors and create an unhealthy environment at all stages of production. In support of this position, all Marin Humane-sponsored functions or events adhere to vegetarian menus with vegan options.

We also stand against the suffering of farmed animals caused by: branding, castration, tail docking, and dehorning without anesthesia, improper handling of farm animals during auction, transport and slaughter, shackling and hoisting, and the inappropriate use of antibiotics and growth hormones.

Marin Humane is dedicated to reducing animal suffering by enforcing the animal cruelty laws and by supporting legislation and regulations intended to improve the methods for the raising, housing, care, transport, handling, and slaughter of farmed animals.

*Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are:
Beef Cattle Operations, Caged Chicken Egg Laying Operations, Chick Debeaking, Chick Hatcheries, Dairy Cow Operations, Feather Farming, Foie Gras, Forced Molting, Livestock and Poultry Practices, Poultry Broiler Operations, Poultry Slaughter Operations, Poultry Transporting.*

Adopted: April 1991

Revised: November 18, 2015

MARIN HUMANE
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LEGISLATION

Marin Humane will monitor local, state and federal legislation affecting animals and will sponsor, endorse, support, oppose or otherwise take a position on such legislation, which shall always be consistent with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) substantiality test limit* for 501(c)(3) organizations, and may be further governed by Marin Humane Board policy or special resolution.

*Under this test, the total of an organization's expenditures for lobbying must not constitute a "substantial" part of its overall activities.

*Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are:
Breed Specific Legislation, Legal Advocacy.*

Adopted: May 1995

Revised: November 18, 2015

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EQUINE ISSUES

Marin Humane recognizes the important bond between equines and their guardians. We are committed to advocating for all equines by ensuring their humane treatment and protection. Marin Humane also supports the retention of wild horses on their historic homelands, and healthy management of wild herds on the range. Based on the cruelty involved with horse slaughterhouses to provide horse meat to other countries, Marin Humane will work to prevent the opening of horse slaughterhouses in the United States.

Equines entering the refuge of Marin Humane are given appropriate care to provide for their well-being while on or off of our campus. When appropriate they are placed in carefully screened homes where they will be free from abuse, exploitation and breeding.

Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are: Carriage Horses, Donkey Basketball, Horse Endurance Rides, Equine Adoptions, Equines in Times of Drought, Horse Racing, Horse Shows, Horse Slaughter, Pony Rides, Premarin, Wild Horses and Burros.

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WILDLIFE

Marin Humane advocates for wildlife and their habitat. As the habitat for wild animals continues to disappear around the world, we believe that education fostering awareness, and encouraging responsible protective action of wildlife and their habitats, is critical. We support the promotion of responsible coexistence between wild animals and their human neighbors.

Marin Humane believes all exotic and wild animals are unsuitable as pets. Marin Humane opposes the trafficking of wild caught, or captive-bred, wild animals for the pet trade. Marin Humane supports a reduction and end to the pain, suffering, and population disruption that is caused by capture, transport, confinement, training, and maintenance of wild and exotic animals.

Wild animals in captivity are subject to special considerations that very few facilities can meet. We recognize that non-domestic animals cannot always be safely returned to their native habitat. When retention is the most humane decision we strongly advocate that all of their specialized needs be satisfied. The animals' welfare should be the top consideration in the design, upkeep and regular assessment of these wildlife facilities.

Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are: Elephants, Endangered and Threatened Species, Fishing, The Keeping of Wild and Exotic Pets, Killing of Wildlife, Marine Mammals, Nonnative Wildlife, Predator Control, Canned Hunts, Wildlife Coexistence, Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Adopted: November 18, 2015

MARIN HUMANE
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ANIMAL WELFARE

Marin Humane actively participates in efforts that address the welfare of all animals. We strongly believe that animals should be free from cruelty, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and suffering in all their encounters with humans. Animals should never be harmed for personal or commercial gain. As issues come to our attention we examine all of the necessary facts and make decisions based on the well-being of animals as well as sound ethics.

*Some of the types of specific positions statements that fall under this category currently are:
Biotechnology, Bloodsports, Chick Hatching Projects, Fur Trapping and Ranching, Internet Sales of
Animals, Live Animal Markets, Pet Shops, Puppy Mills, Breeding of Animals, Transportation of Animals,
Use of Rodenticides and Poisons, Ritual Use of Animals.*

Adopted: November 18, 2015