



Building Bridges: Strengthening Community Relationships with Growing Animal Shelters in Indonesia

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As the numbers of animal shelters, independent rescuers, and instances of animal hoarding increase in Indonesia, the dynamics between these shelters and their surrounding communities become increasingly complex. This presentation presents a case study examining the growing presence of shelters, the challenges they face in their neighborhoods, and the importance of effective shelter management practices in fostering positive relationships within communities.



Introduction



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Growing Numbers of Shelters and Rescuers

In recent years, Indonesia has witnessed a significant rise in the establishment of animal shelters and independent rescue efforts. While the growth of these organizations illustrates a burgeoning commitment to animal welfare, it has also led to challenges, including instances of animal hoarding and tensions between shelters and local residents. These dynamics often stem from misunderstandings about the goals of animal shelters and the need for community support.

Neighborhood Issues and Relationship with Residents

Animal shelters often face scrutiny from neighbors who may be concerned about noise, odor, and the overall impact of the shelter on their living environment. Miscommunication and lack of awareness of the shelter's mission can lead to friction. It is crucial for shelters to engage proactively with their neighbors, creating opportunities for dialogue and transparency to alleviate concerns and foster goodwill.

ANIMAL HOARDER CASES





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INDIVIDU RESCUER/ Private Shelters



Importance of Shelter Management Practices



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Effective shelter management is vital in ensuring that animal shelters can operate successfully while maintaining positive relationships with their communities. Key components of effective shelter management practices include:

1. Regulated Intake and Adoption Processes:

- Establishing strict guidelines for animal intake helps prevent overcrowding and maintains shelter capacity. A well-defined adoption process, including thorough screening of potential adopters and post-adoption follow-ups, promotes responsible pet ownership and reduces the likelihood of returns.

2. Facilities and Maintenance:

- Ensuring that shelters are clean, safe, and well-maintained is essential in aligning with community expectations. Regular cleaning schedules, proper waste management, and adequate space for animals contribute to a positive environment. Upkeep of outdoor spaces, such as play areas for dogs, can enhance both animal welfare and neighbor perceptions.

Importance of Shelter Management Practices (2)



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3. Staff Training and Animal Care:

- Investing in staff training and development is key to effective shelter management. Employees should be trained in animal behavior, health care, and emotional support, allowing them to provide quality care and handle various situations appropriately. This care extends to maintaining mental health and enrichment for animals while in the shelter.

4. Community Engagement and Outreach:

- Active engagement with the community through outreach programs can foster trust and collaboration between shelters and residents. Shelters can organize educational workshops, outreach campaigns, and community events that raise awareness about animal welfare, encourage volunteerism, and promote responsible pet ownership.

Importance of Shelter Management Practices (3)



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5. Crisis Management and Communication:

- Developing a crisis management plan for addressing potential issues—such as public complaints, animal intake fluctuations, or emergency situations—is critical to effective shelter management. Transparent communication with the community about operational changes, challenges, or upcoming projects fosters trust and understanding.

6. Feedback Mechanisms:

- Establishing formal channels for community feedback is important for continuous improvement. Shelters can solicit input through surveys, suggestion boxes, or community meetings, allowing residents to voice their concerns and ideas. Actively incorporating this feedback can help shape shelter practices and policies.

Importance of Shelter Management Practices (4)



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7. Collaboration with Local Authorities:

- Partnering with local government, law enforcement, and public health agencies can enhance shelter management. Collaborations can lead to joint initiatives focused on animal control, public education, and support services that benefit both the shelter and the surrounding community.

Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) Guidelines Standards of Care Asian Guideline and Best Practice Shelter Indonesian Best Practice Animal Shelter Care



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Effective shelter management practices are essential for upholding the welfare of animals while ensuring positive relations with the surrounding community. Adopting guidelines from the Animal Shelter Veterinary (ASV) Animal Shelter Guidelines can offer invaluable insights into best practices that can be adjusted for the context of Indonesia.

In summary, adopting above and tailoring them to the needs of the Indonesian context can significantly improve shelter management practices. By focusing on structured intake and adoption processes, maintaining safe and hygienic facilities, providing quality animal care, engaging the community, and fostering open communication, shelters can enhance their operational effectiveness and build positive relationships with local residents. Together with supportive government policies and community involvement, these practices will contribute to a more sustainable and compassionate approach to animal welfare in Indonesia.



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Indonesian Policy for Animal Shelter

In 2023, JAAN Domestic has the opportunity to lobby Ministry to talk and push the importance of governments regulation for creating minimum standards of operational in Shelter. Recognizing the need for standards in animal shelter operations, the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesian government is introducing animal shelter regulations aimed at establishing national benchmarks for shelters across the country soon to be implemented by 2026. Jaan Domestic, **has been actively involved as one of the several NGO's consultant in this process**, contributing to policy changes that will create clear guidelines for shelter management. These regulations are a critical step toward improving the welfare of animals in shelters while also addressing community relations.



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KESEJAHTERAAN HEWAN SHELTER
YANG LEBIH BAIK**





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Harmonious Living: The Key to Success

For both animal shelters and the communities they serve, living in harmony is crucial. Collaborative efforts between shelters and residents can lead to mutually beneficial outcomes, creating environments where animal welfare is enhanced, and community concerns are addressed. Programs that encourage community involvement in shelter activities, such as volunteer opportunities and educational initiatives, can foster a sense of partnership and shared responsibility.



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Conclusion

As the landscape of animal shelters in Indonesia continues to evolve, it is imperative to prioritize relationships with surrounding communities. By adopting effective management practices and fostering open communication, shelters can build goodwill and support among residents. With the support of governmental regulations and community engagement, a more harmonious coexistence between animal shelters and their neighborhoods will contribute to the overall welfare of animals and the enrichment of community life.

THANK YOU!



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