

Establishing Teamwork

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- ***Teamwork is the ability of a group of individuals to work together to accomplish more than is possible by these individuals working alone.***
- ***Teamwork is absolutely necessary within groups in order to facilitate clinics or transport programs, and is equally necessary in bringing neighboring groups together to form regional programs.***
- ***To be effective at solving long-term problems, teamwork must be fluid, able to grow and include more people and more tasks (i.e. more spays, more services and more regions).***
- ***Everyone in each group you work with is vital; recognize individual strengths, in addition to group strengths.*** Everyone is not capable of devoting the same amount of time and effort, those helping in small ways are still quite important.
- ***Help groups define their goals and whether or not they are effectively moving toward those goals.***
- ***After they have acknowledged (at their own pace and within their own dialog) that they are treading essentially the same water they were in ten years ago, explain ways for people to use their energy more effectively. Show the numbers that prove that to reduce animal suffering, aggressive and targeted spay/ neuter programs produce far more benefit for far less effort than rescue and placement.***
- ***Compliments help groups realize their potential.*** Pointing out their strengths helps groups gain a perspective on what they can accomplish. Most have actually come further than they realize.
- ***Arrange for people to meet and get in touch with each other. Have “Sterilization Celebrations” at shelters or someone’s home, cake and coffee draw people together. Make it possible for active people to meet other active people from other groups; teamwork will develop. Frequent casual contact can mean more than formal settings less often.***
- ***Make spay/ neuter clinics and events fun for volunteers, it’s easy to do. Involve Boy and Girl Scouts, church youth groups, etc.***
- ***Give out phone numbers and make maps, share maps. Let people know you’re excited about spay/ neuter. Give groups as many resources as you can. Help people take steps themselves.***