3 WAYS TO IMPROVE COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

1 UNITE AROUND A COMMON GOAL

Participants in collaborations must unite around a common, non-controversial goal that is relevant to groups from varying size cities, rural v. urban, govt v. nonprofit, specialized v. generalized focus, length of time in the field. You must let go of:

- **Philosophical Differences** - talk about increasing lifesaving rather than insisting on divisive goal of reaching no-kill
- **Judgment** - set ground rules where everyone's input counts and is vital to reaching goal
- **Methods/Measures/Terminology** - concentrate on raw data instead of specific categories, OREs, etc.

2 INSPIRE INVOLVEMENT

It's important to find ways to engage disparate groups by tapping into their individual needs and inspiring them to work cohesively to make an impact. Remove any barriers to membership and approach stakeholders to hear their perspectives. It is easiest to empower people to make a difference by tapping into their specific abilities, showing them opportunities, and creating demonstrable sets of results. Remember to:

- **Earn trust by not criticizing, lecturing, preaching.**
- **Listen to others' point of view.**
- **Offer help with what other agencies need, especially municipalities.**
- **Concentrate on the short game rather than the long game.**

3 ENGAGE WITH OTHERS

Developing ways to communicate with one another and to consolidate resources makes the process of engaging in shared actions easier, which is particularly important in such a busy, constantly-changing industry. Tools you can use:

- **Conduct visits to various agencies in your community.**
- **Offer town halls to the public to discuss collaborative opportunities.**
- **Build out chat boards, Trello pages, information about shelter swaps, access to free educational tools.**