

## **What are the First Steps toward Grant Funding and Support via the Asilomar Accords?**

### **The objective of the accords**

The Asilomar Accords promote the adoption of all healthy and treatable homeless animals through public animal shelters and rescue organizations. The national organization most invested in helping with the implementation of the accords is Maddie's Fund.

### **The creation of the accords**

"In August of 2004, a group of animal welfare industry leaders from across the nation convened at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, California, for the purpose of building bridges across varying philosophies, developing relationships and creating goals focused on significantly reducing the euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in the United States."

For further reading: <http://www.asilomaraccords.org/>

### **Live release/adoption goals**

Animal behavior and medical research advances that a significant majority of homeless animals found in any standard community are healthy and treatable, and therefore the Asilomar Accords promotes that these animals should be adopted out to loving homes. As a result, Maddie's Fund, among other national resources, offers significant support and funding for communities, via their animal shelters and rescue organizations, that seek over time to achieve a live release/adoption of all healthy and treatable animals (which for many communities levels out around 90% or better). Grant awards toward this end can be as much as several million dollars and are directed to any number of related issues toward animal adoption.

### **Qualifying for Maddie's Fund assistance**

Among the things needed to qualify for assistance from Maddie's Fund (and like-minded organizations), a shelter or rescue organization must commit to the goal of adopting out all healthy and treatable animals; use the definitions of the Asilomar Accords in doing so; and publish yearly statistics, "including the number of live intakes, adoptions, returns to owners/guardians, transfers, died in kennel, and euthanasia [of its animals]." Often Maddie's Fund favors awards to coalitions of local or regional shelters and rescue organizations.