
An Open Letter to Mayor Alonzo Jones and the Danville City Council

Mayor Jones and Members of the Danville City Council:

In the July 19th edition of the *Danville Register & Bee*, Mayor Alonzo Jones said, *"We are a community of partnerships, let's partner and resolve and work together."*

We couldn't agree more.

Every community deserves an animal shelter it can be proud of.

Mayor Jones, we appreciate your call for partnership. We want to take you up on that invitation.

For nearly three years, Best Friends Animal Society has offered to partner with the Danville Area Humane Society and has extended that same offer to city leadership, all at no cost to the city or the shelter. As the *Danville Register & Bee* reported, that offer was made in 2023 but was not accepted.

When we read the mayor's comments, we thought it was the right time to accept his invitation to partner and renew our offer.

Our offer includes funding, grants for modern shelter software, hands-on support from veterinary and shelter operations experts, staff training, and help implementing proven programs that save more lives, including expanding foster care and helping families keep the pets they love.

In other words, we don't hand over a report and walk away. We work alongside communities to help put those ideas into practice.

As the *Danville Register & Bee* reported, Danville's shelter euthanized nearly 80% of the dogs and cats entering the shelter in 2023 and 59% last year. Those are difficult numbers, but they should not lead anyone to believe Danville's future for shelter pets is already written.

In contrast, the overall save rate for the state of Virginia was nearly 85% in 2025. In fact, across the country more than 2 out of 3 shelters are no-kill.

Over the past two decades, Best Friends has partnered with hundreds of communities that once faced many of the same challenges Danville faces today. We've seen shelters struggling with overcrowding, limited resources, staffing shortages, and high euthanasia rates transform into thriving organizations that their communities proudly support. Since 2006, over 200 shelters working alongside Best Friends have achieved and sustained no-kill, demonstrating what's possible with the right strategies, support, and community commitment. Those communities are saving more lives because they were willing to try solutions that have been proven to work.

That transformation is possible for Danville too. That's the experience we're offering to Danville.

Animal sheltering is hard work. The people caring for Danville's pets deserve every chance to succeed, and we're offering to help. The concern and commitment we've seen from people across Danville tells us something important: this community wants its shelter to succeed. We all want the same thing: a shelter that gives every healthy and treatable pet the best possible chance at finding a home.

Mayor Jones invited the community to work together. We gladly accept that invitation. We'd welcome the chance to meet with city leaders, the Danville Area Humane Society Board of Directors, and shelter leadership to talk about how Best Friends can help.

We've offered our help since 2023, and that offer still stands. We're ready whenever Danville is.

Sincerely,

Best Friends Animal Society

