

## For Immediate Release

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## Association of Shelter Veterinarians announces efforts to update the ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians, the professional organization for veterinarians working in all aspects of animal sheltering, released the *Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters* near the end of 2010. These guidelines give evidence-based support to those caring for animals in shelters, rescues, fosters, or other similar settings where companion animals are housed in population settings.

Shelters, welfare leaders, and communities have used this document as a benchmark for self-assessment and improvement aimed at optimizing the health and welfare of homeless animals. “We [the authors] are thrilled with the impact the Guidelines have had. Nationally shelters have used it to improve quality of life and positive outcomes in their facilities. It has also been translated into several different languages by countries who felt it was a valuable resource for their shelters,” said Dr. Jeanette O’Quin, co-author of the Guidelines document and co-chair of the Guidelines review task force.

After soliciting input on specific content through a survey sent last year to shelter professionals, the ASV has convened a task force of 19 shelter medicine experts to review and revise this document for the next decade. Dr. Chumkee Aziz, ASV President said, “The task force’s strength lies in its diversity of experience and perspectives, lending itself to be well-equipped in guiding animal sheltering through changing times.”

“A great deal of research has been published on sheltering practices in the last few years; we have learned so much that can benefit sheltered animals.”, said Dr. Erin Doyle, co-chair of the Guidelines review task force, “So we felt the time was right to update the Guidelines to reflect this new knowledge.” The Guidelines review task force will be reviewing the literature and meeting several times over the next year. As with the 2010 document, the recommendations will represent an evidence-based consensus of shelter practices.

“We are planning to review and revise the Guidelines document in its entirety, from facility design to population management,” said Dr. Lena DeTar, a member of the task force. “New content will be added that will reflect the diversity and breadth of tasks shelter professionals find themselves doing every day.”

For more information on the work of the Guidelines Review task force  
<https://asv.memberclicks.net/guidelines-review-tf-faqs>

For more information on the Association of Shelter Veterinarians <https://www.sheltervet.org/>

For more information on the 2010 Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters  
<https://www.sheltervet.org/guidelines-for-standards-of-care-in-animal-shelters>