

# Top Ten Reasons to Adopt an Animal-Friendly Menu Policy

- 1. Act in accordance with your mission.** Animal rescue and adoption agencies are driven by their missions? to help animals and reduce the harm done to them by humans. Farming animals to be killed and eaten as food is unnecessary in our modern industrialized society and causes immense suffering to these animals. They deserve to be protected from cruelty as much as dogs or cats.
- 2. Be a humane leader in the rescue community.** Our society expects animal protection organizations to set the bar when it comes to humane standards. Farmed animals suffer tremendously on farms and when slaughtered, so it makes sense for animal welfare organizations to adopt policies that don't support this suffering. As a humane leader, it is your responsibility as an organization to operate as compassionately as possible.
- 3. Truly be "no-kill."** Three to four million dogs and cats are killed in shelters across the United States annually, yet 10 billion farmed animals are killed for food each year. Do your part to reduce the number of animals killed unnecessarily by adopting a veg-only menu policy for your events.
- 4. Practice responsible donation use.** It is essential that animal nonprofits act with integrity by using their donations in service of their mission to help animals and reduce suffering. Using donated money to buy veg-only foods for events is responsible and ethically consistent. There is no justification for using funds obtained through harming one type of animal to help another.
- 5. Stand in solidarity with all animal nonprofits.** [Animal-friendly menu policies](#) have been adopted by the largest and smallest companion animal rescue and shelter organizations, from the Humane Society of the United States to volunteer-run community groups. If they can do it, so can you. Let's build a united movement for all animals!
- 6. Be inclusive.** A vegan or vegetarian event makes all supporters feel welcome. Many of your supporters are undoubtedly already vegetarian or vegan, and while someone who is not vegetarian or vegan can still attend and eat vegetarian foods, a vegetarian or vegan person cannot eat animal-based dishes. Offering exclusively veg foods makes your event inviting for all.
- 7. Listen to the public.** A poll by Animal Place showed that 85% of those surveyed believe it is ethically inconsistent for an animal shelter that rescues dogs, cats, rabbits, horses, goats, sheep, and other animals to then sell or serve animal products at shelter-sponsored fundraising events. A recent petition showed that over 10,000 individuals support animal and environmental nonprofits moving to a vegan menu policy for events.
- 8. Recognize all types of companion animals.** Many people identify farmed animals as companions, such as rabbits, chickens, pot-bellied pigs, goats, and other species. If any of these animals came into your shelter, you would certainly provide them with the same level of care you would the more typical companion dogs and cats. As a rescue organization, where do you draw the line between those you love and those on the dinner plate at events?
- 9. Save wildlife and the planet.** Animal agriculture is one of the largest sources of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions, causes habitat fragmentation and destruction, results in loss of biodiversity and species extinction, wastes huge amounts of water, and pollutes air and waterways. Removing animals from the menu at your events significantly lowers your ecological footprint.
- 10. Win a grant!** Animal Place is awarding \$250 grants to animal agencies that adopt animal-friendly menu policies. Learn more here: <http://www.foodforthoughtcampaign.org/companion-animal-grant.html>.