

# DELAWARE BECOMES FIRST NO-KILL STATE FOR ANIMAL SHELTERS, ACTIVISTS SAY

*Posted on August 12, 2019 by Tyler Barker*



Delaware has become the first no-kill state in the U.S. for [animals](#) that enter [shelters](#), according to animal welfare activists.

The [Best Friends Animal Society](#), which tracks no-kill rates by state, announced the state's achievement at its annual conference in Dallas last month.

[\(MORE: 188 dogs living in squalor removed from New Jersey home\)](#)

For a state to be considered no-kill by the group, it must save at least 90% of dogs and cats entering shelters.



Dan

Brandenburg/Getty Images, FILE

In this undated file photo, a kitten waits to be adopted from the animal shelter.

In Delaware, 11,900 animals were saved out of 12,800 that entered [shelters](#), according to the Best Friends Animal Society. The state has a total of 59 no-kill shelters.

[\(MORE: Cats cause \\$5K in damage to Florida Humane Society \)](#)

Last year, about 733,000 dogs and cats were killed in the U.S., according to the Best Friend Animal Society. About 2,000 animals die every day in shelters, with a rate of two cats for every dog, according to the [Brandywine Valley SPCA](#) in Pennsylvania.



Dan

Brandenburg/Getty Images, FILE

In this undated file photo, a dog eagerly awaits adoption from the animal shelter.

Activists are focusing on states like [Florida](#), Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, due to limited resources and pet overpopulation, according to the Brandywine Valley SPCA.

[\(MORE: Indiana animal shelter enlists help of Pokemon Go players to walk dogs\)](#)

The Best Friends Animal Society aims to achieve no-kill status for dogs and cats nationwide by 2025.