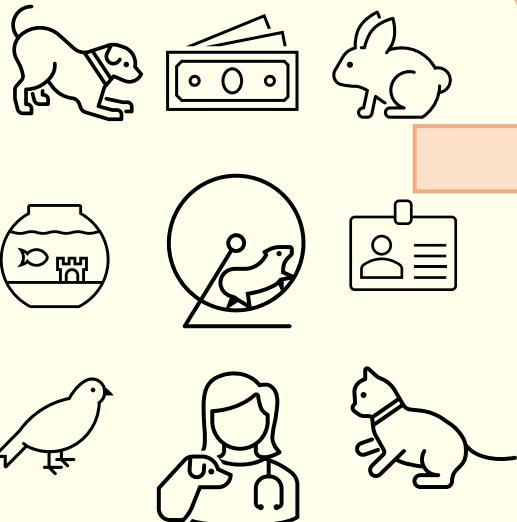
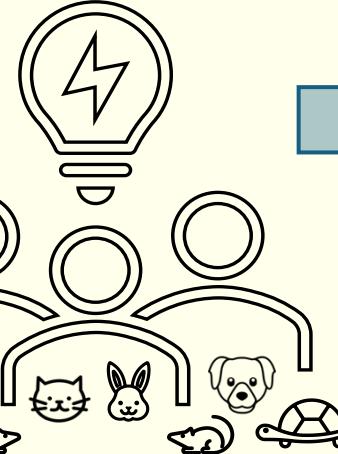


# Ethics Committees for Animal Shelters

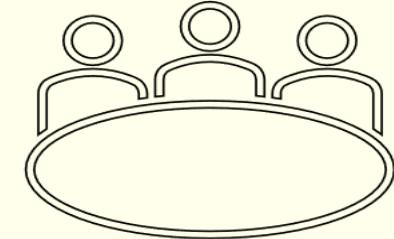


The shelter context involves multiple stakeholders, competing interests, and limited resources.

Ethics Committees can ensure fairer decision-making and increased support for overburdened teams.



Creating the Committee to Meet Specific Shelter Needs



- Function:** Should the ethics committee engage in case consultation, policy review and development, and/or education?
- Structure and authority:** Where does it sit in the organization? How powerful will it be?
- Composition and expertise:** What should the membership of the ethics committee look like?
- Referral Process:** How is the committee 'activated'? Who can bring issues to the committee's attention?

Due to high demand and limited resources, animal shelters face persistent ethical dilemmas. This paper proposes establishing ethics committees to provide expert case consultation, policy review, and ethics training. These committees ensure fair, consistent decision-making that protects the interests of animal residents while supporting overburdened shelter staff. To assist implementation, we offer a framework of key questions to help shelters design a committee tailored to their specific organizational needs and constraints.