

**House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources**  
**02/29/2024 Upon Adjournment**  
**HB24-1114 Pet Animal Facility Requirements Before Euthanasia**  
**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Aileen Peek For San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society	<p>I am Aileen Peek, the Executive Director of the San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society no kill shelter near San Luis, Colorado.</p> <p>We have 80 dogs at our shelter. Dogs are not cooped up in kennels all day but free to play in dog parks all day until they get a home.</p> <p>We wholeheartedly support the Colorado Rescue Act HB24-1114. Every dog has the same emotions we humans have: love, fear, sadness, depression, happiness, feelings of pain and a sense of humor.</p> <p>Every dog needs a chance to be saved from death. Many dogs on death row sense they are going to die. When dogs come in to our shelter, showing aggression or fear, we help them to become adoptable. When dogs go into kill shelters, personnel should not make a snap judgment that they are unadoptable but give them a few more days.</p> <p>Please help us to save more sentient beings, those who have the same capacity to feel as you and I do. Please give each dog a few more days of life to hope for a family, to cuddle up on a couch with a human.</p>

My name is Tessa Pine and I am the former Transfer Coordinator for the Dumb Friends League and currently work as a Veterinary Technician Apprentice. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to House Bill 1114 (HB-1114), which mandates animal shelters and pet animal rescues to notify every facility in the state before euthanizing an animal and imposes a mandatory 3-day holding period. While the intention behind this bill may be well-meaning, its potential consequences are alarming and run counter to the principles of socially conscious sheltering.

Having served as the Transfer Coordinator for the Dumb Friends League animal shelter for almost two years, I witnessed firsthand the complexities involved in finding suitable placements for animals with unique behavioral and medical needs. My role was specifically designed to facilitate the transfer of animals in and out of our shelter based on where the most beneficial resources were available for each individual animal.

One of the critical aspects of socially conscious sheltering is the commitment to seeking the best possible outcomes for every animal that comes through our doors. This includes the difficult decision of humane euthanasia for animals that are suffering and have limited chances for rehabilitation or adoption. HB-1114 poses a serious threat to this philosophy by imposing a one-size-fits-all approach to animal welfare, which is neither practical nor compassionate.

Colorado has long been recognized as a national leader in animal sheltering, thanks in part to the dedication to socially conscious sheltering principles. This bill, if passed, would force shelters to deviate from these principles, restricting their ability to operate in the best interests of each animal under their care. The consequences of such a change will be detrimental, leading to increased suffering, overcrowding of shelters, and a negative impact on community members seeking a safe place to relinquish their pets.

One of the major flaws in HB-1114 is its potential to slow down the process of finding the best possible outcomes for animals. As the Transfer Coordinator, I spent countless hours communicating with partner shelters and rescues to secure placements for animals based on their specific needs, and finding placement for even mild behavior or medical issues proved to be extremely difficult. The outcome of euthanasia was never a result of a lack of effort but rather a careful and compassionate choice made for the wellbeing of the animal and the community.

Mandatory notification and a 3-day holding period may sound well-intentioned, but in practice, they risk causing unnecessary delays in making decisions that are in the best interest of the animals. This bureaucratic hurdle will lead to prolonged suffering for animals with severe medical or behavioral issues and hinder the efficient operation of shelters and rescues.

Furthermore, the bill fails to consider the strain it would place on already overburdened shelters and rescues. The proposed requirements could exacerbate overcrowding issues, making it difficult for facilities to provide adequate care and attention to each animal. This, in turn, compromises the overall welfare of all the animals and undermines the very principles that Colorado has stood for in the realm of animal sheltering.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to oppose HB-1114. While the goal of promoting animal welfare is commendable, this bill, if enacted, will undermine the successful and compassionate practices established by Colorado's shelters. Instead of improving conditions for animals, it is likely to increase suffering, overcrowding, and adversely affect the ability of shelters to operate in the best interests of both animals and the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will carefully consider the potential consequences of HB-1114 and make a decision that prioritizes the welfare of animals and the integrity of socially conscious sheltering practices.