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December 20, 2009

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## **SIX INDIVIDUALS NAMED NATION'S TOP COMPANION ANIMAL ADVOCATES**

### *No Kill Advocacy Center Announces Recipients of the Henry Bergh Leadership Award*

*San Francisco, CA...* The national No Kill Advocacy Center announces the 2009 recipients of the *Henry Bergh Leadership Award*, for unwavering commitment to ending the systematic killing of animals in U.S. shelters.

The recipients included:

1. Bonney Brown, Executive Director of the Nevada Humane Society
2. Susanne Kogut, Executive Director of the Charlottesville SPCA
3. Ryan Clinton of FixAustin
4. Mike Fry & Beth Nelson of Animal Wise Radio
5. Joan Schaffner, Director of the Animal Law Program at George Washington University Law School
6. Claire Davis, President of the Coalition for a No Kill King County and Co-Chair for [kcaccexposed.org](http://kcaccexposed.org)

Brown led the Washoe County (Reno) Nevada community to one of the highest save rates for animals in the nation; Kogut repeated a similar achievement for the third year in a row; Clinton put lifesaving on the Austin City Council agenda culminating in a unanimous resolution to embrace the No Kill Equation model of sheltering; Animal Wise Radio promoted the No Kill philosophy to a national radio audience helping to redefine sheltering across the country; Schaffner hosted the national No Kill Conference, which brought in hundreds of shelter volunteers, staff, Board members, officers and advocates from over 30 states and six nations and spread No Kill success across the globe; and Davis succeeded in putting the spotlight—and a reform agenda—on one of the cruelest shelters in the country.

**About Henry Bergh:** Henry Bergh was a 19<sup>th</sup> Century animal advocate who launched the humane movement in North America. He gave the first speech on animal protection in the U.S., founded the nation's first humane society, and succeeded in passing the nation's first anti-cruelty law. Every night, Bergh would patrol the streets of his native New York City looking for animals in need of protection. Upon his death, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote of him:

Among the noblest of the land;  
Though he may count himself the least;  
That man I honor and revere;  
Who, without favor, without fear;  
In the great city dares to stand;  
The friend of every friendless beast.

To those who opposed Bergh's attempts at saving the lives of animals, he was known as "The Great Meddler." The recipients epitomize the unwavering commitment of Bergh to save lives, even in the face of criticism and opposition.

**About the No Kill Advocacy Center:** The No Kill Advocacy Center is the nation's premier organization working to end the systematic killing of animals in U.S. shelters. It is also the only national organization staffed by individuals who have created and worked in No Kill communities.