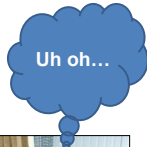


Tipping Point 2013: Radically rethinking our response to cats



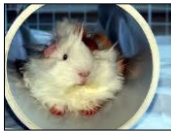
Dr. Kate Hurley
UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program
www.sheltermedicine.com
www.facebook.com/sheltermedicine

How did I get here?



Humana Officer Kate Hurley's passenger draws some interest from one of the dogs at the shelter.

Which of these things is not like the others?

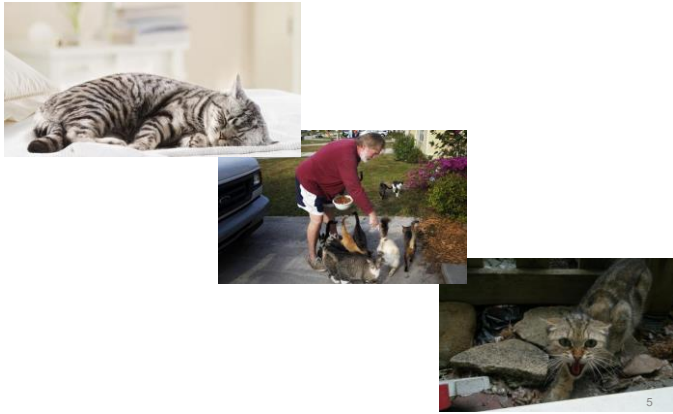


Which of these things is not like the others?



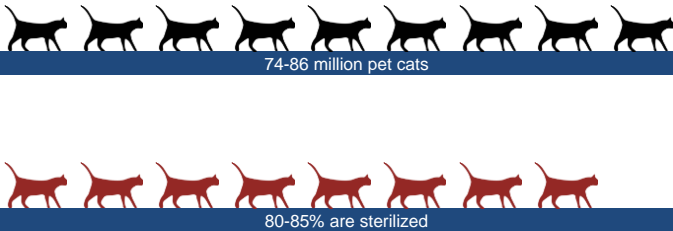
4

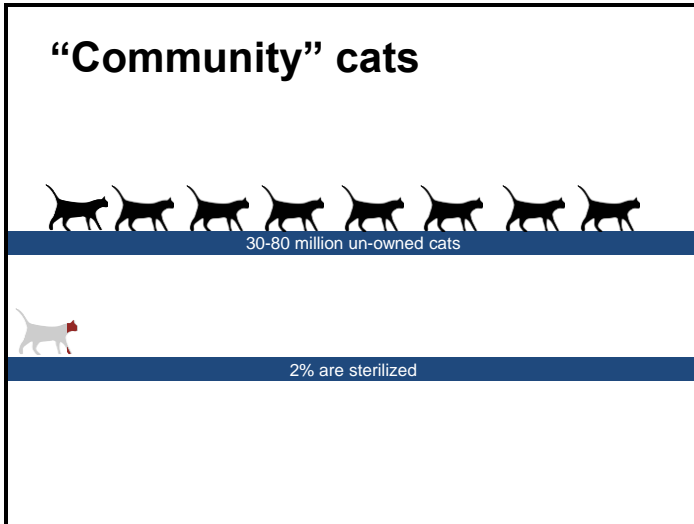
The Cat Continuum



5

Pet cats



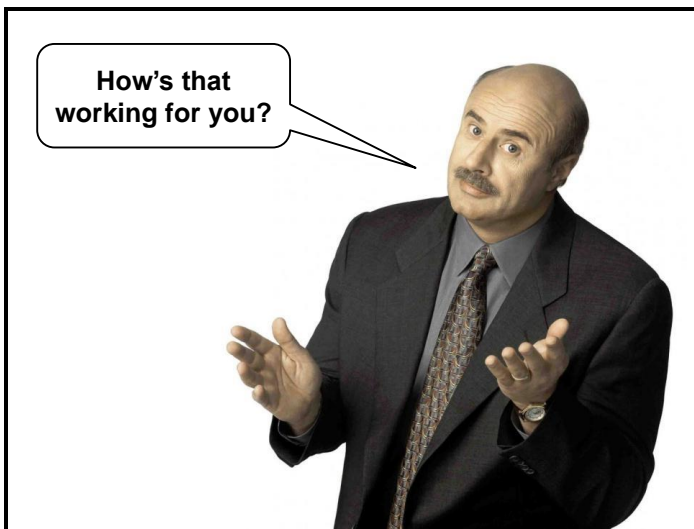


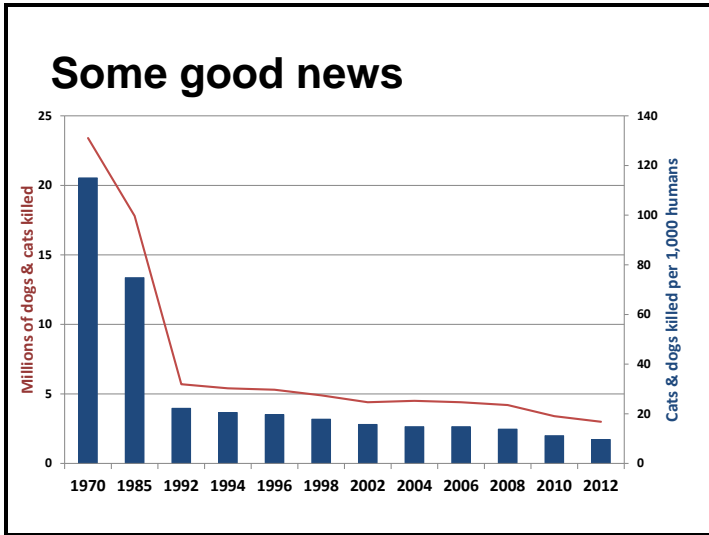
Some common assumptions on which sheltering programs are based

“Shelter animals have owners who might come looking for them.”

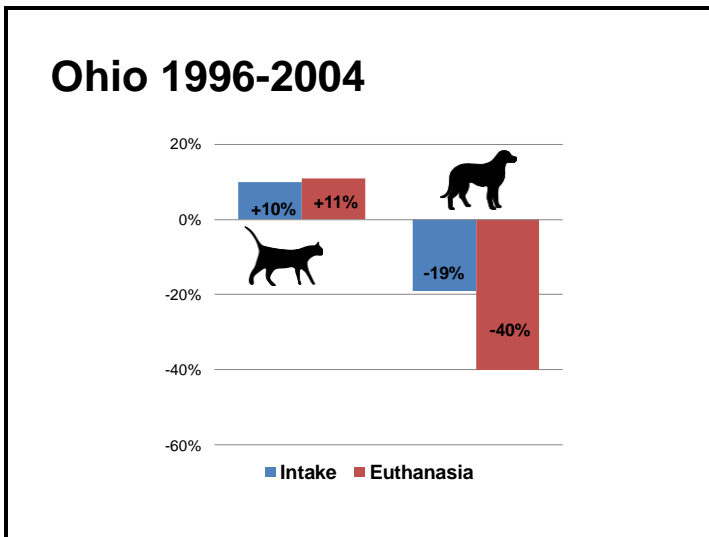
“Spay/neuter and educational efforts targeted at owners and pets will reduce shelter intake.”

“Shelter animals could be adopted if not reclaimed.”

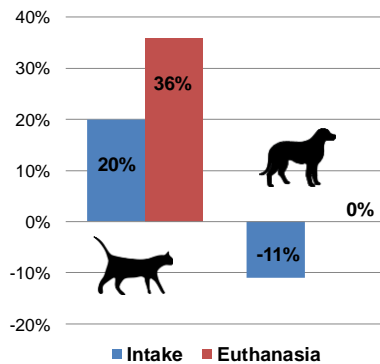




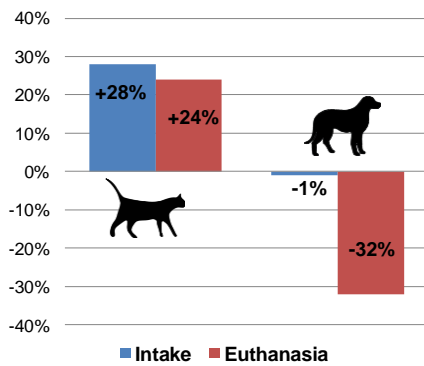




Colorado 2000-2007

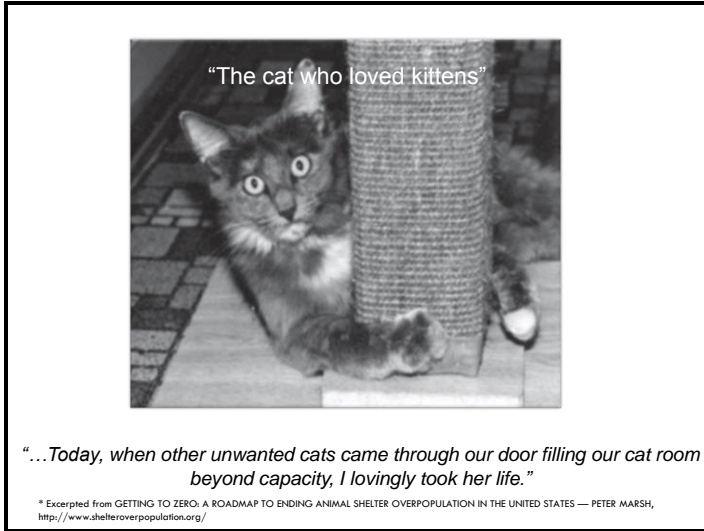


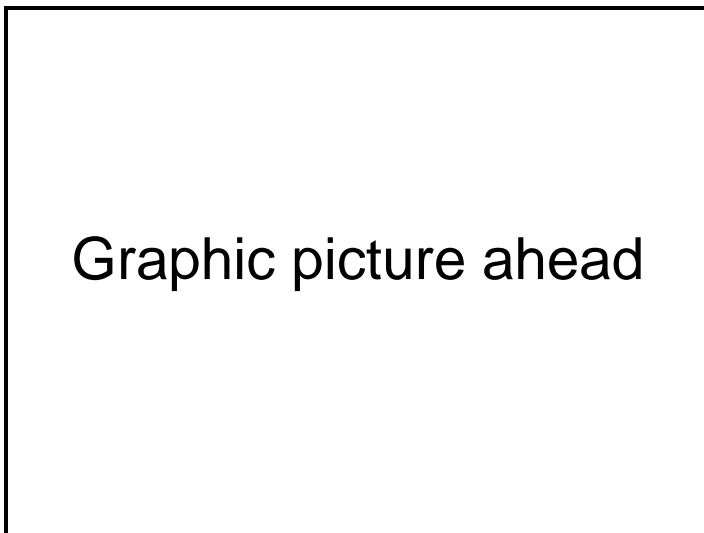
California 2000-2010



The Cat Who Loved Kittens

She was a stray, domestic long-haired blue cream tortoiseshell, who was brought to our shelter 29 days ago. She was a very pretty cat. She loved kittens. She didn't have any with her when she came in, but when she was allowed out of her cage for exercise, she would run up to the cages with kittens in them and try to clean them by licking them....On the days that our shelter was closed, I'd let her out of the cage to stretch out on my desk and she'd try to play with my pen while I tried to do my paperwork. Two weeks ago, she became the cat who had been at our shelter the longest, so I had her photographed and made her 'Pet of the Week' in our local newspaper. Unfortunately not one person called...No one cared that she was beautiful. No one cared that she got along with dogs and cats. No one cared that she was young or that she had silky fur, or that she liked to clean kittens, or stretch out on a desk or play with a pen...









What are the goals of a shelter?

- Abide by all relevant laws
- Resolve citizen complaints and concerns
- Reunite lost pets with owners
- Maintain health and welfare in shelter
- Find new homes for pets
- Euthanize suffering or dangerous animals
- Mitigate harm associated with free-roaming animals
- Reduce pet over-population

How does admitting healthy cats to shelters, in excess of the number released alive, serve these goals?



Abide by relevant laws?



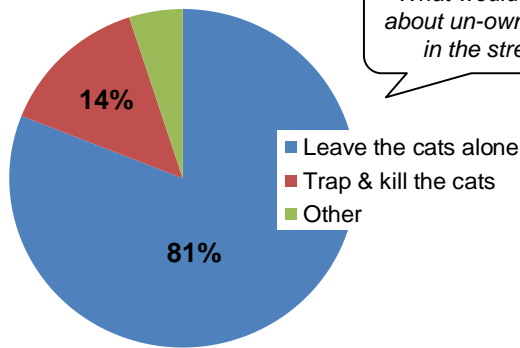
- Obligation to hold or obligation to impound?
- Healthy or injured, sick and aggressive?
- Stray or owner surrendered?

What are the goals of a shelter?

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Resolve complaints?

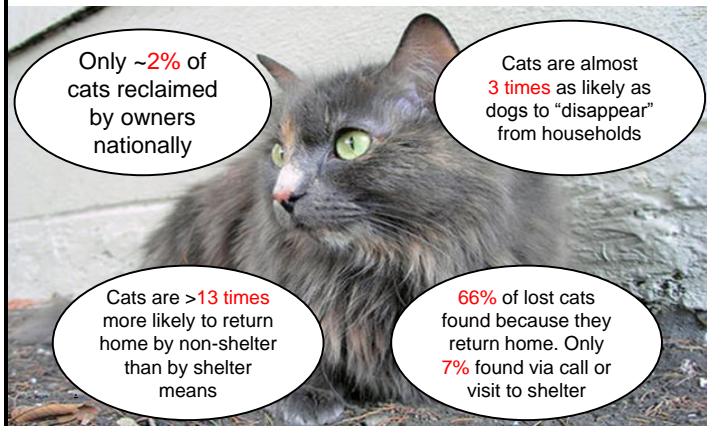


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Reunite cats with owners?



What are the goals of a shelter?

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- ~~Resolve citizen complaints and concerns~~
- ~~Reunite lost pets with owners~~
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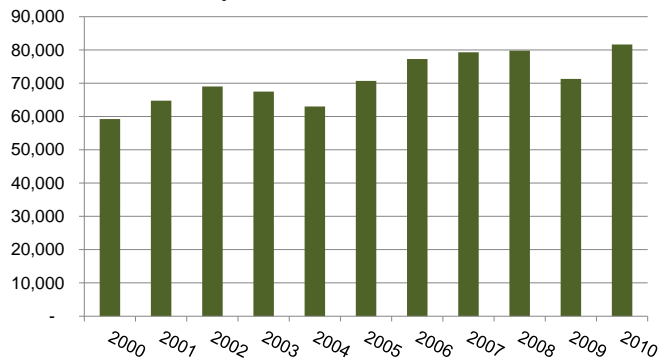
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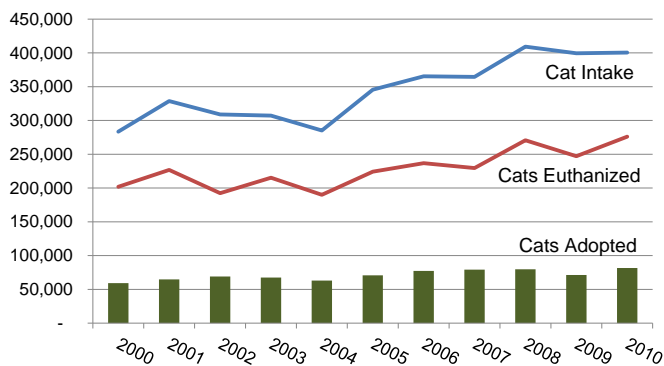
Find new homes?

Cat Adoptions at California Shelters

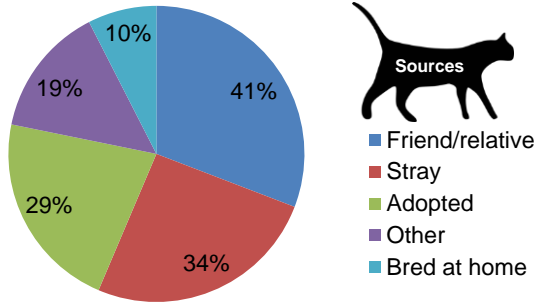


Find new homes?

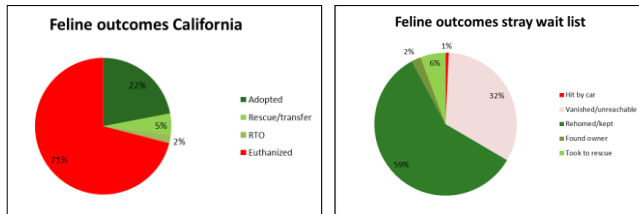
Cat Intakes/Outcomes at California Shelters



Not the only game in town



Not the only game in town



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Euthanize *suffering* or dangerous animals?

Less than **1%** of >100,000 cats at TNR clinics euthanized for humane reasons

Body condition score **5/9** on shelter intake

Annual survival of semi-owned cats up to **90%** (un-owned ~50%)

San Francisco Chronicle
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

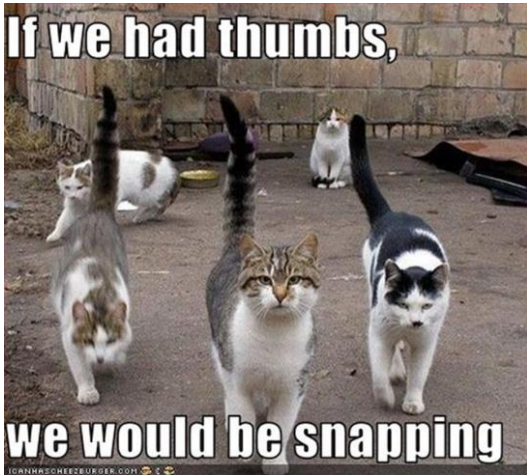
Feral cats deserve care, not abandonment



Euthanize suffering or *dangerous* animals?



AP-Petside.com Poll
7 in 10 pet owners say shelters should kill only animals too sick or aggressive for adoption



Euthanize suffering or dangerous animals?

Orlando Sentinel

3:50 PM EDT
Saturday, March 16, 2013

Trap, neuter, return programs make feral-cat problem worse

There are two effective, humane alternatives to the cat hell of TNR. One is [redacted] (the human pain medication) — a completely selective feral-cat poison. But the TNR lobby has blocked its registration for this use. The other is trap and euthanize. TE is practiced by state and federal wildlife managers, but municipal TE needs to happen if the annihilation of native wildlife is to be significantly slowed.

How do you define “euthanasia”?



What are the goals of a shelter?

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Mitigate harm associated with free-roaming animals?

- Studies show mixed effect of cats
- Micro-habitat specific effect
- Shelter holding and euthanasia is costly, time consuming, and untargeted

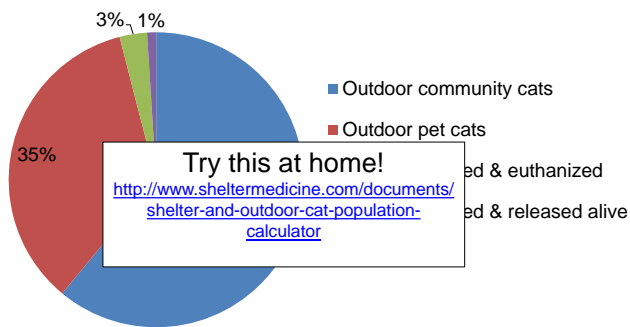


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- **Reduce pet over-population**



Reduce pet overpopulation?



Shelter and community cat dynamics in California - 2010

Reduce pet overpopulation?

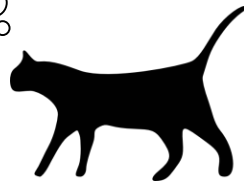


50% permanent removal or 75% sterilization required to reduce population

Less than 5% of outdoor cat population admitted to California shelters annually

Far less than 1% in shelters on any given day

Would your community support a ten-fold increase in feline euthanasia?



What are the goals of a shelter?

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Ineffective lethal control

THE SACRAMENTO BEE 

Wildlife Services' deadly force opens Pandora's box of environmental problems

By Tom Knudson
April 30, 2012

With rifles, snares and aerial gunning, employees have killed 967 coyotes and 45 mountain lions at a cost of about \$550,000. But like a mirage, the dream of protecting deer by killing predators has not materialized.

Discontinuing ineffective lethal control

THE SACRAMENTO BEE 

Suggestions in changing Wildlife Services range from new practices to outright bans

By Tom Knudson
May 6, 2012

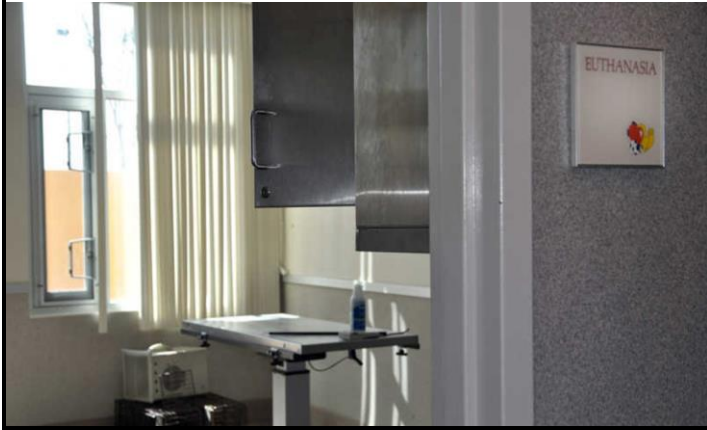
"We've pretty much learned how to control coyotes on our own," said Jensen, whose losses to coyotes have declined 60 percent to 70 percent – from about 50 lambs a year when a federal trapper worked there to 15 to 20 today. "Anything that can help you 24 hours a day, like electric fencing, is a good thing."

The bottom line

Using a tool that's mismatched to the job is hurting cats, shelters, and communities, and distracting us from finding real solutions



How about we just stop?



What could we do instead?

- Expand the options for live release via Shelter-Neuter-Return
- Limit intake to only those cats that can be released alive, or for whom death is clearly the best alternative
- Invest resources not spent on killing cats on programs to benefit cats, wildlife and communities





What do these two things have in common?



Saints, jerks and canned goods



Who gave?

Saints	8%
Jerks	0%

Plan B

Food drive next week!
Bring canned goods to
the booth on Tressider
Plaza
Beans would be great
Here is a map:



Who gave?

Saints	42%
Jerks	25%

A jerk with a
map can act just
like a saint



The current map



Redrawing the map



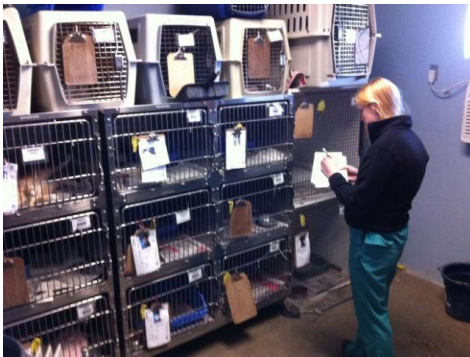
Limited or scheduled intake

- ✓ Today, you don't have the resources to provide spay/neuter/return
- ✓ Today, the outcome if admitted will be euthanasia of that cat or another
- ✓ The cat is not suffering, at immediate risk, or causing danger in the community

THE SACRAMENTO BEE 
Sutter County animal shelter to stop accepting healthy stray cats
By Bill Lindelof
June 19, 2012



No room to breathe



Feline euthanasia Sept-October 2011: 337

Room to breathe



Feline euthanasia Sept-October 2012: 31

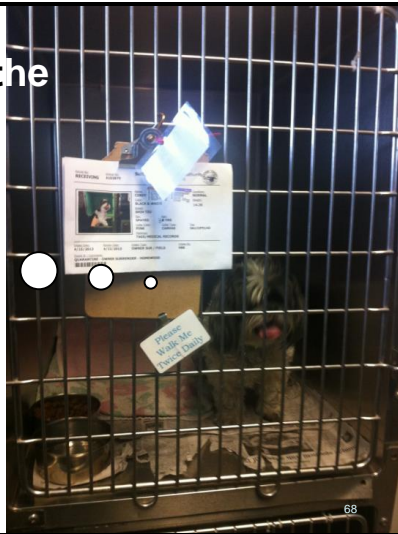
No room to breathe



67

Room to breathe

What happens to cats, matters for dogs too



68

Hmm...What will staff do with all that breathing room?

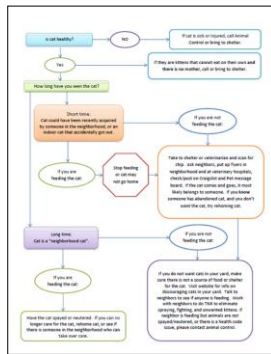


69



Saying yes while saying no

- Scan for microchip
- Lost and found listing
- Flyers to pick up/download
- Resources for keeping/rehoming
 - Spay/neuter/vax referrals
 - Promotional materials
 - Listing service
- Scheduled intake for "adoptable" cat

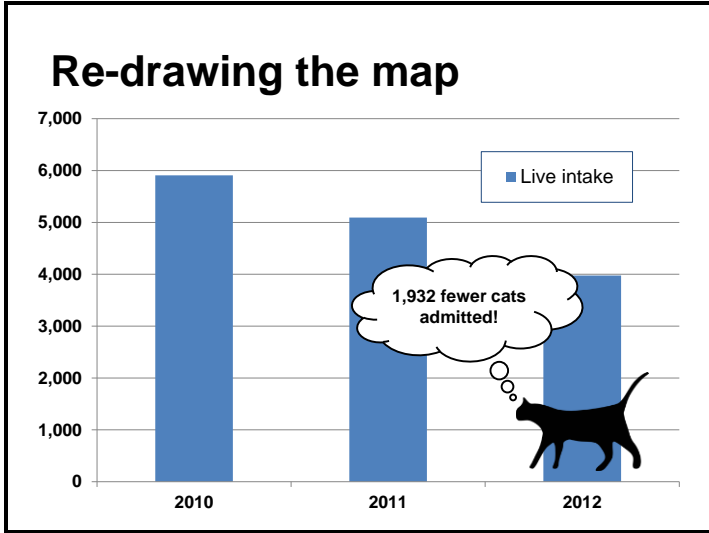


Re-drawing the map

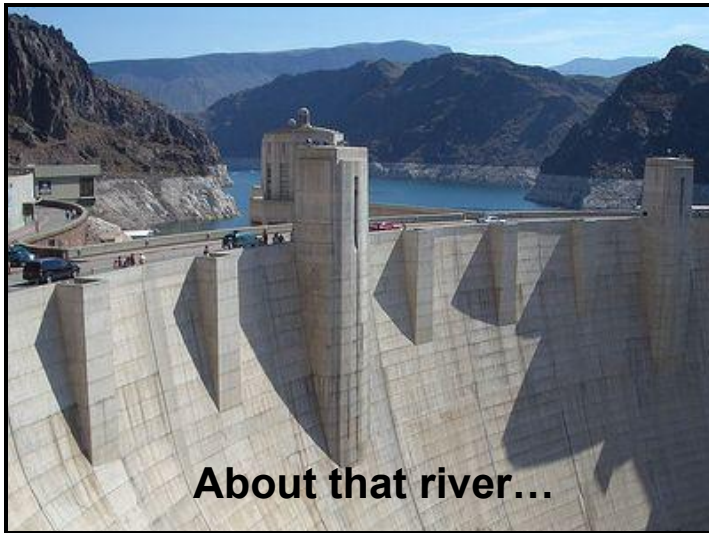


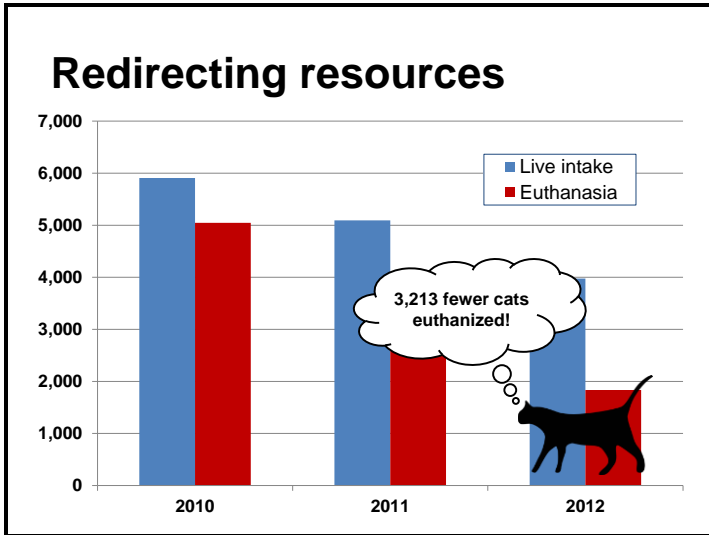
As of August 27, 2011, the shelter no longer provides field service (i.e. dispatching an animal control officer to your residence) for the following situations:

- Surrendering an owned animal
- Picking up a trapped or confined stray cat
- Removing a deceased animal (including wildlife) off private property





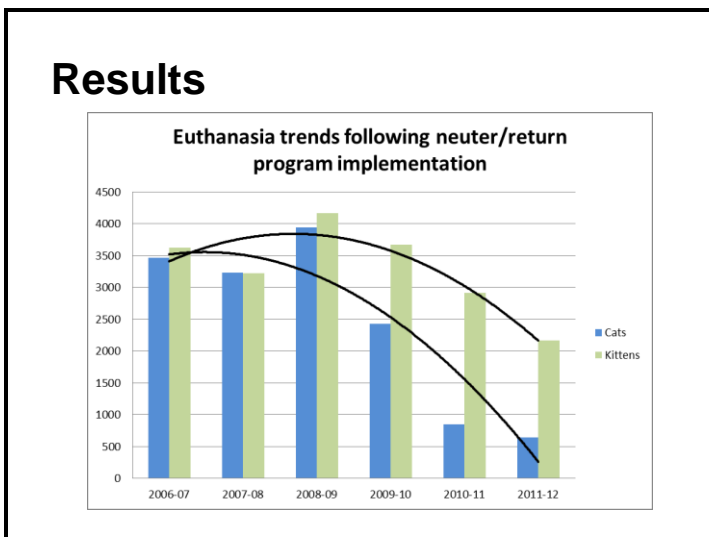




Expanding the options for live release

Cats: San Jose shelter spays, releases strays
Carolyn Jones, Chronicle Staff Writer
Published 4:00 am, Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Feral cats are being captured, neutered or spayed, microchipped then released back to the streets under a new program called Feral Freedom, adopted by the City of San Jose.



More results

Intake down 26% for adults, 25% for kittens

DOA pickups down 17%

Euthanasia due to URI down 90%

WHO LET THE CATS OUT

MROWR. MROWR MROWR MROWR

79

289 fewer dead cats to pick up, 810 fewer cats to euthanize for severe URI, 2,883 fewer cats to admit and hold, and 5,303 fewer cats to euthanize overall every year = ???


MeMeStep.com

Not all or nothing

Start small if you want

Allow exceptions

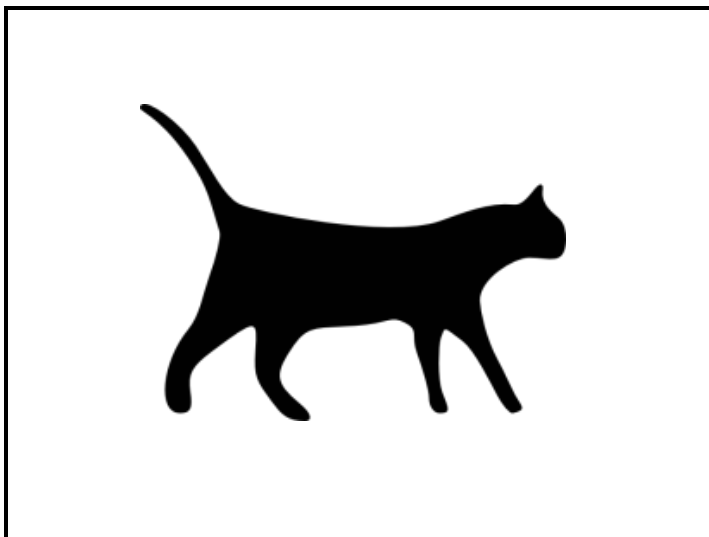
Use savings to build safety net & expand live release

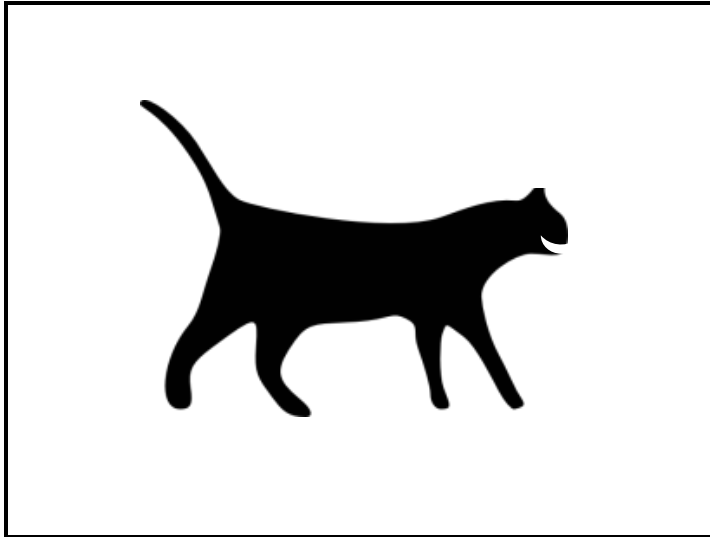


After the cataclysm, out of the mounds of heaped-up earth, the piles and wrecks of half-buried cities, the desolated fields of grain, and the tortured orchards, the cat will stalk, confident, self-reliant, capable, imperturbable, and philosophical.

The Tiger in the House, Carl Van Vechten







**Want to join the Million Cat
Challenge?**



<http://tinyurl.com/FezProject2013>
sheltermedicine@ucdavis.edu
