



Community Cat Programs

Definition: Return to Field

In lieu of shelter intake for any community cat (friendly or feral) brought to the shelter, spay/neuter/ear tip/rabies vaccinate and return to original home location where the cat was cared for and not in need of intervention

Definition: Trap Neuter Return

Proactively humanely trapping or transporting a community cat (friendly or feral) for spay/neuter/ear tip/rabies vaccination and returning them to their original home location where cat was cared for and not in need of intervention or at risk of entering a shelter

Basic Community Cat Facts

- Most community cats are friendly
- Many cat owners allow their cats access to the outdoors and are not lost, yet there is a societal misconception that taking cats to a shelter who are perceived as lost will lead to reunification
- According to the ASPCA, less than 2% of shelter cats perceived as stray are reunited with their owner through a shelter each year
- Studies show that cats are up to 13 times more likely to find their way home or find another home from the street versus a shelter
- Though feral cats make up only a small percentage of overall community cats, they generate the most enforcement complaints because of the behaviors associated with being intact and reproducing unchecked
- Trap and shelter and/or euthanize has not historically decreased the number of community cats or shelter intake of cats
- Though Return to Field and/or Trap Neuter Return have been happening for decades, the Center for Disease Control reported in 2015 that the incidence of rabies in cats has decreased

Benefits of Return to Field and Trap Neuter Return for the Community

- An overwhelming percentage of Americans do not agree with euthanasia for population control
- Increased community immunity of rabies
- Less community cats, colony prevention and/or stabilization so less wildlife and people negatively impacted
- Eliminate behaviors associated with mating that generate complaints therefore decrease enforcement complaints

Benefits of Return to Field and Trap Neuter Return for the Shelter

- Finite space in a public or private shelter reserved for pets with no other options
- Drastic decrease in cat intake and therefore decrease risk of overcrowding, infectious disease, euthanasia, etc.
- Savings in costs of care and ability to create proactive programs, especially for dogs
- Reduced competition and lower lengths of stay for cats that do enter the adoption program
- Reduced risk of compassion fatigue for people

Samples of Effective Community Cat Programs

Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services - Jacksonville, FL Cat Intake and Outcome

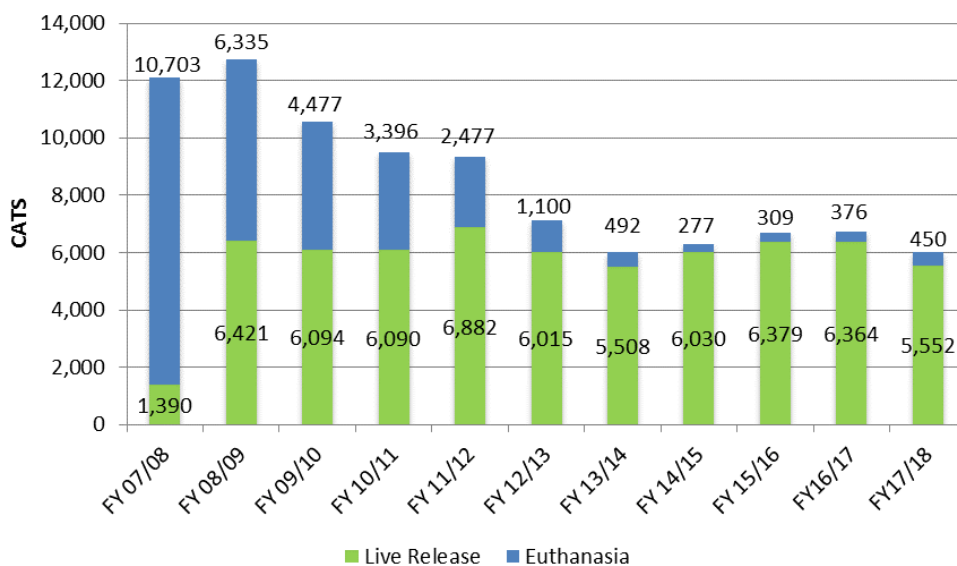


Figure 1: Shows the

Figure 1: Depicts decreasing trend of cat intake and euthanasia numbers after Feral Freedom community cat program was implemented in August 2008

Brevard County Sheriff's Office, Animal Services – Melbourne, FL Cat Intake and Outcome

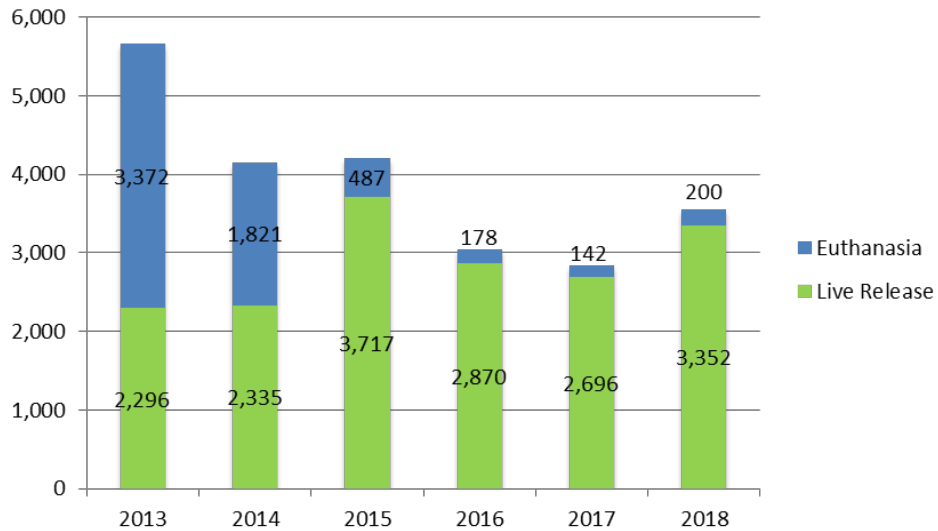


Figure 2: Depicts the dramatic decrease of cat euthanasia percentage after Return to Field was implemented in April 2015

City of Waco Animal Services - Waco, TX Cat Intake and Outcome

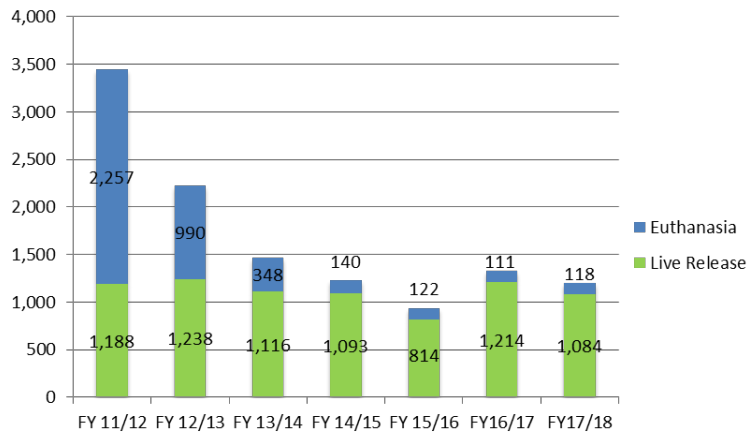


Figure 3: Shows the dramatic decrease of cat euthanasia numbers after the Return to Field program was implemented in the fall of 2013. Waco's poverty rate was 30% when this program was implemented. The current poverty rate as of 2018 is 27.5%.

For more information see: Millioncatchallenge.org, Bestfriends.org, Alleycatallies.org, Aspcapro.org, Animalsheltering.org