

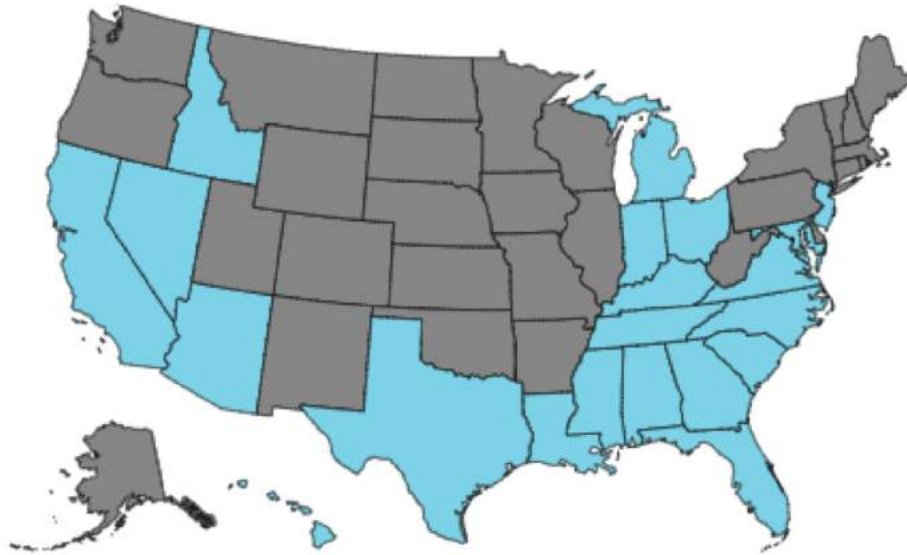


# ***Community Animal Welfare***

*SARA PIZANO, DVM, MA*

*TEAM SHELTER USA, LLC, MADDIE'S MILLION PET CHALLENGE, OPEN  
DOOR VETERINARY COLLECTIVE*

## OVER 115 COMMUNITY & SHELTER ASSESSMENTS



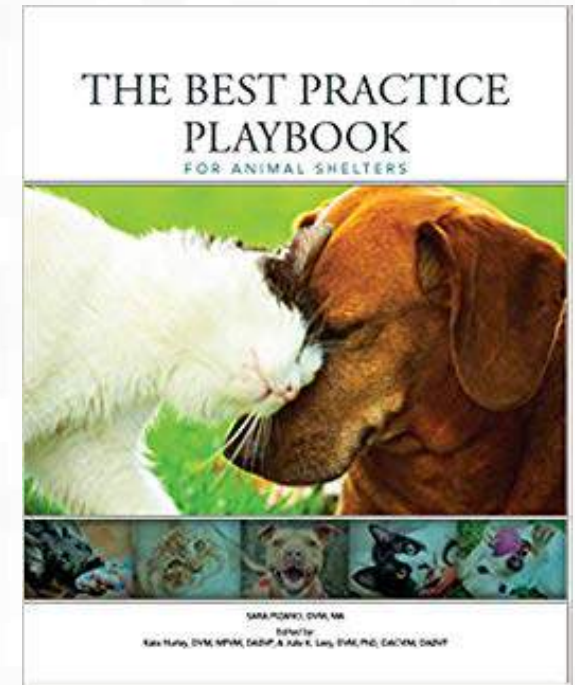
25 states since 2013

Rural, urban, large, small, high/low  
poverty rates

Only difference: latitude and  
longitude

**CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS  
ARE UNIVERSAL!**

## CORE RECOMMENDATIONS





teamshelter<sub>usa</sub>



# HUMAN ANIMAL SUPPORT SERVICES

by **AMERICAN PETS ALIVE!**

International coalition of animal services leaders and pilot organizations transforming the traditional sheltering system to serve the entire community in supporting the human-animal bond

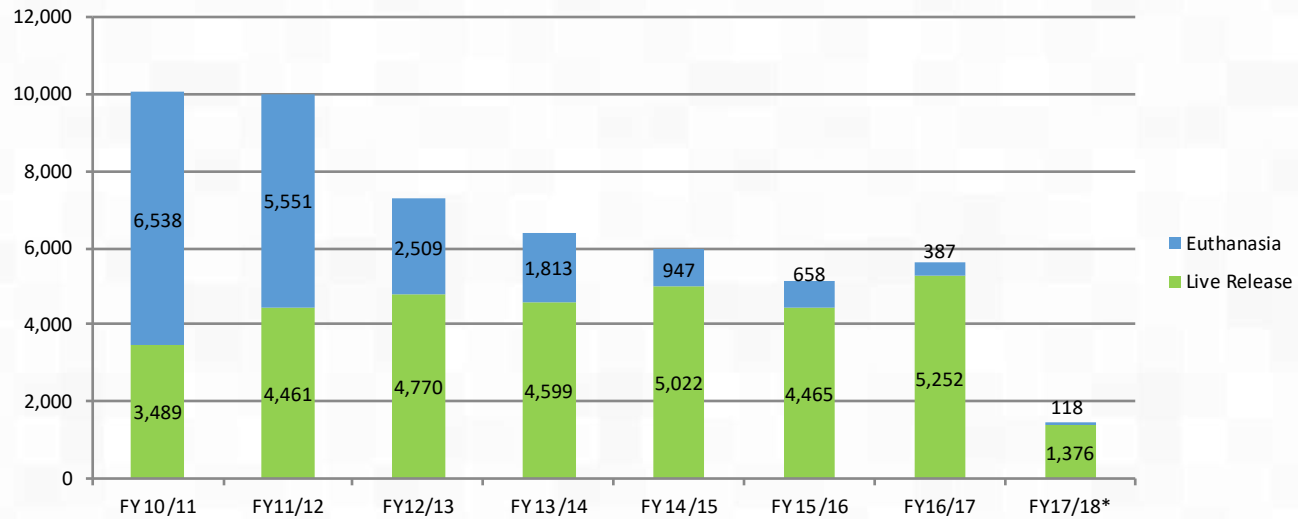
<https://www.humananimalsupportservices.org/>



**#ThankstoMaddies**  
**Maddie's Million Pet  
Challenge**

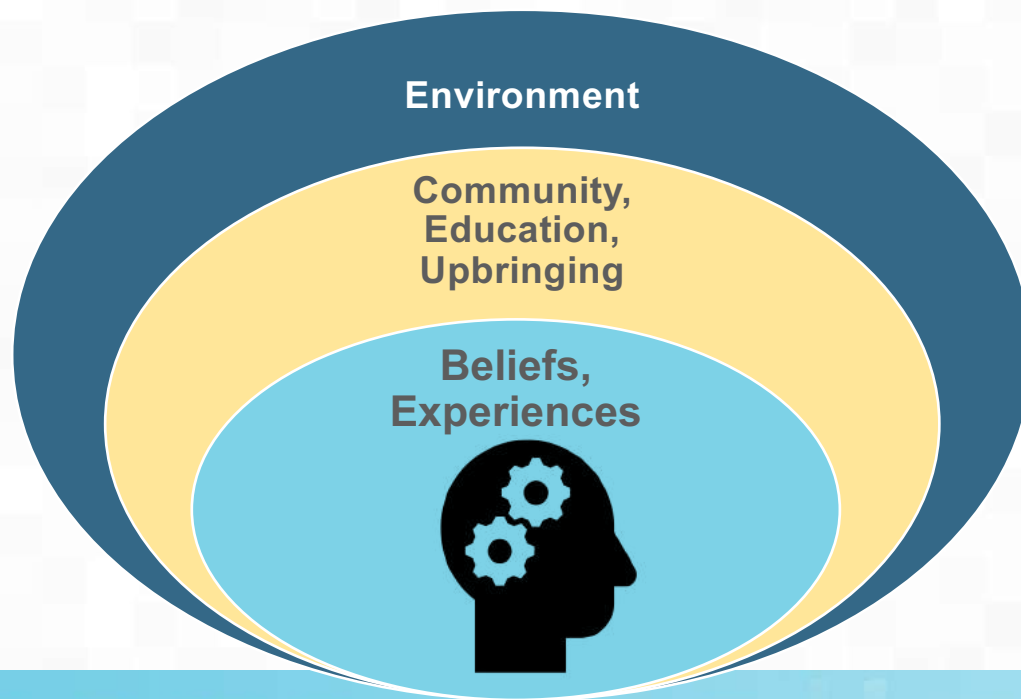


## WACO, TX OUTCOME FOR PETS





## ***WE ARE A PRODUCT OF OUR OWN MICROCOSM***



Our human brains automatically trigger then amplify the negative, worse case scenario

Our own fears are a barrier to lifesaving

## STRATEGIC USE/SHIFTING OF RESOURCES



Money

Shelter space

Staff



Volunteers

Partnerships

Etc.



## ***WHAT DO WE HAVE?***





*Natural  
disasters/weather*

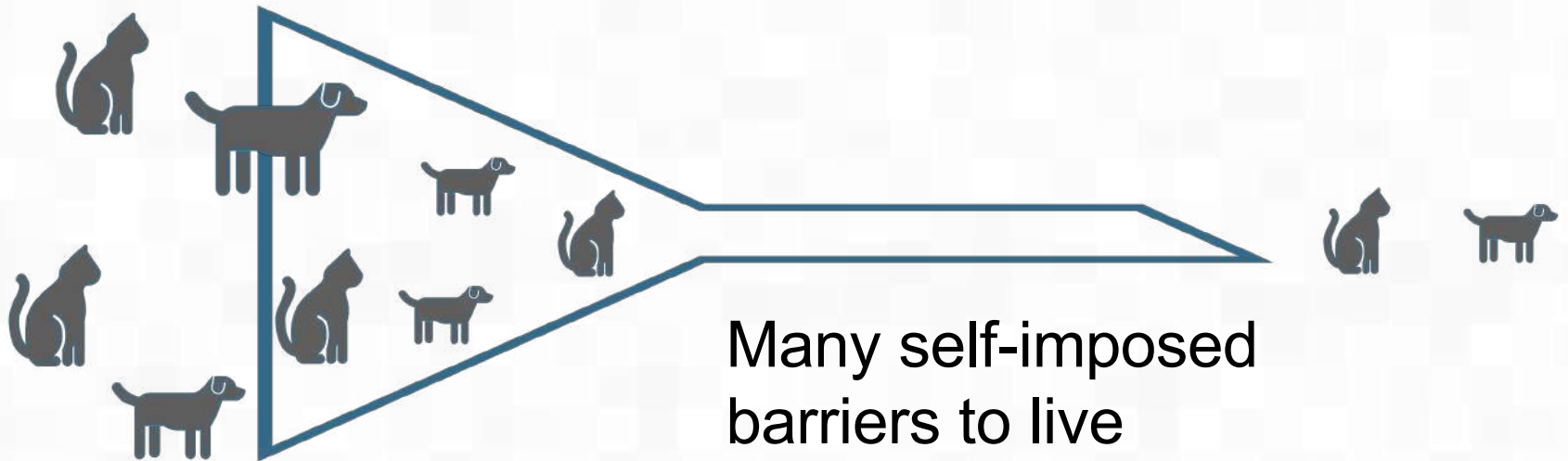
*A pandemic*

*Cruelty/hoarding  
cases*



## TRADITIONAL (FLAWED) OPEN ADMISSION SYSTEM

Minimal  
barriers  
to enter



Many self-imposed  
barriers to live  
outcome barriers

## NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF LENGTH OF STAY IN ANY SHELTER

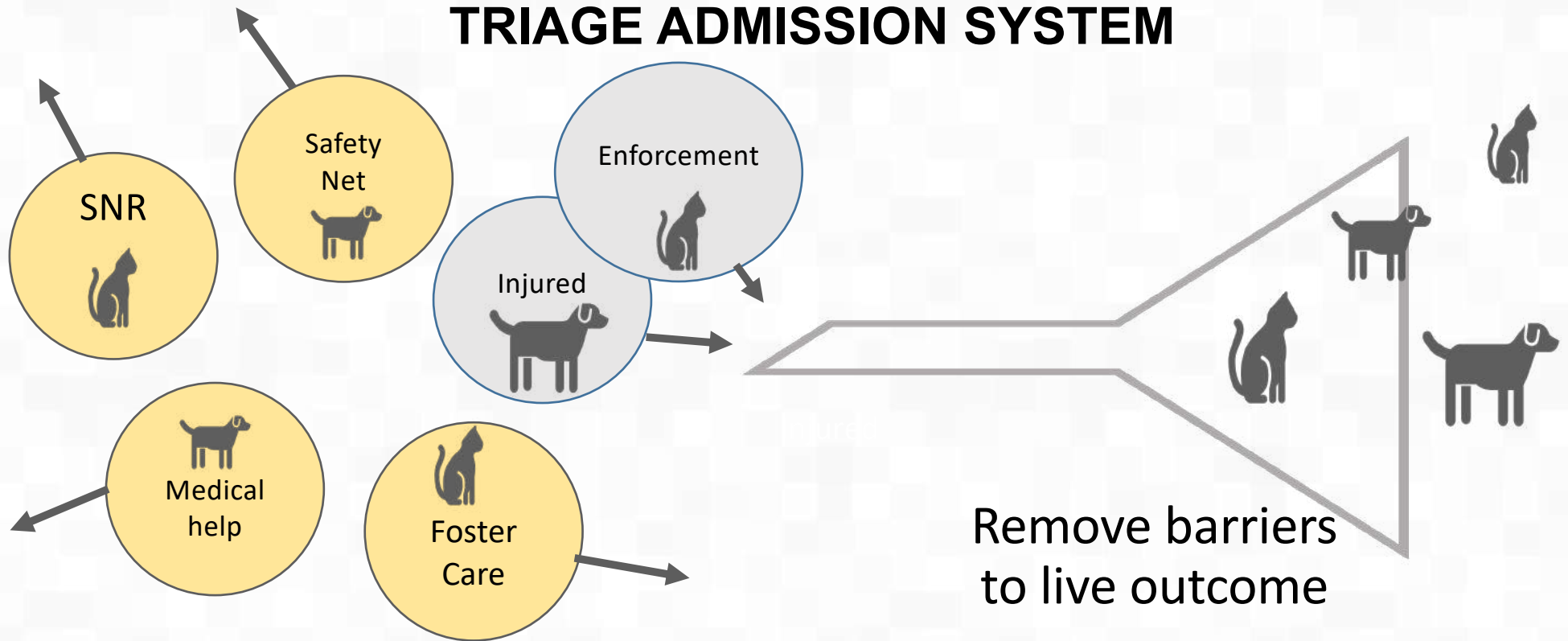


- Stress for animals and people
- Overcrowding
- Inappropriate handling
- Exposure to disease
- Decreased life saving potential
- Reactive use and waste of resources

**A shelter operating  
*over its Capacity for Care*  
loses the ability to provide a  
*Fear Free environment*  
for pets and people.**



## TRIAGE ADMISSION SYSTEM





## **PUBLIC POLICY**

Framework of organization-public  
and private

Focus on public and animal safety

Make sure ordinances and laws are  
in line with Best Practices and not  
barriers to lifesaving *in all  
municipalities!*

## RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC POLICY (examples)

- ❖ No breed specific restrictions or pet limits
- ❖ No stray hold for felines or puppies and **provisions for community cats**
- ❖ Incentive to sterilize/vaccinate prior to reclaim so cheaper than fees/fines
- ❖ Eliminate unnecessary barriers to lifesaving

## **COMMUNITY MINDED DISCRETIONARY ENFORCEMENT**

**Ex: Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter, California**

- ❖ Providing assistance instead of citations esp. in underserved areas since lack of access to care more commonly the issue
- ❖ Turning high intake areas into low intake areas (and increase RTO in the field)

***Focus on true public and animal safety***



# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & ACCESS TO SERVICES





## TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER DECREASES INTAKE

Fixed-income pet owners

High intake areas

Large breeds

Community Cats

Vet shortage/logistics/funding

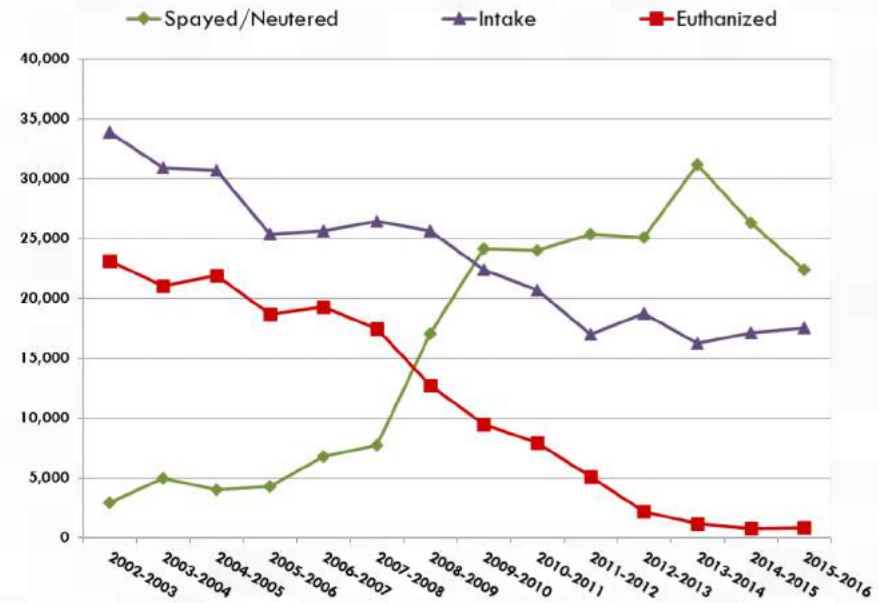
Great investment for muni's!



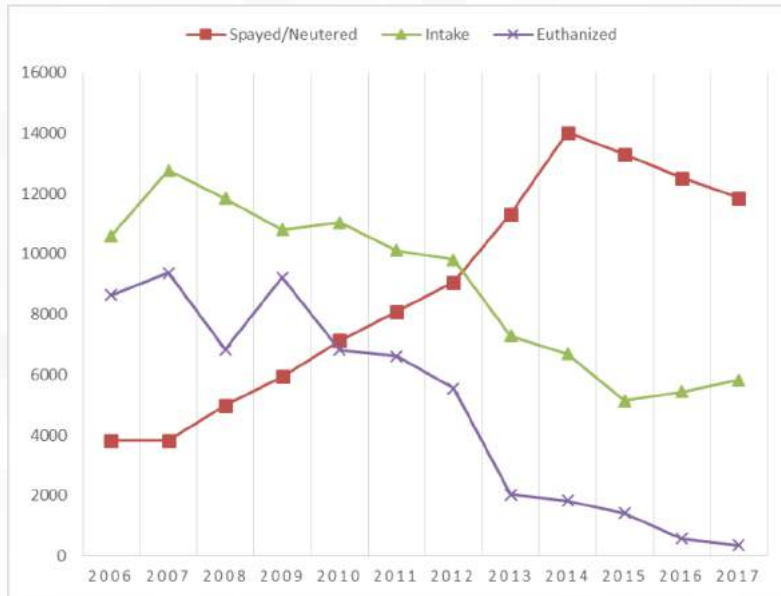
# TARGETED SPAY NEUTER

- Low-income pet owners (5-10/1000)
- High intake areas
- Large breeds
- TNR

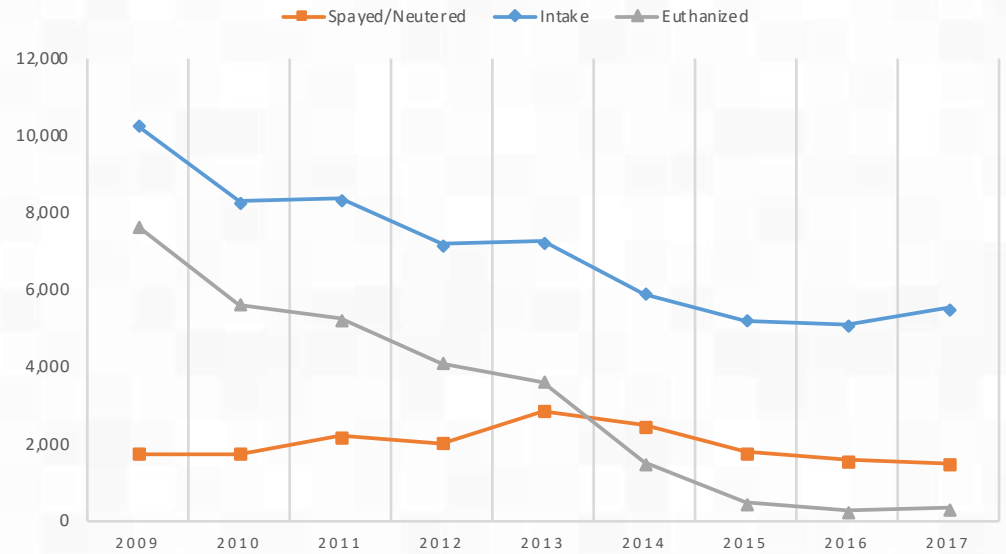
Jacksonville, Florida



### Waco, Texas



### Huntsville, Alabama





Brand new national training program

Financially sustainable model enhancing access to care

Test hospitals: Toledo, OH and Asheville, NC

Could be for-profit, non-profit, government run clinic

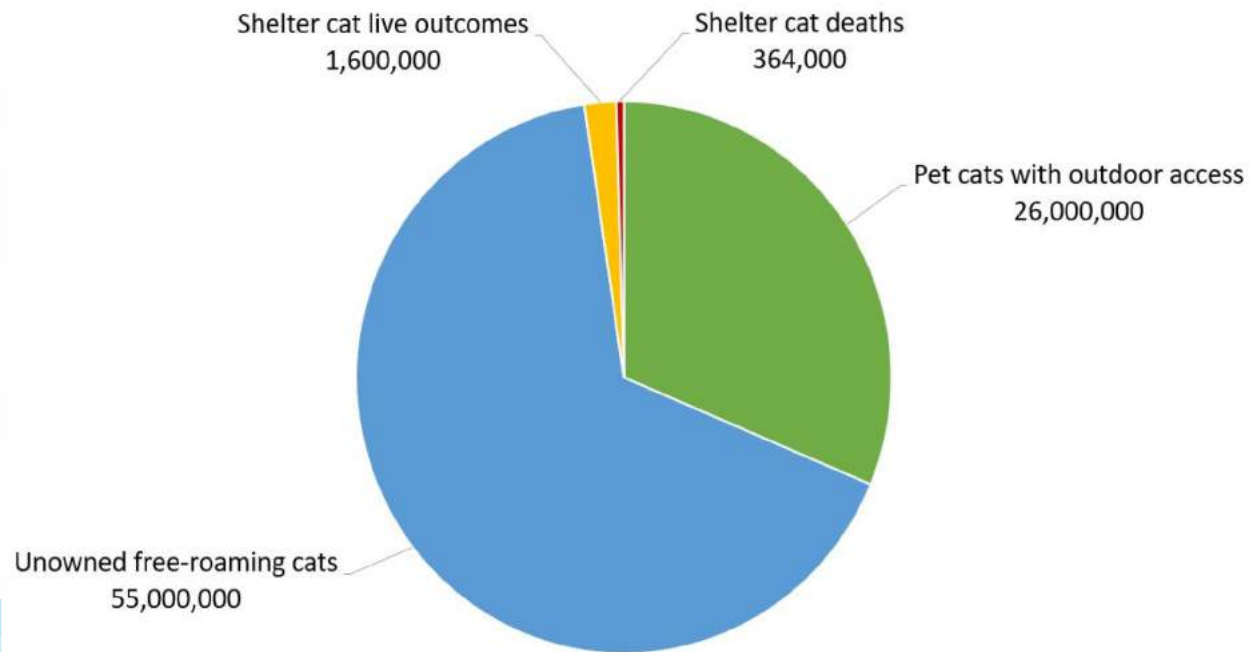
Great blog: <https://www.humananimalsupportservices.org/blog/innovators-working-to-make-veterinary-care-more-accessible/>



**We have a lot of free  
roaming cats here!**



## HURLEY/LEVY CC ARTICLE IN FRONTIERS MARCH 2022





## CATS OUTSIDE ~ Socialized vs. Unsocialized

~1/2 of owners allow their cats outdoor access

2%  
RTO

Public trained to take outdoor cats to the shelter





## SUPERHIGHWAY OPTIONS FOR CATS: SNR

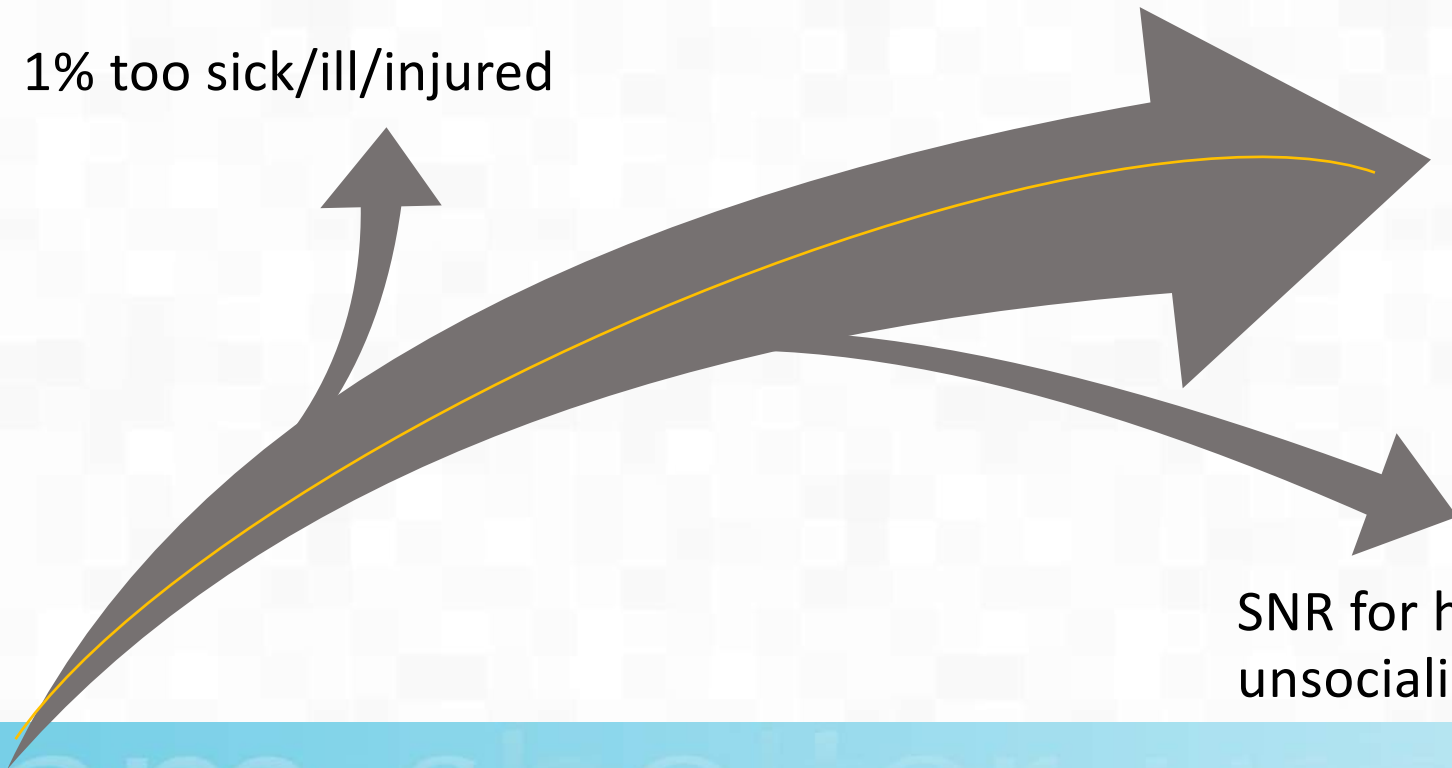
1% too sick/ill/injured

SN, rabies  
vaccinate, ear tip,  
return to original  
location

Adoptions/Return to  
Owner/Working Cat,  
when appropriate

## SUPERHIGHWAY OPTIONS FOR KITTENS

1% too sick/ill/injured



Adoptions\* /  
SNR

SNR for healthy,  
unsocialized kittens



Decreases # cats, impact on wildlife, shelter intake of cats enf. calls

Fiscally responsible plan for *all* shelter types and communities

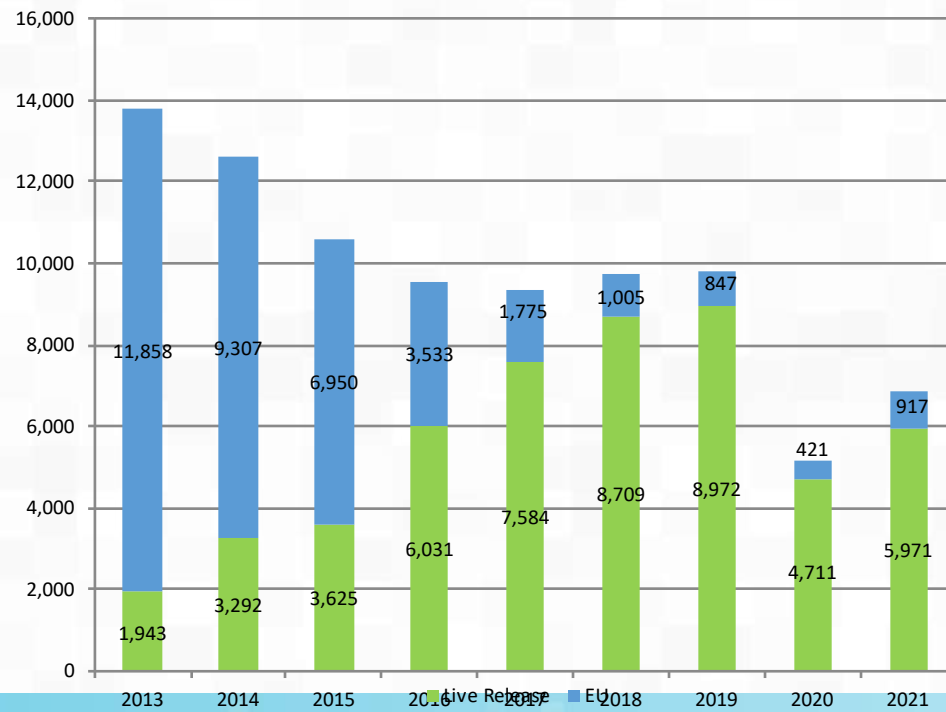
**TNR/SNR  
BENEFITS ALL**

More resources for dogs

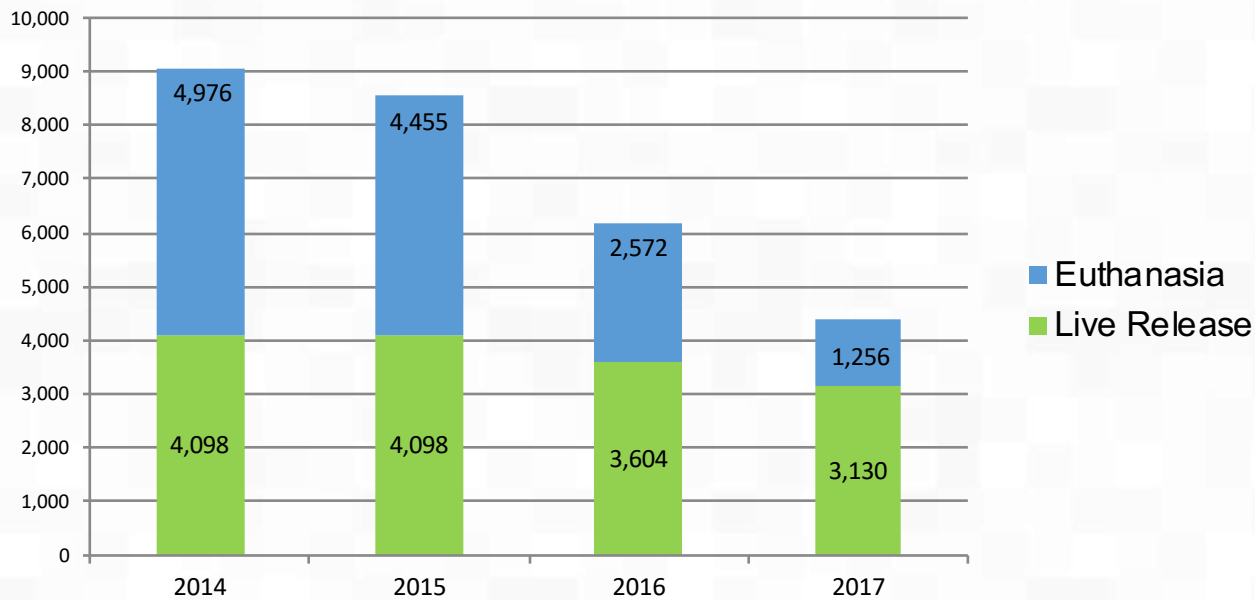
Provides sustainable resolution, increased community immunity



## EL PASO, TX OUTCOME FOR CATS

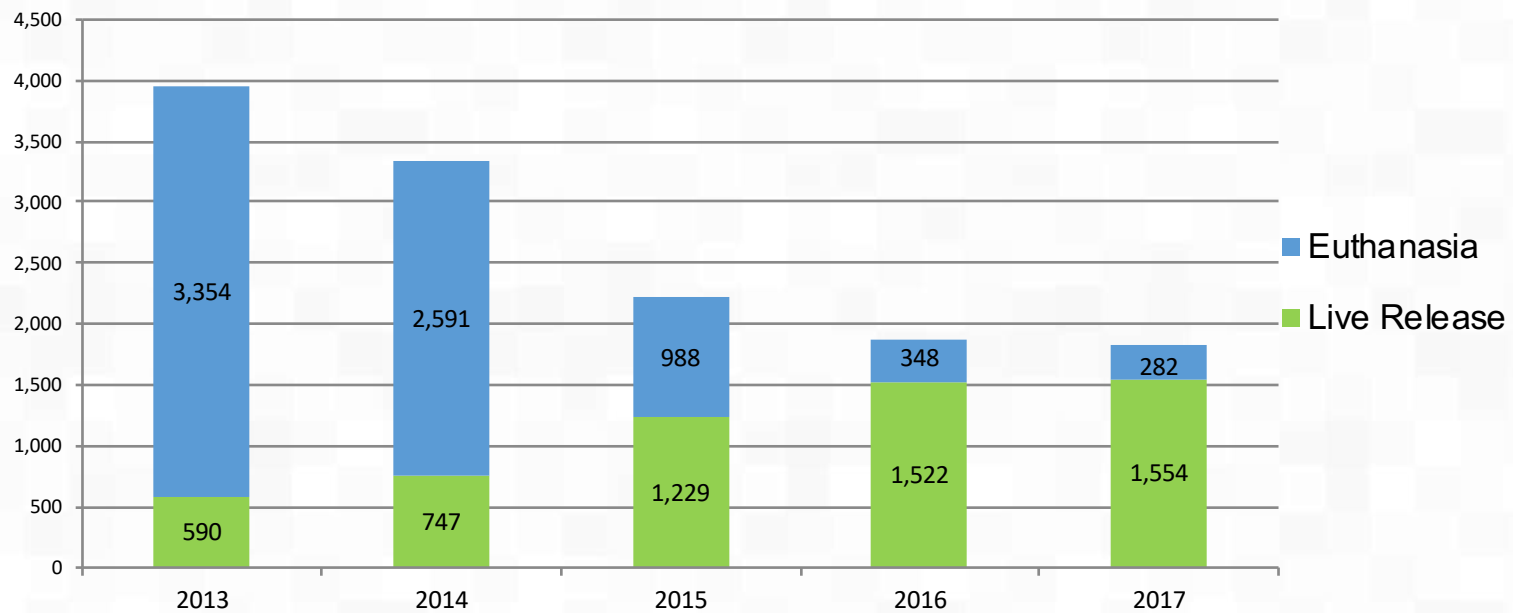


## OUTCOME FOR CATS: GREENVILLE, SC \*Budget Neutral\*



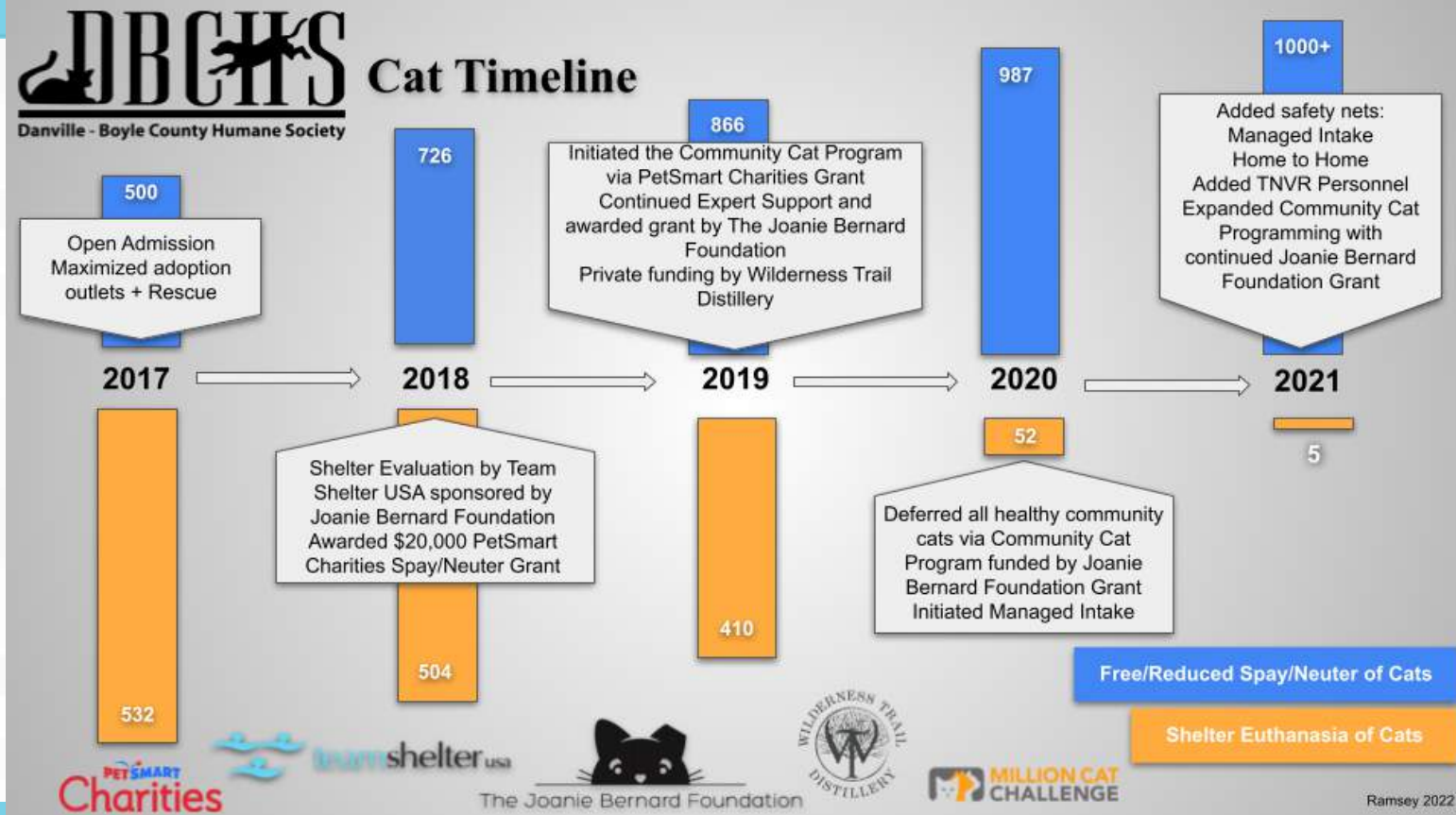


## OUTCOME FOR CATS: NASHVILLE, TN





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## LATEST AND GREATEST RESEARCH AND DATA

<https://youtu.be/9FVHcYTXrgI>

Studies, research, stats

Front. Vet. Sci., 08 March 2022

| <https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2022.847081>





## COORDINATED TRIAGE INTAKE: EX: MEMPHIS, TN ANIMAL SERVICES



Helping (more)  
people and pets in  
a way other than  
shelter intake



INTAKE

## MANAGED ADMISSIONS: *THE HELP TEAM*

ASPCA study found **80%+** pet owners **did not want to surrender** but did not have **access to resources** they needed

*How can we help you keep your pet or help place your pet directly into another home?*



Fencing, rent deposits, other....





## BRIGHT SPOT: BREVARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FLORIDA

Year 1 of Managed Admission helped **80%** of the owners keep or place their pets

No impact to budget or increased staffing





## **BRIGHT SPOT EXAMPLES: DIRECT PLACEMENT**

Home-home.org

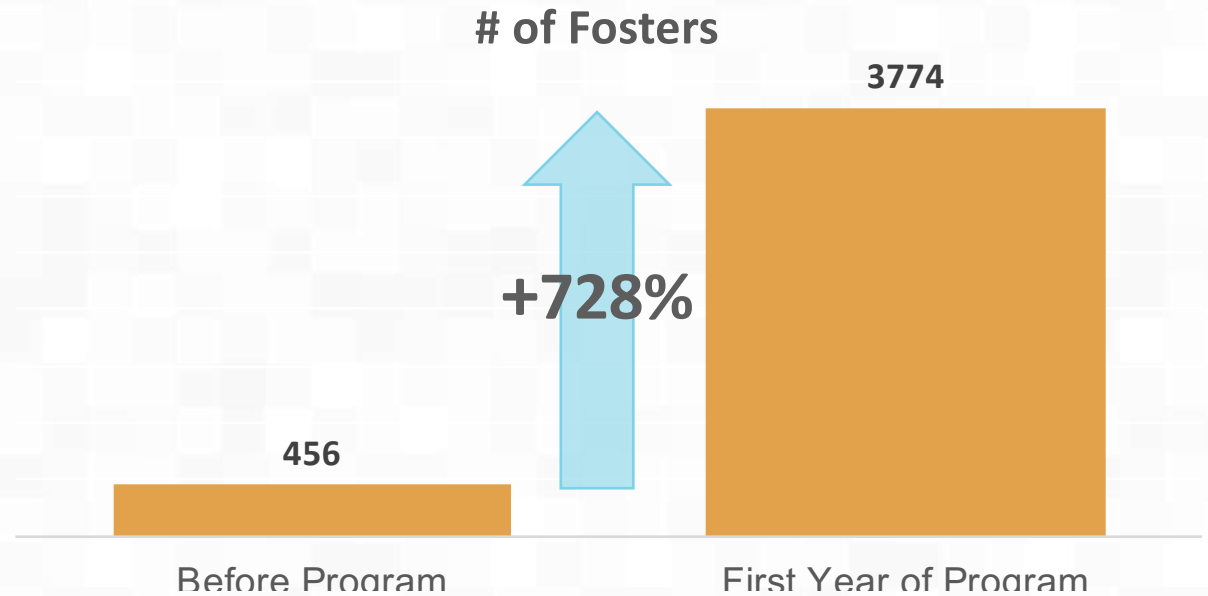
Adoptapet/rehome

Dogsondeployment.org, etc.

RAS great website info!!

## BRIGHT SPOT: JACKSONVILLE, FL

### EX: Foster Finder program



## DON'T KITNAP THE KITTENS!



Pasco County, FL **Leave Them Be**  
Video is a must watch!

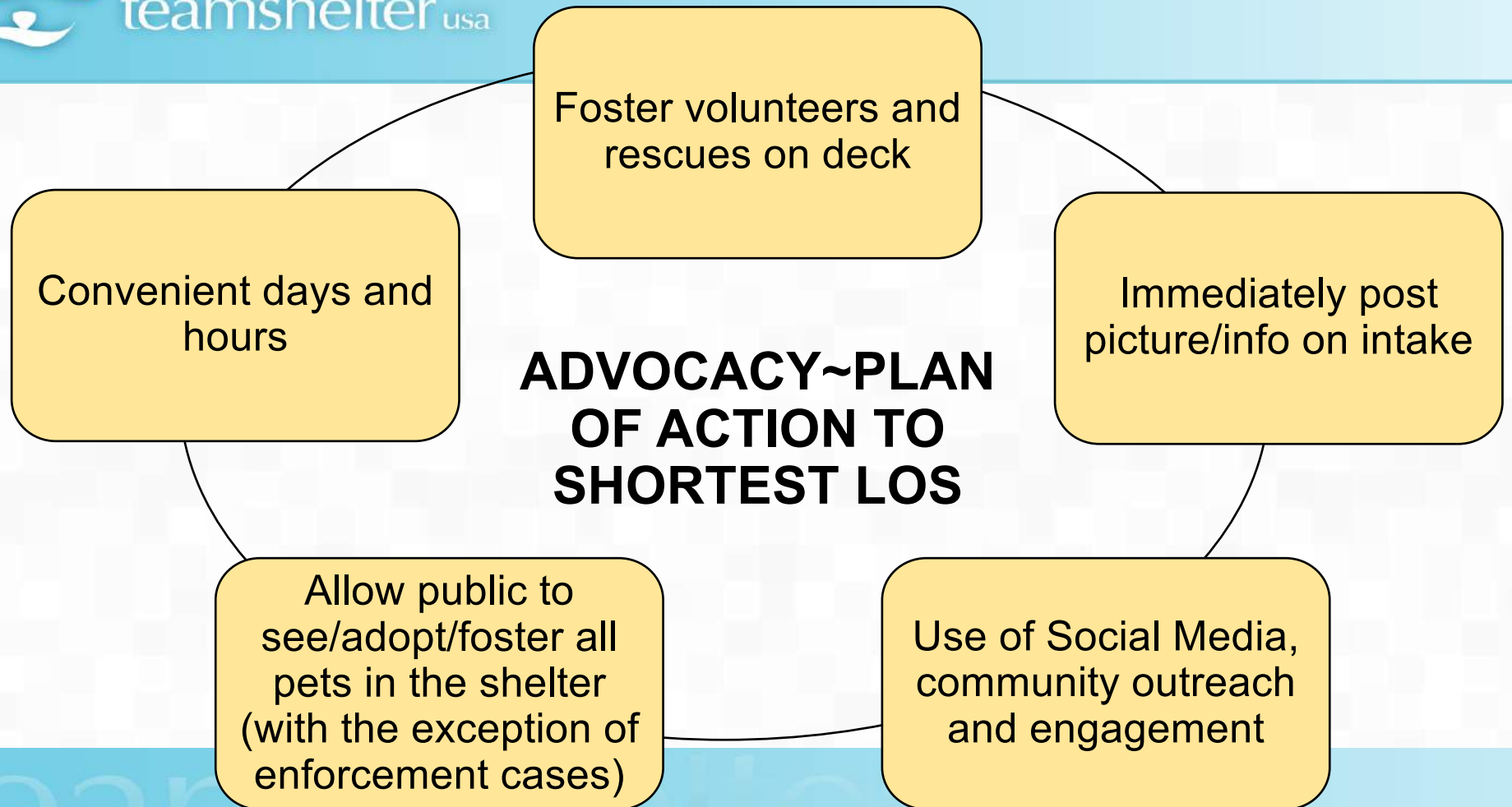
[Kittenlady.org](http://Kittenlady.org)

Recognizing which ones need help  
and which ones don't

# SHELTER/RESCUE POLICIES

**Shortest length of stay possible!**







## NON-NEGOTIABLE: ENRICHMENT



Appropriate housing, sanitation,  
options with soft bedding

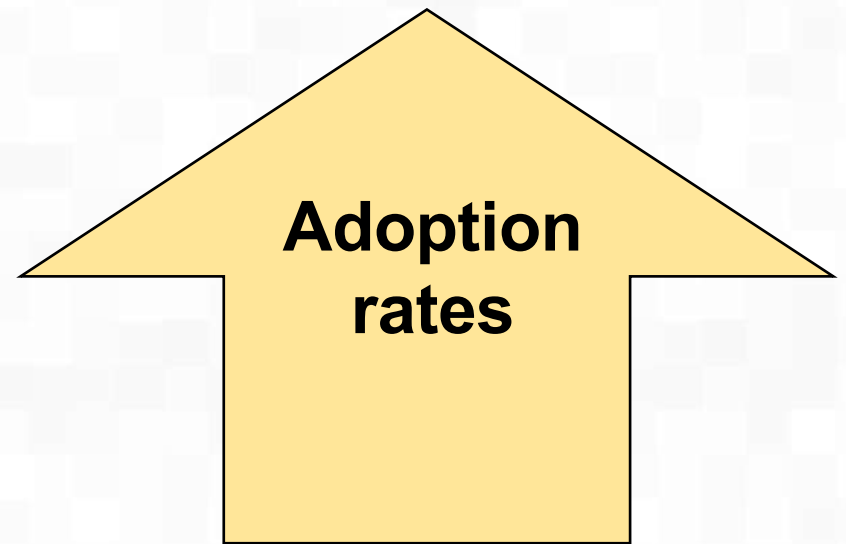
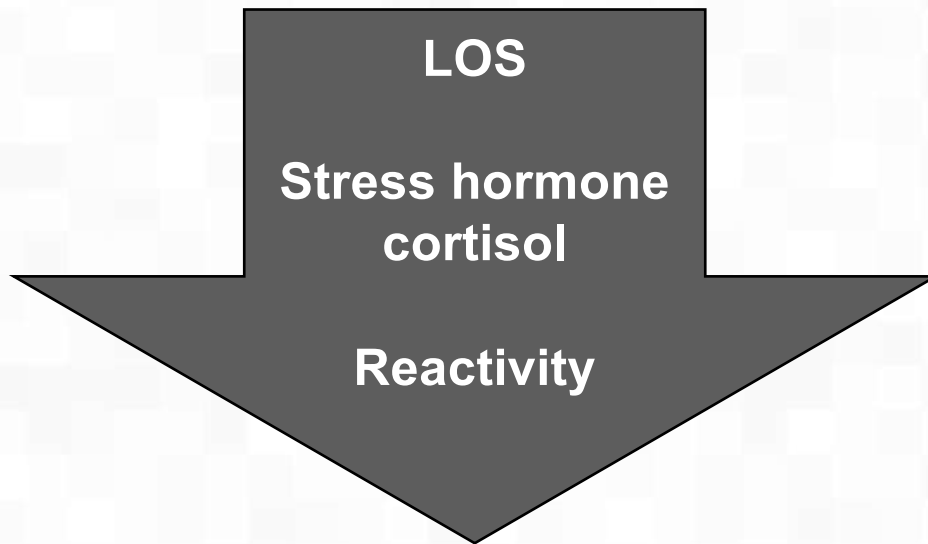
Kennel/cage enrichment

Human contact, toys to prevent  
boredom





## PLAYGROUPS



Dogs Playing for Life or Shelter Playgroup Alliance

(ps Thanks Kodak!!)



## MEDICAL CARE AND DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Veterinarian on record if not in-house

Daily rounds

Standard Protocols with decision tree

MOUs with local veterinarians

AAFP 2020 Guidelines

## SPAY NEUTER

**Consistent goal:** All pets are sterilized before leaving the shelter  
if large enough for surgery

MOU with veterinarians, always looking for options

*Foster and foster to adopt, leaving on transport or rescue  
transport in the shortest length of stay is the most important while  
pending spay/neuter*

## OPEN CONVERSATIONAL ADOPTIONS

- ✓ Trusting and engaging the community as partners
- ✓ Counsel and educate pre and post adoption most important
- ✓ Easy process, convenient hours, fee waived
- ✓ Staff, volunteers, rescue, **first come/first serve!**





teamshelter<sub>usa</sub>

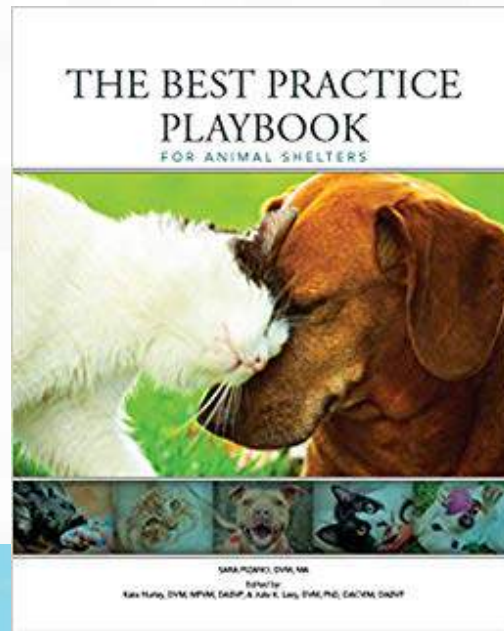
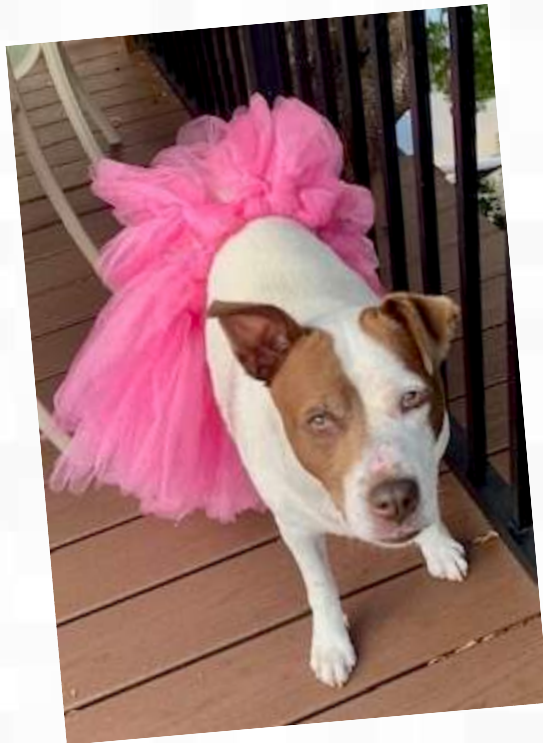
## **RESCUE/TRANSPORT FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE**

Mutually beneficial partnership, open and kind communication

Utilizing shelter software so communication will be as streamlined as possible

Other potential tools: Doobert Fosterspace, Maddie's Pet Assistant, etc.

**THANKS  
FOR LISTENING!  
*#ThankstoMaddies***



## REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- *Best Practice Playbook for Animal Shelters* (Amazon, Apple, Kobu)
- Association of Shelter Veterinary Guidelines ([sheltervet.com](http://sheltervet.com))
- Fear Free Sheltering ([fearfreesheltering.com](http://fearfreesheltering.com))
- Humane Animal Support Services ([humananimalsupportservices.org](http://humananimalsupportservices.org))
- Dogs Playing for Life ([dogsplayingforlife.com](http://dogsplayingforlife.com)) or Shelter Playgroup Alliance ([shelterdogplay.org](http://shelterdogplay.org))
- National Animal Control Association ([naca.net](http://naca.net))
- *Adopters Welcome* ([animalsheltering.org](http://animalsheltering.org))
- Open Door Veterinary Collective ([opendoorconsults.org](http://opendoorconsults.org))
- Maddie's Million Pet Challenge ([maddiesmillionpetchallenge.org](http://maddiesmillionpetchallenge.org))