

OSMA Smart Sheltering Workshop

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www.sheltermedicine.com



SHELTER SURVIVAL GUIDE

Thousands of easy
swaps that can save you
10, 20, 30 *lives* or more!

DO

THIS




THE
PRACTICAL
SOLUTION



NOT THAT!

To Do List

High-Yield Efforts Worth the Investment

- 
- ☀ Right size the population and length of stay, provide good housing for all, and ensure staff and volunteer resources to provide friendly daily interaction tailored to each animal's preference
 - ☀ Vaccinate with core vaccines immediately upon intake if not sooner
 - ☀ Vaccinate all animals > 4-6 weeks old with few exceptions; including mildly ill and injured animals
 - ☀ Revaccinate youngsters every 2 weeks as long as they're in the shelter or other high risk environment
 - ☀ Continue vaccine series in youngsters until they are 5 months old (and recommend this to adopters even if the animal is no longer in the shelter or other high risk environment)
 - ☀ Perform careful exams by trained staff at the time of intake, including a good Woods lamp exam for all cats
 - ☀ Engage in good biosecurity practices between "dirty" and "clean" activities or populations, including a change of top and thorough handwashing or change of gloves
 - ☀ Screen high risk cats for FeLV/FIV
 - ☀ Regardless of screening practices, have conversations with adopters about the natural history of FeLV/FIV, including that status can't be known for sure until ~ 60 days after last known exposure
 - ☀ Invest in high quality housing in treatment areas
 - ☀ Start treatment with antibiotics immediately IF (and only if) the great majority of animals under treatment eventually progress to requiring antibiotics
 - ☀ Where this is the case, reevaluate housing and environment in treatment areas, and ensure spacious enriched housing natural light, good air quality, a quiet environment and comfortable conditions for sick animals

To DON'T List



The Mighty To-Don't List

Make time for what really matters by letting go of or dialing back these low-yield efforts

- ☀ Don't vaccinate for diseases that are low risk for in-shelter transmission (basically anything other than DHPP and Bordetella in dogs, FVRCP in cats, and rabies for dogs and cats either at intake or the time of adoption)
- ☀ Don't worry too much about disease transmission between healthy adult animals that have been vaccinated at least 3-5 days ago with a modified live vaccine for DHPP/FVRCP
- ☀ Don't wait on boosters to move animals through the system!
- ☀ Don't worry too much about biosecurity between casual contacts (such as petting or carrying) with individual adult animals within a population, such as healthy adult cats or cats with routine URI
- ☀ Consider not screening for FeLV/FIV in healthy cats with no special risk factors
- ☀ Don't move cats with mild URI signs to isolation
- ☀ Don't treat for a set time period for routine URI
- ☀ Don't hold chronically sneezy cats back from adoption
- ☀ Don't rotate disinfectant products
- ☀ Don't bother with foot baths
- ☀ Don't clean housing thoroughly while cats are in residence
- ☀ Don't spend time on formal behavioral assessments that aren't predictive
- ☀ Don't keep cats behind glass or prohibit the public from touching friendly healthy cats

☀ Don't compromise care, housing or staff capacity in order to try and serve more animals over time. It always backfires in the end!

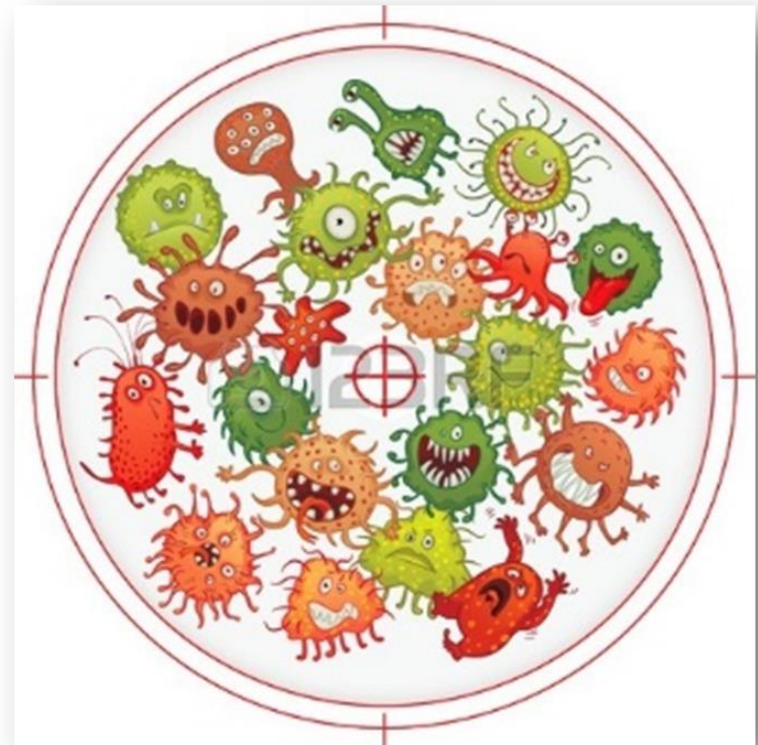


Believe

- Without question, the nature of our industry serves as a constant reminder that humans can be unkind to animals. However, what the data reveals is a story that is overwhelmingly driven by love. If less than 10% nationwide of pets ever end up in shelter, how is that small number our whole truth?
- Data shows that most pets are acquired from sources other than animal shelters, so people are successfully picking pets every day without any help (or judgment) from us. There is an entire community waiting to be engaged.

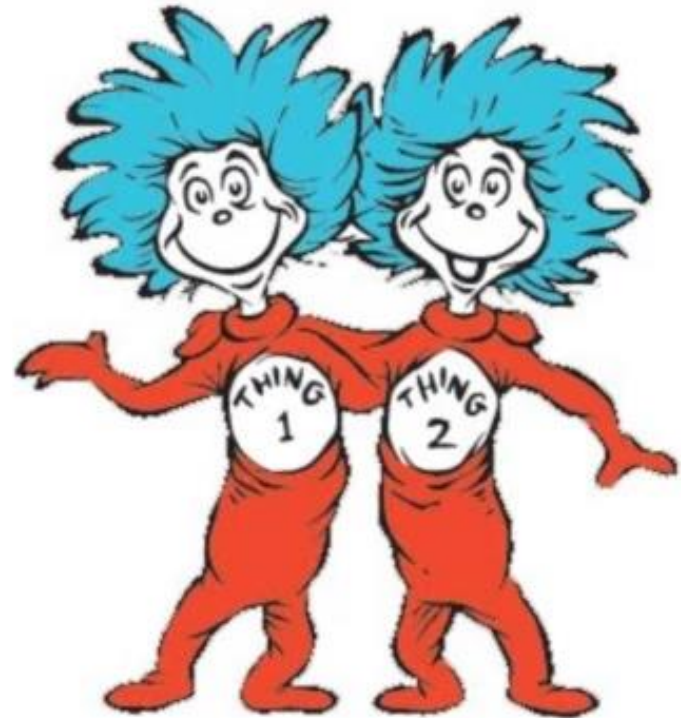
Dose Effect

- Illness happens when **dose** overcomes **immune system**
- **Reduce dose** by reducing amount in environment or spread between animals
- **Increase dose tolerated** by supporting animal immunity and well being
- **Take extra care** when you have a highly virulent bug, the environment is crowded, or everyone is extra stressed



Do a *few* things so you don't have to do *all the other* things

- Right size the population and length of stay
- Ensure high quality housing for all
- Provide friendly interaction that makes sense for the animal
- Vaccinate, monitor, treat and clean strategically
- Relax about most other things!



What causes feline URI/canine CIRDC?



- Ineffective vaccination?
- Improper disinfection?
- Too many pokey little fingers in the cages?
- Lousy air quality?
- No place to hide?

Vaccination basics: shelter



- SC MLV FVRCP or DHPP for all > 4-6 weeks on entry + 2-3 week booster (DHPP re-vax optional...)
 - 2 weeks *before* entry if possible
- Revaccinate juveniles SC every 2 weeks while in high risk environment, every 3-4 when not
- Final vaccine at 20 weeks in whatever environment

Disinfection basics

- Stress, fomite transmission and respiratory irritation can cause more harm than good
- Spot clean during residence, focus cleaning on high contact surfaces



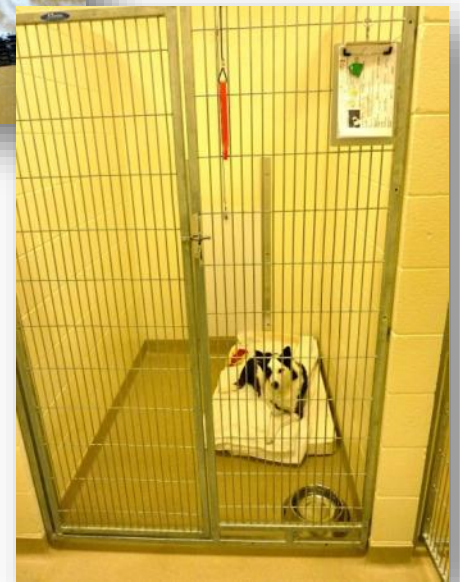
Feline cage/condo cleaning

- No spraying; single use rag or paper towel with detergent for wiping up messes
- Leave clean-ish dishes and bedding
- Ok for ill cats too
- Change gloves between risk groups/ between sick cats in private practice or transfer shelter



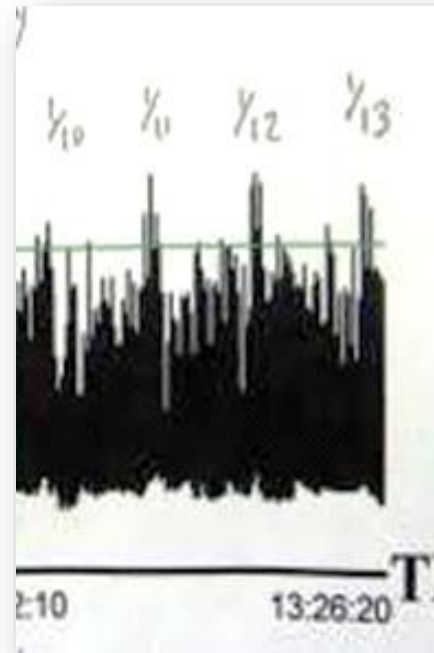
Spot cleaning dogs

- Consider for adult dogs vaccinated > 3-5 days
- No urine or feces on that side of run
- Replace water, soiled bedding
- Replace food if present
- Leave clean-ish bedding in place
- Clean and dry side with urine or feces as needed



Don't forget noise

- Scary noises while eating can cause food aversion
- Open and close cage doors *quietly*
 - Some Shorline latches can be replaced with plastic
- Replace litter pans calmly, especially metal on metal
- Feed after things have quieted down or before things get crazy



Low Cost Noise Mitigation Measures

» RE-THINK OPERATIONS / MANAGEMENT

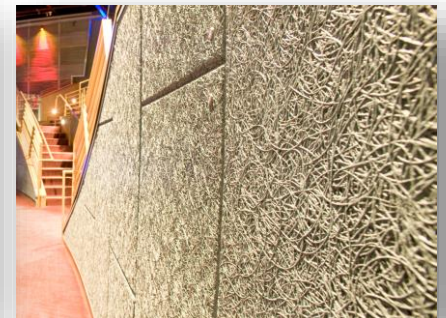
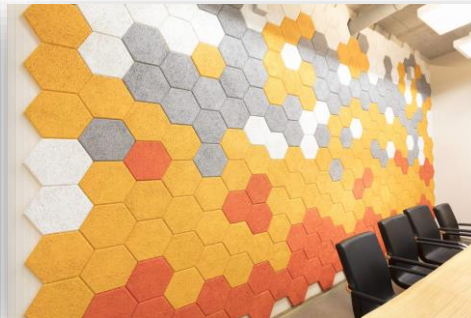
Has tremendous effect on noise in dog kennel areas: treat buckets and four on the floor, quiet time, play groups

» INSTALL WEATHER SEALS & SWEEPS ON WINDOWS & DOORS

Where noise is an issue: entry points to dogs and cat housing spaces

» ACOUSTIC WALL & CEILING PANELS

Select the right panel to resist growth of mold & mildew, install outside of wet area



Speaking of disinfection, what about ringworm?

Many over-the-counter cleaning products labeled as fungicidal against *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* are effective against *Trichophyton* spp. and *Microsporum canis* when the surface is properly prepared

Mechanically remove debris, including hairs & spores

Wash with a detergent until visibly clean and rinse with water

+/- Follow up with a disinfectant

Most important part of decon



Hiding place basics

- High shelf may be preferable to box if floor space is limited
- Box maybe preferable to shelf if height is limited but floor space is adequate
- Partial front cover and towel over bed may be best choice if both floor space and height are limited
- Tailor to individual cat in small small cages

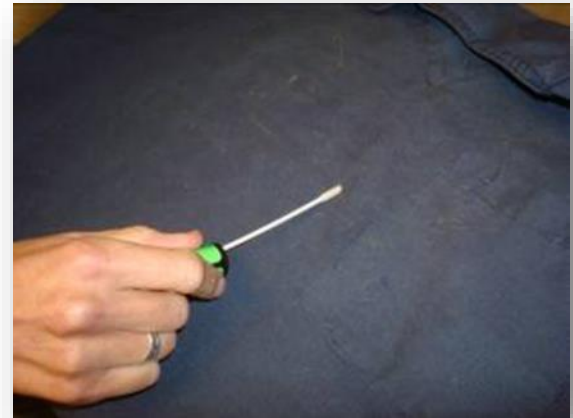


Curtails...curtains for stress curtailment



http://www.sheltermedicine.com/cage_covers

The truth about petting




Test/Site:
Limit: 0
RLU: 66899

Test/Site:
Limit: 5000
RLU: 2362640
Result: Fail

LET PEOPLE PET THE KITTEHS!!!



What if you tried all this and you're still looking for answers?

VIN 

Front Page | Message Boards | **Search** | Rounds | Library | CE | My VIN | Help | FAQ

SEARCH prevent shelter URI??? [Need Help Searching?](#)

Search Cats Search Last 7 years only **SEARCH** **CLEAR** **MORE OPTIONS**

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Search results for **prevent shelter URI** in **All Resources**. Documents 1 to 25 of the best **57** matching your query.

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Search URL: <http://www.vin.com/Members/Search/Search.plx?B=1&S=how+do+i+prevent+shelter+URI&SP=3&PD=3>

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☐ Highlight Search Terms In Checked Results

- ☐ 1. [Management And Housing To Treat And Prevent Upper Respiratory Infections In Shelter Cats](#)
★ Message Boards: **Shelter Medicine Folder, August 09 2011** » [Add to MyStuff](#)
- ☐ 2. [Using Lysine Supplementation To Prevent Herpesvirus Infections In Shelter Cats](#)
★ Message Boards: **Shelter Medicine Folder, November 05 2010** » [Add to MyStuff](#)
- ☐ 3. [Efficacy Of L-Lysine And Famciclovir For Feline Herpesvirus And Other Respiratory Infections In Cats](#)
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- ☐ 4. [Usefulness Of Lysine And Famciclovir For Conjunctivitis And Upper Respiratory Infections In Cats](#)
★ Message Boards: **Internal Medicine - Feline Folder, February 09 2010** » [Add to MyStuff](#)

VIN, Shelter Medicine Folder, 8/2011

I work at a non-profit, open admissions shelter... In the past, the summer months have brought us rampant URI in cats, and our live release rates have been less than ideal (2010 was 54% for the month of July). We have an amazing new building that opened in 2009, and has 126 Shorline cages for cat holding (in addition to the adoption floor, which has two "kitty cities" for group housing and 16 cat "condos" that are basically tiny rooms instead of cages).

In 2010 we adjusted the temperatures in the cat lofts higher so the kitties wouldn't be as cold, we added hiding boxes and Kuranda beds, but we didn't see any changes in the URI rates. Cats were being euthanized daily because the URI was so widespread, and the severity of the illnesses were much greater than you see in private practice URI. Cats would go to foster for URI and be there for MONTHS with sneezing or conjunctivitis.

What causes feline URI?



- ~~Ineffective vaccination?~~
- ~~Improper disinfection?~~
- ~~Too many pokey little fingers in the cages?~~
- ~~Lousy air quality?~~
- ~~No place to hide?~~

What mattered most?

Cage size, movement in and out of housing during daily care, and other environmental and population health risk factors for feline upper respiratory disease in nine North American animal shelters

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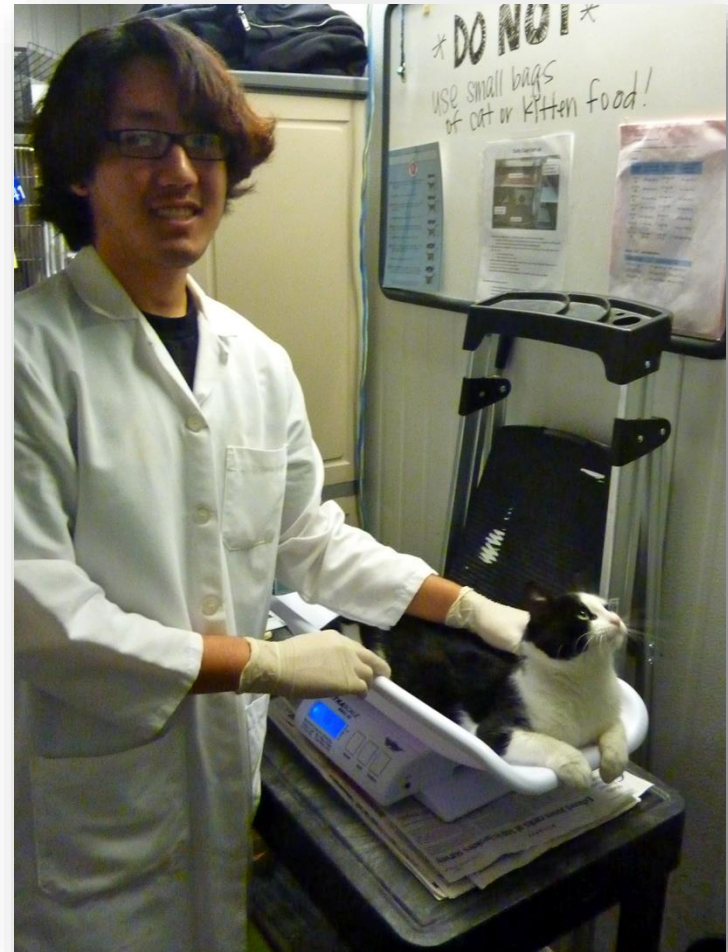
Abstract

Upper respiratory infection (URI) is not an inevitable consequence of sheltering homeless cats. This study documents variation in risk of URI between nine North American shelters; determines whether this reflects variation in pathogen frequency on intake or differences in transmission and expression of disease; and identifies modifiable environmental and group health factors linked to risk for URI. This study demonstrated that although periodic introduction of pathogens into shelter populations may be inevitable, disease resulting from those pathogens is not. Housing and care of cats, particularly during their first week of stay in an animal shelter environment, significantly affects the rate of upper respiratory infection.

- More than 8 sq feet, compartmentalized
- Limited to no movement, especially in first 7 days

UC Davis Housing Research aka Cage Size Project

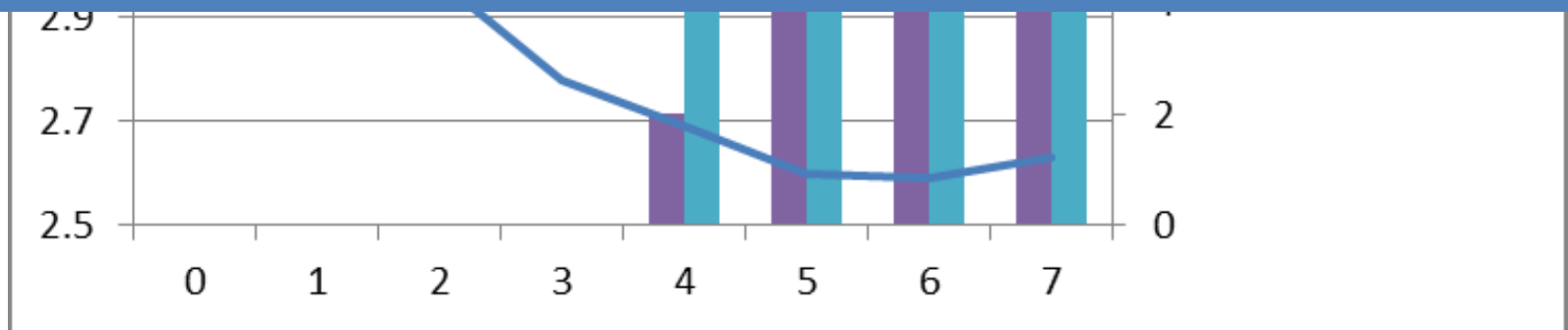
- Municipal shelter
- Health adult cats
 - Strays or surrender
 - Handleable
 - Randomly assigned
 - Small 103
 - Large 91



Stress score by day & Outcome



$\frac{1}{2}$ the number of housing units
+ $\frac{1}{2}$ the LOS =
same number of cats helped



Day in shelter

Does this really work?

In February 2011, we took a huge step and cut holes in between cat holding cages, and inserted PVC portals, effectively doubling the space available to each cat and cutting the number of cages we had in half. Actually less than half - because each loft had an odd number of cages, there is a set of triple cages in each loft. We've now got 60 separate cat holding cages. These portals were designed to be permanent openings, we did not make any "doors" to close because then it's too tempting to revert to less space and more cats. We had many staff and volunteers who were very leery of the change, fearing that more cats would be euthanized because we lacked space.

Magic

We saw some effects right away. The lofts were immediately quieter, cats seeming more relaxed.

There were very few cats "fake sleeping". The longer term effects are just starting to show up. Cat isolation is empty today, because our URI rates have plummeted. Cats aren't breaking with URI right before or after adoption. And now that the statistics for July are in, we found that our live release rate for felines in July 2011 was 70%. In 2010 it was 54%.

We euthanized 140 fewer felines in July 2011 compared to July 2010 - and those numbers include the cats we euthanize on intake for lack of space.

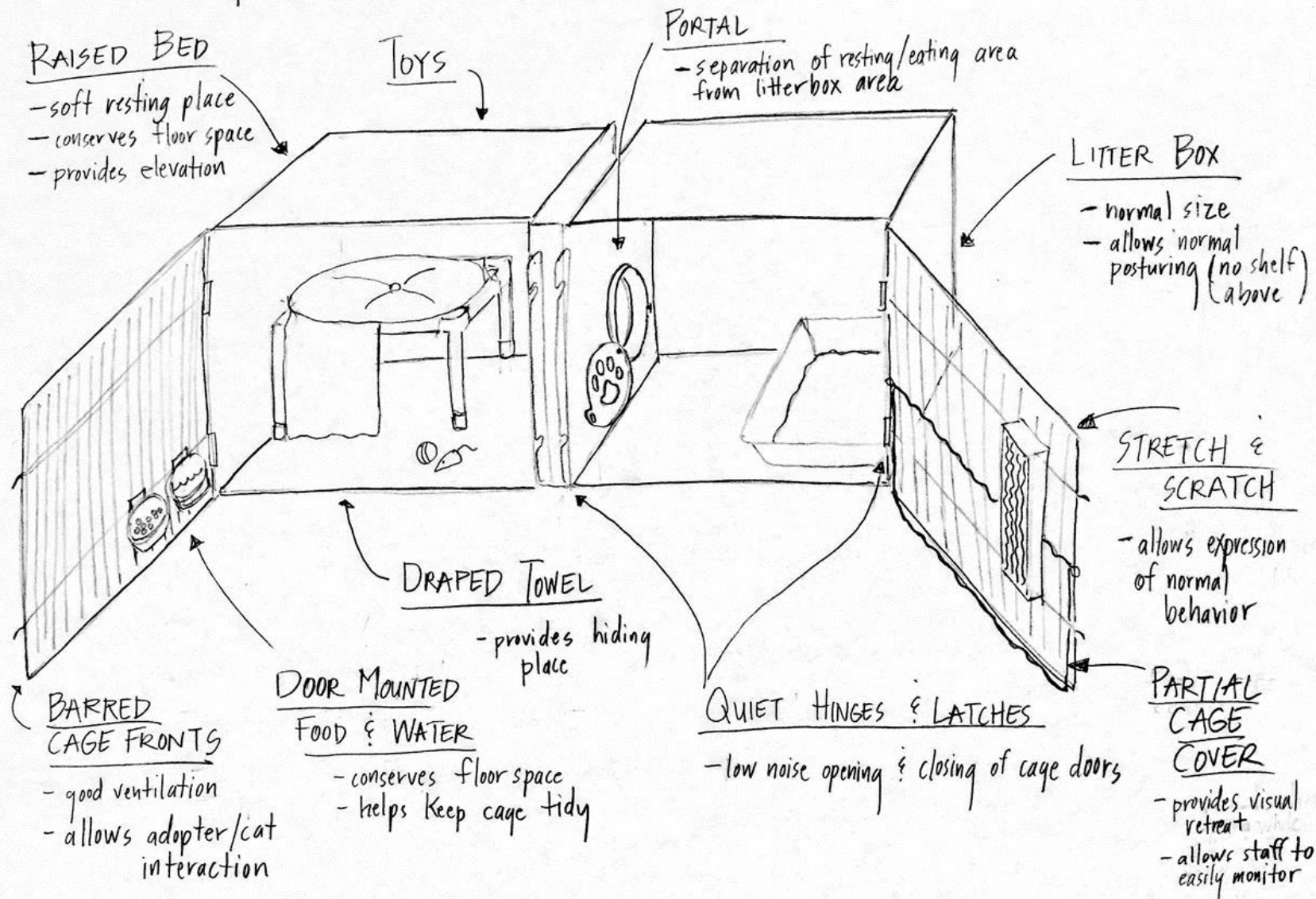
Why is double compartment housing so important?

- Meet animal needs to defecate and urinate away from where they sleep and eat
- Helps insure animals are provided adequate housing space
- Minimizes the need for handling for daily care
 - Minimizes animal stress
 - Minimizes disease and disease transmission risks
 - Helps insure staff safety and efficiency of care
- Helps with public perception and cat presentation

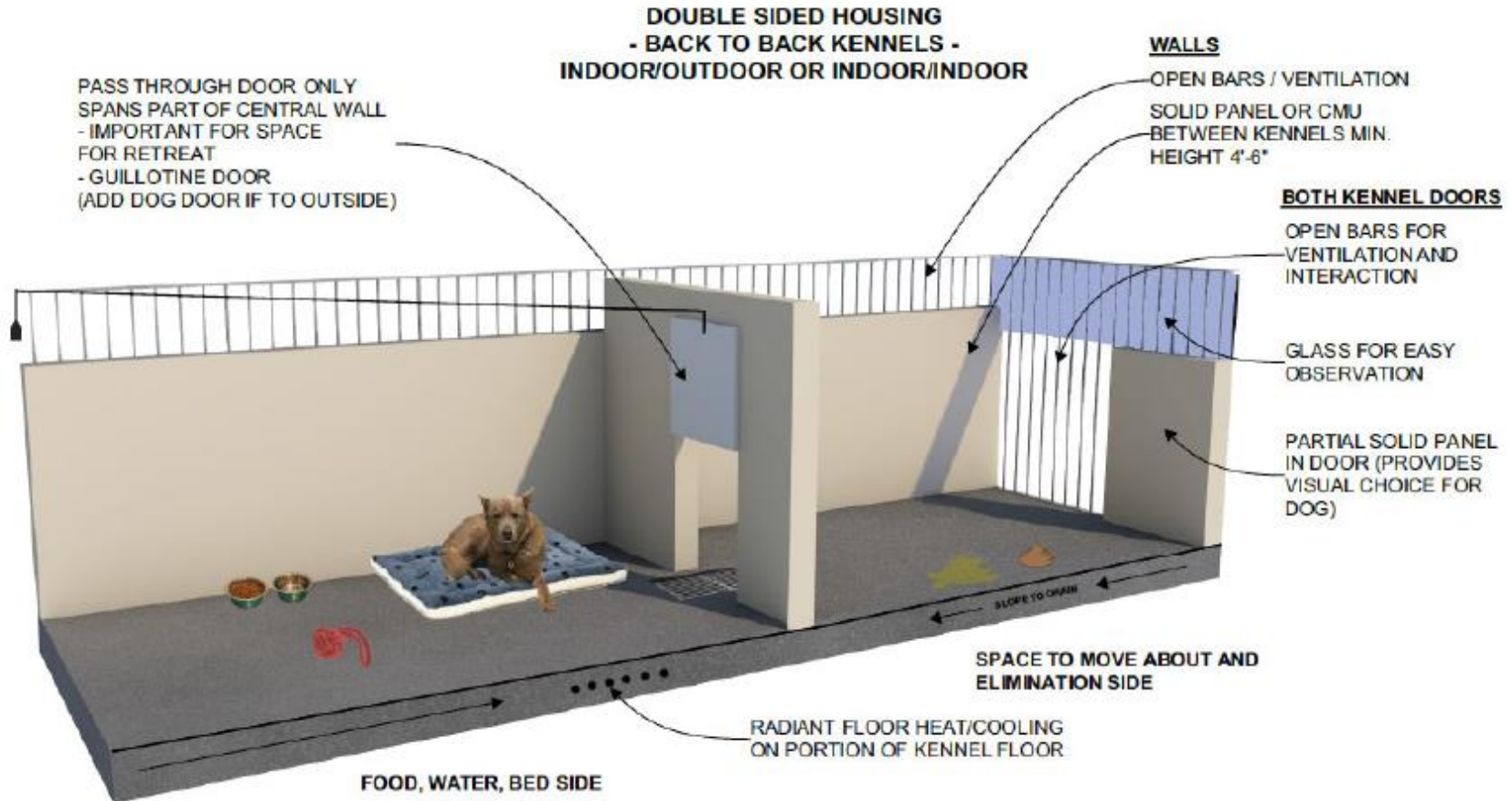




LOW STRESS CAT HOUSING



Low Stress Dog Housing



KENNEL SIZE

WIDTH ~ 4' OR GREATER

- LARGER BREEDS NEED BIGGER KENNELS 5'-6"

- ALLOW PEOPLE ACCESS FOR CARE (7'-6" NOT RECOMMENDED)
TOTAL LENGTH ~ 8-9' MINIMUM, 10' KENNEL GOOD, 12' KENNEL BETTER

HEIGHT ~6'-8"

- ALLOW PEOPLE ACCESS FOR CARE

FLOORS

- SINGLE DRAIN OR PROPERLY DESIGNED TRENCH DRAIN

- SLOPE TO DRAIN

- RESINOUS EPOXY COATING OR OTHER DURABLE/ CLEANABLE/ DISINFECTABLE FLOOR COVERING (NO SEALED CONCRETE HERE)

Argh!

Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery (2009) 11, 816–825
doi:10.1016/j.jfms.2009.03.001



jfms

Descriptive epidemiology of feline upper respiratory tract disease in an animal shelter

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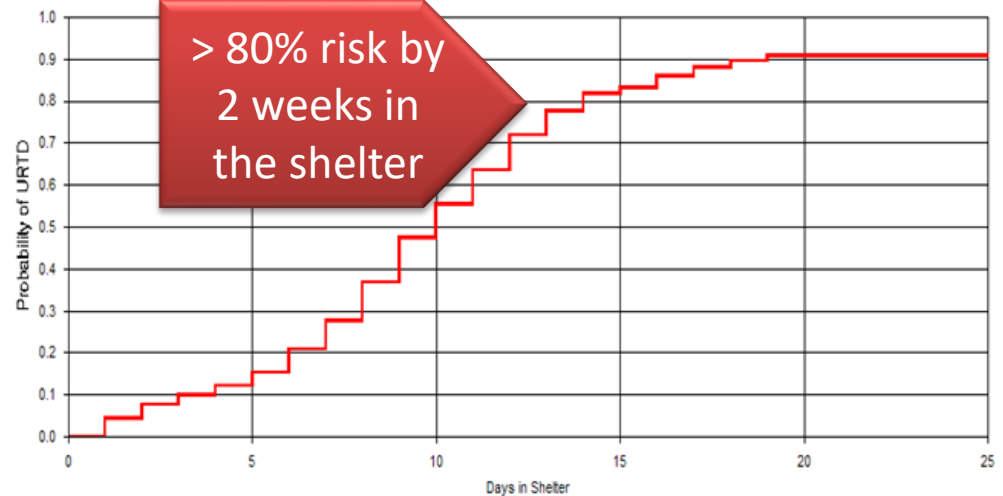
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³Former Director, Feline Health Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA

Upper respiratory tract disease (URTD) in cats residing in animal shelters is common, yet data on the prevalence of URTD are sparse, yet data for research purposes are limited. In a study of 701 cats, 70% of individual kittens, 70% of URTD during their stay in the shelter were 5 and 4 days, respectively. Approximately 1/3 of the cats had an incidence density estimate of 1 day among individual cats. The product limit method, a non-parametric method, in the shelter was appropriate.




Probability of URTD by Time in Shelter

All Cats



The magic of length of stay

- When animals stay less time overall, each one gets more space and care
- More space and care keeps animals healthier and happier, so they stay less time
- Staying less time keeps animals healthier and happier



Housing Fewer Cats Saves More Lives

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

ROOM TO PLAY	OVERCROWDED
<p>HEALTHIER CATS Having fewer cats housed in the shelter reduces each cat's exposure to other cats and their illnesses</p> <p>REDUCED STRESS Fewer cats = fewer smells, less noise, more space, all resulting in cats that are happier, stay healthier and interact better with potential adopters</p> <p>EASIER TO PROVIDE ENRICHMENT Volunteers will be able to work with residents more effectively when there are fewer cats in the shelter, allowing each cat individual attention, further reducing stress/improving welfare</p> <p>MORE ADOPTIONS Having healthy, happy, and enriched cats will allow them to be comfortable in their environment and lead to faster adoptions</p> <p>MORE ADMISSIONS As we adopt out cats faster, we will be able to take in more admissions with less cats residing in the shelter at any one time!</p>	<p>MORE ILLNESS A crowded population of resident cats causes more cats to get sick and severely hampers our ability to care for them efficiently</p> <p>MORE STRESS ON CATS Stress is one of the key taxing factors in a cat's life, resulting in decreased welfare and stress induced illness. Bottom line - crowding leads to stressed living conditions for cats</p> <p>CATS LESS VISIBLE When adoption rooms are stuffed with cats, some cats are afraid to interact with people, maybe too timid to eat regularly and adopters simply can't "see" all of the cats</p> <p>LESS ADOPTIONS Adopters are not drawn to unhealthy, unhappy, and stressed out cats...period!</p> <p>LESS ADMISSIONS Less adoptions means that our colonies will be overcrowded and our isolation rooms full of sick cats, blocking us from helping those cats in need</p>

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON!

Housing, staff time and LOS

- Adequately sized, double compartment housing takes less time to clean and helps reduce disease spread
- Staff that spend less time cleaning and more time interacting with adopters will reduce LOS



Number of animals housed and LOS



- More individuals waiting does not change the rate of outcome
- For a given rate of outcomes, *length of time* waiting is determined by the *number* of individuals waiting
- Self sustaining *at any level*
- **Fewer, better quality housing units means fewer individuals waiting**

Effect of LOS

Average Daily Intake	Average LOS	Average Daily Population
10	5	50

Effect of LOS

Average Daily Intake	Average LOS	Average Daily Population
10	5	50
10	10	100

Effect of LOS

Average Daily Intake	Average LOS	Average Daily Population
10	5	50
10	10	100
10	20	200

Effect of Daily Population

Average Daily Outcome	Average Daily Population	Inevitable LOS
10	50	5

Effect of Daily Population

Average Daily Outcome	Average Daily Population	Inevitable LOS
10	50	5
10	100	10

Effect of Daily Population

Average Daily Outcome	Average Daily Population	Inevitable LOS
10	50	5
10	100	10
10	200	20

Counterproductive?

NOT hurrying to
euthanize unless
that's the right
outcome

NOT a time
limit

YES maximizing
efficiency to get
each animal out of
confinement and
onward to it's home
as quickly as
possible!

Decreasing shelter length of stay means animals live, not die

This / Decreasing shelter length of stay means animals live, not die

Animal Management, Shelter Medicine

Are you confused about what “reducing length of stay” means for your animal shelter or rescue group?

Few things can save more animals than reducing length of stay. It not only means do more animals get adopted, but increases the number of animals the organization can care for in any given year.

There's a lot of confusion, however, in the shelter and rescue world about what “length of stay” really means, and the implications of reducing it.



Categories

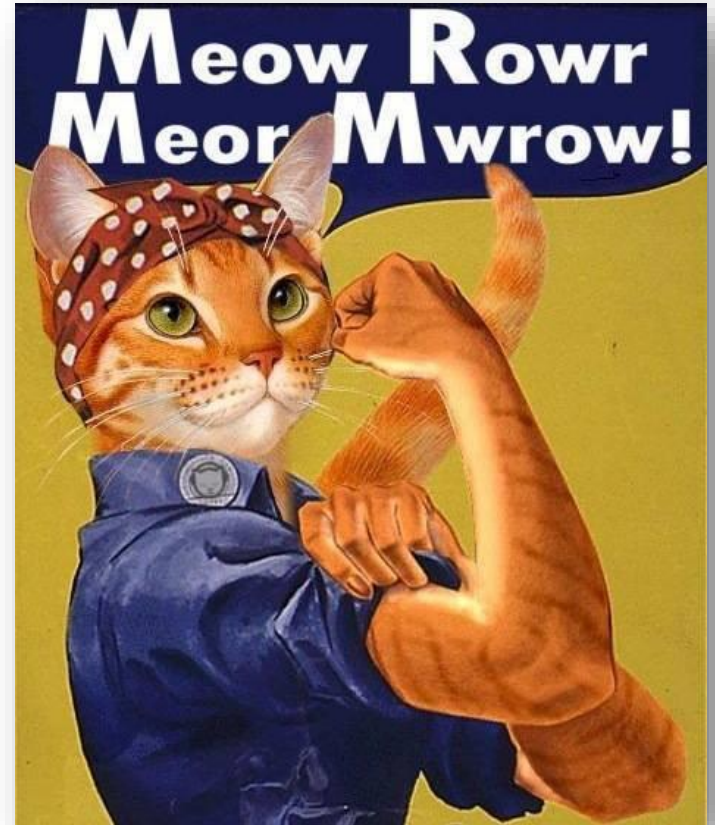
Uncategorized

Coalition Building and
Advocacy

Organizational

DON'T do this:

- Don't impose time limits on animals
- Don't hold healthy, friendly animals back from adoption waiting for them to get healthier and friendlier
- **Don't believe that this is too good to be true – you CAN do it!**



Do this!



The Veterinary Journal

Available online 7 August 2017

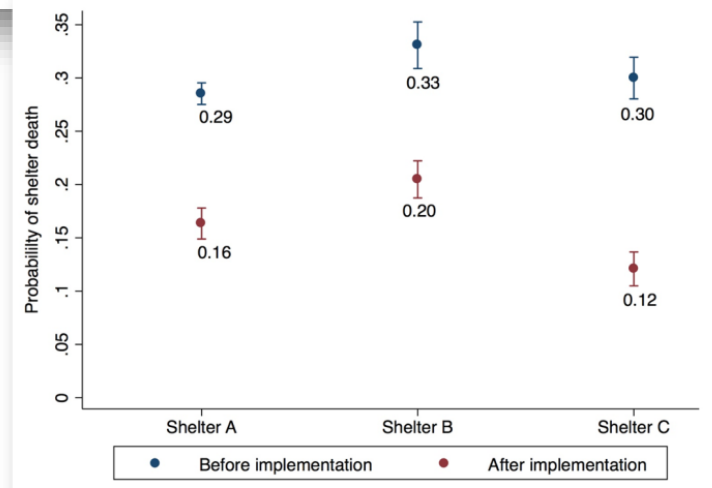
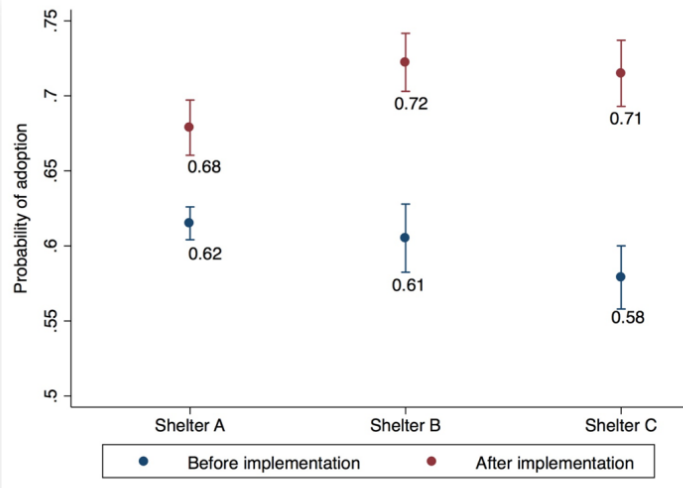
In Press, Accepted Manuscript

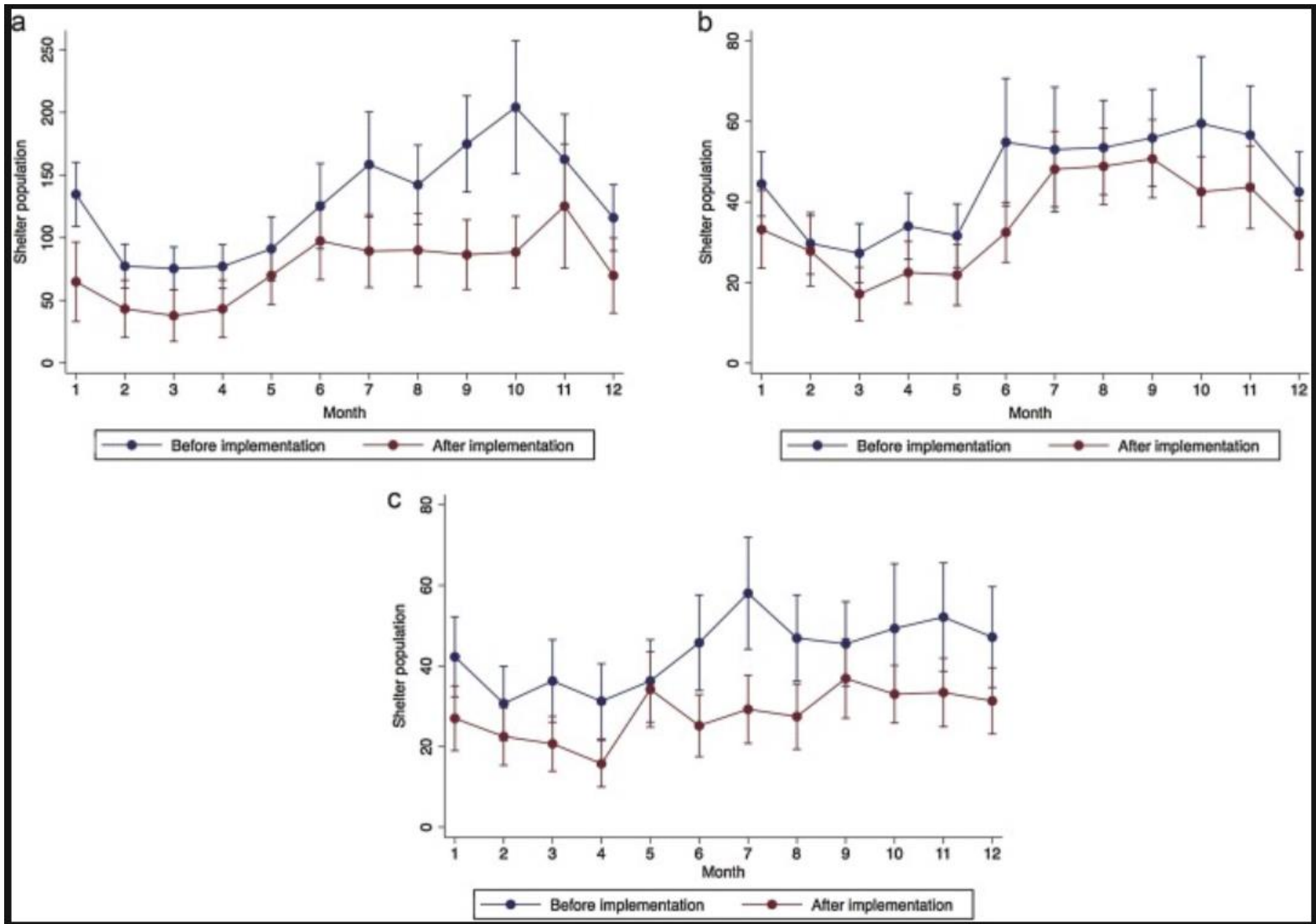


Original Article

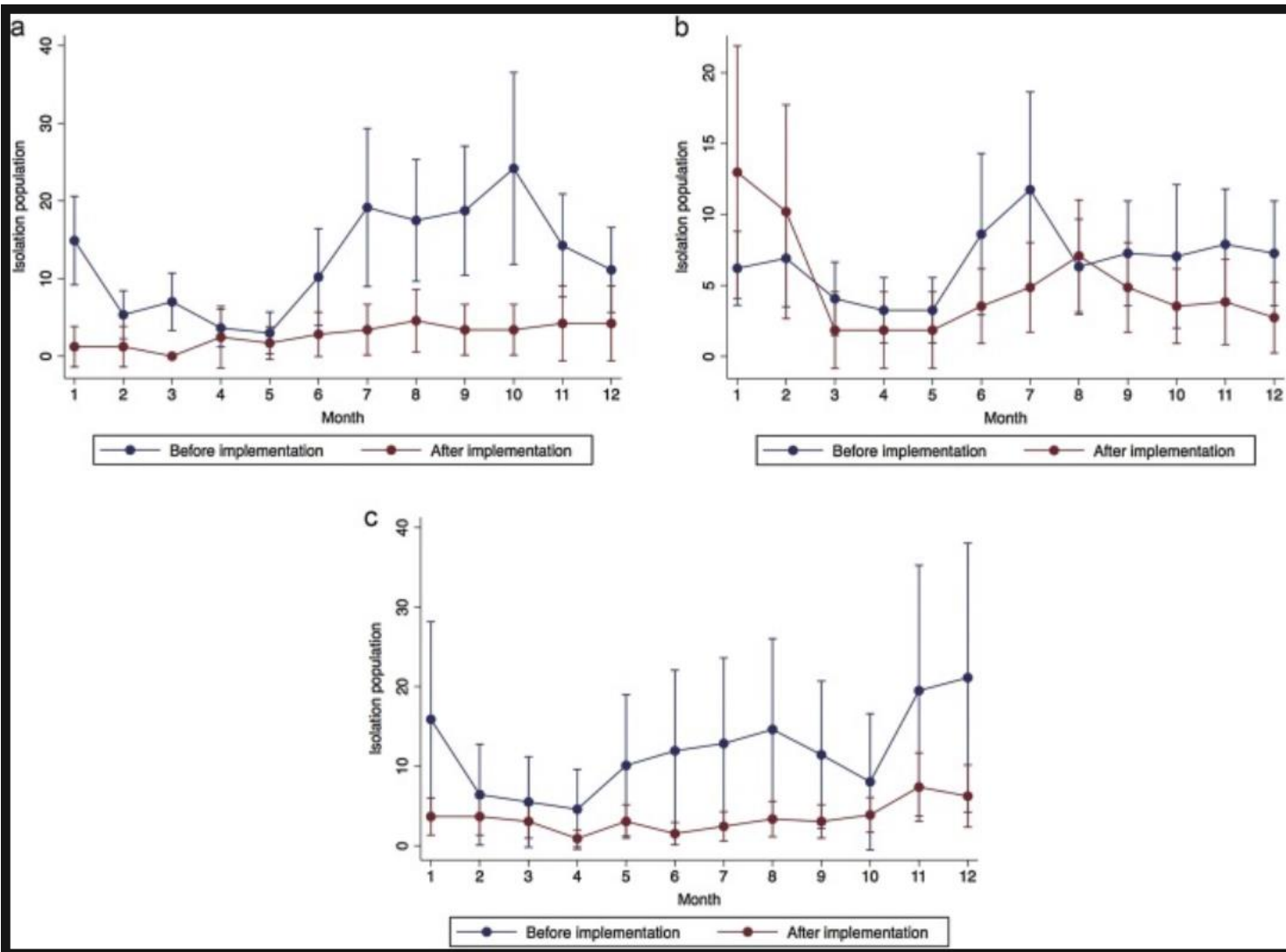
An observational study of the relationship between Capacity for Care as an animal shelter management model and cat health, adoption and death in three animal shelters

G.L. Kass^a, K.F. Hurley^a





Predicted total in shelter monthly
average population



Predicted monthly average isolation population

Don't hold back!

- Minimal or no stray hold to live outcome for unidentified cats
 - Especially litters of kittens, return to field candidates
 - Double check your local hold requirement *for animals*; advocate for change if needed

Humane Society applauds bill shortening shelter stays

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MARK SCHAAF, Journal Times file photo

Keep them moving!

- Promote adoption early and often
 - Population: don't wait for crowding
 - Slow track animals: don't wait for long LOS
 - Think price, placement, promotion
 - If you can't promote, can you defer intake?

ACTION PLAN-Admissions and Adoptions/Outreach (Adoption Promotions)	TIMELINE
Continue with monthly cat adoption specials/promotions.	1 st Quarter 2 nd Quarter 3 rd Quarter 4 th Quarter
UPDATE	
1-1-12 - Start the New Year with a Roar; adopt a Tiger-Tabby! Tabby cats 6 months and older waived adoption fee. (33 of the 49 cats adopted, 67%) TS	
2-1-12 - Phat Cat Mardi Gras. Voting for Phatest cat, longer tenured cats. (19 of the 34 cats adopted, 56%) TS	
3-1-12 - March Meow Madness. Longer tenured cats adoption fee waived. (8 of the 18 cats adopted, 44%) TS	
4-1-12 - Sock Hop. Cats with socks and/or mittens over 6 months adoption fee	

...and moving!

- Optimize frequency and timing of key services
 - E.g. surgery and foster return prior to weekend adoption
- Optimize intake versus adoption hours
 - E.g. intake Monday - Thursday to allow adoption focus Friday - Sunday



Historical cat management central

Ad hoc, citizen-driven shelter admission, regardless of shelter space



Return to owner, adoption, relocation, euthanasia are primary outcomes

Balancing intake and outcomes

Managed Admission Results

- "We were confident we would see positive results with the implementation of a managed admissions process but we had no idea it would happen so quickly. By evaluating cats during the appointment, we were able to get cats to adoption and into new homes quickly. Before we knew it, URI was virtually non-existent as we watched healthy, happy cats leave our shelters in half the time."

from 31.3 days to 11.0 days



The intake exam: getting animals on the right path

- ✓ Trained, detail oriented staff
 - ✓ Note, not diagnose
- ✓ Consistent process
- ✓ Adequate space and supplies
- ✓ Real Woods lamp – plug in kind
- ✓ Documented and flagged for medical



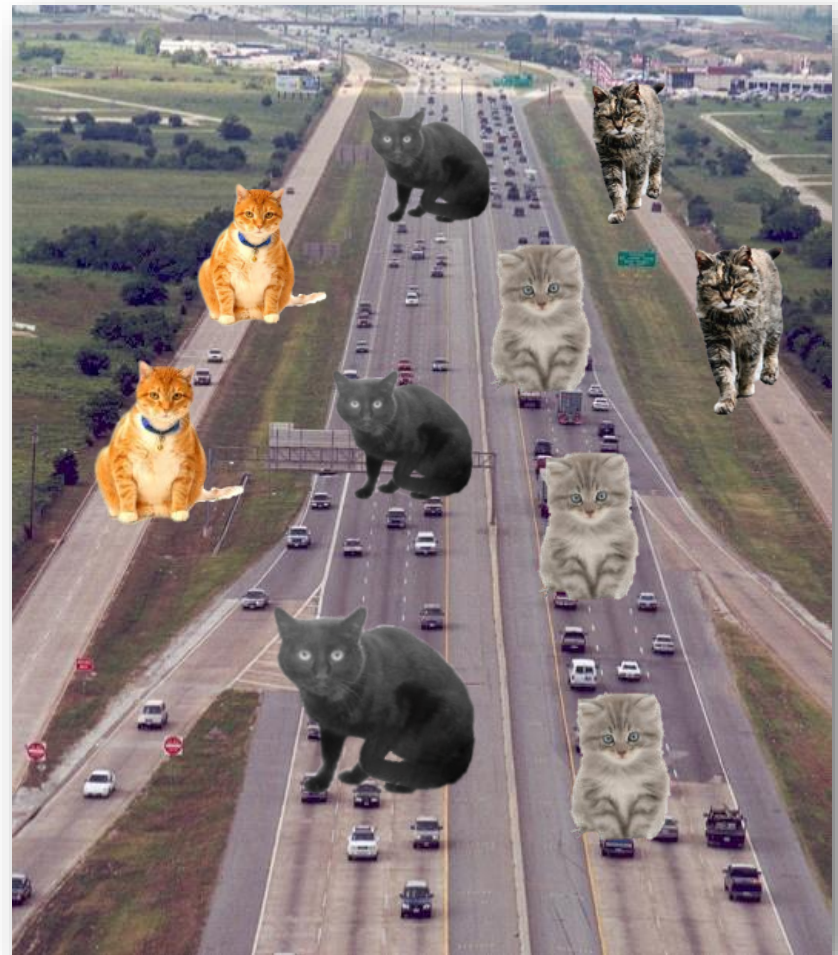
Daily monitoring: keeping animals on the right track

- Medical and behavioral
- Current, accurate grouping allows you to align housing and care by group and relax within groups
- Ins, outs and demeanor
- Simple, visible documentation
- Guides daily rounds



Daily monitoring: keeping animals on the right track

- Medical and behavioral
- Current, accurate grouping allows you to align housing and care by group and relax within groups
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- Simple, visible documentation
- Guides daily rounds



Monitor:

- Daily kennel/c-



The following clinical signs indicate a health risk for the individual or the population:

- Labored breathing or difficulty breathing
- Severe lethargy or is non-responsive
- Seizures
- Active bleeding or there is a large amount of blood in its housing unit
- Watery diarrhea with or without blood
- Animal that is straining to urinate or defecate
- Evidence of pain such as restlessness, vocalizing or panting
- Vomiting not associated with having just eaten
- Neurologic signs such as ataxia (difficult standing/walking), pupils of different sizes, circling in one direction, falling to one side, etc.
- Circular patches of hairloss
- Dead in cage – always check for parvovirus/panleukopenia

FELINE GENERAL OBSERVATION SHEET	
Animal ID: _____	AGE: <input type="checkbox"/> Imm Intake Date: ____/____/____
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> FS	Weight: ____ lbs ____ kg
Vaccine Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Current on intake <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccinated on: ____/____/____	Date Examined: ____/____/____
Type of Infection given: <input type="checkbox"/> FVRCP (SQ) <input type="checkbox"/> FVRCP (SQ) <input type="checkbox"/> Rabies	History/ Treatment Plan: _____
FIV Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Positive	
FelV Results: <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Positive	
Parvo Tested: <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Positive Date tested: ____/____/____	
Surgeries Performed: <input type="checkbox"/> Spay/Neuter <input type="checkbox"/> Dental <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Date of Surgery: ____/____/____	
<input type="checkbox"/> IF Checked USE CAUTION with this Animal	
Today's Date: ____/____/____	Record Observations Daily
Attitude (BAR, QAR, Otranded)	
H/O consumption (w/c)	
Appetite (w/c)	
Feces (w/c) (Stools (N.L.D.B.D))	
Urine (w/c) note if abnormal	
Vomiting (w/c) (P.T. 1000/1000)	
Coughing/Sneezing (0.1.2.3)	
Wound/Skin Check	
Other: _____	
Medication • Dosage • Frequency	
TREATMENTS: Please initial after each administration to document treatment performed	
R ₁	
R ₂	
R ₃	
Comments: _____	

Yolo County Animal Services		Daily Animal Health Monitoring Summary Sheet	
Animal ID	Animal Description	Day in	Day out
100-900	Chick 101	3	X
100-900	Chick 101	9	X
100-900	Chick 101	44	X

DAILY BEHAVIOR EVALUATION FORM FOR CATS	
DATE	
TIME	
BEHAVIOR	
Attitude	
Appetite	
Feces	
Urine	
Vomiting	
Coughing/Sneezing	
Wound/Skin Check	
Other	
Medication	
TREATMENTS	
R ₁	
R ₂	
R ₃	
Comments	

The “Five Questions”

Who are
you?

How are you
doing?

Are you where
you should be?

What is keeping
you here?

What can we do
to move you
along?



Life saving starts before intake

- Think about fees
- Think about hours
- Think about alternatives
- Think about what's best for the animal...



Don't Kit-nap Kittens Communication Toolkit

Sorted by name



#www.dropbox.com.url



Don't Kit-nap Kittens M...
ing.doc



Don't Kit-nap Kittens V...
age.jpg



Don't Kit-Nap Sample S...
ts.docx



Don't Kitnap Kittens M...
ers).jpg



Don't Kitnap Kittens W...
ers).jpg



dont-kitnap-kittens-info...
_12.png



Found Kittens Flyer - F...
ed.pdf



momkittens.jpg

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ngstwb6nsul3p8l/AAD08hh7yjUrqFXjYXHShZjEa?dl=0>

Balancing intake and outcomes

Cats: San Jose shelter snags, releases strays

Carolyn Jones, Chronicle Staff Writer
Tuesday, January 3, 2012

PRINT E-MAIL SHARE



John Sebas
San Jose veterinary technician Becky Th
stomach of a 5-month-old kitten before

IMAGES



View All Images (4)

MORE BAY AREA NEWS

- Sheriff charged with three crimes linked to abuse allegations 01.13.12
- \$1.4 million settlement agreement in

“Sometimes we just have to laugh because it almost seems impossible that one program can impact the numbers so significantly. This was one of those areas of the operation that we didn’t even know would improve until after we started the program and realized what a positive impact it was having on the incidence of URI and our capacity to handle URI.”

from which they came.

RI

2011-12

Or...

Animals **2012**, 2(2), 301-315; doi:10.3390/ani2020301

Open Access Article

Frequency of Lost Dogs and Cats in the United States and the Methods Used to Locate Them

Emily Weiss¹ ✉, Margaret Slater^{2,*} ✉ and Linda Lord³ ✉

¹ Shelter Research and Development, Community Outreach, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA®), 6260 N. Hillside, Wichita, KS 67219, USA

² Shelter Research and Development, Community Outreach, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

³ Department of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, USA

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.



Adoption

Pet Services

In the Community

Kids & Family

Received: 25 April 2012

View Full-Text

Feral cats that would not be appropriate or happy in a home environment may be placed in the community Cats program.

Stray cats

A stray cat who is healthy and friendly likely belongs to someone in your neighborhood. Cats have a far better chance of reuniting with their owner when they're left in the area in which they're found. Less than five percent of stray cats that are brought into shelters are reclaimed by their owners. For this reason, we encourage you to leave healthy and friendly cats where you discovered them.

Lost cats > 10 times more likely to be reunited by staying where they are

Worse than nothing?

Effects of low-level culling of feral cats in open populations: a case study from the forests of southern Tasmania

Billie T. Lazenby^{A,B,D}, Nicholas J. Mooney^C and Christopher R. Dickman^A

^ASchool of Biological Sciences, A08, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia.

^BDepartment of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, 134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tas. 7000, Australia.

^CPO Box 120, Richmond, Tas. 7025, Australia.

^DCorresponding author. Email: Billie.Lazenby@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Worse than nothing?

Effects of low-level culling of feral cats in open populations: a case study from the forests of southern Tasmania

Billie T. Laze

^ASchool of Biolo

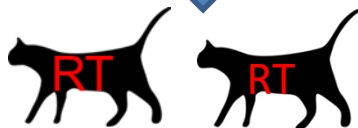
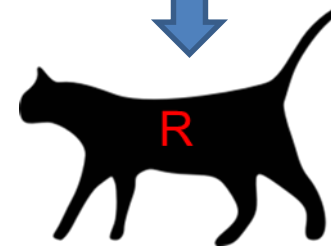
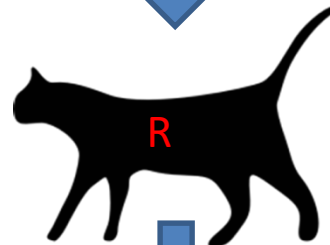
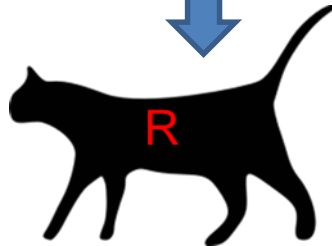
^BDepartment of

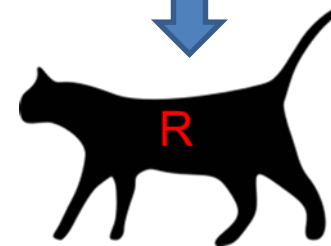
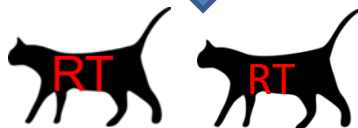
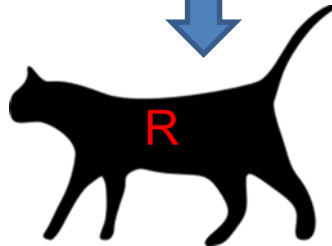
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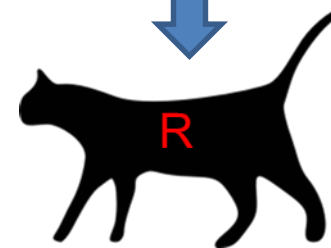
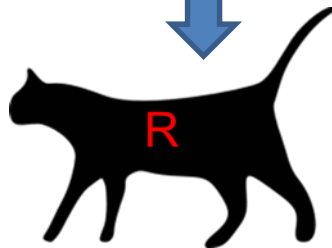
^CPO Box 120, R

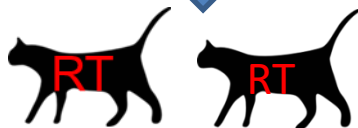
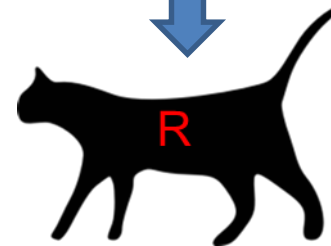
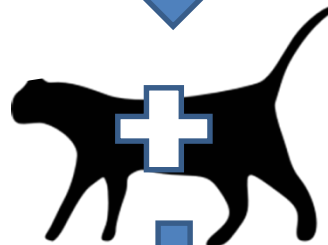
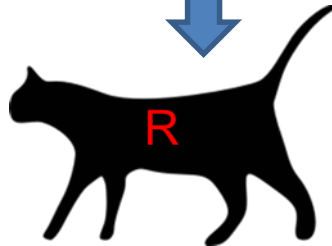
^DCorresponding

“Contrary to expectation, the relative abundance and activity of feral cats increased in the cull-sites, even though the numbers of cats captured per unit effort during the culling period declined. Increases in minimum numbers of cats known to be alive ranged from 75% to 211% during the culling period, compared with pre- and post-cull estimates.”









Options for healthy strays

- TNR referral
- Found cat listing
- Options to co-exist
- Help with rehoming
- Bring to shelter
 - +/-appointment/RTF
- Invest resources saved on healthy cat transport and admission on diversion and higher priority activities

▼ WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT STRAY CATS COMING ONTO MY PROPERTY?

Also, City of Sacramento Animal Care Services no longer offers the service of picking up any owned cats or any stray cats that have been contained or trapped. You may surrender an owned cat or a stray cat at the shelter's Reception Center. This building is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and is located about 50-100 feet north of the shelter's Main Office.

Return to Field (RTF) (aka Shelter/Neuter/Return)

- Sterilize/vaccinate/return *to location found*
- Healthy stray or un-owned cats and older kittens brought to shelter
 - Cats at risk for euthanasia
- NOT relocation
- NO identified feeder required



Which cats qualify?

- Healthy
- Stray/un-owned/outside
- Adults and older kittens
- No *imminent* danger/environmental concern at location of origin

God Help the Ones That Purr

BLOG | Thursday, February 3 2011 | Dr. Emily Weiss | 8 Comments

Share 0



Recently there has been more focus and uptake on a program that was first developed down in Jacksonville by Rick DuCharme—the Feral Freedom program. When I heard about the program, it gave me pause—then chills. In broad-brush description, Feral Freedom takes cats entering the shelter who appear to have been thriving in their environment they came from, do not appear to be fully socialized, and are not an immediate threat of human harm. They are spayed or neutered and returned to the homes or businesses nearby.

When I look at the data for live release rates of cats in shelters across the country, an adult cat in a shelter is usually more of a risk than being a free-roaming outdoor cat. I know that is quite a statement I just made. And... with the data pointing to live release rates under 20% for many community's shelter cats, it is a pretty black-and-white fact. We try to keep those cats healthy and get them out alive, but frankly, a shelter is not necessarily a physically or emotionally healthy place for a semi-socialized or un-socialized cat.



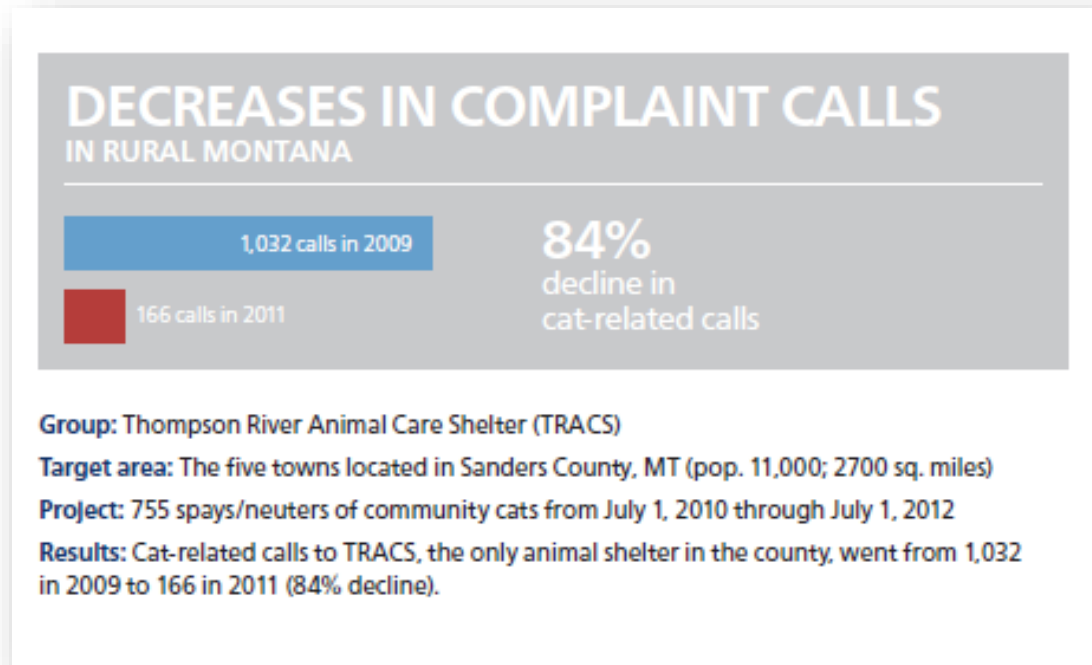
Several weeks ago I was with a working group focusing on a discussion of the measurement of spay/neuter impact. Dr. Levy was talking about the start of the Jacksonville program several weeks ago. She noted that in the beginning, the program focused on those cats they could, to the best of their ability, determine as completely unsocialized feral cats. With a very low live release rate for adult cats in Jacksonville at the time, Dr. Levy noted the incredibly powerful words that the UC Davis Koret Shelter

“But I don’t want that cat back.”

- The majority of cats come from the minority of complainants
- Spay/neuter/vaccinate resolves many problems
- Educate about deterrents
- Use discretion on case by case basis

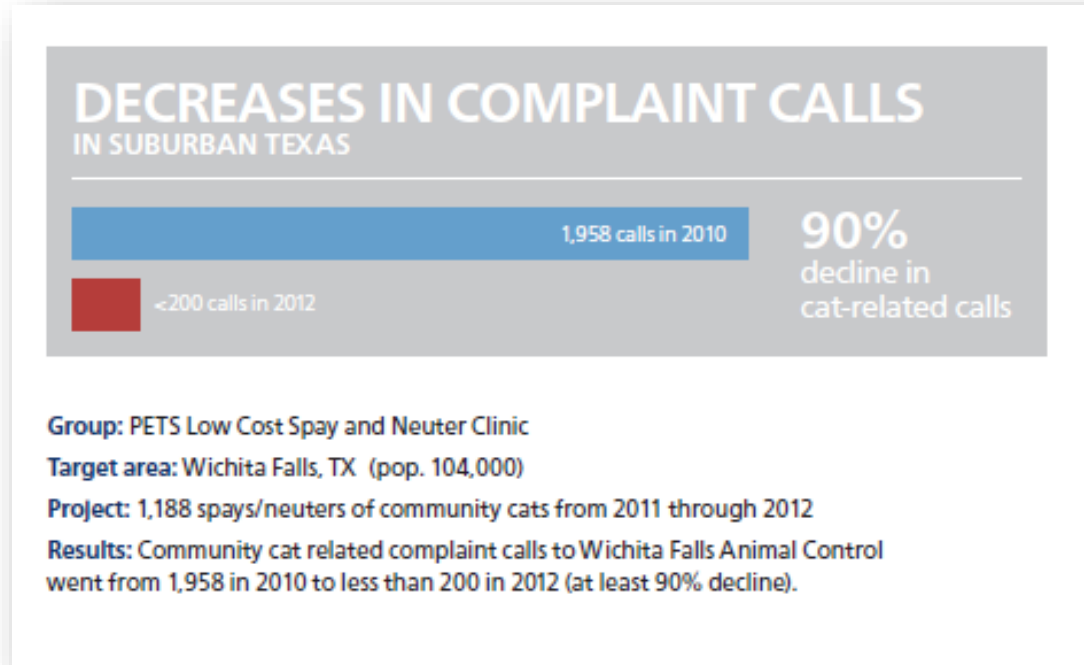


Impact on citizen complaints



- 755 targeted community cat spay/neuters over 2 years
- Complaint calls declined from 1032 to 166

Impact on citizen complaints



- 1188 targeted community cat spay/neuters over 2 years
- Complaint calls declined from 1958 to < 200

Return to Home

- Bypasses language, transportation and timing issues
- Resolves mismatch of timing in when cats are lost and when people look for them
- Reunites semi-owned but fully loved cats with their people
- Educates community members directly about TNR/spay neuter



Bypass the shelter when possible

- Truly lost cats often better served by remaining in community
- Not-really-lost cats often better served by TNR
- Update website, provide scripts to phone staff
- Encourage finders to wait, watch, post, talk to neighbors, get cat scanned for microchip – or just leave them be if there is nothing wrong
- A few days between first call and intake can help – offer stray intake by appointment for cats

Found a stray animal?

Found a lost pet or stray animal? Here's how to help them find their way home.

Check for identification

- If there's an ID tag, contact the owner immediately.
- If there is no ID tag, consider taking the animal to a local veterinary office to be scanned for a microchip.

Tell your community about the pet you've found

- Post information about the animal to our [Found Pets Bulletin Board](#).

• Seal **Stray cats**

- Post

A stray cat who is healthy and friendly likely belongs to someone in your neighborhood. Cats have a far better chance of reuniting with their owner when they're left in the area in which they're found. Less than five percent of stray cats that are brought into shelters are reclaimed by their owners. For this reason, we encourage you to leave healthy and friendly cats where you discovered them.

Cadillac version

- Help appointments for strays and surrenders
- Low cost vet exam, vaccines, spay/neuter scheduled
- Supplies to hold onto cats for a while or keep them if that's what they want
- Fund through donations/reduced intake

Cats saved under new program at Capital Area Humane Society

LIFE

» Dying dog goes on cross-country bucket list trip

» Walking With the Enemy: World War II drama seems familiar

» Lambert & Stamp: Handlers of 'Who' devised 'mod' mix

» Ohio University choir to perform with Rolling Stones

» Iris: Even in her 90s, fashion icon still creates her own trends

[READ MORE](#)

By [Kathy Lynn Gray](#)

The Columbus Dispatch • Tuesday May 26, 2015 2:42 AM

Comments: 6

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1432

[Tweet](#)

38

[ShareThis](#)

2843

Not one healthy cat has been euthanized at the Capital Area Humane Society since October, thanks to a new program known as ReVision.

"The transformation is remarkable," Executive Director Rachel Finney said last week.

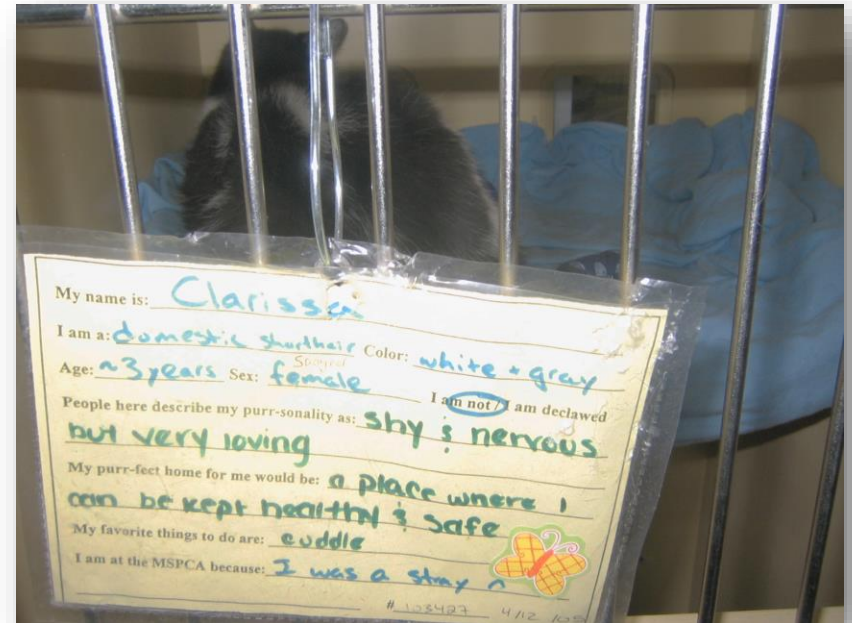


REQUEST TO BUY THIS PHOTO

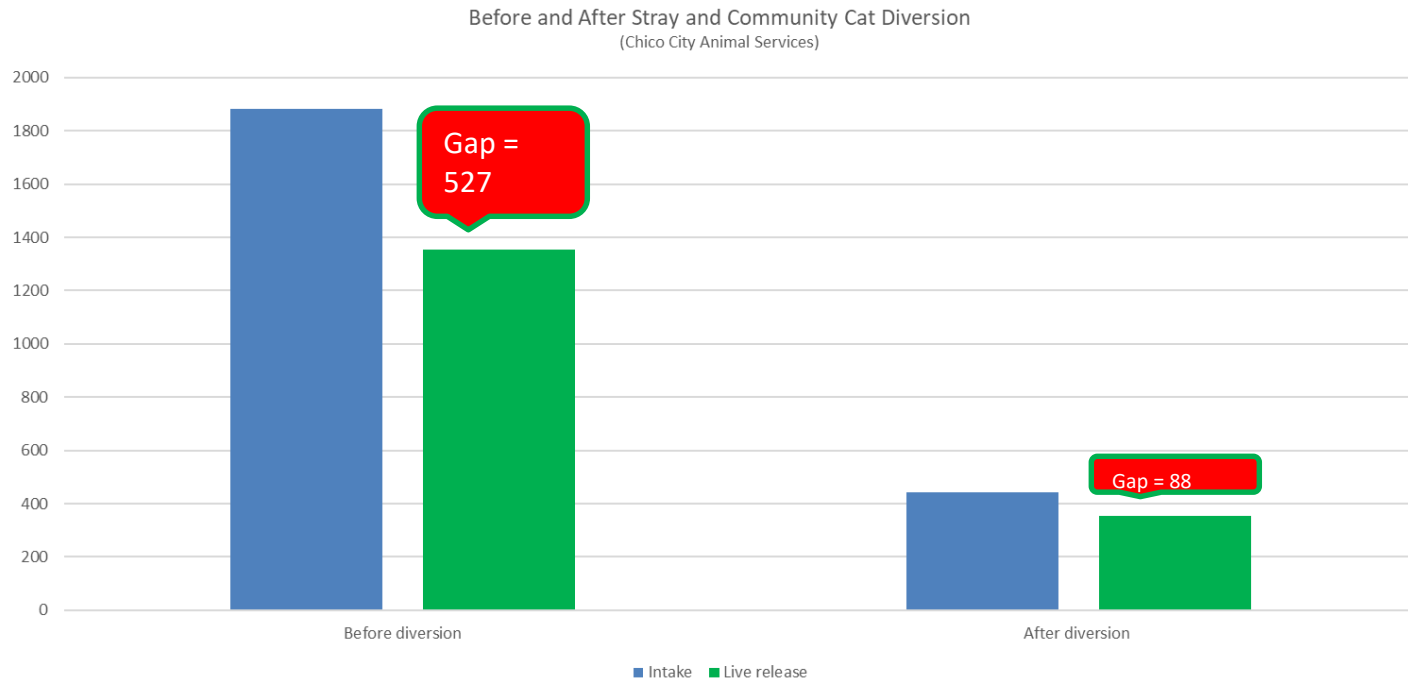
ARM SUEHS/REUTERS

Find homes for the cats that need them

- Most healthy free roaming cats already have homes
- Prioritize alternatives to intake and TNR unless unusual risk
- Prioritize adoptive homes for owner surrender, victims of cruelty/neglect, kittens
- Prioritize barn homes for colony interventions and naughty cats



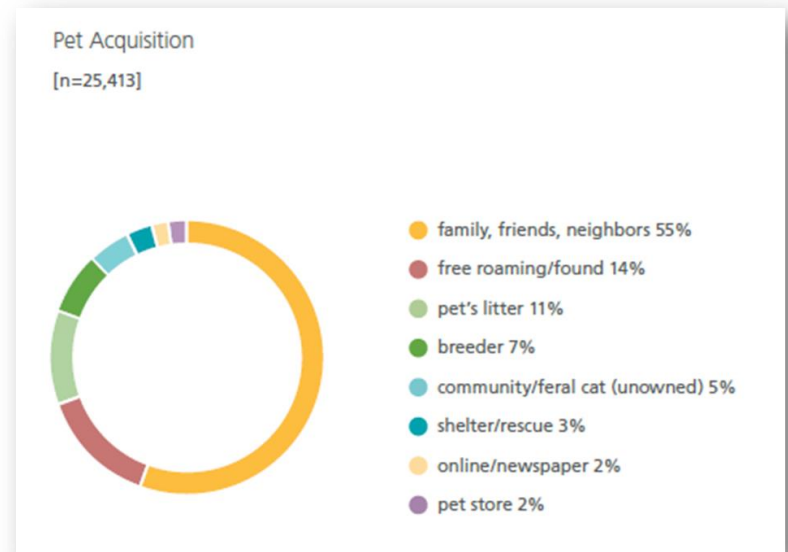
Homes for the cats that *need* them



<https://www.animalsheltering.org/magazine/articles/change-better-chico>

Cats for the *homes* that need them

- Actively seek to adopt spayed/neutered, vaccinated, identified cats at low or no cost to people most at risk for otherwise not getting their cats spay/neutered, vaccinated and identified
- Build relationships to support success
- Break the cycle of birth and intake from highest risk communities



The difference between theory and experience

Why should I neuter my cat?
Getting your cat done is good for them... and you! Why? Read on...



The infographic is a vertical poster with a light blue background. It features six circular icons with orange and blue illustrations. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font. The top section is titled 'Why should I neuter my cat?' in bold blue text. Below it is a subtitle 'Getting your cat done is good for them... and you! Why? Read on...'. The six icons are arranged in two rows of three. The first row icons show a cat with a bandage, a cat with a stethoscope, and a cat in a car. The second row icons show a cat with a clock, a cat with a stethoscope, and a cat with a stethoscope. Below the icons are four circular callouts with text. At the bottom is a blue banner with white text.

- Your cat will fight less, meaning fewer injuries and therefore lower vet bills
- They're less likely to get diseases through mating and the risk of cancers is reduced
- Your neutered male is less likely to roam, so there's less chance he'll be hit by a car
- Got a female cat? No more being woken up by her wailing when she's in heat!
- Kittens are very cute but hard work. Their care takes time, effort and money!
- Neutered males are less likely to spray smelly urine in your house and garden

Cats can breed from four months of age

Cats will mate with their brothers, sisters and parents

Did you know?

- One unneutered female can be responsible for 20,000 descendants in just five years
- Cats don't need 'just one litter' before being spayed

Want to know more?
Neuter your cat at four months of age or younger.
Visit www.cats.org.uk/neutering or speak to your vet for advice.
Call our Neutering helpline on 03000 12 12 12 to find out if you're eligible for a voucher. It's kinder to neuter.

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Added bonus

Association between a shelter-neuter-return program and cat health at a large municipal animal shelter

Charlotte H. Edinboro DVM, PhD

Heather N. Watson PhD

Anne Fairbrother DVM, PhD

From Health Sciences Practice (Edinboro) and Statistical and Data Sciences Practice (Watson), Exponent Inc, 149 Commonwealth Dr, Menlo Park, CA 94025; and EcoSciences Practice, Exponent Inc, 15375 SE 30th Pl, Ste 250, Bellevue, WA 98007 (Fairbrother).

Address correspondence to Dr. Edinboro (cedinboro@exponent.com).

OBJECTIVE

To determine effects of a shelter-neuter-return (SNR) program on admissions and health at a large municipal animal shelter in Northern California.

DESIGN

Retrospective cohort

ANIMALS

117,383 cats for Center database

PROCEDURES

Shelter records v intake and outcome over the 8-year period March 8, 2010.

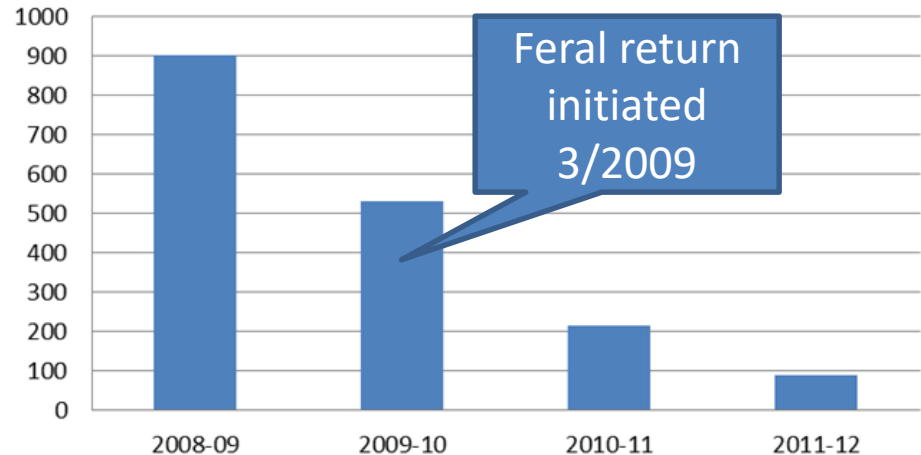
RESULTS

Number of cats over 8 years; beginning euthanized decreased 34.9% (11,999/34, increased from 5.1 from 6 to 5 days cats. With implementation for cats with URI, cost savings.

CONCLUSION

Initiation of the SNR program resulted in fewer cats being admitted to the shelter and with a briefer shelter stay. (J Am Vet Med Assoc 2016;248:298–308)

Cats euthanized for URI



Bottom line

- There is no biologically plausible basis to suggest that shelter euthanasia, as currently practiced in North America, benefits birds or other wildlife, reduces public health risks, or decreases cat abandonment or suffering
- There is no credible scenario under which our society would finance or tolerate the methods to eradicate cats on the scale necessary to meaningfully reduce populations

Speaking of spaying...

- Consider spay/neuter/adopt for kittens at *robust* 1.5 pounds
 - Especially if foster care is stretched
 - A home is often better than even a good shelter nursery
 - No scientific basis for 2 lb tradition
 - Weight/week rule is not exact
 - 1.5 lbs often 8 weeks
 - Capitalize on max cuteness and bypass foster in some cases



Check out the
ASV Spay/neuter
guidelines!

What about dogs?

- Housing
- LOS
- Behavior evaluations?
- RTO
 - Are practices shaping the right path?
- Adoptions
 - Conversation vs. interrogation

Behavioral care: don't

- Don't waste precious hours doing formal assessments that may not be predictive
- Dog bottlenecks can impact everyone



Behavior evaluation is an ongoing activity



- Surrender/finder info
- Intake treatments
- Daily monitoring of ins, outs and demeanor
- Interactions with people and animals
- More formal evaluation when warranted

Playgroups



- Allow for enrichment and assessment
- Shows adopters what they love to see
- May increase certain risks while dramatically reducing others
- Think back to infectious dose

A critical component



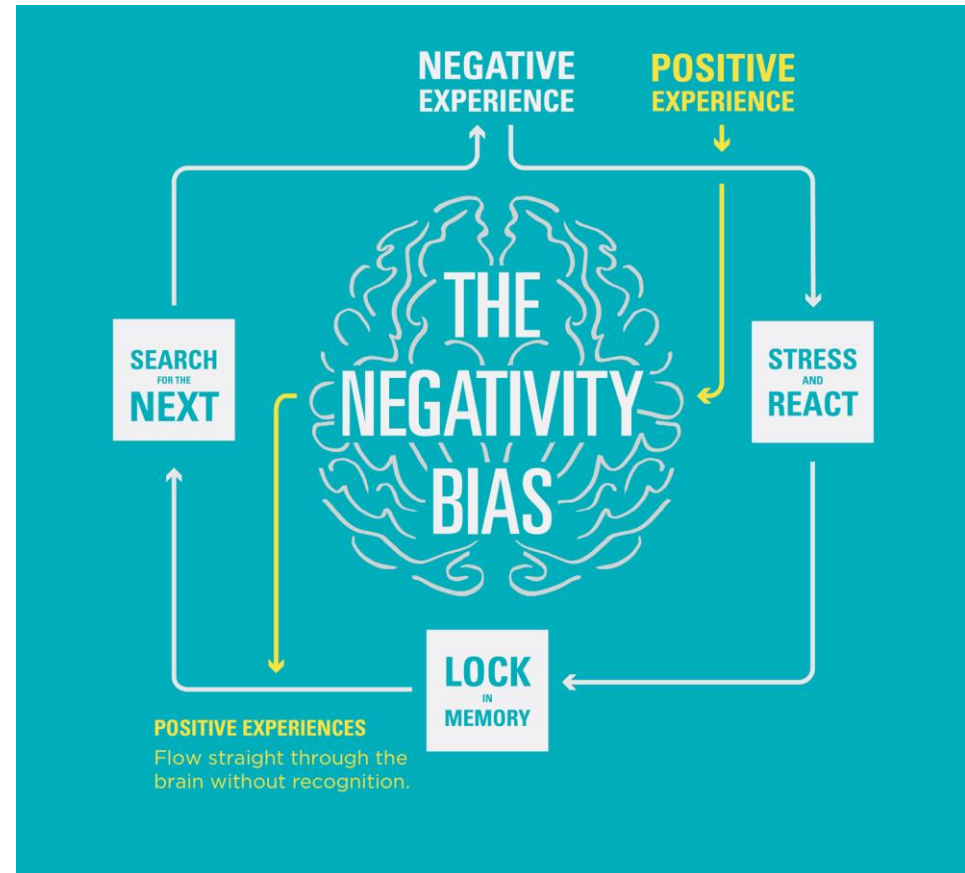
**is open and honest
communication**



“ Our negative experiences stick to us like Velcro, while our positive experiences slide right off us like Teflon. ”

~ ***Dr Rick Hanson: American Neuropsychologist & Author of Hardwiring Happiness***

As humans, we are prone to a strong negativity bias where we place much more weight to negative feedback than to positive.





Adoption Principles

- Our job is to find animals homes. If not from us, then where are they getting animals? Will they have our support and resources to help them retain that animal in the home?
- Using non-judgmental language and having an open mind is critical.

KNOWLES'

4 PRINCIPLES OF ANDRAGOGY

1 INVOLVED ADULT LEARNERS

Adults need to be involved in the planning and evaluation of their instruction.



2 ADULT LEARNERS' EXPERIENCE

Experience (including mistakes) provides the basis for the learning activities.



In 1984,
Knowles suggested
4 principles that are
applied to **adult learning**:

4 PROBLEM-CENTERED

Adult learning is problem-centered rather than content-oriented.
(Kearsley, 2010)



3 RELEVANCE & IMPACT TO LEARNERS' LIVES

Adults are most interested in learning subjects that have immediate relevance and impact to their job or personal life.



Respect

Adults are more open to learning new things when they are acknowledged for the wisdom, skills and resources they bring to the new situation.

To show respect in a learning environment, acknowledge people for:

- Who they are
- What they know and do
- What they bring to the present situation.



Immediacy

Retention = Useful Application Immediately

Know something about your learners so that you can point out how they can put the information you present to use - right away - in their situations.

"Do you already have a plan for how you'd like your first night with your new puppy to go?" •

"What else can I help you with to get your relationship with your new cat off on the right foot?"



Relevance

=

“Why do we have to know this?”

To ensure relevance in a learning environment, ask people what they would like to learn and how that information will be useful to them. Then you can work together to find the answers to their questions.

Sometimes people don't know what they don't know. In such cases, you can help the adult learner to take in new information by explaining how the information will be useful in their lives.



Safety

A safe learning environment is:

- Supportive,
- Free from threat of physical or emotional harm
- Meets at least some of the learners' needs for concentration (not too loud or chaotic, etc.) and comfort (not too warm or cold, ample seating, etc.).

Look for:

- Opportunities to praise learners for their accomplishments
- Ways to correct mistakes that help people retain their dignity

Safety doesn't mean there will be no challenge or no corrections; it means only that there will be no dumb questions.





10%
of what they
HEAR

80%
of what they
SEE and DO

20%
of what they
READ

Engagement

People learn best when they are actively involved in acquiring the information.

Active involvement can include:

- Practicing a new skill right away
- Using new information to solve a problem
- Having a meaningful dialogue about the ramifications of the information

To reach that 80% of retention – to really engage your learners – look for ways to get your learners to do something (right then and there) with the information you're providing.

**“Tell me
and I forget.
Teach me
and I remember.
Involve me
and I learn.”**

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Deciding how many

Adoption Driven Capacity: Your shelter's key to saving lives and providing great care

What is the perfect number of animals to have up for adoption at any one time?

We know from the retail world that this is a critical question, all the more so when we're dealing with living, feeling beings. Too few animals for adoption and willing adopters may walk out of the shelter empty-handed because they couldn't find the pet of their dreams.

Too many animals for adoption and costs and length of stay are needlessly increased, conditions for care may be compromised, and in the worst case scenario adopters are so overwhelmed by choices that they don't take any animal home at all.

Just the right number, and welfare and health are maximized while cost is minimized, more animals are served over time, and everybody wins!

We know which of these three options we want, but how do we determine that elusive "just right" number? To help each shelter answer this question, we've developed this article and the associated [Adoption-Driven Capacity \(ADC\) Calculator](#). We hope these tools are useful for you!

<http://www.millioncatchallenge.org/resources/capacity-for-care/adoption-driven-capacity>

Thank you!!



clkarsten@ucdavis.edu