

City of Los Angeles: No-Kill Plan

January 2010



**ANIMAL
SERVICES**

PRESENTED TO:

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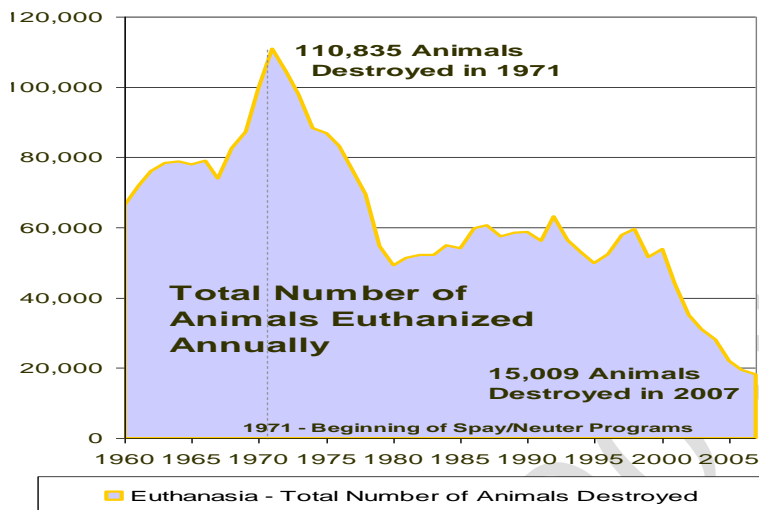
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(No-Kill is defined as when a municipal shelter no longer kills healthy or treatable pets due to a lack of resources.)

The City of Los Angeles has come a long way towards achieving “No-Kill” over the past forty years. In 1971 Los Angeles killed 110,835 dogs and cats. That was the worst year of killing in LA history and it caused an awakening among civic leaders that led to the City of Los Angeles becoming the first municipality in the United States to fund spaying and neutering for resident pet owners.

City efforts culminated in the lowest euthanasia rate achieved in 2007 when 15,009 animals were euthanized. That represents an 86% decrease in killing.

ANIMALS EUTHANISED BY YEAR



However, the 2008 euthanasia rate for dogs and cats rose 30% compared to 2007, stalling the long-standing trend of impressive annual double digit decreases. As of this writing, the 2009 euthanasia rate will be equal to or slightly greater than 2008.

While the years 2006 through 2009 represent the four lowest euthanasia rates in the City’s history, the recent upward trend is troubling and suggests new thinking and new programs are needed.

In the drive to achieve No-Kill there are two commonly recognized hurdles to overcome. A community’s initial progress towards No-Kill usually stalls when its pet euthanasia rate is reduced to between 12 and 10 shelter killings per 1,000 human residents annually (13.8 is the current national average¹).

Once a community achieves this rate, further significant reductions are stalled until aggressive spay/neuter programs designed to achieve further euthanasia reduction goals are implemented. With effective, targeted spay/neuter programs progress can be resumed.

Clearing the first hurdle becomes apparent after a community has successfully persuaded all the people who are likely to fix their pets to do so. Los Angeles has substantially done this and the challenge today is to persuade the more difficult populations², which include:

1. The poor,
2. The elderly on fixed income,
3. Individuals with negative attitudes about spay/neuter,
4. People who speak languages other than English, and
5. People who live in relatively remote or underserved areas.

¹ ANIMAL PEOPLE 16th Annual Evaluation of the most recent available shelter data

² Ibid.

The hurdle before Los Angeles' quest to achieve No-Kill is characterized as "the wall". No major city has ever been able to break through "the wall". A community hits "the wall" when it reduces its pet euthanasia rate to between 5 and 2.5 shelter killings per 1,000 human residents annually. In 2007, Los Angeles reduced its euthanasia rate to 3.7. However, in 2008 it was up to 5, and available data shows that it may be slightly higher in 2009.

Hitting "the wall" signifies the success of an earlier generation of programs. However, to break through "the wall" requires a new generation of targeted programs that address the needs of residual populations not met by earlier or existing programs.

From 2001 through 2008, Los Angeles Animal Services impounded 411,873 dogs and cats and euthanized 194,451. That is a 47% euthanasia rate. That equates to 990 deaths per week, 141 deaths per day, or 6 deaths every hour of every day. The cost to taxpayers to administer this program was over \$150 million. An additional \$160 million was spent on new shelters during this same time frame.

Broad spay/neuter efforts were the reason for LA's successful life-saving efforts until now. However, only targeted spay/neuter programs will be responsible for breaking through the "wall" and achieving and sustaining "No-Kill" in Los Angeles. Targeted low and no cost, high-volume spay/neuter efforts will lead to fewer animals entering municipal shelters, allowing more resources to be allocated toward other life-saving programs.

No-Kill can be achieved and sustained; however, to do so will require targeted, affordable:

1. Spay/neuter programs,
2. Accessible wellness and other low cost veterinary services, and
3. Human/animal bonding programs designed to promote pet retention.

This Business Plan promotes strategies designed to effect a sea change in animal welfare in Los Angeles; to not only help the City break through the wall to achieve No-Kill but to ensure this new status is sustained.



COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Achieving No-Kill requires comprehensive data collection, assessment, and implementation of programs targeted to meet the special requirements of human and animal populations most in need. Funding creative and effective ways to reach these populations with programs designed to encourage spay/neuter and pet retention is prerequisite to achieving and sustaining No-Kill.



In the *Community Assessment* chapter, the human populations with the greatest need and the animal populations at greatest risk are identified and then it zeros in on the area in Los Angeles where these two populations live in the greatest numbers.

Then the following chapter, *LA City Data – Animals at Risk*, compares the 2008 Intake and Euthanasia data in Los Angeles to previous years. The data reveals the pet trends and the challenges they signify to achieving No-Kill in Los Angeles.

The animal populations most at risk of being killed in LA City shelters include domestic and feral cats, neonate kittens and Pit Bull breeds. These populations represent the most significant challenge to achieving LA's No-Kill Goal. Chihuahuas represent an emerging, but lesser concern, but one that should not go unnoticed. Monitoring these trends is important to understanding how best to allocate resources to make the most meaningful impact in reducing shelter deaths.

The next chapter, *Human Populations Most in Need*, identifies the human populations with the greatest need of spay/neuter, veterinary and human/animal bonding assistance for their pets. These are the residual populations not met by earlier or existing programs.

Then, in the subsequent section, *Site Selection*, the nexus in Los Angeles where the animals at greatest risk of euthanasia and the pet owners in the greatest need of assistance live in the greatest numbers is identified.

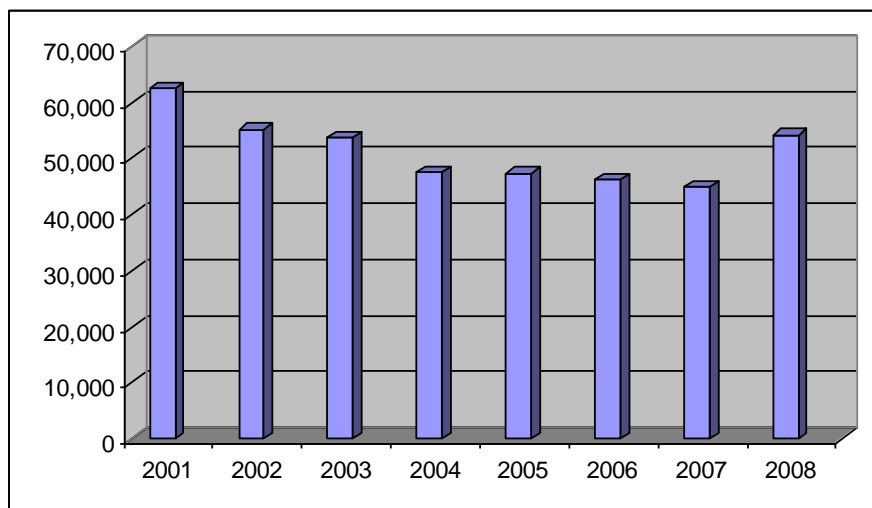
The remainder of the Business Plan describes how targeted programs will measurably reduce the number of pets entering and dying in LA City shelters each year.

LA CITY DATA – ANIMALS AT RISK

All the City of Los Angeles data³ is assessed because LA Animal Services rotates animals throughout its shelter system to afford them the best opportunities for live placement. Therefore, this Business Plan builds on the best practices of LA Animal Services with a goal of reducing the overall intake and euthanasia numbers in LA Animal Services generally and in the South LA Animal Care Center specifically.

Assessment: LA Animal Services saw a 20.5% increase in cat and dog intakes in 2008. Home foreclosures hit new highs and home equity reached new lows as the housing crisis escalated across the United States. The economic crisis in Los Angeles resulted in a sharp increase in the number of pet relinquishments in 2008 and 2009.

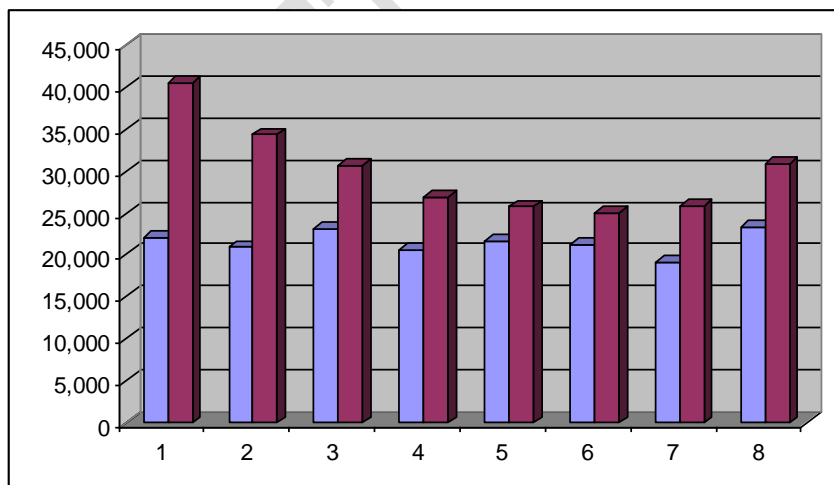
Table 1: Cat and Dog Intake Combined



Cat & Dog Intake	
2001	62,536
2002	55,203
2003	53,722
2004	47,594
2005	47,391
2006	46,272
2007	44,964
2008	54,191

Table 2: Cat and Dog Intake Separated

Blue = Cat Intakes; Red = Dog Intakes: Note – Dogs represent 57% of intakes in 2008; cats represent 43%



Year	Cats	Dogs
2001	22,094	40,442
2002	20,908	34,295
2003	23,117	30,605
2004	20,645	26,949
2005	21,651	25,740
2006	21,273	24,999
2007	19,172	25,792
2008	23,378	30,813

³ Data provided by Los Angeles Animal Services

Cat and Dog Euthanasia Rates

The 2008 euthanasia rate for dogs and cats rose 30% compared to 2007 and the trend continued as of this writing, through the first eleven months of 2009.

Table 3: Annual Cat and Dog Euthanasia Rates

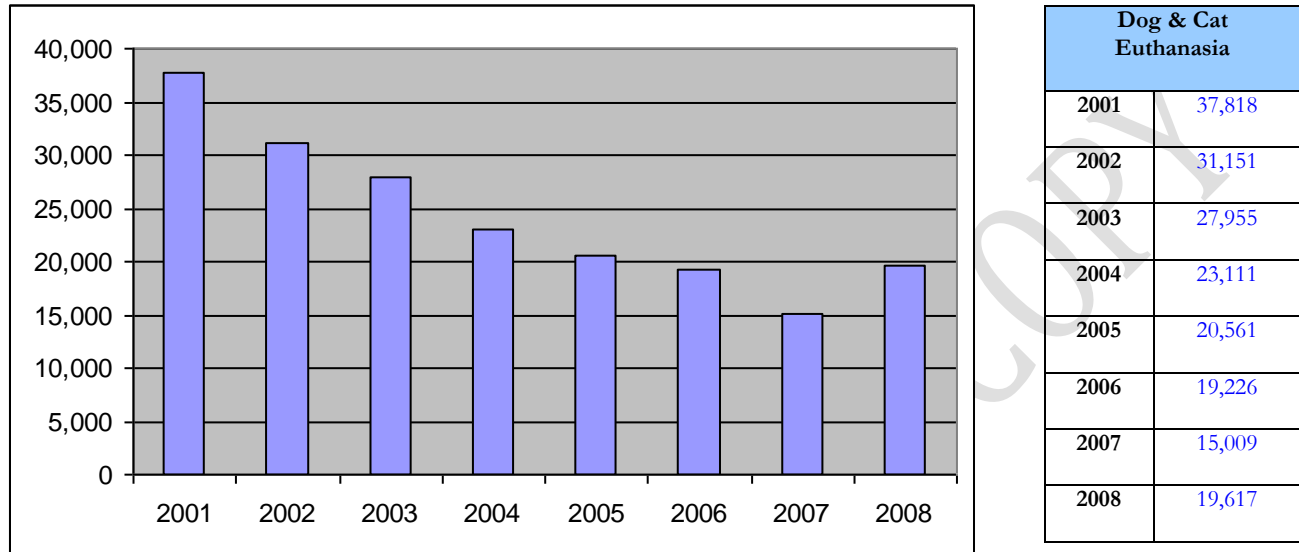
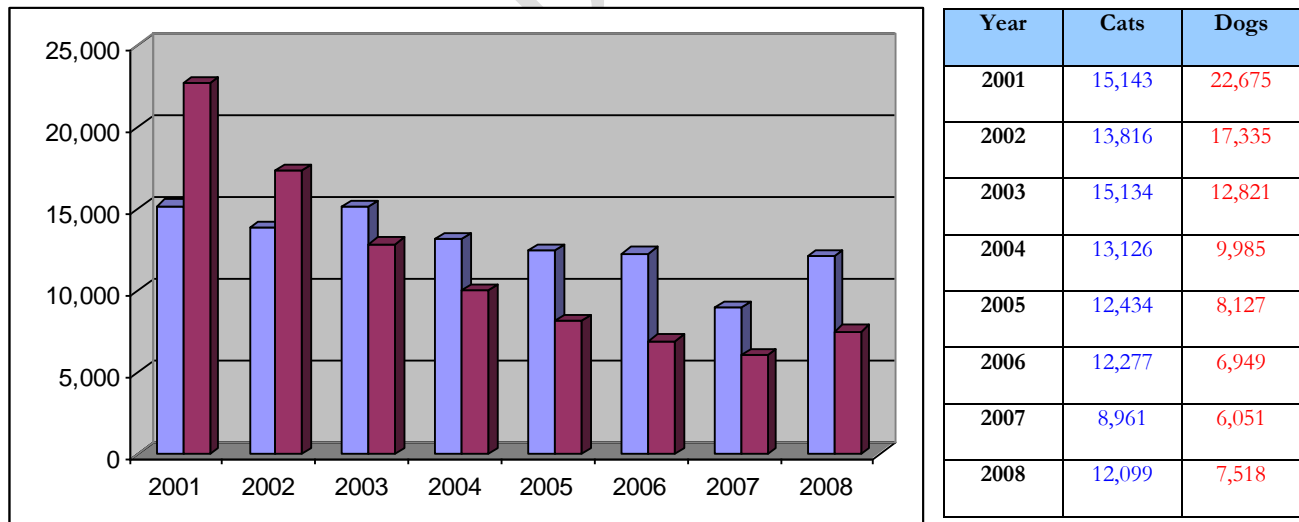


Table 4: Cat and Dog Euthanasia Rates Comparison

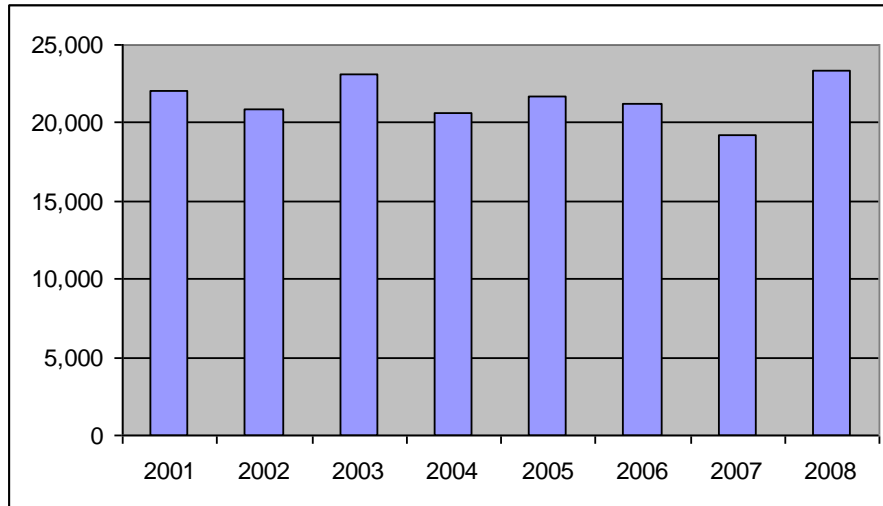
Blue = Cats Euthanized; Red = Dogs Euthanized; Note – While dogs represent 57% of all intakes they represent only 38% of all animals killed. Cats represent 62% of animals killed, but only 43% of all intakes.



Cat Intake Rates

The cat intake rates from 2002 through 2008 demonstrate that the neutering assistance programs funded by the City are not as effective as they could be. To maximize effectiveness requires targeted spay/neuter programs to not only offset the increased intakes caused by the current economic climate but to overcome the long standing stability of the cat intake rate. 2008 saw nearly a 22% increase in the number of cats taken in. The last time the City took in this many cats was in 2003. The unbalanced ratio of cat intakes (38%) to the overall euthanasia rate (62%) makes cats a primary target for spay/neuter efforts.

Table 5: Annual Cat Intake Rates



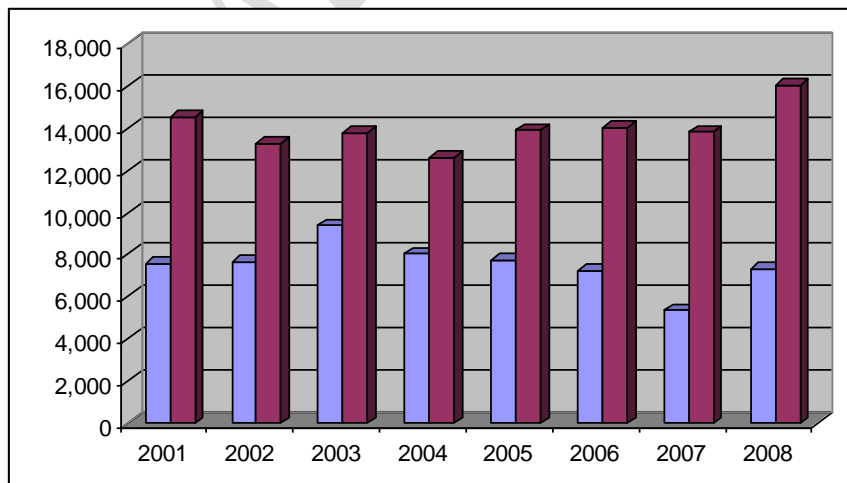
Cat Intakes	
2001	22,094
2002	20,908
2003	23,117
2004	20,645
2005	21,651
2006	21,273
2007	19,172
2008	23,378

Neonate Kitten Intake Rates

Orphaned Neonate Kittens on average represent nearly 40% of all cats taken in by LA Animal Services and is a clear indicator of the free roaming cat problem in LA and the need to target feral and stray cats for spay/neuter. Orphaned Neonate Kittens cannot survive for long without a surrogate mother or foster care-giver. Even then, their mortality rate can be high.

Table 6: Neonate Kitten Intake Rate Compared to Cat Intake Rate

Blue = Neonate Kittens Taken In; Red = Weaned and Adult Cats Taken In

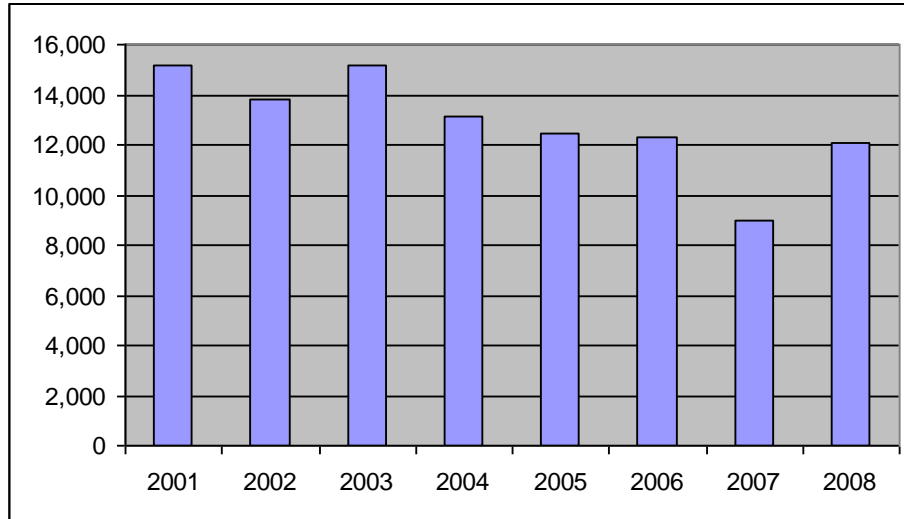


Year	Neonate	Mature
2001	7,574	14,520
2002	7,651	13,257
2003	9,364	13,753
2004	8,027	12,618
2005	7,749	13,902
2006	7,236	14,037
2007	5,355	13,817
2008	7,327	16,051

Cat Euthanasia Rate

The 2008 cat euthanasia rate rose 35%. This follows a steep 2007 decline, the steepest decline in cat euthanasia since the City began collecting this data. The increase in cat euthanasia underscores the fact that cats must remain a primary target for spay/neuter efforts until No-Kill is achieved and sustained.

Table 7: Annual Cat Euthanasia Rates



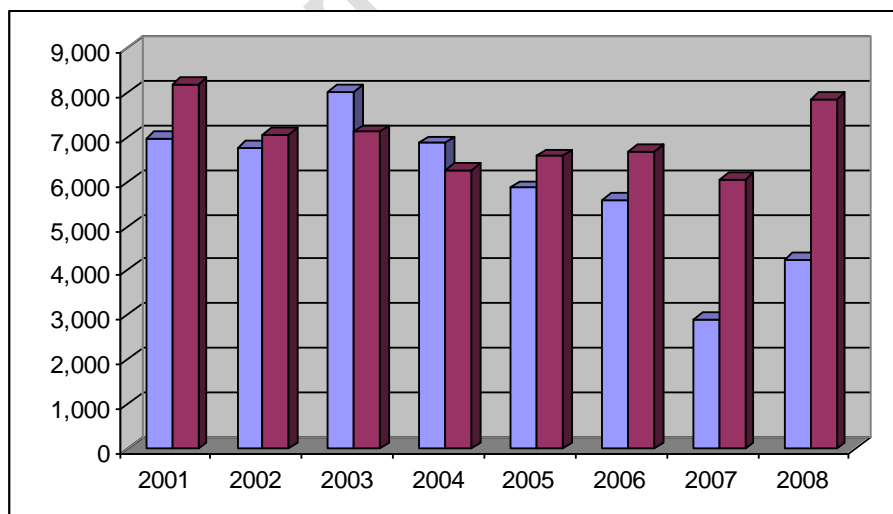
Cat Euthanasia	
2001	15,143
2002	13,816
2003	15,134
2004	13,126
2005	12,434
2006	12,277
2007	8,961
2008	12,099

Euthanasia Rate for Neonate Kittens

The 2008 Neonate Kitten euthanasia rate rose 45%. Neonates represent 35% of the cat euthanasia rate and 22% of the total euthanasia rate. An effective, targeted spay/neuter program will reduce the number of unwanted kittens born only to die in LA shelters.

Table 8: Neonate Kitten Kill Rate Compared to Total Cat Intakes

Blue = Neonate Kittens Euthanized; Red = Weaned and Adult Cats Euthanized



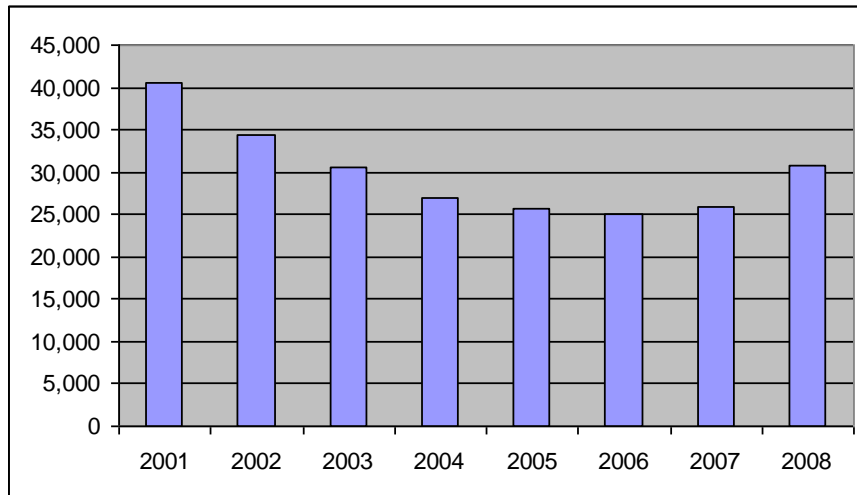
Year	Neonates	Cats
2001	6,959	8,184
2002	6,767	7,049
2003	8,011	7,123
2004	6,866	6,260
2005	5,857	6,577
2006	5,591	6,686
2007	2,918	6,043
2008	4,243	7,856

Dog Intake Rate

LA Animal Services saw a consistent reduction in the number of lost and homeless dogs impounded over the years. This has been the result of an effective dog licensing program that encourages spay/neuter through a differential licensing fee. However, this trend hit the wall in 2008 with a 19.4% increase in the number of dogs taken in. The last time the City took in this many dogs was in 2003.

Pit Bulls taken in increased 41% in 2008 compared to all other dog breeds increasing a total of 20%. This unbalanced intake ratio indicates a continuing need to focus spay/neuter efforts on this group of dog breed and mixes.

Table 9: Annual Dog Intake Rates

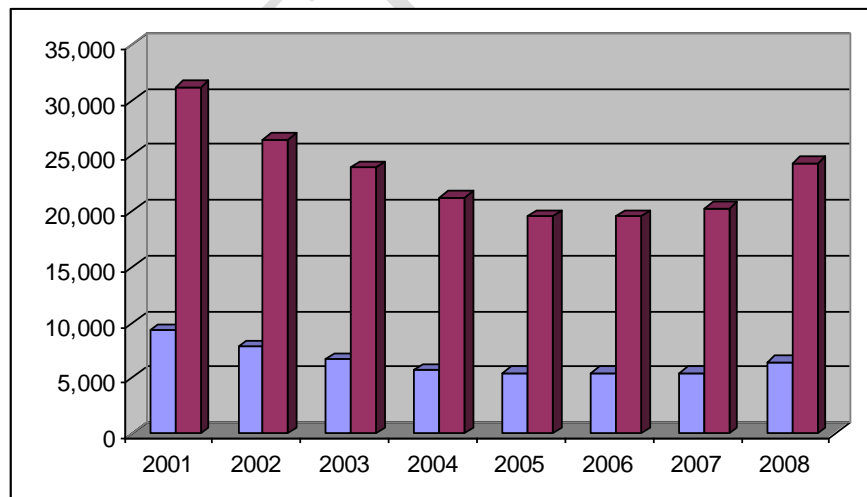


Dog Intake	
2001	40,442
2002	34,295
2003	30,605
2004	26,949
2005	25,740
2006	24,999
2007	25,792
2008	30,813

Pit Bull Intake Rate

Table 10: Pit Bull Intakes Compared to Total Dog Intakes

Blue = Pit Bull and Pit Bull mixes Taken In; Red = All Other Dogs (not including Pit Bulls)

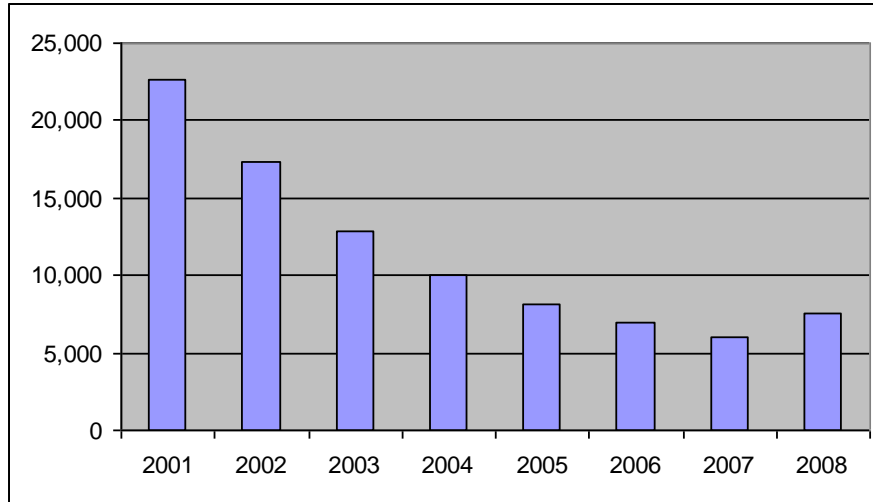


Year	Pit Bulls	Dogs
2001	9,292	31,150
2002	7,825	26,470
2003	6,685	23,920
2004	5,686	21,263
2005	5,469	19,530
2006	5,445	19,554
2007	5,492	20,300
2008	6,429	24,384

Dog Euthanasia Rate

The euthanasia rate for dogs rose 24% in 2008, stalling a long-standing trend of impressive annual double digit decreases. Although 2006 through 2008 represent the three lowest annual euthanasia rates since the City started recording these statistics the recent significant increase in killing in 2008 and 2009 demonstrate the need for a more aggressive and targeted spay/neuter program especially for Pit Bulls who represent 43.6% of all dogs killed.

Table 11: Dog Euthanasia Rates



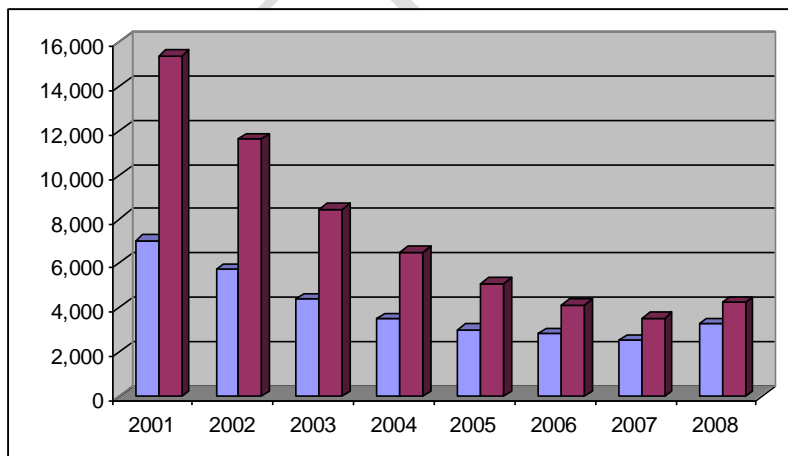
Dog	
2001	22,675
2002	17,335
2003	12,821
2004	9,985
2005	8,127
2006	6,949
2007	6,051
2008	7,518

Pit Bull Euthanasia Rate

The ratio of Pit Bulls euthanized each year compared to total dog euthanasia rates averages nearly 40%; the highest ratio was 44.5% in 2002. It was 43.6% in 2008. San Francisco is currently the only major city in the U.S. experiencing a decline in pit bulls. San Francisco credits local pit bull-targeted spay/neuter for this decline.⁴

Table 12: Pit Bull Euthanasia Rate Compared to Total Dog Euthanasia

Chart Below: Blue = Pit Bulls Euthanized; Red = All Other Dogs



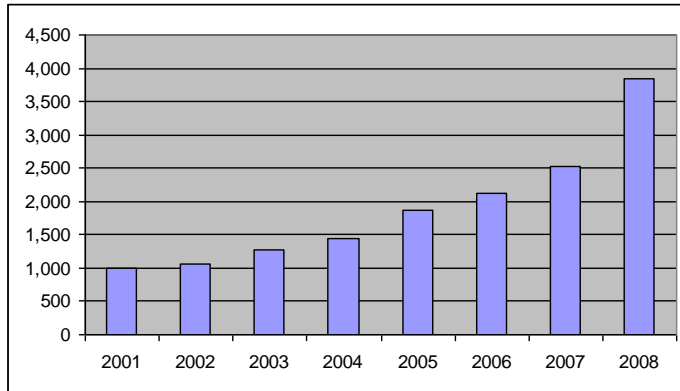
Year	Pit Bulls	Dogs
2001	7,040	15,365
2002	5,716	11,619
2003	4,396	8,425
2004	3,489	6,496
2005	3,027	5,100
2006	2,826	4,123
2007	2,526	3,525
2008	3,279	4,239

⁴ S.F. sterilization law successful in reducing pit bull population by Marisa Lagos, Chronicle Staff Writer, Tuesday, August 28, 2007

Chihuahua Rates

An emerging concern is that LA may be experiencing a *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* “backlash”. The City reports a 14% to 29% increase in Chihuahua intake every year since 2001. However, that rate skyrocketed 53% in 2008.

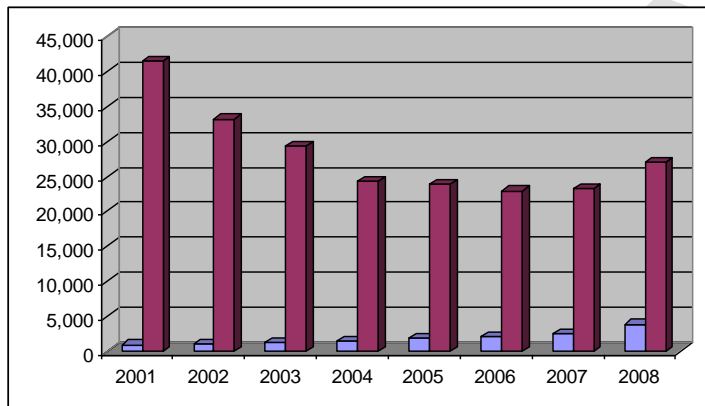
Table 13: Chihuahua Intake Rates



Chihuahuas	
2001	993
2002	1,060
2003	1,273
2004	1,440
2005	1,861
2006	2,128
2007	2,520
2008	3,852

Table 14: Chihuahua Intake Rates Compared to Total Dog Intake

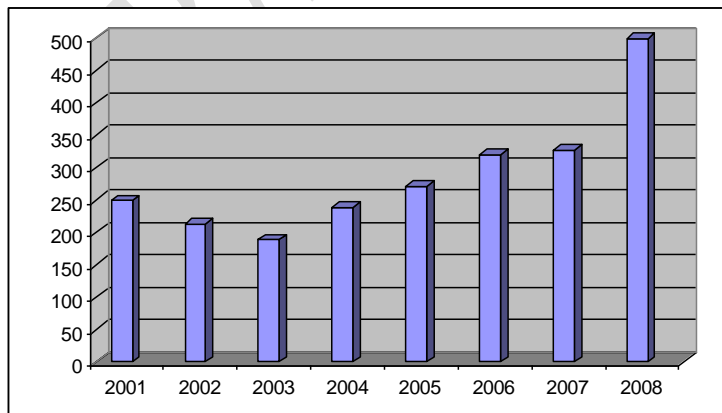
Blue = Chihuahuas; Red = All Dogs except Chihuahuas



Year	Chihuahuas	Dogs
2001	993	41,435
2002	1,060	33,235
2003	1,273	29,332
2004	1,440	24,300
2005	1,861	23,879
2006	2,128	22,871
2007	2,520	23,272
2008	3,852	26,961

Table 15: Chihuahua Euthanasia Rates

2008 saw nearly a 53% increase in Chihuahuas euthanized.



Chihuahua Euthanasia	
2001	249
2002	213
2003	188
2004	239
2005	271
2006	320
2007	327
2008	499

ANIMALS MOST AT RISK

Analysis of the data reveals the animals most at risk of being killed in LA City shelter are cats (domestic, feral and neonates) and Pit Bulls and Pit Bull mixes.

Cats represent 62% of all the animals killed even though they account for only 38% of all animal intakes. Neonate kittens represent 35% of the cat euthanasia rate and 22% of the total euthanasia rate. Neonate kittens are predominantly the progeny of feral and stray cats.

Pit Bulls and Pit Bull mixes represent 43.6% of all dogs killed and 17% of the total euthanasia rate. Pit Bulls taken into LA City shelters increased 41% in 2008 compared to all other dog breeds increasing a total of 20%.

By focusing on breeds identified as Pit Bulls, the Los Angeles kill rate can be reduced by as much as 39% (or 7,650 Pit Bulls annually). That would reduce the LA kill rate to fewer than 12,000 animals annually. This represents an unprecedented low kill rate of 3 animals per 1,000 residents.

When you include the impact that altering feral and stray cats will have it is clear that these programs will significantly reduce city intake and kill rates.

HUMAN POPULATIONS IN NEED

The industry standard for determining a community's euthanasia rate is to calculate the number of dog and cat killings per 1,000 residents annually. In 2008 the City of Los Angeles euthanized 5 dogs or cats for every 1,000 residents. The national average in 2008 was 13.8.⁵ While Los Angeles' euthanasia rate continues to be one of the lowest in the United States the City has been unable to break through the "wall" to achieve and sustain a No-Kill status.

To further reduce shelter euthanasia rates it is important to identify the human and companion animal demographic factors affecting shelter intake rates. Further significant reductions will only be achieved when aggressive, targeted spay/neuter and pet retention programs are implemented that meet the needs of:

1. The poor

A higher local poverty rate, as measured by the percentage of the population living below the federal poverty threshold, has been statistically associated with higher shelter intake rates.⁶

The link between poverty levels and shelter intake rates can be partly explained by the higher pet relinquishment rates of low-income households. In a case-control study of the rates at which pets were relinquished to an Indiana shelter, researchers found that 25.6% of all dogs relinquished to the shelter were from households with annual incomes of less than \$20,000.⁷ At the time, households with incomes of less than \$20,000 made up only 12.3% of the dog-owning households in the county.⁸ Dogs living in households with the lowest incomes faced the greatest risk of relinquishment. Those living in households with annual incomes of less than \$20,000 had the highest relinquishment rate of any income group and more than four times the risk of relinquishment of those living in households with incomes greater than \$75,000 a year.⁹



Cats living in low income households also face a greater risk of being relinquished to a shelter. In the Indiana study, 23.4% of cats relinquished to the shelter came from households with annual incomes of less than \$20,000, while only 12.4% of the county was from households of that income level.¹⁰ Cats living in low income households also faced the greatest risk of relinquishment. Those living in households with incomes of less than \$20,000 a year had the highest relinquishment rate of any income group and more than four times the risk of relinquishment as those living in households with incomes higher than \$75,000 a year.¹¹

Another factor is the lower sterilization rate of cats living in low income households. Low pet sterilization rates in a population are associated with relatively high shelter intake rates. A 2007 national telephone survey found that cats living in U.S. households with annual family incomes of less than \$35,000 were significantly less likely to be sterilized than those living in households with

⁵ ANIMAL PEOPLE'S 16TH Annual Shelter Statistics Report

⁶ Frank, Cross program statistical analysis of Maddie's Fund programs 8.

⁷ Patronek et al. Risk factors for relinquishment of dogs

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Patronek et al. Risk factors for the relinquishment of cats, 586.

¹¹ Ibid.

annual incomes of between \$35,000 and \$75,000 or in households with annual incomes greater than \$75,000.¹² Only 51.4% of cats living in the low income households surveyed were reported to have been sterilized, compared to 90.4% of cats living in the middle-income households and 96.2% of cats living in the upper-income households.¹³ The survey results showed that cats living in low-income households were 26 times more likely to be intact than those living in upper-income households.¹⁴

Cats and dogs living in low-income households surveyed in 2008 for the *2009/2010 American Pet Products Association (APPA) National Pet Owners Survey* were also less likely to be sterilized than those living in middle- and upper-income households.

These data suggest that for a significant number of dog and cat owners, cost is a factor in pet sterilization decisions.

This finding is confirmed by the ASPCA which states, "Cost is one of the primary barriers to spay/neuter surgery in many communities. In fact, low household income and poverty are statistically associated with having a sexually intact cat, with relinquishment of pets to shelters, and with shelter intake. As a result, the proportion of pets from poor communities who are being euthanized in shelters remains high; shelter euthanasia rates in the poorest counties in states including California and New Jersey are several times higher than those in the most affluent counties." ASPCA *Position Statement on Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws*.

2. The elderly on fixed income

Programs to help low-income people sterilize their pets should include elderly people on fixed incomes. The results from targeting elderly people on fixed incomes may be difficult to distinguish from the results from targeting low-income people. Nonetheless, there are important differences between the two groups. Poor people are often young people who are relatively mobile. They don't have hearing problems, so they can be contacted by telephone. Services for older people must include animal transportation and rely on face-to-face communications. Overlooking the importance of either factor can greatly reduce the efficacy of reaching the elder sector.¹⁵



The importance of helping elderly citizens maintain their pets cannot be overstated; efforts benefit the elderly, their pets and society as a whole. Geriatric researchers¹⁶ have found seniors with pets are more active than seniors without pets and they score higher in their ability to carry out normal activities of daily living. Many positive effects on physical well-being have been identified, including a healthy ability to fend off isolation and loneliness. Pet ownership has a "statistically significant effect on the physical health of older people," suggesting the "care-taking role" involved in pet ownership "may provide older people with a sense of purpose and responsibility and encourage them to be less apathetic and more active in day-to-day activities." In fact, researchers found that

¹² Chu K, Anderson WM, & Rieser MY (2009). Population characteristics and neuter status of cats living in households in the United States. *J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.* **234** (8): 1029.

¹³ Chu et al., Population characteristics and neuter status of cats, 1026.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Merritt Clifton, ANIMAL PEOPLE in correspondence with author

¹⁶ Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, March 1999

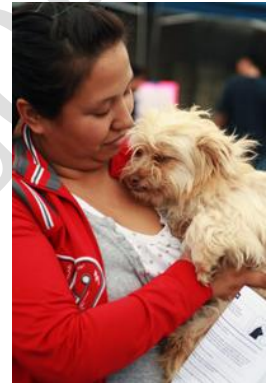
elderly people who lacked strong social support (family and friends) remained relatively emotionally healthy during life-crises compared with non-pet-owners placed in similar situations. Scientific findings demonstrate pets provide real health benefits to the elderly and help elucidate the "complex relationship" between humans and their animal companions.¹⁷

3. Individuals with negative attitudes about spay/neuter

This is a difficult demographic to identify and monitor. There are no known studies assessing methods for overcoming these attitudes, but anecdotally there is no way to deny their existence. Programs should always explore opportunities for quantifying this category.

4. People who speak languages other than English

Wherever there has been consistent efforts to address the Spanish-speaking community, such as in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Jose and Phoenix, drastically lower shelter intake per capita occur compared to places like Albuquerque, Tucson, Houston, and Dallas, where efforts to provide literature and services in Spanish are inconsistent at best and nonexistent at worst. Although the intake numbers are coming down in the latter cities, they are still far behind the U.S. as a whole, and way behind other cities with large Hispanic populations and effective Spanish outreach.¹⁸



The same is true in Canada. Where you find animal services in French, shelter intake numbers are much lower than otherwise. Ironically, this includes Montreal. Most of the spay/neuter information was published in English 20-25 years ago, and Montreal had by far the highest rate of shelter killing in Canada. Getting information distributed in French cut the intake numbers by 75% in a decade -- exactly the result that had already been accomplished in the U.S. and the rest of Canada much earlier.¹⁹

5. People who live in relatively remote or underserved areas

Many animals in these areas may never find their way to a municipal shelter. They may be disposed of in other ways. Nonetheless, if the goal is to reduce pointless killing, then these areas must be served. Sometimes poverty is a problem, sometimes language is a contributing factor, but the biggest problem is often that there just aren't any veterinary services available.

The City of Los Angeles needs to commit to funding and as needed implementing a new generation of targeted programs to address the needs of residual populations not met by earlier or existing programs. The paradigm remains the same: comprehensive data collection, assessment, and the steady implementation of programs targeted to meet identified needs.

This plan focuses on the nexus created among the human populations identified above and the intact cats and bully breed populations identified as most at risk in the City of Los Angeles. Programs must measure effectiveness by tracking and monitoring LA Animal Services' intake and euthanasia rates at the South Los Angeles Animal Care Center specifically as well as within the Department as a whole. The goal is to help measurably and significantly reduce both LA City's Intake and Euthanasia Rates.

¹⁷ Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, March 1999

¹⁸ ANIMAL PEOPLE'S 16 Annual Shelter Statist Report, 2008

¹⁹ Ibid.

SITE SELECTION: IDENTIFYING THE NEXUS - LOCATING THE MOST UNDERSERVED AREA IN LOS ANGELES

The focus for implementing this plan is the South LA Animal Care Center. This location was selected because it is the closest City asset to the center of an area found to be the most underserved region in the City of Los Angeles with respect to high quality, low cost spay/neuter and veterinary services. There are very limited to no services in the targeted zip codes.

South LA

South LA represents a significant nexus. Within its borders we find the most underserved human populations and the most at risk animals in the City of Los Angeles. Historically, South LA refers to the area roughly bounded by the I-10, La Cienega Boulevard, I-105 (Century Freeway), and Alameda Street. This area covers approximately 60 square miles (8 miles from east to west and 7 miles from north to south) and includes parts of the City of Los Angeles, Inglewood, and unincorporated areas served by Los Angeles County.

Altogether, South LA accounts for nearly 10% of the total population (nearly 885,000 persons) living in Los Angeles County. With such a large population, South LA would rank as the fourth largest city in California – over twice as large as Oakland.



The Watts Towers
by architect Simon Rodia
National Historic Landmark

South LA is characterized in the popular media as predominately Black and is associated with poverty, crime, unemployment, welfare dependency, and overall urban decline. However, this characterization belies the heterogeneity and complexity of the area, which is composed of numerous neighborhoods that range from solid middle class to underclass. In the hopes of lessening negative portrayals, the City of Los Angeles changed the name from South Central to South LA in 2003. However, this name change may have had an unintended consequence, the loss of a historical identity as a place (Leovy, 2008). South LA is an area with an emerging identity, but its popular image remains ambiguous:²⁰

- South LA contains less than 10% of the County population; however, the area contains a higher concentration of minorities, persons below 18 years of age, and individuals and children living below the poverty line than the County at large. South LA also has lower homeownership rates than Los Angeles County, although South LA shows significant heterogeneity across neighborhoods.
- The observed lower socioeconomic status of South LA residents is related, in part, to the community's economic disadvantage in the labor market. Because of low educational attainment, a large percent of those living in South LA lack the skills necessary to acquire and hold economically rewarding employment. Many are unemployed, and a high percent of workers earn less than \$10,000 annually. Both of these outcomes are likely related to the lower number of job opportunities within South LA.
- Homeownership rates vary widely within South LA, although the community has an overall rate lower than the County. Home prices and price increases are more consistent. Homes in South LA

²⁰ The State of South Los Angeles: a UCLA report examining the current state of South Los Angeles (South LA) in five key areas: demographics, public safety, education, housing, and employment

generally sold for less than the County median in the first quarter of 2008. Between 2000 and 2007, however, values rose faster there than in other areas in the County, a trend that led new homeowners to build negative equity; putting them at greater risk of foreclosure. Currently, South LA has a higher default and foreclosure rate than the typical community in the County.

- Overall property crime rate in South LA closely mirrored the County rate; whereas, violent crimes per 1,000 persons in South LA are twice as high with significant variation within the community. The characteristics of crime victims vary by crime type. Younger Black and Hispanic males were more affected by violent crimes than other groups in 2006. On the other hand, property crime victims were more likely to be older, although equally likely to be male or female.
- Sixteen of the 51 charter elementary schools in LA County are in South LA. Despite a large proportion of the population, Hispanic/Latino elementary children in South LA are much less likely to be enrolled in charter schools than African American children. Average API (Academic Performance Index) scores also suggest that charter elementary schools in South LA are outperforming their traditional counterparts.

South LA defines a unique community that differs in numerous ways from Los Angeles County as a whole. South LA largely consists of minority persons who are among the poorest in the County. Research suggests that many live in some of the worst housing conditions in the County (see Leavitt and Heskin 1993). South LA is also a community in transition, changing from a majority White population in the early 20th century to a largely Black population in the mid-20th century to a majority Hispanic population by the close of the century. These changes have created significant racial tensions alongside increased economic distress.

South LA Demographics

The demographic composition of South LA presented comes from data in the 2000 Decennial Census and 2006 American Community Survey. GIS (geographic information system) analysis of information, from these two sources, reveals neighborhood variation in the distribution of dependent persons (those less than 18 years old and those 65 years and older), race/ethnicity, nativity, poverty, and housing tenure. Consideration of these characteristics provides greater understanding into why the South LA Animal Care Center need to be the focus of LA's new generation of programs.

Population

As of 2006, approximately 884,000 persons (10% of the County population) live in South LA. During 2000 to 2006, South LA grew more rapidly than Los Angeles County as a whole (9% versus 5%), posting nearly double the County population growth rate.

Relative to the County, South LA has a slightly larger dependent population (39% versus 37% countywide in 2006), although the percent of dependent persons declined more than in the overall County during 2000 and 2006 (3% decline versus 1% decline countywide). The dependent population living in South LA largely consists of those under the age of 18, and those under 18 comprise a much higher percent of the dependent population than in Los Angeles County (32% versus 27% across the County). Those 65 and older account for 7% of the population in South LA and 10% of the County population. Spatial analysis reveals a high concentration of persons under 18 in the eastern portion of South LA and a clustering of persons 65 and over in the western portion of South LA, although the latter cluster is not as pronounced as the former.

Race/Ethnicity

Over the past century, the racial/ethnic mix of South LA has changed from predominately White to Black to Hispanic/Latino. Since the late 20th century, minorities have made up a majority of the South LA population. In contrast, no racial/ethnic group comprises a majority of the Los Angeles County population, although Hispanics/Latinos come close, accounting for 47% of the total County population.

In 2006, the racial/ethnic mix of South LA relative to the County was: 62% Hispanic/Latino (versus 47% countywide); 31% Black (versus 9% countywide); 3% White (versus 29% countywide); 2% Asian/Pacific Islander (versus 13% countywide); and 2% other (versus 2% countywide). While Blacks do not account for the largest share of the population living in South LA, Blacks are the mostly highly overrepresented racial/ethnic group with about three times more Blacks living in South LA than in the County overall.

Nativity

As in Los Angeles County as a whole, almost 40% of persons living in South LA are foreign born. The percent of non-native persons did not change significantly between 2000 and 2006. Both of these findings suggest that the minorities living in South LA largely are not immigrants. This is somewhat surprising given that a higher percent of Hispanics/Latinos live in South LA than in the County as a whole.

Poverty

The poverty rate in South LA is two times the poverty rate for Los Angeles County as a whole (30% versus 15% in 2006). Both within South LA and across the County, poverty rates declined by an equal percent during 2000 and 2006 (from 33% in South LA and 18% countywide in 2000).

Children (those under 18) in South LA also are more likely to live in poverty than children in the overall County (32% versus 27% countywide in 2006). While the percent of children living below the poverty line in South LA fell (from 41% in 2000) during 2000 and 2006, the percent of children living in poverty countywide rose (from 24% in 2000).²¹

Spatial analysis of overall poverty rates reveal a high concentration of persons living below the poverty line in the eastern portion of South LA, with rates ranging from 30% to 40%. These same neighborhoods show a high concentration of persons under 18 and of Hispanics/Latinos, which suggests that these two populations may be most adversely affected by the observed concentration of poverty.

Summary

South LA has little in the way veterinary services, and it contains a higher concentration of individuals living below the poverty line than the County as a whole. South LA also contains significant pockets of senior citizens and non-English speakers - making the South LA Center an ideal base for achieving its mission.

²¹ For 2000, South LA and LA County poverty rates are based on the population for whom poverty status is determined (all people except institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old). For 2006, South LA and LA County poverty rates are calculated based on the total population and child poverty rates are calculated based on the total number of persons below 18 years of age (since the number of persons for whom poverty status is calculated is not available). This biases poverty rates downward. Thus, it is unclear whether poverty actually declined between 2000 and 2006: THE STATE OF SOUTH LA by Paul Ong, Theresa Firestone, Deirdre Pfeiffer, Oiyen Poon, and Linda Tran, UCLA School of Public Affairs August 2008

Impound Statistics in Portion of Targeted Area

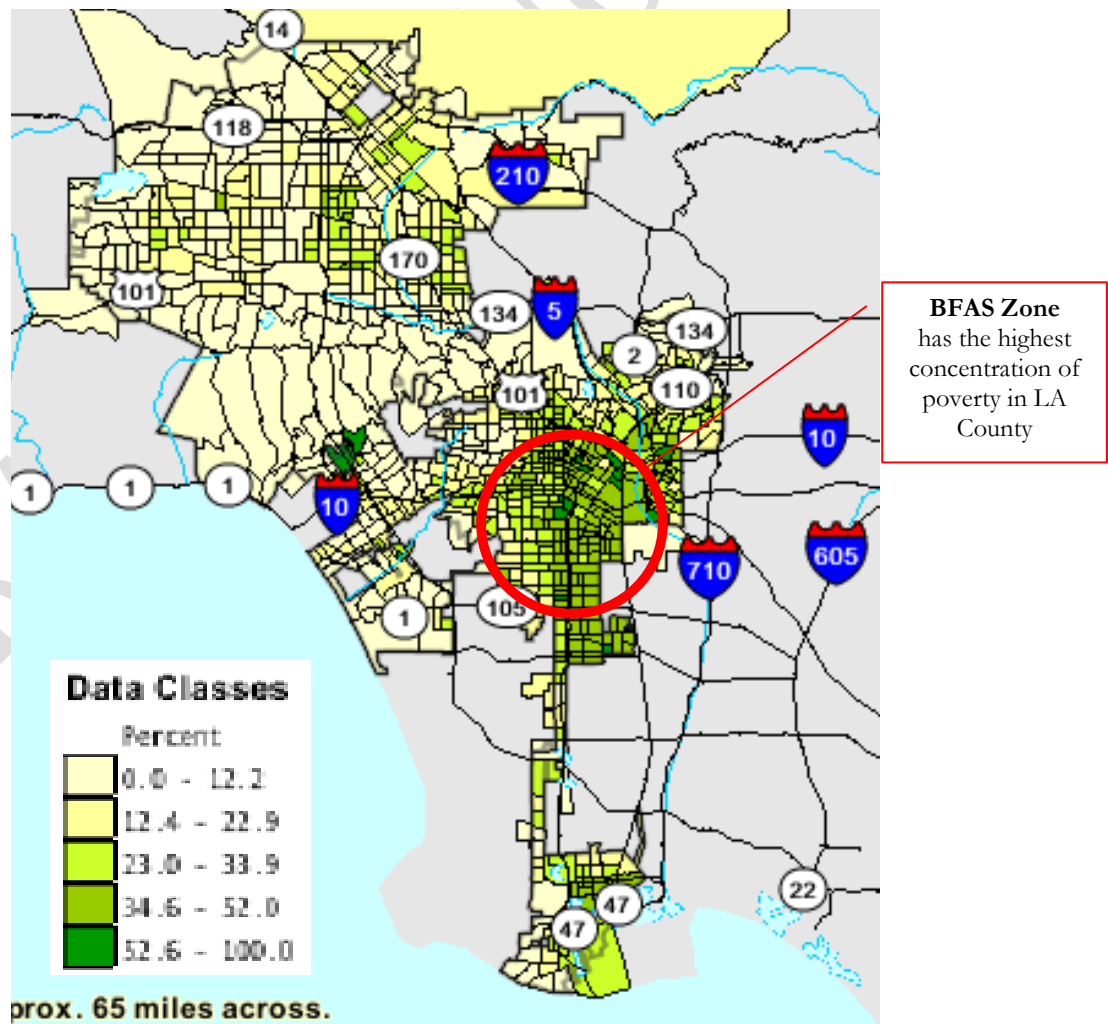
The focus is primarily to serve all of Los Angeles City Districts 8, 9, 10 and portions of 1 and 14 and other surrounding areas. The chart below shows the zip codes within these Districts which have the highest impound rates in the LA Metro area. The total number of animals impounded by LA Animal Services in these 15 zip codes (13,001) represents 24% of all the animals (54,177) impounded from all 195 LA City zip codes in FY 08/09. Impounds have increased nearly 20% since these numbers were collected.

Rank	Zip Code	Impounds	Location
1	90011	1,289	SLA
2	90042	1,124	North Central
3	90031	1,029	North Central
4	90032	1,020	North Central
5	90044	948	SLA
6	90037	921	SLA
7	90003	906	SLA
8	90018	868	SLA
9	90033	868	SLA
10	90062	736	SLA
11	90016	711	SLA
12	90026	682	North Central
13	90023	646	SLA
14	90043	638	SLA
15	90019	615	SLA
Total	15 Zip Codes	13,001 Impounds	= 24% of all animals impounded by LA Animal Services in all 195 Los Angeles City zip codes

The primary service area includes:

District	Estimated Resident Population*	Estimated Households*
1	254,930	79,523
8	251,290	83,776
9	248,292	69,438
10	256,667	94,173
14	236,014	70,523
Totals	1,247,193	397,433
*Estimated Resident Populations and Households by District provided by the Los Angeles Planning and Demographic Research Unit (December 2009)		

Chart Below: Percent of Persons Below the Poverty Level in 1999: 2000
Universe: Total population - Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data
Los Angeles City, California by Census Tract



IMPORTANCE OF TARGETED PROGRAMS

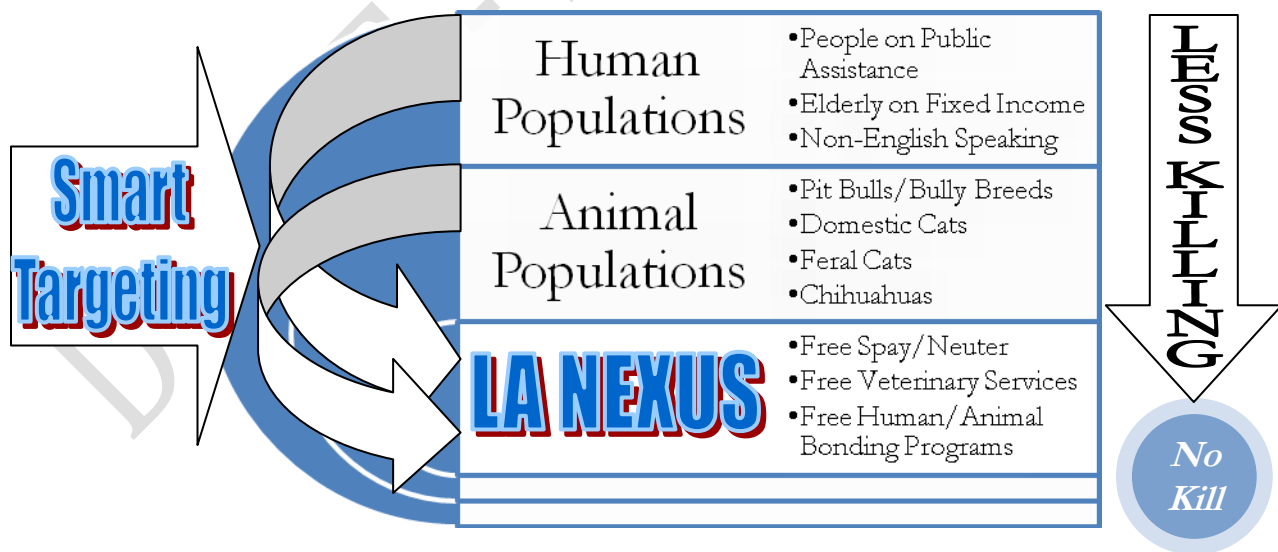
The City of Los Angeles offers subsidized sterilization programs that are open to all residents regardless of income level. The reasoning is that a financial discount provides an incentive to pet owners who can afford the procedure but would not have it done otherwise. However, available data does not support this approach but instead points to the efficacy of targeted programs.

For instance, a study of California shelter euthanasia rates in 1995 found that the number of dogs and cats euthanized were almost three times greater in the state's poorest counties (10.14 percent of the total estimated household dog and cat population in those counties) than in the richest counties (3.39 percent).²²

An analysis of New Jersey data from 1998 found a similarly strong correlation between poverty rates and euthanasia rates: the poorest quartile of counties had a shelter euthanasia rate of 10.8 dogs and cats per 1,000 people; the richest quartile had a euthanasia rate of 2.9 per 1,000 people.²³

The cat intake rates in Los Angeles from 2002 through 2008 demonstrate that the neutering assistance programs funded by the City were not as effective as they could have been. Effectiveness requires targeted spay/neuter programs. This is especially important to offset the increased intake and killing rates caused by the current economic climate. 2008 saw nearly a 22% increase in cat intakes and a 35% increase in cat euthanasia. In the same year, dog intakes increased 19.4% and dog euthanasia increased 24%. There was a 41% increase in the number of Pit Bulls impounded and Pit Bulls accounted for 43.6% of all dogs killed.

The successes of smart, targeted spay/neuter programs in other communities compared to the unbalanced and escalating intake ratios and euthanasia rates resulting from Los Angeles City programs demonstrate the need to rethink our approach to achieving No-Kill. The time has come in Los Angeles for a new generation of programs focused on the nexus of residual human and animal populations identified below.



²² Animal Control Management: A Guide for Local Governments, 2002: by International City/County Management Association

²³ Ibid.

ANALYSIS OF PET OVERPOPULATION SOLUTIONS

The most reliable way to achieve No-Kill in Los Angeles is to model our efforts on successful programs elsewhere.

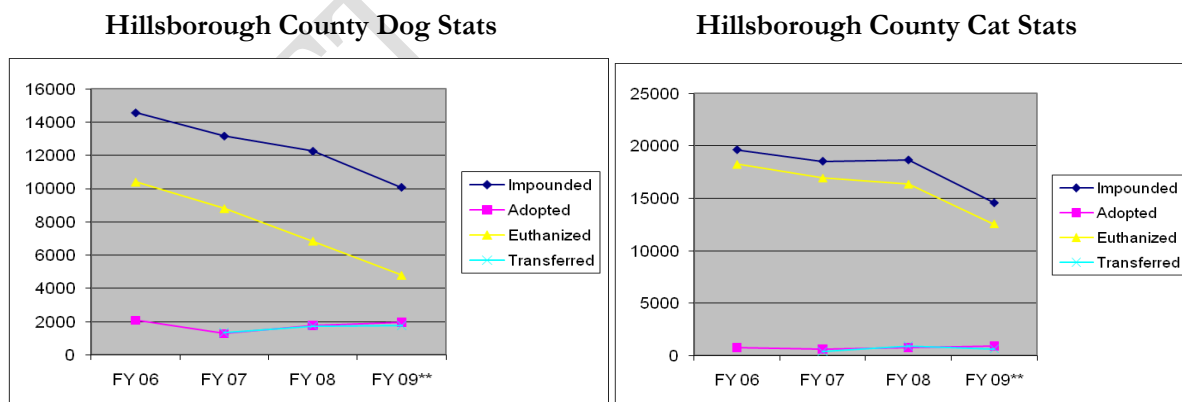
The State of New Hampshire reduced municipal shelter intake 33.6% between '93 and '00 by spaying or neutering five pet dogs or cats belonging to residents on Public Assistance per 1,000 residents per year.²⁴ The euthanasia rate declined 75% during this same six year period.²⁵ Prior to this targeted spay/neuter program New Hampshire's euthanasia rate had been relatively stable at between 9.4 and 10.9 dogs and cats euthanized each year per 1,000 residents. New Hampshire's euthanasia rate has hovered at 2.4 and 2.3²⁶ dogs and cats per every 1,000 residents since implementing targeted spay/neuter programs. This rate has been sustained even as New Hampshire's human population increased 11.4 percent.

New Hampshire's success inspired the idea that altering 5 pets belonging to households on "public assistance" per 1,000 residents is the key to reducing any community's intake and euthanasia rates. Unfortunately, few communities have ever been able to even approach this volume of surgeries of pets living in households that receive Public Assistance.

Hillsborough County (Tampa) was the first large jurisdiction after New Hampshire to come close to achieving that rate. In FY '09 they did 5,798 "Public Assistance" surgeries, almost 5 per 1,000. In years past, programs in the State of Alabama and Jacksonville, Florida achieved 4 per 1,000 but never reached five.

A study on the impact of targeted "Public Assistance" surgeries found that when a volume approaching 5 surgeries per 1,000 residents is sustained for 6 years the total intake of dogs and cats at local shelters will decline 25%²⁷ with a commensurate decrease in killing.

During the first five years after a spay/neuter program started in 2003 in Hillsborough County, FL, intakes declined 21.9% despite local population growth of about 10%. Then during the first four years after the Hillsborough County's targeted voucher program started in 2005, intakes declined another 21.8% despite local population growth of 8%.



²⁴ Peter Marsh, Founder of Solutions To Overpopulation of Pets in New Hampshire

²⁵ Animal Control Management: A Guide for Local Governments, a 2002 publication of the International City/County Management Association

²⁶ ANIMAL PEOPLE: 16th annual ANIMAL PEOPLE evaluation of the most recent available shelter data, 2008

²⁷ Animal Control Management: A Guide for Local Governments, a 2002 publication of the International City/County Management Association

ANALYSIS OF FERAL/STRAY CAT SOLUTIONS

In addition to the number of pets belonging to residents on Public Assistance and/or senior citizens on fixed income, a substantial number of animals euthanized in animal shelters each year are feral cats and their neonate offspring. A program to control the homeless cat population by neutering instead of culling cats in shelters is critical.



Overpopulation must be curtailed at its source; sterilization is the only humane, non-lethal solution to unchecked reproduction. TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return) is designed to achieve this goal by reducing the stray and feral cat population through attrition by trapping, sterilizing, and inoculating feral and stray cats against distemper and rabies, and then returning them to their already established territory, where they are monitored by feral cat colony managers.²⁸ The sterilization prevents the cats from reproducing while inoculations prevent disease. Ear-notching provides an easy way to identify cats in a TNR program.

TNR has a history in Denmark, England, Israel, and the United States,²⁹ is endorsed by the *American Veterinary Medical Association* and is currently being implemented with local governments' approval in many communities. Humane organizations have endorsed TNR, including the *Humane Society of the United States*, *Friends of Animals*, *Alley Cat Allies*, *Best Friends Animal Society* in Utah, *Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy*,³⁰ the *Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights* (AVAR) and the *Cat Fanciers' Association*.³¹ A recent national opinion poll conducted by *Alley Cat Allies* in May 2003 found that out of 24,599 respondents, 94% supported TNR as an effective tool in addressing feral and stray cat population.³² Since March 2002, the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* has published four articles in favor of TNR.

TNR has proven to be an effective and workable program for long-term population control and is increasingly being utilized by public and private entities to address feral cat populations and the concomitant problems of protecting the public health from rabies and cat nuisance complaints. It has been demonstrated to reduce overpopulation, complaints about roaming and the number of cats in shelters in communities in the United States and abroad.³³ It reduces euthanasia rates, and costs less than half of the cost of traditional trap and kill programs. Dr. Julie Levy, DVM, Ph.D., monitored an eleven-year TNR project that involved eleven feral cat colonies on a central Florida campus. Dr. Levy concluded that "a comprehensive long-term program of neutering followed by adoption or return to the resident colony can result in reduction of the free roaming cat population in urban areas."³⁴

TNR is working successfully in New Jersey in model TNR programs in Cape May, Atlantic City (at the Boardwalk), Phillipsburg and Bloomfield. In addition, support for TNR was one of the top three recommendations of New Jerseyans in comments received at public hearings on the topic.³⁵

²⁸ Clifton, Merritt, Editor, (1993), Can We Outlaw Pet Overpopulation?, *Animal People*, May 1993.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc., (1998), *CFA Guidance Statement: Free Roaming/Unowned/Feral Cats*, February 8, 1998.

³² Alley Cat Allies, (2003), *National Opinion Poll*. May 2003.

³³ Johnson, Karen, (1995), National Pet Alliance Report on Trap/Alter/Release Programs, *Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. Almanac*, July 1995, pages 92-94.

³⁴ Levy, Julie K., DVM, Ph.D., DACVIM; Gale, David W.; Gale, Leslie A., B.S., (2003), Evaluation of the effect of a long-term trap-neuter-return and adoption program on a free-roaming cat population, *JAVMA*, Vol. 222, No. 1, January 1, 2003.

³⁵ Animal Welfare Taskforce Report – New Jersey, 2004

Elsewhere in the country, the Orange County, Florida, Animal Services Department, the San Francisco SPCA, and statewide programs in California and Utah have successfully implemented TNR programs.³⁶ Maricopa County, Arizona and correctional institutions in Ohio, Montana and New York State have also officially approved TNR as a means to feline population control. These programs are additionally beneficial to local governments, as volunteers can often be found to assist governments in managing feral cat colonies but are generally not willing to assist in trapping and removing cats for euthanasia.

Examples of successful TNR programs include:

Alachua County, Florida: A program called *Catnip* was implemented in 1998 and is responsible for sterilizing more than 22,000 cats since then. The program decreased shelter intake of cats by 61% since 2000.

Maricopa County, Arizona: Ed Boks, former Director of Animal Care and Control, Maricopa County, Arizona,³⁷ studied conventional methods of feral cat control for over 20 years. He determined that these methods do not properly regulate the population and, consequently, initiated a TNR program that is operated by the county animal control department. Within eight years the euthanasia rate dropped from 23 cats per 1,000 county residents to only eight cats per 1,000 county residents.³⁸

Orange County, Florida: Orange County, Florida has a population of 700,000 people. Its animal control department incurs costs of approximately \$105 per animal when it must respond to a complaint and impound and euthanize the animal. Before its TNR program was introduced, there were approximately two hundred complaints per year, resulting in as many animals being captured, with a cost of \$21,000 to the county. Within six years after the introduction of TNR by animal control services in 1995, complaints decreased by approximately 10% as did the number of impoundments, with a total savings to animal services of over \$100,000.³⁹ Within the six years of the start of the program, euthanasia decreased by 18%.⁴⁰

San Diego, California: Founded in 1992 by Dr. Rochelle Brinton, the *Feral Cat Coalition* (FCC) introduced TNR to San Diego on a countywide basis. FCC is an all volunteer organization that provides free sterilization procedures for feral and stray cats. In addition to sterilization procedures, the cats are vaccinated for rabies and treated for fleas and any immediate medical problems. FCC volunteers monitor the feral cats after they are returned to the outdoors. The local animal control departments support the program as it has had a positive impact in reducing the feral population, thus reducing the number of cases to which they would have otherwise been required to respond. By 1994, two years after the start of the TNR program, the total number of cats brought into San Diego shelters dropped over 34% and the euthanasia rates in county shelters for all cats dropped 40% (instead of the usual 10% increase). San Diego euthanized 8.0 shelter animals per 1,000 people in 1997; 4.9 in 2002. The reduction in the euthanasia rate translated to an estimated tax savings of \$795,976.⁴¹

San Francisco, California: The San Francisco SPCA initiated a citywide TNR program in 1993. The SPCA has been working with feral cat caregivers to control the feral cat population, provide some medical care, keep the cats adequately fed and, when possible, adopt them into homes. There are three aspects to the program. The first is “feral fix,” a program through which the SF/SPCA provides vaccinations and spay/neuter surgery for San Francisco feral cats, all at no charge to their caregivers.

³⁶ Krebsbach, Susan B., D.V.M., (2003), TNR-The Most Viable Option for Expedient Reduction of Stray and Feral Cat Populations, February 1, 2002.

³⁷ Maricopa County, Arizona is approximately 9200 square miles and has approximately 3 million residents.

³⁸ The Proof is in TNR Works, *Neighborhood Cats*, August 24, 2003, www.neighborhoodcats.org.

³⁹ Orange County, Fla.: A Model Animal Services Program, *Alley Cat Allies* (fact sheet 2003).

⁴⁰ Hughes, K.L., Slater, Margaret R., Haller, Linda, (2002), The Effects of Implementing a Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Program in a Florida County Animal Control Service, *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, Vol. 5 No. 4, page 292.

⁴¹ Chappell, Michelle S., DVM (1999), A Model for Humane Reduction of Feral Cat Populations, *California Veterinarian*, September/October 1999.

Since the program began they report altering over 10,000 cats. The second aspect of the program is “Cat Assistance Teams.” In neighborhoods throughout the City, CAT members work together to humanely trap feral cats, transport them to Feral Fix, provide post-surgery recovery care, and socialize feral kittens before placing them in homes. CAT members also provide expert advice and assistance to novice caregivers in their neighborhoods. Finally, there is 9 Lives™ Humane Feral Cat Management Video Series including nine comprehensive videos that cover all aspects of caring for feral cats.⁴² Within six years of commencing the TNR program, euthanasia rates dropped 70%.⁴³

New York City, NY: *The New York City Feral Cat Council* (“NYCFCC”) is a coalition of NYC animal groups working to humanely reduce the City’s feral cat population through the use of TNR. They established a TNR program on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in 1999. Based on statistics compiled by New York City’s Animal Care and Control, the number of stray cat intakes from the Upper West Side was reduced 73% in the first three years of the program. During the first year of the program, there was a 59% reduction in the number of cats arriving in shelters.

Cape May, New Jersey: In 1995, John Queenan, with the Cape May City Animal Control, proposed an ordinance to facilitate TNR and the feeding of feral cat colonies. Queenan based his proposal on similar regulations in Santa Cruz County, California. Because pick-up and euthanasia had not resolved the city’s overpopulation problem, the ordinance focused on preventing reproduction. As a result of Cape May’s ordinance change, 200 cats were altered in 1997. Based on the number of nuisance complaints, litters of kittens and visual sightings of the colonies, it is estimated that the feral cat population, which was between 500 and 800 cats in 1994, has been reduced by 50%.⁴⁴

Atlantic City, New Jersey: The Humane Society of Atlantic County, in conjunction with the Health Department of Atlantic City and local volunteers, has used TNR successfully and with municipal approval. Through kitten adoptions and natural attrition (since these cats no longer reproduce), the feral cat population under the Atlantic City boardwalk was reduced by more than 70% within three years. Cat related nuisance complaints, common before enactment of the TNR ordinance, are now rare.⁴⁵

Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Phillipsburg, Warren County also authorized TNR. Dr. Robert Blease, a veterinarian and founder of *Common Sense for Animals* (“CSA”), a non-profit organization that receives no public funding, initiated the municipality’s TNR ordinance in 2001. All feral cats that are brought to CSA are vaccinated, sterilized, and identified by way of ear notching. Cats that are infected with FIV/FEHV, unhealthy or vicious, are humanely euthanized. Since Phillipsburg authorized TNR the stray cat population has reportedly dropped an estimated 350 cats in the first year alone, and citizen complaints about stray cats have dropped to zero.⁴⁶

Bloomfield, New Jersey: *The Friends of the Bloomfield/Bukowski Animal Shelter* (FOBAS) initiated a TNR program September 2003 with two colonies. The program has been endorsed and supported by the mayor, the town council and the Bloomfield Department of Health. *Neighborhood Cats*, a New York City-based volunteer non-profit organization, provides advice and assistance to the town, which adopted TNR as its official feral cat program.⁴⁷

⁴² www.sfspca.org/feral/index.shtml.

⁴³ The Proof is in-TNR Works, *Neighborhood Cats*, August 24, 2003, www.neighborhoodcats.org.

⁴⁴ John Queenan, ACO/ACI, Cape May, New Jersey.

⁴⁵ Report on Atlantic City’s Feral Cat Colonies, *Alley Cat Allies*, Vol. 11, Issue No. 4, Winter 2001.

⁴⁶ www.common senseforanimals.org.

⁴⁷ The Proof is in-TNR Works, *Neighborhood Cats*, August 24, 2003, www.neighborhoodcats.org.

FERAL POPULATION FORMULA

Many animal welfare advocates contend it is impossible to determine feral cat populations. An inability to determine feral populations would require any strategic planning effort to rely on guess work. All programs must produce measurable results to ensure continued funding. To measure the success of any feral cat initiative a reliable feral cat baseline population is imperative.



We are fortunate that a reasonable formula has been developed that estimates the feral cat population equals three times the number of cats killed in shelters plus net cat acquisition (i.e., number of cats added to households) less pet cat mortality.

The formula evolved from a 1996 survey⁴⁸ of 7,399 U.S. households. The survey found a crude birth rate of about 11.2 kittens per 100 cats in households and an attrition rate that included a death rate of 8.3 and a disappearance rate of 3%. In other words, it was found that cat births in households equaled attrition. It was further found that the movement of feral/stray cats into homes and shelters was approximately equal to the net growth in the household population plus the number of cats killed in shelters.

This suggests the number of feral/stray cats can be estimated by adding net cat acquisition to shelter killing and multiplying by three (to account for the one queen, one tom, and at least one sibling not entering homes or shelters who must exist to produce these known feral/stray cats).

In the targeted area 3,917 cats were impounded and 2,212 cats died or were euthanized in LA shelters in 2008⁴⁹. The targeted area has an estimated 1.25 million people living in 397,433 households⁵⁰. According to an AVMA formula⁵¹ this area has 128,768 cat-keeping households, with a total of 283,290 cats among them.

The combined mortality (8% or 22,663 cats) and disappearance (3% or 8,500 cats) rate of 11% per year is equal to the estimated number of births annually. This means there is a net self-replacement of an estimated 32,000 cats per year.

According to the U.S. norm for pet cat population increase over the past 20 years, the Los Angeles pet cat population is increasing at about 1% per year. Thus net acquisitions in Los Angeles exceed attrition by about 2,850 additional cats per year, beyond births.

Of these 2,850 acquired cats, 1,705 come from LA Animal Services (3,917 impounds minus 2,212 killed). Another 1,114 (2,850 minus 1,705) come from other sources. Based on national averages, no more than 290 come from breeders, leaving 824 acquired from other sources like pet stores.

⁴⁸ *Birth and Death Rate Estimates of Cats and Dogs in U.S. Households and Related Factors* published in 2005 in volume 7.4 of the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, co-authored by John C. New Jr. and William Kelch of the University of Tennessee, Jennifer Hutchison of the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, Mo Salman and Mike King of Colorado State University, Janet Scarlett of Cornell University, and Philip Kass of the University of California at Davis, established this formula from a 1996 survey of 7,399 U.S. households.

⁴⁹ LA Animal Services 2008 Statistical Report

⁵⁰ *Estimated Resident Populations and Households by District* provided by the Los Angeles Planning and Demographic Research Unit (December 2009)

⁵¹ AVMA Formula: number of cat-owning households = .324 x total number of households

LA cat acquisitions include LA shelter adoptions including feral-born kittens, and impounded stray cats, both kittens and tamed strays. The annual adjustment to the feral/stray population is 2,529 (1705 placed by shelters + 824 placed by other sources + the 2,103 who were killed. This totals 4,632 cats. Assuming that each cat had a mother, a father, and at least one surviving sibling, a crude total for the feral/stray cat population in the targeted area can be estimated at 13,896.

According to the *Fibonacci Rule*,⁵² 70% of all feral cats must be sterilized before the successful breeding encounters of the remaining 30% are reduced to a rate sufficient only to replace normal attrition. This means 9,927 (or rounding up for good measure, 10,000) feral/stray cats must be spayed or neutered just to stabilize the feral/stray cat population in the targeted area. Meaningful and sustained reductions will occur only when that rate is exceeded.

⁵² Leonardo Fibonacci: considered greatest European mathematician of the middle ages, born in Pisa, Italy about 1175 AD. Developed a formula relating to agriculture productivity; later used by Pasteur to predict 70% of a susceptible population has to be vaccinated to prevent an epidemic. Fibonacci's 70% Rule is recognized by *World Health Organization* and *Center for Disease Control*.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The most successful efforts in the United States to reduce municipal shelter intake and kill rates was benchmarked. Gathered information is applied to developing programs designed to help the neediest human populations and the most at risk animal populations in the most underserved areas of Los Angeles. The result is the **LA Animal Services' Spay/Neuter Clinic and Veterinary Hospital, The Big Fix, Operation FELIX and Operation Safety Net.**

THE Spay/Neuter Clinic and Veterinary Hospital

The Spay/Neuter Clinic and Veterinary Hospital will provide high quality, efficient medical services that meet or exceed current veterinary medical standards of care in Los Angeles, while providing accessible, targeted sterilization for large numbers of dogs and cats. This program will be primarily funded through the City's STAR (Special Treatment and Recovery) program which will be self-funded by applying a sliding fee schedule.

The Spay/Neuter Clinic and Veterinary Hospital will primarily serve residents living in South Los Angeles on public assistance, although needy residents from surrounding districts may also benefit from services and programs on a sliding fee schedule.

Los Angeles is fortunate to have as mentors several organizations with proven track records in reducing local intake and euthanasia rates. These organizations include the *Humane Alliance of North Carolina*, the *Animal Coalition of Tampa (ACT)*, *First Coast No More Homeless Pets, Inc.*, and *Solutions to Overpopulation of Pets* in New Hampshire. These organizations specialize in high volume, low-cost fixed site spay/neuter clinics providing a transport program to alleviate accessibility problems. They serve as models to this proposed program.

LA Animal Services will also partner with the *College of Veterinary Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences* in Pomona, CA. This College stands as a new paradigm in veterinary medical education and the South LA Animal Care Center will provide an exciting venue for innovative instructional Intern and Extern Programs for veterinary students and new veterinarians. This partnership will help alleviate the absence of veterinary services in the targeted community.

The Big Fix

LA Animal Services will refocus its spay/neuter voucher program to focus on providing high quality free spay/neuter services to pets belonging to residents living in South Los Angeles who are on public assistance or are seniors on fixed income. Special preference will be afforded owners of Pit Bulls, bully breeds, Chihuahuas, mixes of these breeds, and domestic and feral cats. All others will be asked to make a donation for services received.

Big Fix Transport

The location of the Spay/Neuter Clinic is strategic in that it is home to many pet owners unable to afford to take their animals to a veterinarian. Many of these same people are unable to even transport their pets to the veterinarian. This is especially true of many elderly pet owners. Therefore, part of the Big Fix is to provide transportation to pet owners unable to transport the animals on their own. LA Animal Services will commit one vehicle to pick up and return pets to their owners at no charge for owners on public assistance or to elderly pet owners on fixed income. All others will be asked to pay a sliding scale fee for services received.

Operation FELIX - (*This portion on hold pending lawsuit*)

The feral cat program is called *Operation FELIX* (Feral Education and Love Instead of X-termination). Operation FELIX requires Feral Cat Managers and volunteers to be trained and/or approved and certified by LA Animal Services. FELIX Volunteers (Cat Assistance Teams) will work together throughout the City to humanely trap feral cats, transport them to the Clinic, provide post-surgery recovery care, and returning the cats to a managed colony. Feral kittens may be socialized and placed into an adoption program. FELIX CAT members will also provide expert advice and assistance to novice caregivers in their neighborhoods.

The program will include a program for placing feral cats at risk of euthanasia into a *Rat Abatement Program*.⁵³

TNR will only be implemented in a manner that accommodates concerns for threatened or endangered bird species and wildlife. Consultation when appropriate with bird and wildlife advocates will ensure TNR programs are established at locations which further the protection of birds and wildlife.⁵⁴

Studies demonstrate traditional solutions, (i.e., euthanasia) are unsuccessful in curtailing feline overpopulation or reducing the size of cat colonies.⁵⁵ Given the ineffectiveness of traditional responses to feral cats, there are a substantial and ever growing number of feral cats living outdoors in Los Angeles who are neither cared for nor managed. In addition to the City's inability to remedy or reduce the population problem, current methods do not respond to basic public health issues in that large numbers of unaltered and unvaccinated feral cats are allowed to remain outdoors creating significant public health and safety concerns. Accordingly, *Operation FELIX* will provide feral cats with vaccinations to protect the community against disease, including rabies.

TNR is a viable, humane, non-lethal methodology that, when implemented properly, will save lives and reduce feral cat populations.⁵⁶

Operation Safety Net

Effective Human/Animal Bonding programs designed to reduce pet relinquishment will also be a fixture of this strategy to reduce shelter killing. Programs will be free to South Los Angeles residents

⁵³ LA Times article by Carl Hall: LAPD enlists feral cats for rat patrol: The felines have been introduced, to great effect, at several stations with rodent problems.

⁵⁴ December 2009, Superior Court Judge Thomas McKnew ordered the city of Los Angeles to stop promoting "trap-neuter-return" until an environmental study is completed. The Urban Wildlands Group, the Los Angeles Audubon Society and four other Southern California conservation groups sued the city in June 2008 to stop implementing the trap-neuter-release practice. The groups alleged that the City promoted feral cat colonies by issuing coupons for discounted spay/neuter procedures for feral cats returned to neighborhoods. The ruling does not preclude non-governmental agencies or private individuals from practicing TNR, however, it does end the City's nearly 20 year old feral cat coupon program.

⁵⁵ SPAY USA. *Did You Know* (Fact Sheet 2003) (Two uncontrolled breeding cats ...plus all their kittens...if none are ever neutered or spayed add up to 80,399,780 cats in a ten-year breeding period. Note that this number assumes the cats live 10 years. Not all cats live 10 years when facing factors such as weather elements, old age, sickness, road kills and predation on the cats.) See also Berkeley, Ellen Perry (1987/2001) *Maverick Cats: Encounters with Feral Cats*, (Shelburne, VT: New England Press), pages 120-121; Hartwell, Sarah (1999), Why Feral Education Won't Work, www.feralcat.com; Chappell, Michelle S., DVM, (1999), A Model for Humane Reduction of Feral Cat Populations, *California Veterinarian*, September/October 1999, www.feralcat.com.

⁵⁶ Alley Cat Allies, (2003) Building the Body of Scientific Evidence that TNR Works, *Feral Cat Activist*; Spring 2003; Zaunbrecher, Karl and Smith, Richard E., (1993), Neutering of feral cats as an alternative to eradication programs, *JAVMA*, Vol. 203, No. 3, pages 449-52; Levy, Julie K., DVM, Ph.D., DACVIM; Gale, David W.; Gale, Leslie A., B.S., (2003), Evaluation of the effect of a long-term trap-neuter-return and adoption program on a free-roaming cat population, *JAVMA*, Vol. 222, No. 1, January 1, 2003; Centonze, Lisa A., B.A.; Levy, Julie K., DVM, Ph.D., DACVIM, (2002), Characteristics of free-roaming cats and their caretakers, *JAVMA*, Vol. 200, No. 11, June 1, 2002; Patronek, G.J., (1998), Free-Roaming and Feral Cats, Wildlife and Human Beings, *JAVMA*, Vol. 212, pages 218-26; Griffin, Brenda, DVM, M.S., (2001), Prolific Cats: The Impact of their Fertility on the Welfare of the Species, *JAVMA*, Vol. 23, No. 12, December 2001.

on public assistance and senior citizens on fixed income. A modest fee schedule will be provided anyone not on public assistance.

Recognizing Pit Bull overpopulation as a significant factor to achieving No-Kill in Los Angeles, LA Animal Services will deploy strategic outreaches designed to mitigate Pit Bull relinquishment, such as a program modeled after the Tacoma, WA *Bullseye Program* called *Responsi-Bull*⁵⁷ which reduced Pit Bull and Pit Bull mix intake at the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County (which handles 90-95% of the county's shelter admissions) by 24% between 2007 and 2008. This program is designed to intervene with LA residents considering relinquishment of their Pit Bulls to LA Animal Services. The three part program includes:

Pit-Fix: Owners of pit bulls on public assistance and living in South Los Angeles can have their dogs spayed or neutered for free. All others pay \$25. Safety Net is specifically targeting owners considering relinquishment of their Pit Bulls because they cannot afford spay/neuter surgery. Relinquishment for other reasons will be evaluated and when an alternative to relinquishment is found LA Animal Services will facilitate its implementation.

Pit-Ed: Owners of Pit Bull's spayed or neutered by LA Animal Services will be encouraged to attend an education program designed to combat misconceptions about the pit bull breed; owners will learn the "do's and don'ts" of owning a Pit Bull enabling them to help restore the breed's family dog image. The free Responsible Pit Bull Ownership Workshops will be hosted by LA Animal Services. Individuals of low income status also welcome.

Train-A-Pit: LA Animal Services will offer a four week basic obedience class for pit bulls and their owners that are free to those who complete the class. A \$40 registration fee is reimbursed every week the owner attends at \$10 per class. Attend all 4 classes and the class is free (normally a \$150 value). Restricted to individuals of low income status.



⁵⁷ <http://www.bullseyerescue.org/responsibull.htm>

TARGET MARKETING

Reaching qualified pet owners within the target area will occur through word of mouth and multi-lingual flier posting in strategic locations, such as the South LA Animal Care Center, local stores and markets, schools, places of worship, libraries, park and community centers, and points of service delivery of City and other non-profit programs, such as Meals on Wheels, etc.

LA Animal Services will develop, train and manage a cadre of skilled bi-lingual volunteers to help disseminate program information and enroll residents into programs designed to meet specific needs. Volunteers will canvas the targeted area neighborhood by neighborhood - door to door, providing qualified pet owners with program information.

Program collateral will include a phone number to a bi-lingual Call Center, staffed by volunteers, capable of qualifying and scheduling pet owners for pet spay/neuter and other veterinary services and/or to register in other City programs.

Other methods of targeted program promotion will be deployed as needed and may include press releases, participation at or hosting of target area events, bill boards and other forms of mass messaging and communication.

Partnering with successful human and animal programs will be key to the marketing plan. Leveraging shared messaging opportunities will benefit partnering organizations as it resounds to the welfare of all LA pets and their people.

EXECUTION PLAN

To achieve similar or greater success compared to the *Humane Alliance* of North Carolina, the *Animal Coalition of Tampa* (ACT), *First Coast No More Homeless Pets* in Jacksonville, Fl., and *Solutions to Overpopulation of Pets* in New Hampshire enjoys, this program will maintain an internal capacity sufficient to perform five or more dog or cat “public assistance” surgeries per 1,000 South LA residents annually.

With an estimated population of 885,000 residents in South Los Angeles (or 1.2 million using the targeted City District population) LA Animal Services will need to perform between 4,225 and 6,250 “public assistance” pet surgeries annually.

A goal to alter 10,000 “public assistance” pets in South LA per year should be established. After the feral cat lawsuit is resolved, a goal to alter 3,500 feral or stray cats per year should be established. This may require reducing the public assistance surgeries to 6,500. The ratio may be change based on service demand and other factors.

Success in other communities suggests that by altering at least 6,500 “public assistance” pets each year for six years a 25% decrease in shelter intakes can be expected with a corresponding reduction in shelter killing. In addition, by performing 3,500 feral or stray cat surgeries annually will ensure more than 70% of the feral/stray cat population is altered by the end of three years. There is consensus among experts⁵⁸ that only by spaying or neutering more than 70% of the feral/cat population (10,000) will meaningful and sustained reductions in the cat intake and euthanasia rates occur. At this rate, year four should see a significant decrease in cat intake and killing at LA Animal Services.

Concurrent with the feral cat initiative, LA Animal Services should not admit feral cats in response to complaints absent a demonstrated health risk. This life saving policy has been deployed in New Hampshire, Maricopa County, AZ and other communities to great effect.

LA Animal Services should provide free spay/neuter, other veterinary services and transport to and from the Clinic to pets of any South LA resident on public assistance or seniors on fixed income. The program should specifically focus on cats and bully breed dogs, although no animal in need would be turned away. Residents not on public assistance would be asked to make a donation or pay a sliding scale fee towards the cost of services received.

⁵⁸ Dr. Mackie, the owner/director of two **Animal Birth Control** clinics in Los Angeles, has been a spay/neuter specialist since 1976 and is nationally recognized for his work in early age sterilization; Merritt Clifton, editor of *ANIMAL PEOPLE*, and Peter Marsh, founder of *Solutions to Overpopulation of Pets* in New Hampshire.