

Counting Cats:
Taming Shelter Statistics for
Transparency and Strategy

Clicker poll

- If you were a stray cat, which Florida shelter would be your best bet?
 - Live release rate = 78%
 - Live release rate = 65%
 - Euthanasia rate = 17%
 - Euthanasia per 1,000 residents = 5
 - Save rate = 82%

Trick question!


- In April 2012, this shelter had:
 - 894 cats admitted
 - 582 cats released by adoption, transfer, RTO
 - 597 cats sent to foster
 - 154 cats euthanized
 - 15 cat deaths in custody
- Increased shelter cat inventory by 150 cats

Transparency

- Difficult to understand community lifesaving unless agencies use the same metrics and share their raw data
- For example, at this Florida shelter:
 - LRR = live outcomes ÷ all intakes = 61%
 - *LRR = live outcomes ÷ all outcomes = 78%
 - *Save rate = % of intakes not euthanized = 82%
 - *These statistics look better when shelters accumulate more animals in the shelter

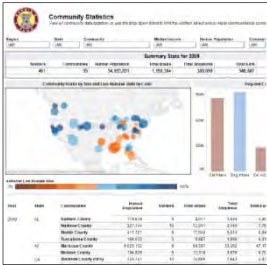
Standardizing data collection

- National Federation of Humane Societies
 - Basic Animal Stats Matrix
 - All objective measurements of intake and outcome
 - No animals are excluded



Standardizing data reporting

- Post monthly and annual data on website
 - NFHS or Asilomar Accords summaries
 - Raw data (e.g. Chameleon Kennel Statistics)
- Key metrics
 - Live release rate = live releases ÷ all intakes
 - Euthanasia per 1,000 residents
 - Include calculations used



How are cats doing in Alachua County?

The numbers

	June 2011	June 2012
Cat intake	363	413
Cat live outcomes	104	360
Cat deaths, euthanasias	200	40
Cat live release rate	29%	87%

The methods

- 55% of feline life-saving due to transfer partners – 198 cats
- 35% of feline life-saving due to Operation Catnip community cat TNR program – 126 cats
- 8% of feline life-saving due to shelter adoptions – 30 cats

Cat Intake vs. Euthanasia
1994-2011

