

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

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HUMANE SOCIETIES
BASIC ANIMAL STATS MATRIX
(vs 8_19_2011)

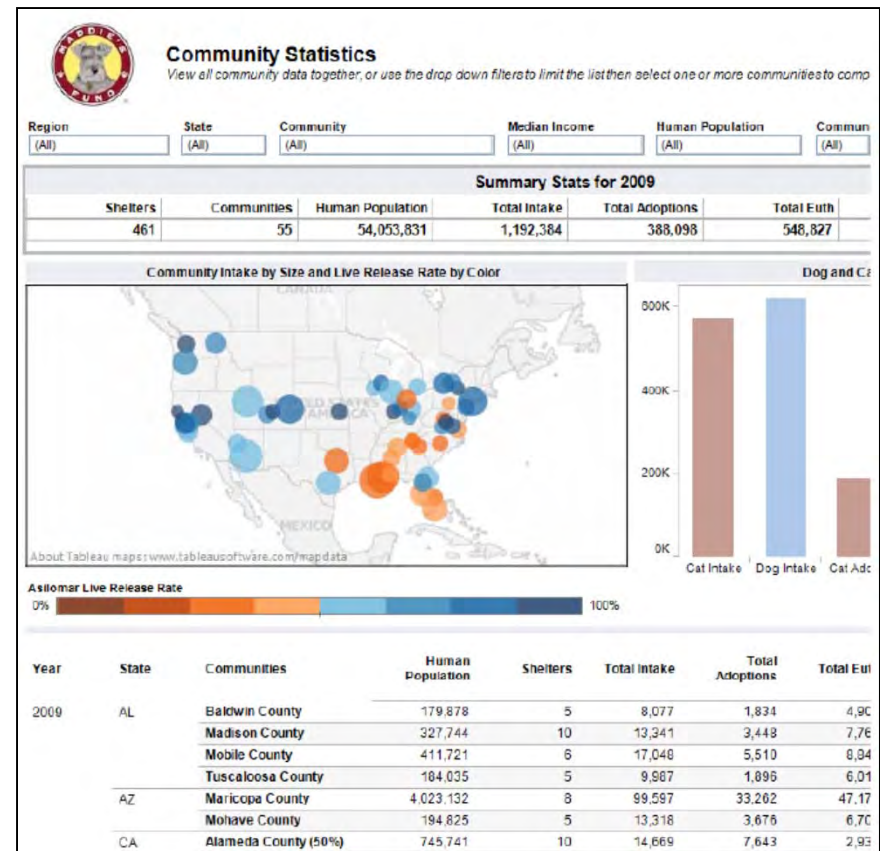
Species By Age		Canine		Feline		Total	
		Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile		
A	Beginning Animal Count (date: ___/___/___)					0	Age at Intake (juvenile is up to 4 to 6 months) Should include animals in shelter and animals admitted but currently in foster care or offsite facility.
Live Intake							
B	Stray/At Large					0	Admitted through animal control/stated to be unowned or fostered
C	Relinquished by Owner					0	Admitted by owner
D	Owner Requested Euthanasia					0	Limited to this definition: Admission of pets whose owner brought the pet to the shelter with the INTENT of requesting euthanasia
E	Transferred in from Agency					0	An admission from another agency - for adoption, large scale seizure support, etc.
F	Other Intakes					0	Impounds for cruelty cases & protective custody. Also, pets born while in care, and others types of admission not captured above.
G	TOTAL LIVE INTAKE	0	0	0	0	0	Sum of B, C, D, E and F
Outcomes							
H	Adoption					0	Final adoptions only, having permanently left the Agency's possession. For example, it does not include animals placed in foster care or an overnight "trial" stays.
I	Returned to Owner					0	Stray or Owner Relinquished animal returned to their owner
J	Transferred to another Agency					0	Transferred out of the Agency's possession to another entity
K	Other Live Outcome					0	Returning cats to the field, barn cat programs, etc.
L	Subtotal: Live Outcomes	0	0	0	0	0	Sum of H, I, J and K
M	Died in Care					0	Animals who die while sheltered
N	Lost in Care					0	Animals whose outcome is unknown (may have escaped the shelter, outcome was not recorded and unknown)
O	Shelter Euthanasia					0	All euthanasia other than that performed by the definition below as Owner Requested Euthanasia.
P	Owner Requested Euthanasia					0	Limited to this definition: Euthanasia of pets whose owner brought the pet to the shelter with the INTENT of requesting euthanasia
Q	Subtotal: Other Outcomes	0	0	0	0	0	Sum of M, N, O and P
R	TOTAL OUTCOMES	0	0	0	0	0	Sum of L & Q
S	Ending Shelter Count (date: ___/___/___)					0	Should include animals in shelter and animals admitted but currently in foster care or offsite facility.

Note: To check your statistics and calculations if you have beginning and ending counts - A plus G minus R should equal S

Total Column for A-G-R =	0
Total Column for S =	0

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

