



CATS IN CANADA 2017

A FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF CAT OVERPOPULATION



CFHS FSCAA

Canadian Federation
of Humane Societies

Fédération des sociétés
canadiennes d'assistance
aux animaux

CATS IN CANADA 2012 REPORT

In 2012, CFHS published a ground-breaking national study about the cat overpopulation crisis faced by Canadians and their most popular companion animals: cats. *Cats in Canada: A Comprehensive Report on the Cat Overpopulation Crisis* presented data and opinions collected from more than 478 stakeholders, including humane societies, SPCAs, municipalities, veterinarians, rescue organizations, trap-neuter-return groups and spay/neuter organizations (CFHS, 2012). It was the first report of its kind, elaborating on the negative consequences of cat overpopulation, including homelessness, overburdened animal shelters and euthanasia.

The research found that, in 2012, there were an estimated 10.2 million owned cats in Canada, twice as many homeless cats as dogs were brought in for care and shelters were at or near capacity to care for the cats that arrived at their doors. More than one third of cats surrendered to shelters were given up due to issues of housing, including rental agreements, landlord conflicts and moving. Euthanasia is the starkest outcome of cat overpopulation, and the number of cats euthanized in 2011 was significantly larger than the number of dogs. The most common reason for the euthanasia of cats was illness or a change in health status, which refers to animals

that become ill while being sheltered.

Adoption was identified in the study as being both the most available, as well as the most successful current solution to cat overpopulation. Although adoption is key for cats, the survey showed that only 44% of cats brought to shelters were adopted out. And even though shelters were full, Canadians were more likely to acquire a cat from a friend or relative, as a give-away or from their own pet's litter than they were to adopt. Seventy percent of respondents agreed that accessible spay/neuter surgeries are the most important solution to this crisis. The report included more than 25 recommendations and several case studies that showcased programs and projects related to the recommendations of the report.

The 2012 report generated more than 250 media stories and is cited in at least eight academic publications to date. The report also informed work on cat welfare undertaken across the country, including broad community engagement on the issue and a celebration of the human-cat bond, while raising awareness about cat welfare, advocating for accessible sterilization services and advancing knowledge about best practices to improve outcomes for shelter cats.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cats and dogs are Canada's most popular companion animal species and, while cats are actually found in more Canadian households than dogs, sadly, they do not receive the same care and consideration in society as their canine counterparts.

Education about dog behaviour is prevalent, dog-owner responsibilities are well established in municipal bylaws and canine companions are highly valued by Canadians. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for cats.

In most of the country, there is no dog overpopulation and, in some areas, there is even a shortage of dogs for adoption, while cat overpopulation continues to challenge communities across Canada. The impacts of this overpopulation are serious and include cats languishing in shelters long term, or worse, succumbing to stress-related illnesses. For cats who remain outdoors, risk of disease transmission, as well as illness, injury and death are daily realities.

These issues are the reason that CFHS published its first research project focusing on Canada's cat overpopulation crisis in 2012 and is herewith producing a five-year follow-on study looking at changes that have transpired since the publication of the first *Cats in Canada* report (CFHS, 2012).

Five years on, there are still twice as many cats being admitted to shelters as dogs, and the fraction of those cats who are juvenile is also twice as high as for dogs, pointing to the continuing problem of unwanted litters. Though many stakeholders are implementing best practices in their spheres of influence to address the overpopulation issue (spaying and neutering all adoptable animals, providing them with permanent identification and improving shelter management practices), there

continue to be more homeless cats than homes available to take them in.

While sterilization rates for cats may be improving, particular characteristics in their reproductive biology allow for very young felines – still kittens themselves – to have litters. This calls for widespread early sterilization of cats in adoption programs, which requires adequate resources and veterinary support. The production of whole litters of kittens who have no future homes must be curbed.

There is some good news. Over the last five years, the rate of stray animals reclaimed has increased, though this number is still higher for dogs than cats. This may be because twice as many cats were admitted to shelters with identification compared to five years ago. The cat euthanasia rate has also declined, while the cat adoption rate has risen. Furthermore, there has been an increase in the use of trap-neuter-return (TNR)¹ and accessible² spay/neuter programs, and these are perceived to be more successful than five years ago.

Nevertheless, the sense among cat stakeholders is that overpopulation persists. Interestingly, municipalities appear to have diverging views on this issue compared to other stakeholders, which speaks to the need for strengthened communication across all stakeholder groups to bridge the difference in perspective. This may well be the next step in advancing solutions to overpopulation.

¹ Trap-neuter-return (TNR) is a population control strategy where homeless cats at-large and feral managed cats are humanely captured, spayed or neutered, provided with additional medical treatment, vaccination and identification, and then returned to their original locations. TNR is discussed in detail below, in the section on "Cats at-large".

² In this context, accessible is defined as available to as many companion animal owners as possible. Accessible spay/neuter programs remove barriers to availability, such as cost and transportation. Such programs include those that offer subsidized spay/neuter surgery, those that are high-quality/high-volume clinics, and those that are able to bring clinics closer to the animals or vice versa (CFHS, 2014).

CFHS RESEARCH APPROACH

CFHS undertook the same research approach as was applied in the 2012 *Cats in Canada* Report (CFHS, 2012). A National Cat Task Force was struck by CFHS. As was the case in 2012, the task force was composed of at least one member society in each province, with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador, for which a representative was not available. Task Force members advised CFHS based on their regional expertise with the issues.

A national general population survey was carried out between May 25 and 29, 2017, using the Ipsos online omnibus poll, which surveyed a total of 1,222 Canadians 18 years of age or older in ten provinces. The sample is representative of the Canadian population, based on age, gender and region. The results are accurate plus or minus 2.8%, 19 times out of 20.

CFHS also engaged Ipsos to conduct a national stakeholder survey, asking the same questions and targeting the same groups identified in the 2012 survey (CFHS, 2012), in order to identify how results have evolved in the intervening five years. The target stakeholder groups were as follows:

Humane Societies and Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs): This group includes organizations working to advance the welfare of animals through sheltering and re-homing animals, humane education, and in some instances where authority exists, through investigation and enforcement of animal protection and cruelty legislation.

Municipalities: Animal control typically falls under the responsibility of the local municipality. Where bylaws exist, municipalities may choose to pick up and house roaming animals, or they may choose to contract services to a third party, often a humane society, SPCA or animal rescue.

Rescues: Organizations in this group take in stray, abandoned, injured or surrendered animals needing care and assistance and typically operate without an animal sheltering facility. Rescues often rely on networks of volunteers to foster and care for the animals.

Trap-neuter-return (TNR) Groups: Often community-based, TNR groups manage populations of free-roaming cats by trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating and then returning the cats to their home location. TNR groups may also provide long-term care for these colonies.

Spay/Neuter Groups: Organizations in this group focus on coordinating and providing sterilization programs, including transportation, and typically work with licensed veterinarians who may provide their services at reduced costs. Spay/neuter groups do not typically offer shelter services beyond what is required for post-surgical recovery.

Veterinarians: For this study, veterinarians refers to doctors of veterinary medicine in private practice who deal with prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury in animals. Veterinarians are licensed by provincial bodies.

Figure 1. Survey participation by province and stakeholder group in 2017 compared to 2012.

	Humane societies		SPCAs		Municipalities		Rescues		TNR groups		Spay/neuter groups		Veterinarians		Other		Total	
Province	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012
British Columbia	1	0	37	37	12	4	2	11	4	4	0	0	13	12	1	0	70	68
Alberta	4	6	6	2	39	5	14	4	0	0	0	0	4	46	0	0	67	63
Saskatchewan	6	3	3	4	17	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	32	0	0	31	41
Manitoba	3	3	0	1	8	17	1	3	1	2	0	1	3	11	1	1	17	39
Ontario	14	13	2	1	11	13	6	9	4	1	1	4	2	32	1	2	41	75
Quebec	3	4	3	3	12	3	8	5	2	2	0	1	1	60	1	2	30	80
New Brunswick	0	0	3	7	9	1	1	1	10	3	0	0	7	11	0	1	30	24
Nova Scotia	0	2	1	8	2	1	1	3	0	2	1	1	3	26	1	1	9	44
Prince Edward Island	1	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	1	6	13
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0	0	6	4	14	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	5	0	0	8	27
Total	32	32	55	70	119	58	35	38	22	15	3	9	38	244	5	8	309	474
Percentage	10%	7%	18%	15%	39%	13%	11%	8%	7%	3%	1%	2%	12%	51%	2%	2%	100%	100%

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Task Force members compiled distribution lists of stakeholders in their provinces. Stakeholders in Newfoundland and Labrador were compiled by a CFHS board member from that province. Additional stakeholders were added from CFHS contacts for a total distribution list of 2,752 stakeholders. Ipsos designed an online survey and provided CFHS with the link. CFHS sent an email invitation to the distribution list with the survey link, and stakeholders were encouraged to forward the survey to organizations they thought would provide valuable feedback. In addition, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, provincial veterinary associations and associations of municipal administrators or enforcement officers were also requested to distribute the survey invitation to their membership. The survey was conducted by Ipsos between May 25 and September 11, 2017. One single

response per organization/location was accepted. A total of 309 stakeholders completed the survey. A breakdown of participation by stakeholder type and province is provided in Figure 1.

The main differences relative to the 2012 survey are an increase in respondents representing municipalities and a decrease in veterinarian respondents. The 2017 participation better reflects the relative proportion of stakeholders whose mandate and interest are providing temporary housing for homeless animals, animal control and spay/neuter. Responding municipalities are more likely to be from communities with a population of 100,000 or less, rather than larger ones.

The following conventions are used throughout the report:

- Where totals do not add to 100%, it is due either to rounding or to the respondent being permitted to provide more than one response (in the case of certain multiple choice questions).
- Many figures include n values. These are the number of respondents for the specific question. In the figures, results based on a small number of respondents are indicated with a single asterisk (*), and those based on an extremely small number of respondents with double asterisk (**).
- Responses of the general population survey are given for 2017 and compared to 2012. Responses of stakeholders regarding intake, outcome and numbers of animals in care are provided for the 2016 calendar year and compared to 2011, while responses about perception or state of the current situation at the time of survey are reported for 2017 and compared to 2012.
- The term “animal care organizations” refers collectively to the following stakeholder groups: humane societies, SPCAs, TNR groups, spay/neuter groups, rescues and municipalities. Where the term “all stakeholders” is used, it refers to veterinarian respondents in addition the previously noted stakeholder groups.

ABOUT CFHS

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is Canada's federation of SPCAs and humane societies. As Canada's voice for animal welfare, we drive positive, progressive change to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the humane treatment of all animals. We work to advance the welfare of Canada's animals with a strong national voice to federal government, policy makers, industry and the public, driving sector-wide initiatives to put in place evidence-based, innovative practices and national standards. CFHS facilitates a community of like-minded organizations to work strategically toward collective goals that improve the lives of animals, addressing the root

causes of issues that individual humane societies and SPCAs face on a daily basis. We advocate for legislative improvements to protect animals, advance and strengthen animal cruelty case law through the National Centre for the Prosecution of Animal Cruelty, conduct research on issues of national importance to provide a foundation for policy development and convene an annual national animal welfare conference that brings together stakeholders with an interest in animal welfare from across the spectrum, including international, national and regional animal welfare organizations, academic researchers, government, enforcement, the veterinary community and industry.



Cat populations in Canada are dynamic and may be generally categorized as owned, homeless and feral, with further segmentation as given below. Cats may flow between population categories, depending on their life experiences. For example, an owned indoor cat may be abandoned outdoors and eventually become part of a managed colony. The concepts of “home” and “homeless” used here require further explanation. In this categorization, “homeless” means an animal who does not belong to a household. However, such a cat living at-large may be thriving in an environment they may consider to be their “home” territory.

Owned (Indoor): Cats who belong to a household and are kept inside or are not allowed to roam freely outdoors. They may be allowed outdoors under supervision in a confined environment.

Owned (Outdoor): Cats who belong to a household and roam outdoors, beyond the control of the householder. Note that there are instances – in some cases with video evidence, where this has been documented – of owned free-roaming cats being cared for by multiple households.³

Homeless (At-Large): Cats who are stray, due to being lost or abandoned. Some of these cats may be considered loosely owned, being cared for by one or several people who do not consider them their own. With time, some stray cats may become less comfortable and fearful around people, resulting in their characterization as feral.

Homeless (Sheltered): Previously owned or at-large cats surrendered or brought to an animal sheltering facility for care.

Feral (Managed): Cats who do not belong to a household but are living in a colony, provided food and shelter directly by a caretaker, receiving medical assistance when required and having some degree of human contact. Managed colonies are often overseen by a trap-neuter-return program.

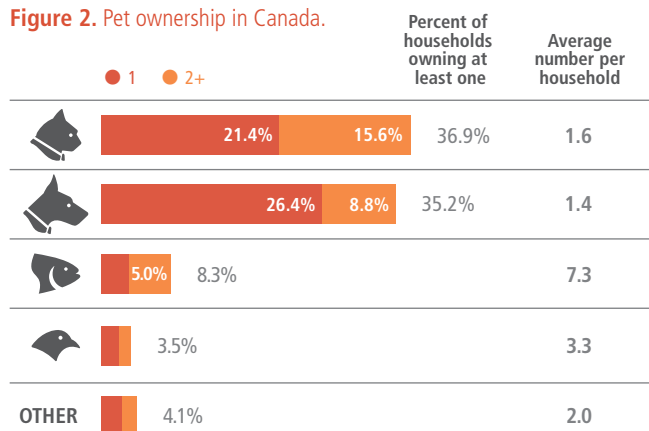
Feral (Independent): Cats who do not belong to a household, have not been socialized and have had essentially no human contact during their lifetime, surviving independent of human involvement.

³ The Cat Tracker citizen science project at North Carolina State University and North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences followed many free-roaming cats using GPS technology. Among the findings was that a number of cats spend a great deal of time at a secondary house (<https://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/2015/03/22/petscolumn/OtuIDfLVdrxGCsILOU3xMP/story.html>). Bradshaw (2013) also reports similar findings from the National Geographic and University of Georgia Kitty Cam project (<http://www.kittycams.uga.edu/research.html>). Four of fifty-five cats wearing lightweight video recorders were found to often visit a second household where they received food and/or affection.

RESULTS Owned cats

Sixty-two percent of Canadian households include at least one companion animal. Cats continue to be the most commonly owned companion animal in Canada, with 36.9% of households owning at least one cat and 35.2% of households owning at least one dog (Figure 2). For cats, these results are similar to five years ago, when 37.7% included at least one cat. There has been an increase in dog ownership since 2012 when 29.1% of households included at least one dog. Figure 3 shows estimates for the total number of owned cats in Canada. At the time of the survey, there were an estimated 9.3 million owned cats in households, slightly fewer than reported in 2012. The average number of cats per cat-owning household is 1.64, down slightly from 1.85 in 2012. The general population survey found that households with children are more likely to have cats than those without. Canadians younger than 55 years old are also more likely to be cat owners than older householders.

Figure 2. Pet ownership in Canada.



62% of Canadians own at least one pet. Cats are the most commonly owned animal, followed by dogs. Canadians under 55 years of age and those with children are more likely to be cat owners.

When respondents were asked how many of the cats in their household were obtained from various sources, "free/giveaway", "friends/family members/relatives" and "found as a stray" were the highest sources, as was the case in 2012 (Figure 4).

On average, 94% of cat owners surveyed reported that their cats were spayed or neutered. Among owners of a single cat, the rate was 98%, while the rate was 91% for owners of multiple cats (Figure 5). These rates are much higher than the 80% reported in 2012. There are a number of factors to consider when reflecting on this improved rate.

- Firstly, survey respondents among the general public may feel compelled to provide a socially-acceptable answer in the survey, because they know that the "right" thing to do is to have their animal sterilized, even if they have not yet done so.
- There are also socio-economic considerations to bear in mind: The average income of all survey respondents was \$66,000. However the spay/neuter rate climbed to 99% among respondents whose average income was \$100,000 or more. This shows that income level correlated with the likelihood of responding that their cat was spayed or neutered. Internet-based survey respondents may be expected to be living at socio-economic levels that do not preclude access to veterinary services, while the need for greater access often occurs in lower socio-economic demographic tranches. Note that the 2012 survey was conducted using the same methodology; thus, the increase in spay/neuter rate is not expected to be the result of socio-economic differences in the surveyed populations.
- Finally, many cats are not sterilized early enough to prevent all pregnancies. Often an intact female cat allowed to roam freely may become pregnant in one of her first heats. Thus, there may still be unwanted litters produced from cats in these households. In the United Kingdom, "cats less than six months old account for 14% of litters, and those in the 7 to 12 month age bracket account for 27%" (RSPCA, 2014).

Figure 3. Owned Cat Population Model Estimate.

Variable	Description	Ipsos 2017 ^a	Nanos 2012 ^b	Ipsos 2008 ^b
A	Number of households in Canada (Statistics Canada)	15,412,443	14,569,633	13,576,855
B	Percentage of households with a cat	36.9%	37.7%	35.5%
C	Number of households with a cat [A X B]	5,687,191	5,492,752	4,819,784
D	Average number of cats per household	1.64	1.85	1.76
E	Number of owned cats with households [C X D]	9,326,994	10,161,591	8,482,819

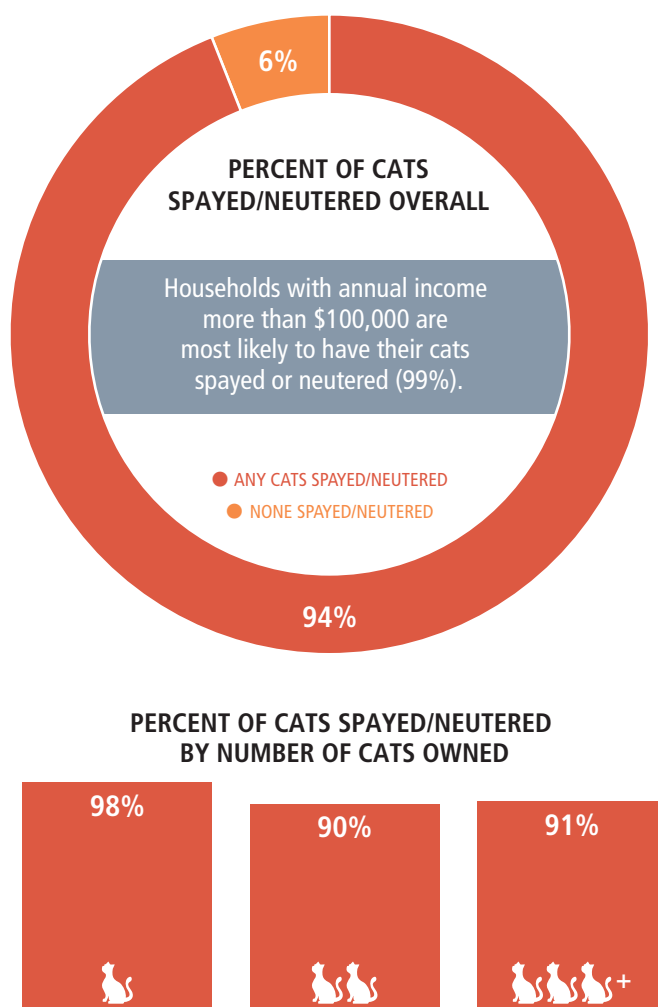
a. These results are from the Ipsos 2017 General Population Survey. b. These results were reported in the 2012 *Cats in Canada* report (CFHS, 2012).

Figure 4. Sources of owned cats.

	2017	2012
Giveaway/free	19%	15%
Friends/relatives/family member	17%	16%
Found as a stray	16%	16%
Adopted from a humane society/SPCA/shelter	15%	25%
Adopted from a cat rescue	12%	N/A
Pet store	7%	11%
Breeder	5%	8%
Purchased through an ad	4%	N/A
My pet's offspring	3%	5%
Vet clinic	1%	3%
Other	2%	1%

N/A not applicable

Figure 5. Rate of spaying or neutering owned cats.

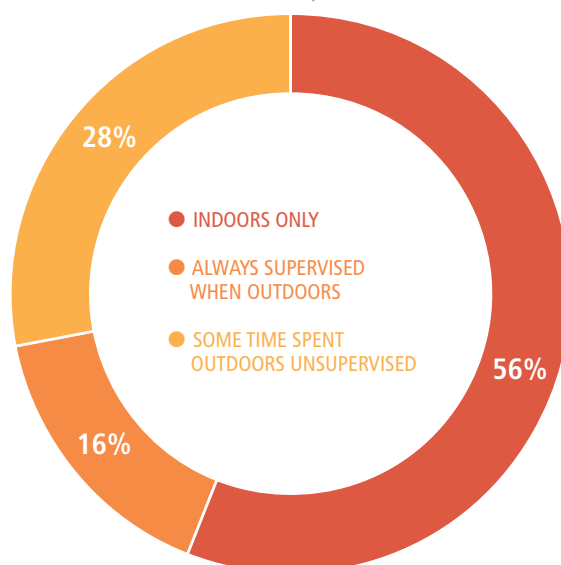


KEY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION

- Almost 37% of Canadian households own at least one cat, and there is an average 1.64 cats living in these households.
- The number of owned cats in Canada is 9.3 million.
- The most frequent sources of cats are “free/giveaway”, “friends/relatives/family members” and “found as a stray”.
- More owned cats are reported as sterilized than five years ago: 94% of cat-owning respondents reported their cats were sterilized compared to 80% in 2012. Note that the average income of 2017 survey respondents was \$66,000.
- Only 28% of cat-owning respondents reported allowing their cats some time unsupervised outdoors.

One important aspect of responsible cat ownership and raising the level of care we provide cats to the same level as for dogs relates to the time cats spend safe indoors or supervised outdoors versus the time they spend unsupervised outdoors. A total of 72% of owned cats spend all their time either indoors or supervised while outdoors. To state it another way, 28% of Canadian householders allow their cats at least some time unsupervised outdoors (Figure 6). This means that a majority of owned cats are being kept safe from outdoor threats while being prevented from predating on wildlife. As with the previous question, the same social acceptability and socio-economic factors regarding survey responses may come into play.

Figure 6. How owned cats spend their time: indoors or outdoors under supervision.



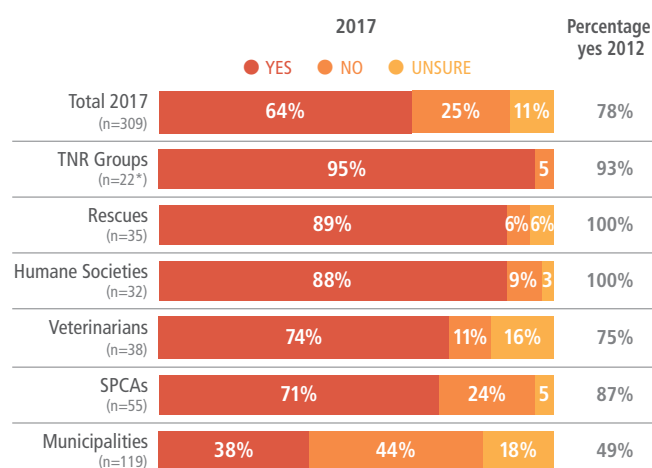
RESULTS Perception of overpopulation and solutions

Two-thirds of respondents to the 2017 survey believe there is currently a cat overpopulation crisis in their municipality, which is a decrease from 2012 (Figure 7). When considering whether this decrease reflects an overall change in perception over five years, it is essential to consider the composition of respondents. As was the case in 2012, there are differing perceptions, depending on the stakeholder group. Municipalities are the only group that, on average, feel more strongly there is no cat overpopulation crisis. Only 38% of responding municipalities perceive there to be a cat overpopulation problem, compared to 44% who perceive none. Other stakeholder

groups have a much higher perception of there being a problem, ranging from 71% to 95%. Therefore, the greater representation of municipalities among 2017 respondents is likely influencing the aggregate perception of survey respondents.

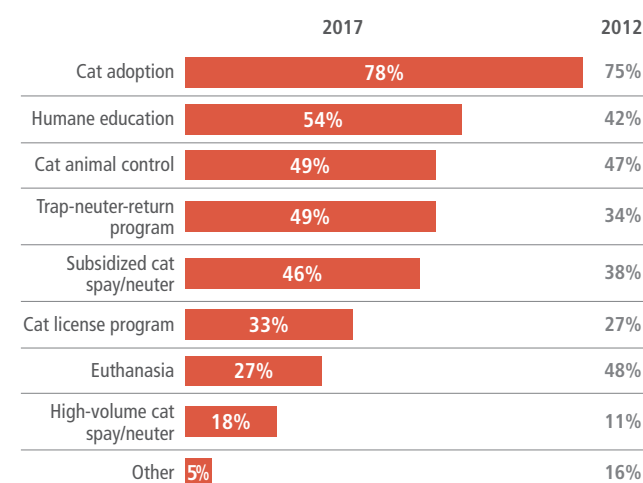
Significantly fewer SPCAs perceive there to be a cat overpopulation crisis than in 2012. Since two thirds of responding SPCAs are in BC, this could reflect an improvement in the situation in that province. Cat overpopulation may now be more effectively managed in urban areas in BC, though not necessarily in rural ones (M. van der Velden, personal communication, November 8, 2017).

Figure 7. Perception of cat overpopulation by stakeholder group.



Responses from all stakeholders to the question "In your opinion, is there a cat overpopulation problem in your municipality?" * Small number of respondents.

Figure 8. Practices for addressing cat overpopulation.

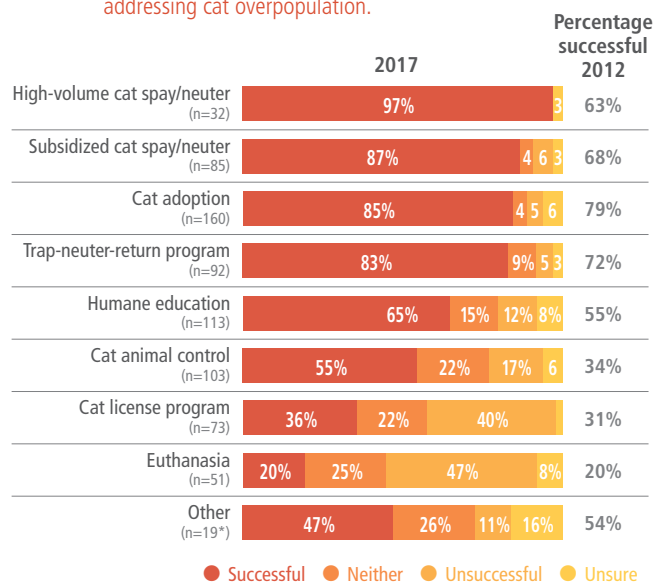


Response from all stakeholders to the question "What practices, if any, does your community have in place that address cat overpopulation?" (n=243)

Organizations dealing with the results of cat overpopulation have been working with different practices over the years and seeking permanent solutions to address the crisis. While the tools employed vary depending on stakeholder mission and resources, common current practices include:

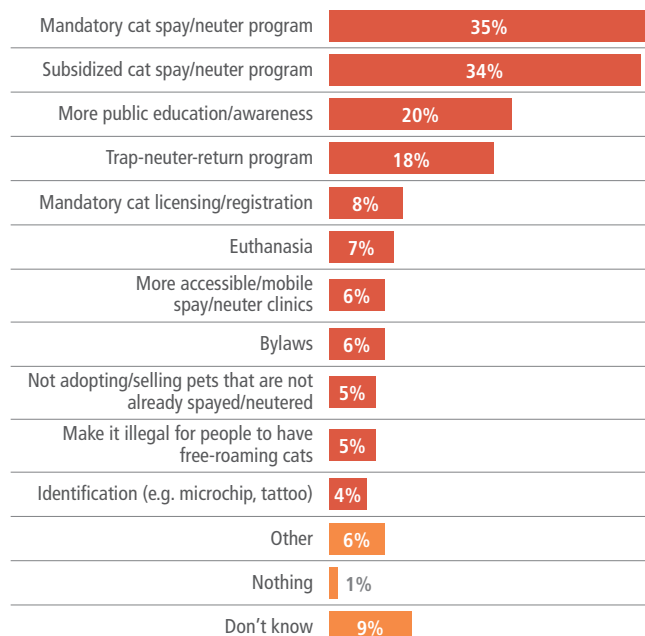
- Adoption
- Animal control
- Licensing
- High-volume spay/neuter
- Subsidized spay/neuter
- Trap-neuter-return (TNR)
- Euthanasia
- Humane education

Figure 9. Effectiveness of practices for addressing cat overpopulation.



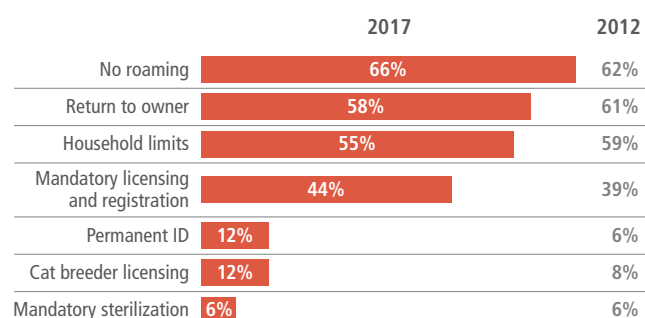
Response from all stakeholder groups to the question "Would you say that the following methods used by your community have been successful, somewhat successful, neither successful nor unsuccessful, somewhat unsuccessful, or unsuccessful at addressing cat overpopulation?" Successful and somewhat successful are grouped together in the results presented in this figure, as are unsuccessful and somewhat unsuccessful. The right-hand column shows the percentage each practice was noted as successful in the previous survey. Counts less than 3% are not labelled. * Small number of respondents.

Figure 10. Best ways to deal with cat overpopulation.



Responses of all stakeholders to the question "In your opinion, what would be the best way to deal with the cat overpopulation problem in Canada?" (n=309)

Figure 11. Elements of municipal animal control bylaws.



Breakdown of respondents

Stakeholder group	n	Percent
Humane societies	13	15%
SPCAs	13	15%
Municipalities	56	63%
Rescues	5	6%
Other	2	2%
Total	89	100%

Responses of organizations responsible for animal control to the question "What are the elements of your animal control municipal bylaw with regards to cats?"

KEY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION

- Two-thirds of stakeholders responded "yes" when asked if there is a cat overpopulation problem in their community. This is a decrease relative to five years ago, likely due to increased participation of municipalities in the survey.
- Municipalities are still much less likely to believe there is a cat overpopulation crisis, compared to all other stakeholders groups.
- There has been a significant increase in the use and perceived success of variations of accessible spay/neuter programs and TNR, as well as a decrease in the use of euthanasia.

Overall, there have been significant increases in the use of TNR programs, subsidized spay/neuter, high-volume spay/neuter, cat licensing and humane education, and a decrease in the use of euthanasia compared to 2012 (Figure 8). High-volume spay/neuter, subsidized spay/neuter and cat animal control were perceived to be significantly more successful compared to 2012 (Figure 9). Since more spay/neuter and licensing is being carried out in communities, there would be more experience with these practices, suggesting this perception is founded. In an open-ended question asking stakeholders, "In your opinion, what would be the best way to deal with the cat overpopulation problem in Canada?", the top answer was mandatory spay/neuter, followed closely by subsidized spay/neuter (Figure 10), further attesting to the perceived success of these practices.

The leading elements of current municipal animal control bylaws remain provisions regarding no roaming, return to owner, household limits and mandatory licensing and registration (Figure 11). The less prevalent elements of permanent ID and cat breeder licensing have increased compared to 2012. Given the view that accessible spay/neuter practices are effective, bylaws and supporting programs should introduce mechanisms that promote such practices. One creative approach is described in the case study "A municipal – SPCA partnership using bylaw update as a leverage for increased spay/neuter" (see Appendix II). Sterilization can also be incentivized by offering reduced licensing/registration fees.

RESULTS Homeless sheltered cats

Responses from stakeholders on the number of cats in their care provide a snapshot of the total homeless sheltered segment of the cat population. These are the cats that define the cat overpopulation issue at its essence – when there are more cats than viable households to adopt them. Note that the numbers of animals passing through humane society and SPCA shelters in particular are collected annually by CFHS. For 2016, these statistics are presented in Appendix I.

Figure 12 shows the responding organizations who have cats and dogs in their direct care and whose data form the basis of the sections related to homeless sheltered cats. The key difference relative to data from five years ago is that, in 2017, municipalities made up 21% of respondents to the sheltering questions, compared to 10% in 2012.

OVERVIEW

The calculated net number of homeless cats at responding organizations is very similar to what it was five years ago (Figure 13). This is despite decreased intake and a lower euthanasia rate. Combined with results on shelter capacity (see below) the data suggest that organizations are doing better at taking in only the number of cats they have the capacity to care for and transition to new homes, and that the net number of cats without a home represents a relatively steady and large sheltering need. The difference in intake and euthanasia rates in 2016 compared to 2011 may reflect the slightly different composition of responding organizations, with more municipal responses. However, when looking only at statistics from humane societies and SPCAs, both average cat intake and euthanasia decreased relative to the rates five years ago (Appendix I).

As noted, these results are simply a snapshot or indicator, as they are based on a fraction of responding organizations in Canada. The above values can be extrapolated to estimate, on

Figure 12. Organizations that responded they have cats in their direct care.^a

Stakeholder group	2017		2012	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Humane societies	32	18%	32	19%
SPCAs	54	31%	69	41%
Municipalities	37	21%	17	10%
Rescues	32	18%	36	21%
TNR groups	14	8%	8	5%
Spay/neuter groups	2	2%	4	2%
Other	4	4%	4	2%
Total	175	100%	170	100%

a. Some of these organizations also have dogs in care.

Figure 13. Homeless sheltered cat population model estimate.

Stakeholder survey question	Total 2016 n=158	Average per organization 2016	Total 2011 n=164	Average per organization 2011
Total intake of cats	114,131	722	150,350	917
Adopted out	68,944	406	65,249	403
Reclaimed by owner	6,260	40	7,140	43
Euthanized	20,753	16	59,939	51
Net new number of cats without a home in 2016	18,174	115	18,022	110

CAPACITY FOR CARE

Capacity for Care (C4C) is a management model that helps shelters better meet the needs of the animals in their facilities. More and more shelters are rethinking their shelter capacity in the context of C4C, which defines capacity starting with what quantity and quality of housing each cat needs for good welfare, not how many cages can fit within the walls of a shelter. A fundamental premise of C4C is improving the flow of cats through the shelter in order to reduce their length of stay and have them move quickly into adoptive homes or other locations where their welfare may

be better met than in the shelter. Reducing their length of stay prevents them from contracting illnesses that could result in their eventual euthanasia. C4C is also about optimizing the number of cats who are in the shelter at any one time so that individual cats have better conditions and successful outcomes, and the overall number of cats who can be helped is greater. Apart from benefiting cats, shelter staff report that C4C positively affects the humans in the shelter by improving morale and changing organizational culture (CFHS, 2016).

Figure 14. Extrapolated number of homeless sheltered cats.

Variable	Description	2016	2011
A	Number of respondents with cats in direct care reporting animal data	158	164
B	Number of cats euthanized	20,753	59,939
C	Number of cats waiting for adoption	18,174	18,022
D	Total number of homeless sheltered cats [B + C]	38,927	77,961
E	Average annual number of homeless sheltered cats per responding shelter [D ÷ A]	246	475
F	Estimated number of municipal animal services ^a	895	1,135
G	Estimated number of humane societies and SPCAs	167	210
H	Total estimated number of shelters [F + G]	1,062	1,345
I	Projected number of homeless sheltered cats [E × H]	261,252	638,875

a. The estimated number of municipal animal services sheltering cats in Canada is extrapolated from Ontario data, found to be most reliable. There are 444 municipalities in Ontario (Ministry of Municipal Affairs, <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/page1591.aspx>). According to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, there are 140 animal pound facilities, of which 31 are contracted to humane societies or SPCAs, leaving 109 (24.5%) municipalities with their own facilities or that contract these services elsewhere. The number of municipalities in Canada assumed to have in-house or contracted animal services is 3,655, calculated from the total census subdivisions in Canada in 2016 (5,162) less chartered communities; community governments; crown colonies; improvement districts; Indian government districts, reserves, settlements or first nations lands; island municipalities; unorganized territories and subdivisions; regional district electoral areas; resort and summer villages. The estimated number of municipal animal services not contracted to humane societies or SPCAs in Canada is 24.5% of 3,655, or 895.

a national scale, the number of cats who were left in Canadian shelters run by municipalities, SPCAs and humane societies. In order to compare this estimate to that made five years ago, the same calculations are presented in Figure 14.

CAPACITY

When a shelter's population rises above its housing capacity, the welfare of the animals is more likely to be at risk. Cats, in particular, are highly susceptible to stress-related illness when their housing does not meet their welfare needs. Such illness can spread rapidly through a population of crowded, stressed shelter cats, resulting in the risk of euthanasia.

On average, responding organizations reported 65% of their capacity was being used at the time of the survey, and 73% of capacity was being used on average in 2016 (Figure 15). This is lower than the findings of the previous survey, when responding organizations indicated 89% of capacity, on average, was being used. Once again, municipalities indicated they were using the least capacity, at 29%, compared to other stakeholder groups, whose use varied from 60% to 91% of capacity. Thus, the lower aggregate average capacity in use, relative to 2011, is influenced by the fact that municipal organizations make up more of the responding organizations in the current survey.

The decrease in capacity used at humane societies and, especially, SPCAs may be attributed to the adoption of Capacity for Care (C4C) sheltering practices (see "Capacity for Care" box). Two-thirds of respondents within the SPCA group are from branches of BC SPCA, the first Canadian organization to implement

Figure 15. Capacity to take in cats and dogs at animal care organizations.

Stakeholder group	Average holding capacity in 2016	Percent capacity being used today	Percent capacity used in 2016	Percent capacity used in 2011
Humane societies	151 (n=32)	82%	83%	90%
SPCAs	68 (n=54)	60%	66%	95%
TNR groups	42 (n=14**)	68%	86%	93%
Municipalities	66 (n=37)	29%	47%	72%
Rescues	100 (n=32)	91%	95%	91%
Aggregate average	87 (n=175)	65%	73%	89%

** Extremely small number of respondents.

C4C. A shelter successfully applying C4C will have a continual flow of cats, coming in only when the space exists to provide adequate housing for them, with most moving quickly to adoption after a short length of stay. In practice, many successful C4C shelters report no longer being continually overwhelmed with cats. While not every responding shelter is likely applying the best practices of the C4C approach, more are adopting it every year.

ANIMAL INTAKE

As was the case in 2011, organizations responding to the current survey took in more than twice as many cats as dogs (Figure 16). The proportion of cats who were juvenile was more than

RESULTS Homeless sheltered cats (continued)

Figure 16. Total cats and dogs received in 2016 by stakeholder group.

Stakeholder group		Cats received	Percent kittens	Dogs received	Percent puppies
Humane societies (n=30)	Total	42,866	43%	16,262	16%
	Average per organization	1,429		561	
SPCAs (n=54)	Total	42,680	43%	15,460	16%
	Average per organization	790		303	
TNR groups (n=11**)	Total	3,476	53%	N/A	N/A
	Average per organization	316			
Municipalities (n=31)	Total	15,167	23%	11,963	5%
	Average per organization	489		342	
Rescues (n=27*)	Total	8,881	48%	3,360	25%
	Average per organization	329		259	
Total ^a (n=158)	Total	114,131	43%	47,223	16%
	Average per organization	722		366	
Veterinarians (cats: n=12**) (dogs: n=10**)	Total	200	28%	414	8%
	Average per veterinarian	17		28	

a. Total of animal care organizations. Veterinarian responses are reported separately. **N/A** not applicable. * Small number of respondents. ** Extremely small number of respondents.

twice as high as for dogs, attesting to the high number of unwanted cat litters compared to unwanted dog litters.

Approximately half of the cats and dogs admitted were strays/ surrendered by a member of the public, one quarter were surrendered by their owner and one tenth were transferred from another organization (Figure 17). A greater proportion of cats are now being transferred between organizations than was the case five years ago, and a greater fraction of cats transferred were kittens. This may be due to increased resourcefulness and networking to rehome cats.

The differences observed between stray kittens and puppies are similar to five years ago, with a much greater proportion of kittens brought in as stray. The sizeable proportion of stray kittens surrendered may indicate (1) a need for more widespread early sterilization among owned cats to prevent unwanted litters that may be dumped, and (2) a need for greater TNR efforts to curb the reproduction of unowned cats. These should be accompanied with stronger education initiatives about the importance of spaying or neutering and about the cruelty and illegality of abandonment.

Figure 17. Cats and dogs received at animal care organizations by intake category.

	Total 2016	Average 2016	Average 2011	Percent juvenile 2016	Percent juvenile 2011
Cats					
Stray/public surrendered	63,460 (n=138)	460	585	37%	39%
Owner surrendered	27,950 (n=138)	203	226	26%	26%
Transferred	13,431 (n=138)	97	56	26%	15%
Dogs					
Stray/public surrendered	24,417 (n=115)	212	302	10%	18%
Owner surrendered	11,181 (n=116)	96	148	14%	40%
Transferred	5,216 (n=116)	45	63	16%	74%



Figure 18. Top reasons for owner surrender.

	2016				Percentage ranked 1st in 2011
	1ST	2ND	3RD	NOT RANKED	
Housing (including "moving", "landlord" or strata issues)	29%	27%	22%	22%	34%
Too much time or responsibility	18%	11%	15%	56%	28%
Financial reasons (including "too expensive" or "can't afford vet bills")	15%	16%	15%	54%	11%
Animal behaviour (including soiling, aggression)	12%	20%	13%	56%	9%
Owner health (including owner illness, allergy, death)	10%	16%	22%	53%	12%
Other	11%	2%	3%	84%	7%

Respondents ranked the top three reasons cats and/or dogs were surrendered by owners to organizations in 2016 (n=174). The right-hand column shows the percentage each reason was ranked first in the previous survey.

Figure 19. Number of cats and dogs received without ID.

	Total received 2016	Total received without ID (n=104)	Percent received without ID 2016	Percent received without ID 2011	Average per organization 2016	Average per organization 2011
Cats	114,131	33,491 (n=104)	29%	63%	322	575
Dogs	47,223	9,951 (n=75)	21%	46%	133	247

RESULTS Homeless sheltered cats (continued)

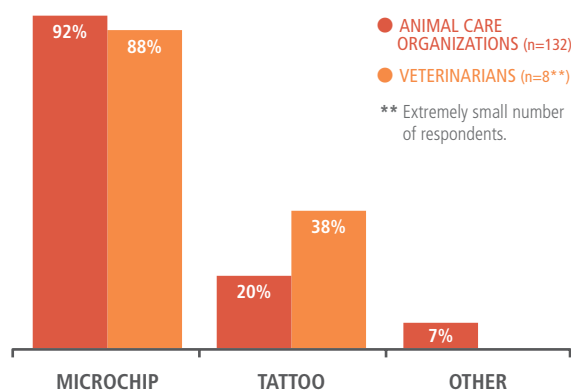
Figure 20. Provision of permanent ID prior to adoption.

a. Percentage of stakeholders providing ID in 2017 compared to 2012.

Stakeholder group	Percent yes 2017	Percent yes 2012
Humane societies	78% (n=32)	75%
SPCAs	98% (n=53)	82%
TNR groups	45% (n=20*)	58%
Municipalities	43% (n=37)	29%
Rescues	74% (n=35)	68%
Aggregate average	72% (n=177)	72%
Veterinarians	47% (n=17*)	29%

Note: The aggregate average applies to animal care organizations. Veterinarian responses are reported separately. * Small number of respondents.

b. ID method favoured.



Overall, the proportion of puppies in care has decreased significantly from 2011, when three-quarters of canines transferred from other organizations were puppies and 40% of canines surrendered by their owners were puppies. In 2016, only about 15% of animals from each of these sources were juvenile.

The top reasons given by owners who surrender their companion animals were still firstly, “housing, including ‘moving’, ‘landlord’ or strata⁴ issues”; and secondly, that the animal requires “too much time or responsibility” (Figure 18).

Compared to 2011, fewer cats and dogs are arriving at animal care organizations without identification (Figure 19). This decrease likely reflects the more prevalent policy among most organizations adopting out animals to provide identification, often alongside sterilization and vaccinations. Seventy-two percent of respondents provide permanent identification before adoption, similar to what was reported five years ago (Figure 20). Municipal respondents were more likely to provide permanent ID in 2017 than in 2012. By far, microchips are the most utilized method of permanent ID. However, the method chosen likely depends on whether organizations are handling mostly feral cats, for example in TNR programs, or animals who will be adopted into a home. It is assumed that some respondents selected tattoos in the survey, as they are typically used to indicate sterilization status for a cat that is feral, homeless at-large or in a barn cat program. Half of the responding veterinarians who adopt out animals provide permanent ID, and most favour microchips.

KEY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION

- On average, responding shelters are no longer at the limit of their capacity to take in cats, as was the case five years ago.
- There are still twice as many cats taken in as dogs, and the juvenile rate of these cats is twice that for dogs.
- A much smaller proportion of puppies are taken in to care compared to kittens.
- Housing issues are still the primary reason owners give for surrendering their companion animal.
- The proportion of animals who already have permanent identification when admitted to care has increased in the last five years. Twice the proportion of cats are coming in with ID.
- Responding municipalities are more likely to provide permanent ID to animals they adopt out than in 2012.

There may be an expectation for the number of animals arriving at organizations without ID to be even lower than reported, given the pervasive practice at animal care organizations of providing ID. However, since the top three sources of cats for Canadians are “free/giveaway”, “friends/family members/relatives”, and “found as a stray”, a large proportion of new cat owners may not be receiving a cat already bearing ID (Figure 4). The rate may also reflect an intake of kittens of intact feral or homeless at-large cats.

⁴ Strata is a term used particularly in BC and denotes a building or piece of land shared between various owners, especially in the form of separate condominiums. It also denotes a company or collective managing the property (“Strata”, 2004).

RESULTS Spay/neuter

Compared to five years ago, roughly twice the proportion of both stray and owner-surrendered cats and dogs were already spayed or neutered at the time of their admission (Figure 21). Interestingly, the proportions are very similar across both dogs and cats, suggesting that this slow but definite improvement is related to an increase in spay/neuter rates among owned animals. This result is consistent with the findings of the general population survey of an increase in the number of cat owners saying their cats are sterilized (Figure 5). These similar increases in the proportion of sterilized animals taken in can be considered along with the above results regarding the decrease in proportion of puppies taken in, compared to a stable and higher proportion of kittens taken in to care. Together, these findings suggest there is a need to put even greater effort into feline spay/neuter in Canada.

Most organizations that rehome animals also have them sterilized prior to adoption. Sixty-four percent of responding organizations spay/neuter compared to 79% in 2012 (Figure 22). This lower rate results from the increased participation of municipal stakeholders in the 2017 survey. Only 19% of municipal respondents provide sterilization compared with 95% to 100% for all other stakeholder groups. The earliest age at which organizations sterilize kittens is, on average, 3.1 months, with TNR groups indicating slightly older and SPCAs slightly younger (Figure 23).⁵ The younger age of spay/neuter for kittens among the SPCA group in particular likely reflects the large number of BC SPCA respondents. In branches with veterinarians, the organization typically spays or neuters adoptable kittens at eight weeks of

age or at a weight of 2 pounds (M. van der Velden, personal communication, November 22, 2017). Early age spay/neuter, prior to sexual maturity, is a best practice recommended by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA, 2012) among others, and adopted by progressive organizations. The Association of Shelter Veterinarians' 2016 Guidelines for Spay/Neuter Programs recommends for "animals that will be placed for adoption, neutering is best performed prior to adoption (as early as six weeks of age) to ensure compliance" (Griffin *et al.*, 2016). The Guidelines also note that "neutering prior to adoption is likely to improve the odds that adopted animals will be retained in their new homes because being sexually intact has been identified as the leading risk factor for owner relinquishment of cats and dogs."

Approximately half of the cats received by animal care organizations were spayed or neutered while in care, which is twice the rate as in 2011 (Figure 24). The proportion of dogs received who were provided with spay/neuter surgery also increased. This increase reflects an emerging culture shift among these organizations, which now have the perspective that it is not prudent to allow intact animals to leave the shelter when it is in their power to have these animals sterilized first. While more and more organizations, particularly humane societies and SPCAs, are creating in-house clinics to ensure sterilization of adoptable animals (as well as to offer services to members of the public, where possible), others may rely on providing new adopters with a voucher for spay/neuter surgery. Unfortunately, this approach, while still beneficial to adopters convinced of the

Figure 21. Cats and dogs received already spayed/neutered.

	Total received 2016	Total already spayed/neutered	Percent already spayed/neutered 2016	Percent already spayed/neutered 2011	Average per organization 2016	Average per organization 2011	Percent juvenile 2016	Percent juvenile 2011
Cats								
Stray/public surrendered	63,460	4,981 (n=104)	8%	4%	48	47	10%	7%
Owner surrendered	27,950	7,051 (n=104)	25%	10%	68	42	11%	4%
Sum	91,410	12,032	13%	6%				
Dogs								
Stray/public surrendered	24,417	2,637 (n=74)	11%	6%	36	51	3%	5%
Owner surrendered	11,181	3,253 (n=77)	29%	13%	42	42	9%	3%
Sum	35,598	5,890	17%	8%				

⁵ This question was not posed in the 2012 survey.

RESULTS Spay/neuter (continued)

Figure 22. Sterilization of animals prior to adoption.

Stakeholder group	Percent yes 2017	Percent yes 2012
Humane societies	100% (n=32)	97%
SPCAs	100% (n=55)	93%
TNR groups	95% (n=22*)	100%
Municipalities	19% (n=119)	27%
Rescues	100% (n=35)	97%
Aggregate average	64% (n=263)	79%

Responses of stakeholders to the question "Does your organization have cats or dogs spayed and neutered?" * Small number of respondents.

Figure 23. Earliest age at which organizations sterilize animals prior to adoption (in months).

Stakeholder group	Cats	Dogs
Humane societies	3.1 n=32	3.4 n=31
SPCAs	2.4 n=55	2.4 n=52
TNR groups	4.0 n=21*	N/A
Municipalities	3.3 n=23*	3.2 n=23*
Rescues	3.6 n=35	4.1 n=19*
Aggregate average	3.1 n=173	3.0 n=127

N/A not applicable. * Small number of respondents.

value, means other adopters who are not committed to sterilizing their new companion animal may not follow through. In this case, tracking and follow-up phone calls to new adopters may increase uptake of the offer, though it is not as reliable as doing the surgery prior to adoption, as referred to by the ASV Guidelines (Griffin *et al.*, 2016).

Since 2011, juvenile sterilization of both cats and dogs by animal care organizations is more prevalent. The top reasons animals are released without being spayed or neutered are (1) that the animal is too young or too old, and (2) that it is not medically recommended (Figure 25). This is an improvement relative to five years ago, when the second-highest ranked reason was "lack of funds for surgery". In the 2017 survey, this reason was selected less frequently, indicating more support for accessible sterilization services. When asked whether there is an accessible spay/neuter option in the community, 56% of respondents said yes, compared to 43% in 2012 (Figure 26). Respondents from

Alberta, Ontario and Quebec showed the greatest increase in positive responses.

The creation of spay/neuter programs for adoptable animals by charitable organizations (humane societies, SPCAs, rescues, TNR groups and spay/neuter groups) appears to have had tremendous impact in recent years, but effectively places the cost of addressing cat overpopulation on the organizations' donors and veterinary partners, who may be contributing their time at a discount. Such organizations must compensate for a consistent lack of funding for this essential work by directing significant resources toward creative revenue-generating activities. Governments already allocate some resources for animal services to address public health objectives and complaints. Additional investment and support from government in accessible spay/neuter programs would be more cost-effective by targeting the root of overpopulation and would alleviate the inefficiency faced by these charities.

Figure 24. Number of cats and dogs spayed or neutered while in care.

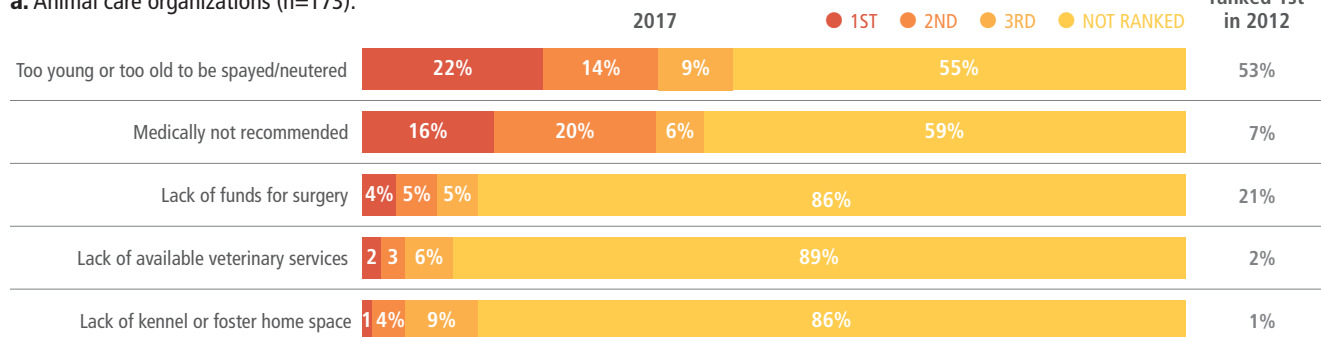
	Total received 2016	Total spayed/neutered 2016	Percent received who were spayed/neutered 2016	Percent received who were spayed/neutered 2011	Average per organization 2016	Average per organization 2011	Percent juvenile 2016	Percent juvenile 2011
Cats	114,131	58,737 (n=131)	51%	26%	448	378	48%	28%
Dogs	47,223	13,469 (n=94)	29%	19%	143	241	29%	14%



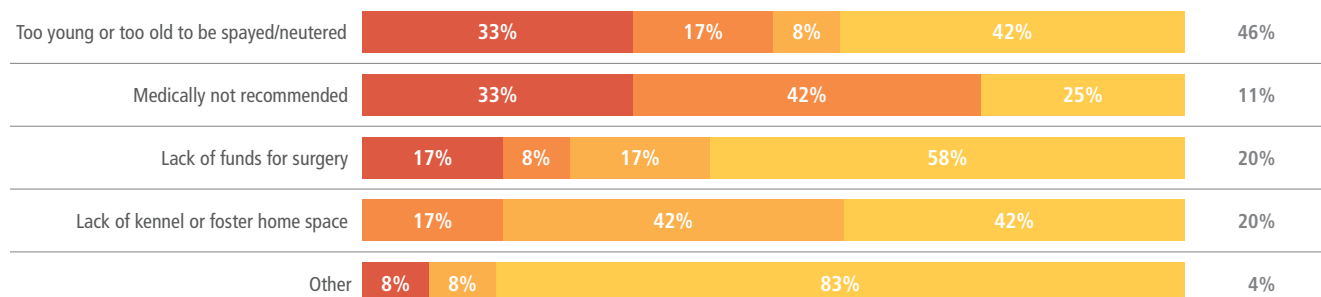
RESULTS Spay/neuter (continued)

Figure 25. Top three reasons cats and dogs are released without being spayed or neutered.

a. Animal care organizations (n=173).



b. Veterinarians (n=12).**



The right-hand column shows the percentage each reason was ranked first in the previous survey. ** Extremely small number of respondents.

Figure 26. Respondents who indicated there is a subsidized spay/neuter option in their community.

a. Respondents by stakeholder group.

Stakeholder group	Percent yes 2017	Percent yes 2012
Humane societies	53% (n=32)	37%
SPCAs	58% (n=55)	49%
TNR groups	52% (n=21*)	60%
Municipalities	65% (n=23*)	14%
Rescues	49% (n=35)	41%
Aggregate average ^a	56% (n=166)	43%
Veterinarians	68% (n=38)	42%

b. Animal care organizations by province.

Province	Percent yes 2017	Percent yes 2012
British Columbia	59% (n=51)	53%
Alberta	69% (n=32)	46%
Prairies	44% (n=18*)	43%
Ontario	64% (n=33)	33%
Quebec	35% (n=17*)	8%
Atlantic	45% (n=22*)	50%
Aggregate average	56% (n=173)	43%

^a The aggregate average applies to animal care organizations. Veterinarian responses are reported separately. * Small number of respondents.

KEY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION

- Compared to 2011, twice the proportion of cats and dogs were already sterilized at the time of their admission in 2016.
- Only 19% of municipal respondents spay or neuter animals prior to adoption, compared to almost 100% of other stakeholder groups.
- Twice the proportion of adoptable cats were spayed or neutered while in the care of responding stakeholders. The proportion of adoptable dogs spayed or neutered also increased during the last five years.
- The proportion of sterilized adoptable animals who were juvenile is greater than it was five years ago. The earliest age animal care organizations conduct spay or neuter surgery is, on average, 3.1 months.
- More respondents indicate accessible spay/neuter options are available in their communities than in 2012.
- Lack of funds for surgery is less frequently given as the reason why animals are released for adoption without having been sterilized.

Veterinarians also support homeless animals by providing them with shelter and medical services, and facilitating their adoption. Fewer veterinarians participated in the 2017 survey, therefore the results should be treated with caution. Forty-five percent of responding veterinarians take in cats and dogs to their clinics, similar to the rate reported five years ago, and a majority provide sterilization for these animals before they are adopted (Figures 27 and 28). The top reasons cats and dogs are released from vet clinics for adoption without being sterilized are the same as those reported by non-veterinary stakeholders (Figure 25). As with the other stakeholder groups, more responding veterinarians said there was a subsidized spay/neuter option in their community compared to five years ago, with 68% indicating there was an option in 2017 compared to 42% in 2012 (Figure 26).

Figure 27. Number of cats and dogs in need taken in by veterinary clinics.

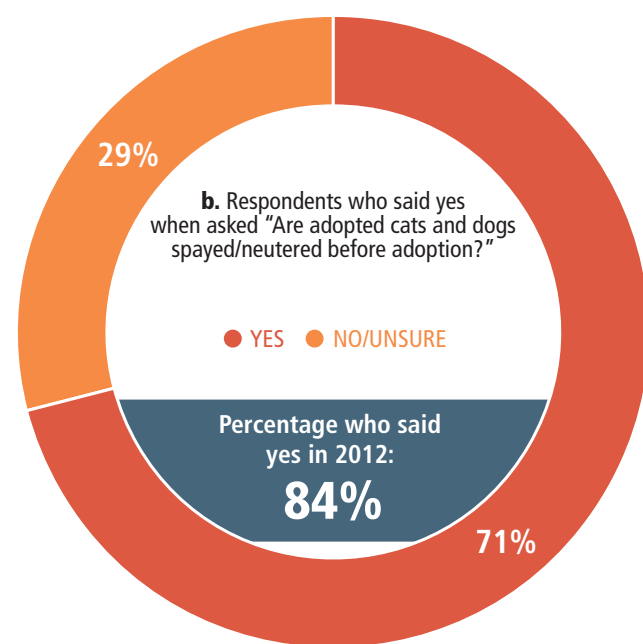
	Total 2016	Average 2016	Average 2011	Percent Juvenile 2016	Percent Juvenile 2011
Cats	200 (n=12 ^{**})	17	18	28%	37%
Dogs	414 (n=10 ^{**})	28	2	8%	1%

^{**} Extremely small number of respondents.

Figure 28. Veterinary clinics offering animals for adoption.

a. Respondents who said yes when asked "Does your clinic offer animals for adoption?"

	2017	2012
Cats	47%	54%
Kittens	47%	51%
Dogs	35%	28%
Puppies	23%	29%



n=17; small number of respondents.

The main live outcomes for shelter animals are that they are returned to their owner, they are transferred to another facility, or they are adopted into a new home.

In 2016, a slightly higher fraction of stray cats were returned to their owners than five years ago, at 10% in 2016, compared to 8% in 2011. Stray dogs fared even better in 2016: 68% of stray dogs were returned to their owner compared to 57% in 2011 (Figure 29). Given a similar percentage of cats and dogs are arriving at shelters with identification, the difference in return to owner rates may be due to more unowned or abandoned cats being surrendered to shelters who actually have no owner to whom they can be returned. It may also reflect different value placed by society on cats compared to dogs, where cats are seen as more disposable and easily replaceable. This highlights the need to shift society's treatment of feline companions so they receive the same care and consideration as canines.

The proportion of total animals who were transferred to another facility remained similar in 2016 compared to five years ago

(Figure 30). Interestingly, fewer juvenile dogs were transferred, which may reflect their higher demand in general.

Adoption is the most common practice for addressing cat overpopulation. The general population survey found that adoption from shelters and rescues combined make up the greatest source of feline companions, at 27% (Figure 4). General population survey results over recent years have shown a steady fraction of Canadian households that include a cat. Furthermore, the number of cats per household may be declining (Figure 3). Thus, adoption is not likely a sustainable solution to cat overpopulation, beyond a certain threshold of cats.

The rate of cat adoption has increased since 2011 from 43% to 60% in 2016 (Figure 31). Dog adoption rates have also increased, though not as markedly. The proportion of adopted animals who are juvenile remained relatively steady.

Municipalities are less likely to adopt animals to the public. Seventy-six percent of municipalities providing direct care

Figure 29. Number of cats and dogs reclaimed by their owners.

	Total received	Total stray received	Total reclaimed	Percent reclaimed of received	Percent reclaimed of stray	Average reclaimed per organization	Percent juvenile
2016							
Cats	114,131	63,460	6,260 (n=158)	5%	10%	40	5%
Dogs	47,223	24,417	16,563 (n=125)	35%	68%	133	3%
2011							
Cats	150,350	87,770	7,139 (n=165)	5%	8%	43	4%
Dogs	70,302	36,548	20,856 (n=129)	30%	57%	170	5%

Figure 30. Number of cats and dogs transferred out.

	Total received 2016	Total transferred 2016	Percent transferred 2016	Percent transferred 2011	Average per organization 2016	Average per organization 2011	Percent juvenile 2016	Percent juvenile 2011
Cats	114,131	3,648 (n=157)	3%	3%	23	29	15%	17%
Dogs	47,223	2,281 (n=123)	5%	5%	19	32	4%	15%

Figure 31. Number of cats and dogs adopted.

	Total received 2016	Total adopted 2016	Percent adopted 2016	Percent adopted 2011	Average per organization 2016	Average per organization 2011	Percent juvenile 2016	Percent juvenile 2011
Cats	114,131	68,944 (n=170)	60%	43%	406	403	47%	46%
Dogs	47,223	21,089 (n=129)	45%	38%	164	220	23%	27%

adopt out animals, compared to more than 90% of the other stakeholder groups, excluding veterinarians (Figure 32). Often municipalities contract longer-term animal care services to humane societies, SPCAs, rescues or other private organizations that run adoption programs.

In the 2017 survey, new questions were posed regarding the average length of stay of animals in shelter or in foster care (Figure 33). Dogs have a shorter length of stay in shelter than cats. A comparison of length of stay across stakeholder groups reveals that the longest lengths of stay in shelter are at rescues, followed by humane societies. The shortest lengths of stay are at municipalities, who may transfer animals to contracted services for longer-term care. A small number of TNR groups also report lengths of stay of greater than two weeks for cats in shelter. It would be interesting to better understand the situations in which such cats are being kept in shelter; presumably this is only for cats who need long-term medical care.

While longer stays in foster care are not a welfare concern, lengthy shelter stays for cats lead to extended periods of stress, resulting in increased risk of illness. Moving animals who need longer-term care out of the shelter and into a foster environment allows that shelter space to be used for more readily-adoptable animals. They, in turn, move quickly through the shelter, maintaining the flow of adoption, ultimately allowing for more homeless cats to be rehomed overall. Length of stay is intricately linked with shelter capacity and quality housing, as per the Capacity for Care model (see “Capacity for Care” box, above).

KEY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION

- There was a modest increase in the percentage of stray cats reclaimed, while a higher percentage of stray dogs were returned to their owners.
- The rate of reclaim for stray cats is still very low, at 10%, compared to 68% for stray dogs.
- The rate of adoption has increased, particularly for cats; 60% of cats taken in were adopted in 2016, compared to 43% five years earlier.

Figure 32. Percentage of organizations that adopt cats to members of the public.

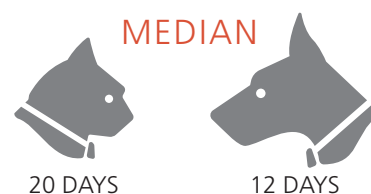
Organization	Percent yes 2017	Percent yes 2012
Humane societies	100% (n=32)	100%
SPCAs	96% (n=55)	97%
TNR groups	91% (n=22*)	80%
Municipalities	31% (n=119)	30%
Rescues	100% (n=35)	100%
Aggregate average	68% (n=263)	79%

* Small number of respondents.

Figure 33. Length of stay in care in 2016.

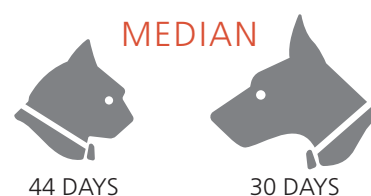
a. Average and median length of stay in shelter (in days).

	Cats			Dogs		
	n	Average	Median	n	Average	Median
Humane societies	29	78.4	30	28	36.5	20
SPCAs	50	21.5	15	45	14.5	9
TNR groups	5	19.3	14	N/A	N/A	N/A
Municipalities	22	20.5	14.5	27	11.3	5
Rescues	15	87.1	74	5	47.2	30
Total	121	43.4	20	105	21.2	12



b. Average and median length of stay in foster care (in days).

	Cats			Dogs		
	n	Average	Median	n	Average	Median
Humane societies	16	56.9	48.5	11	61.5	45
SPCAs	45	37.8	36	43	32.9	32
TNR groups	11	76.6	49	N/A	N/A	N/A
Municipalities	8	28.8	8.5	8	10.0	1
Rescues	23	88.0	56	13	59.5	45
Spay/neuter groups	1	60.0	60	NR	NR	NR
Other	2	180.0	180	NR	NR	NR
Total	106	58.4	44	75	40.5	30



N/A not applicable NR no response

One of the most difficult aspects of cat overpopulation is the need to euthanize animals. While euthanasia is a necessary practice to address suffering that cannot be alleviated, cat stakeholders are working to reduce the need for euthanasia by reducing the number of unwanted cats, improving protocols to prevent disease and illness, and increasing the number of viable homes. Survey respondents reported a significantly smaller proportion of animals euthanized in 2016 compared to 2011. Of the cats received, 18% were euthanized compared to 40% five years previously. The euthanasia rate for dogs also decreased (Figure 34).

Given that municipalities euthanize animals less than most other stakeholder groups in this study, the increased representation of municipalities among survey respondents could explain the sizeable decrease in the cat euthanasia rate (Figure 35). However, looking solely at humane societies and SPCAs, there was also a strong decline in cat euthanasia from 42% in 2011 to 21% in 2016 (Appendix I).⁶

When asked the most common reasons for euthanizing cats, 94% of responses were illness/change in health status (Figure 36). Animal behaviour was the second most frequent response for cats at 42%. These top reasons were reversed for dogs, with animal behaviour first, at 82%, followed by illness/change in status, at 73%. This difference was also captured when stakeholders were asked what number of healthy animals were euthanized (Figure 37). Respondents reported an average 8% of the cats euthanized were healthy compared to 17% of dogs euthanized. Where behaviour prevents adoptability of a cat, there are often more alternatives to euthanasia than for dogs, such as barn cat programs, in which the cat is released to a farm setting.

While survey results for veterinarians should be treated with caution due to the small number of respondents, 32% of veterinary respondents indicated they euthanize for non-medical reasons (Figure 38). The most common reason given was animal behaviour, followed by affordability of medical treatment, as was the case five years ago.

Figure 34. Cats and dogs euthanized.

	Total received 2016	Total euthanized 2016	Percent euthanized in 2016	Percent euthanized in 2011	Average per organization 2016	Average per organization 2011	Percent juvenile in 2016	Percent juvenile in 2011
Cats	114,131	20,753 (n=129)	18%	40%	161	512	17%	20%
Dogs	47,223	3,799 (n=117)	8%	14%	33	97	4%	4%

Figure 35. Response to the question "Does your organization euthanize?"

Stakeholder group	Percent yes 2017	Percent yes 2012
Humane societies	84% (n=32)	75%
SPCAs	96% (n=55)	86%
TNR groups	32% (n=22*)	13%
Municipalities	34% (n=119)	46%
Rescues	49% (n=35)	34%
Aggregate average	55% (n=263)	56%

* Small number of respondents.

⁶ The average cat euthanasia rate for stakeholders with cats in direct care **excluding** municipalities was 19%.

KEY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION

- A strong decline in the cat euthanasia rate was observed in 2016 compared to 2011.
- The dog euthanasia rate, which is much lower than that of cats, also decreased.
- Illness/change in health status continues to be the foremost reason for cat euthanasia in shelters. Other reasons have become less common.

Euthanasia of a large number of homeless cats who likely fall ill while in care continues to be one of the grimmest aspects of cat overpopulation. The Capacity for Care shelter management practices can address the risk of euthanasia and should be adopted by all facilities. However, only by addressing the roots of cat overpopulation will this harsh outcome faced by cats and animal care workers finally be eliminated.



Figure 36. Most common reasons given by animal care organizations for euthanizing cats and dogs.

Reason	Cats		Kittens		Dogs		Puppies	
	2016 (n=132)	2011	2016 (n=109)	2011	2016 (n=114)	2011	2016 (n=64)	2011
Illness/change in health status	94%	88%	95%	82%	73%	79%	95%	75%
Animal behaviour	42%	67%	20%	47%	82%	91%	25%	19%
Affordability of medical treatment	11%	22%	8%	17%	6%	16%	6%	13%
Lack of space	8%	29%	6%	24%	4%	9%	0%	5%

Figure 37. Number of cats and dogs euthanized when healthy at animal care organizations in 2016.

	Total euthanized	Total euthanized when healthy	Percent euthanized when healthy	Average per organization	Percent juvenile
Cats	20,753	1,754 (n=123)	8%	14.3	0.4%
Dogs	3,799	643 (n=109)	17%	5.9	0.3%

Figure 38. Most common reasons given by veterinarians for non-medical euthanasia.

Reason	Cats	Kittens	Dogs	Puppies
Animal behaviour	83%	25%	92%	25%
Affordability of medical treatment	42%	25%	33%	17%
Lack of space	8%	0%	17%	0%
Unsure	0%	0%	0%	8%
Not applicable	0%	50%	0%	50%

n=12; extremely small number of respondents.

RESULTS Homeless cats at-large

When we compare the situation of cat and dog populations

in many parts of the country, one thing that stands out is the greater presence of free-roaming cats. This situation has implications for cat welfare, wildlife loss and public health. Populations of cats at-large are difficult to estimate, though research in this area has advanced over the last five years. The first empirical estimate of a population size of free-roaming cats was determined for Guelph, Ontario (Flockhart, Norris, & Coe, 2016). Note that free-roaming cats include homeless, feral and owned individuals. The approach can be applied to derive estimates in other urban areas in North America.

It is believed that homeless at-large and feral populations have a much lower rate of sterilization than owned cats. Cats at-large are seen as the most important source of unwanted cat litters since their rate of sterilization is much lower than owned cats. In the general population survey, more than 90% of respondents indicated their cats were spayed or neutered (Figure 5). While the sterilization rate for homeless at-large and managed feral cats in Canada is not known, in the United States, these population segments are estimated to number in the tens of millions, and only 2% are believed to be sterilized (Levy, Isaza, & Scott, 2014).

Trap-neuter-return, or TNR, is a population control strategy whereby homeless cats at-large and managed feral cats are humanely captured, spayed or neutered, provided with additional medical treatment, vaccination and identification, and then returned to their original locations. TNR programs are primarily implemented in managed feral cat colonies. Sterilization stops further reproduction, while also preventing the spread of disease and reducing risky and nuisance behaviours, such as fighting and roaming. In addition, many programs rehome socialized,

Figure 39. Responses to the question “Does your organization care for a feral cat colony?”

Stakeholder group	Percent yes 2017	Percent yes 2012
Humane societies	6% (n=32)	4%
SPCAs	4% (n=55)	2%
TNR groups	77% (n=22*)	93%
Municipalities	3% (n=119)	0%
Rescues	34% (n=35)	50%
Aggregate average	15% (n=263)	20%

* Small number of respondents.

adoptable kittens and cats, thereby further reducing the colony size. Some cats who migrate into the area may join a colony. Therefore TNR programs must be supported by widespread sterilization of owned cats, along with efforts to eliminate abandonment. Eventually, the entire colony population is reduced through attrition.

TNR is the only humane, effective solution to manage and eventually eliminate populations of unowned, free-roaming cats, but it must be done well to succeed (Kortis, 2014). This requires solid planning, sufficient resources and community-wide support. The future development of non-surgical sterilization methods for cats, already being applied in other species, has the potential to significantly reduce resource and medical challenges associated with TNR.⁷

Figure 40. Feral cat colony demographics.

	Number of colonies supported	Number of felines per colony	Percent kittens	Number of felines spayed/neutered	Percent kittens spayed/neutered	Number felines removed from colony	Percent kittens removed from colony
2016 (n=40)							
Average	26	207	11%	156	15%	55	66%
Sum	1,030	5,598		5,297		1,655	
2011 (n=39)							
Average	11	118	19%	106	19%	25	46%
Sum	429	3,540		3,710		925	

⁷ The Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs (ACC&D) is one progressive organization working hard to advance the development of safe and effective methods of non-surgical contraception to reduce the numbers of unwanted cats and dogs: <http://www.acc-d.org/>



Of non-veterinary survey respondents, 15% or 40 stakeholders, said their organization cares for a feral cat colony. Given this small number of respondents, the following results should be interpreted with caution. Among the different stakeholder types, not surprisingly, TNR groups, followed by rescues, are most likely to care for feral colonies, as was the case five years ago (Figure 39). Responses regarding feral cats are summarized in Figure 40. The results portray a situation similar to that seen in 2011. Respondents supported, on average, 26 colonies with 207 felines each, of which 11% were kittens.

It is worth noting that 10% of respondents to the general population survey reported providing food for cats in their neighbourhood whom they do not consider their own, with younger Canadians, cat owners and those with kids being more likely to do so. Without spay/neuter initiatives, such actions could inadvertently increase the population of cats at-large.

KEY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION

- The reproductive contribution of homeless at-large and feral cats is estimated to be much greater than that of the owned segment of the cat population.
- Population control for the feral and homeless at-large segments must be considered in a humane and effective way to address cat overpopulation. Well-managed TNR programs are the leading solution.

However, the desire by some Canadians to provide for the well-being of cats they likely perceive as homeless can be leveraged into support for more community-coordinated efforts to effectively manage homeless cats at-large.

RESULTS Veterinarian support

Veterinarians are a critical partner of organizations whose mandates include providing care for and addressing populations of homeless cats. Veterinarians have a unique role in providing spay/neuter and other medical services that are essential to addressing the risks of cat overpopulation. Note that fewer veterinarians participated in the 2017 survey compared to 2012, therefore results presented in this section should be treated with caution.

Responding veterinarians are supporting animal care organizations and provide discounts at a similar level to what was reported in 2012. These veterinarians provide services mostly for cat and dog rescue organizations, followed by services for cats at shelters, services for dogs at shelters and, lastly, services for TNR groups (Figure 41). There seems to have been a slight shift from supporting shelters more in 2012 to supporting rescues more in 2017, and this could be due to an apparent increase in the number of rescues in Canada over the past five years, an observation noted by a number of Task Force members. Veterinary survey respondents report allocating an average of 11% of their time and/or resources to these groups.


The types of services provided to the above groups are also on par with what was reported five years ago. More than 80% of responding vets provided spay/neuter surgeries and medical



Figure 41. Services and discounts offered by veterinarians in support of animal care organizations.

	2017	2012
Cat services for rescues	61%	53%
Dog services for rescues	61%	53%
Cat services for shelters	50%	59%
Dog services for shelters	45%	55%
Trap-neuter-return	26%	29%
Other	5%	26%
None	16%	

Veterinarian responses to the question "Does your clinic provide services to any of the following groups?" (n=38)



11%
Proportion of
time/resources
allocated to
supporting these
groups, on average

Veterinarian responses to the follow-up question "And what proportion of your time and/or resources are allocated to supporting these groups?" (n=32)



KEY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION

- Responding veterinarians are supporting animal care organizations and allocate an average of 11% of their time and/or resources to these groups.
- Rescues are the stakeholder group most likely to benefit from this support.
- The level of discount veterinarians provide to the organizations they support ranges from 30% to 45%.
- Most vets are providing spay/neuter surgeries and medical treatment/testing services, as well as vaccinations to the groups they support.

treatment or testing, while more than 70% provided vaccinations (Figure 42). The level of discount offered ranged from 30% to 45%.

Accessibility to veterinarians in general and affordable spay/neuter services in particular is an essential element that remains to be addressed in overcoming cat overpopulation. Responding vets are contributing to meet these needs and dedicating significant resources in doing so. More engagement by the veterinary community as a whole would be welcome.

Figure 42. Specific services and discounts offered by responding veterinarians in support of animal care organizations.

Specific service	Yes service provided 2017	Yes service provided 2012	Yes discount offered 2017	Yes discount offered 2012	Average discount 2017	Average discount 2012
Spay/neuter surgeries	84%	81%	84%	86%	37% (n=27*)	41%
Medical treatment/testing	81%	75%	75%	71%	32% (n=24*)	39%
Vaccinations	72%	71%	66%	66%	45% (n=21*)	30%
Foster network	19%	16%	6%	12%		
Adoption	12%	22%	6%	19%		
Other	6%	15%				

For 2017 data, n=32, except where otherwise stated. * Small number of respondents.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a species, cats have a remarkable resilience and ability to adapt to human environments, which has allowed them to thrive the world over. They also have endearing qualities that have made them Canada's most popular companion animal. While this title has long been vied for in a two-species race, the care and consideration we provide for cats does not match that enjoyed by dogs. One of the consequences of this dichotomy is cat overpopulation.

Fundamentally, tackling overpopulation requires addressing the root of the problem: reproduction. In order to address this, there is a need to improve sterilization rates among owned cats and cats at-large, both feral and homeless. In the last five years, there have been some very positive advances in this regard:

- Cat owners are reporting more of their cats are sterilized.
- More cats are being admitted to care organizations already spayed or neutered.
- The availability of accessible spay/neuter services and their success has increased.
- Organizations are reporting more cats sterilized prior to adoption, and juveniles make up a larger fraction of those sterilized.
- Lack of funds is less likely to be the reason animals are released for adoption without having been sterilized.
- A greater fraction of cats are being adopted from animal care organizations.
- Euthanasia of cats has decreased.

However, there has also been a persistence of some troubling phenomena:

- There are still twice as many cats taken in to care as dogs.
- The proportion of these cats who are juvenile is twice what it is for dogs.
- The rate of reclaim for stray cats is about one seventh of that for stray dogs.
- Illness or change in health status continues to be the foremost reason for cat euthanasia in shelters.

Considering especially the proportion of kittens coming to shelters, as well as the early and high fertility of cats, there is a need to put even greater effort into feline spay/neuter.

While the recommendations from the 2012 report still stand and should be reviewed by stakeholders, below are ten recommendations addressing needs that are highlighted by the current study.

1. Develop and promote education about the importance of spaying or neutering and about the cruelty and illegality of abandonment.
2. Municipalities communicate with other stakeholders to improve understanding of perspectives across stakeholder groups, as well as collaborate and strategically align efforts. For example, support the above educational messages with laws, enforcement and compliance promotion, such as adopting bylaws and supportive programs with mechanisms to incentivize sterilization.
3. Promote widespread early sterilization prior to sexual maturity among owned cats to prevent unwanted litters that may be dumped.
4. Make accessible, affordable spay/neuter options available for lower socio-economic demographics.
5. Governments provide financial resources to accessible spay/neuter initiatives, rather than relying on charitable organizations, their donors and veterinary partners to fund this important work.
6. Organizations adopting out animals make every effort to spay/neuter 100% of animals prior to adoption. Spay/neuter programs for adoptable animals follow the recommendations in the ASV Guidelines, including that surgery be considered as early as six weeks (Griffin et al., 2016).
7. All facilities incorporate Capacity for Care shelter management practices to reduce the likelihood of illness in shelter, leading to euthanasia.
8. Engage in successful TNR, based on sufficient resources, solid planning and community-wide support, to address the feral segment of the population.
9. Provide education about how feeding feral or homeless at-large cats in the absence of TNR or other spay/neuter initiatives increases overpopulation and related suffering.
10. Support research and adoption of non-surgical sterilization methods for cats.

Finally, special attention must be given to the importance of valuing, collecting and sharing data as the basis for creating an accurate picture of cat welfare in Canada. Evaluating the state of cat overpopulation in Canada depends wholly upon all relevant stakeholders keeping sound records of their animal data. At the community level, such data is essential to measure and track the local situation. Commitments from cat stakeholders are also needed to contribute their data to regional and national initiatives, such as the *Cats in Canada* study.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I 2016 Animal Shelter Statistics for Canadian Humane Societies and SPCAs

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) has been collecting data about shelter animals from humane societies and SPCAs across Canada for more than twenty years in order to compile national statistics and monitor trends. The collection of data for 2016 was undertaken as part of the Ipsos stakeholder cat survey. Data reported in this Appendix is from humane societies and SPCAs only.

The survey invitation was sent to all humane society and SPCA organizations in Canada that shelter animals. These organizations manage a total of 167 shelters, of which data were received for 86, corresponding to 51% of target shelters. Because of the nature of the cat survey, responses were anonymous.

INTAKE

Intake refers to the total number of cats and dogs received by participating shelters. In 2016, humane societies and SPCAs took in more than 85,000 cats and 31,000 dogs (Figures A1, A6). To correct for the different number of organizations that have responded to the survey over the years, the average number of animals taken in per shelter can be compared from year to year. Based on these averages, the number of cats taken in per facility was slightly greater and the number of dogs taken in was slightly less than in 2015 (Figure A2). Similar to what was seen with the survey results for all stakeholders, there has been a decline in animal intake over the last five years. Looking further back to the past ten years, it seems the declining trend in dogs coming to humane society and SPCA shelters may be levelling off, while this may not be the case with the trend for cats. As observed in previous years, the number of cats taken in was approximately twice the number of dogs. The fraction of cats taken in who are juvenile was slightly higher, at 43% in 2016 compared to 38% in 2015. The fraction of puppies taken in remains similar, at 17% in 2016 compared to 18% in 2015. These statistics on juvenile intake in 2016 mirror what was observed in the results for all cat stakeholders.

OUTCOMES

As a proportion of total intake, 30% of dogs and 5% of cats were reclaimed by their guardians in 2016. This is consistent with the general range observed in previous years of 25% to 30% for dogs and 5% or fewer for cats. A better indicator of reclaim is the percentage of *stray* animals returned to their guardians. In 2016, 63% of stray dogs and 10% of stray cats were reclaimed, a slight decrease from 2015 (Figure A3). These reclaim rates are very close to what was reported for all stakeholders.

Adoption is by far the largest outcome category. As a proportion of intake, 52% of dogs and 63% of cats were adopted by responding humane societies and SPCAs in 2016 (Figure A4). The adoption rate for cats in 2016 was at the highest level yet

Figure A1. Total intake of cats and dogs to humane society and SPCA shelters.

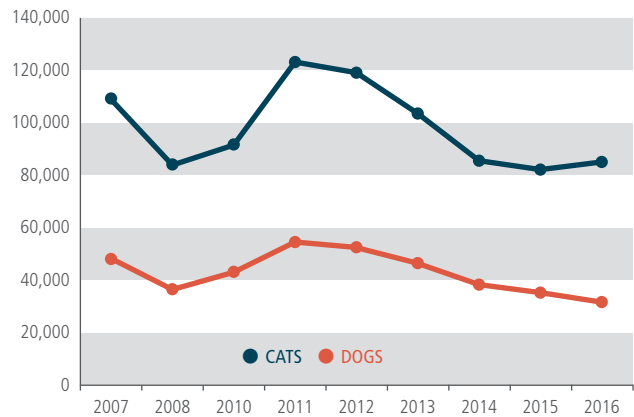


Figure A2. Average intake per reporting shelter.

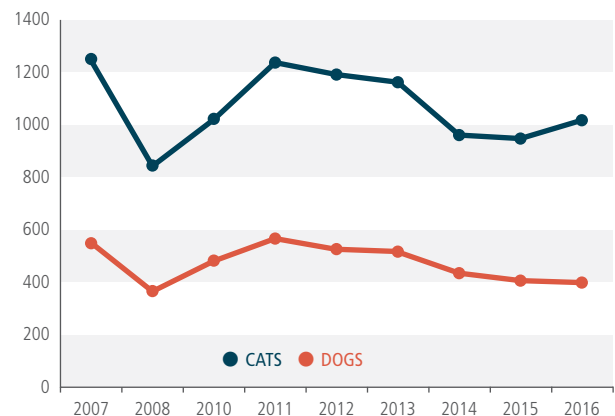


Figure A3. Percentage of stray cats and dogs returned to guardian.

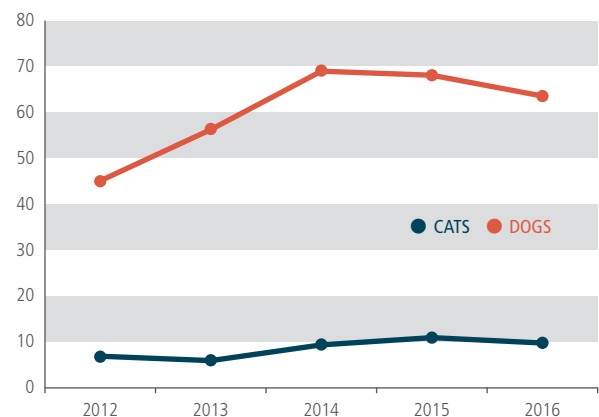


Figure A4. Percentage of cats and dogs adopted relative to total intake.

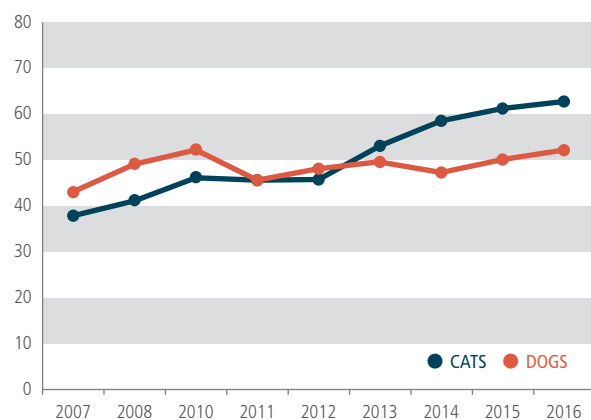
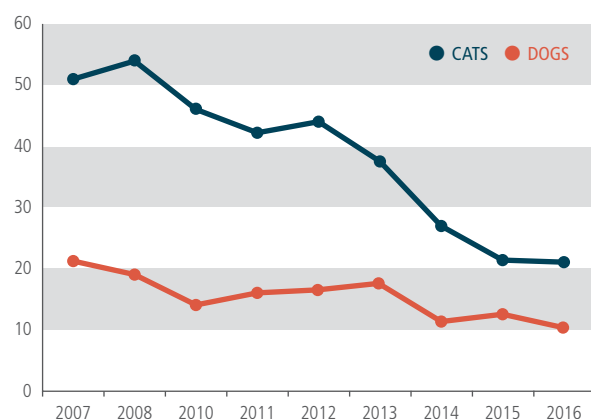


Figure A5. Percentage of cats and dogs euthanized relative to total intake.



observed, once again surpassing the rate for dogs. The canine adoption rate was also at a high point. The rates for humane societies and SPCAs are just slightly higher than what was observed for all stakeholders.

Euthanasia of cats and dogs has been steadily declining at humane societies and SPCAs, and this trend continued in 2016 (Figure A5). Relative to five years ago, cat euthanasia declined to half the rate in 2011 and dog euthanasia to about two-thirds the 2011 rate. These results are very similar to what was reported for all stakeholders.

Figure A6. Aggregate total number of animals reported by survey respondents from 86 humane society and SPCA shelters.

	CATS	DOGS
Beginning Count	6,929	2,805
2016 Intake		
Total ^a	85,546	31,722
Fraction juvenile	43%	17%
Stray	46,723	14,894
Guardian surrender	26,262	10,379
Cases of abuse	1,485	1,558
Transfers	11,951	4,692
Outcomes – Live Releases		
Adopted	53,509	16,450
Transfers	2,105	1,618
Returned to guardian	4,520	9,578
Returned to guardian relative to stray	10%	63%
Outcomes – Euthanasia		
Total shelter euthanasia	17,938	3,260
Outcomes – Other		
Died or lost in care	1,174	115
End count	4,890	1,499
Spay/Neuter		
Number of animals spayed/neutered while at the shelter	44,336	11,298

a. Note that the totals reported may not necessarily be the exact sum of the other categories

An impressive number of adopted shelter animals were spayed or neutered in 2016, thanks to the efforts of humane societies and SPCAs. In fact, compared to 2015, 50% more shelter cats and 27% more shelter dogs were sterilized by a similar number of organizations. As noted in the main report, it seems the increasing spay/neuter levels for shelter animals is reflective of an emerging culture shift among humane societies and SPCAs, who feel it is not prudent to allow intact animals to leave the shelter when it is in their power to have these animals sterilized. This culture shift is also driving the development of more accessible spay/neuter options in Canadian communities.

APPENDIX II A Municipal–SPCA Partnership Using Bylaw Update as Leverage for Increased Spay/Neuter

PORT ALBERNI, BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Port Alberni branch of BC SPCA received a PetSmart Charities of Canada grant towards an initiative to sterilize all intact, owned cats within the city limits. In conjunction with offering subsidized spay/neuter to residents, they worked in partnership with the City to amend the municipal bylaw. The new bylaw was brought into force around the same time as the spay/neuter program was implemented. The bylaw was updated to impose a fine of \$50 for intact cats found free-roaming outside. For the duration of the spay/neuter program, instead of issuing a ticket for non-compliance, the SPCA offered the option to receive a voucher for a spay/neuter surgery for \$30. This proved to be very effective in reducing cat overpopulation.

BACKGROUND

The Port Alberni branch of BC SPCA, in a rural area on Vancouver Island, was dealing with a major cat overpopulation crisis and was unable to keep up with the constant flow of incoming kittens. Port Alberni has a high percentage of low-income families, and the branch had attempted to offer low-cost spay/neuter in the past but had challenges raising funds for such a program. For many years, the branch struggled with high intake, particularly of cats. Because the branch had an animal control contract with the City, they were obliged to take in strays and, due to a lack of shelter space, this resulted in a long waiting list for surrenders.

A spay/neuter grant was requested and received from PetSmart Charities of Canada. The spay/neuter program was implemented from July 2013 to July 2015, targeting low-income residents in particular, but all residents qualified for the program. The goal was to sterilize at least 800 cats.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The Port Alberni branch has a good relationship with the City and has been providing animal control services to the City since 1961. Discussions with the City on bylaw amendments had been ongoing. Once the PetSmart Charities grant was approved, the Branch initiated the bylaw change and was very well supported by City officials and Council. The City Bylaw Officer and Branch worked together to develop the language of the amendments, based on bylaws in other municipalities. The City saw that the proposed changes would allow for more effective control of unaltered cats wandering at-large and could be used to encourage owners or caregivers of free-roaming cats to have them altered.

A PetSmart Charities grant worth almost \$111,000 was received to cover spay/neuter surgeries, permanent identification and parasite treatments, as well as the salary of one full-time

employee. The program was set up as follows: residents came to the Port Alberni branch to purchase a surgery voucher for \$30. Proof of income was not required, but payment was. The branch would then schedule the vet appointment, and the resident would bring the voucher to their appointment.

BC SPCA brought on board three local veterinarians who performed the surgeries at costs that were discounted on average 30% relative to regular procedure prices. The vets were dedicated to providing reasonably-priced services to members of this financially challenged and geographically isolated community and providing whatever support they could to battle pet overpopulation.

A local radio partner provided free advertising and promotions for the two-year duration of the initiative. This in-kind donation was valued at \$1,390 per month. The BC SPCA also contributed \$5,500 for promotional outreach.

CHALLENGES

Uptake of surgery offerings was slow at the beginning of the program. This was countered through distribution of unaddressed advertising mail and door-to-door canvassing. The program saw significant pick-up after the promotion.

Initially, veterinarians were uncomfortable about not having a low-income qualification as part of the grant, and seeing people who could easily afford the surgery come in to use the services. The manager of the SPCA met with the veterinarians to listen to their concerns and discuss ideal outcomes. Veterinarians considered being able to follow up with these brand-new clients to suggest providing vaccines and regular health checks, and were able to see the value of what addressing cat overpopulation as a whole would look like for the region.

PROGRAM SUCCESS

As a result of the program, staff members reported it was the first time they had not been completely overwhelmed by the number of kittens in the shelter. Cat intake at the shelter decreased significantly and shelter staff was able to shift the focus of their work to prevention and education. Relationships in the community became stronger.

The shelter statistics are quite telling:

- There was a 47% decline in kitten intake in 2015 compared to 2014.
- Stray kitten intake decreased 41% in 2015 and remained steady through 2016.



- The overall intake of cats was 28% lower in 2015 compared to 2014 and has remained steady in 2016.
- Only one pregnant cat entered the shelter during the 2015 kitten season.
- The live release rate increased from 73% to 90%.

This program also helped in promoting and building community partnership for the Port Alberni branch. Shelter staff, local businesses, volunteers, vets and animal lovers came together to help make the program more successful. Recipients were thrilled and grateful for the opportunity to take advantage of the program. The radio station has proven to be one of the strongest advocates, providing regular information about cat overpopulation and advertisement throughout the two-year period. The grant enabled the branch to shift into a more proactive and supportive role within the community, rather than serving as a last resort to rehome unwanted animals.

CONTRIBUTORS TO SUCCESS

The timing of the new mandatory spay/neuter bylaw coming into force right before the grant program started was key. The bylaw states that only sterilized cats are allowed outside. If an intact cat is outside, there is a \$50 fine. BC SPCA incorporated education on the new bylaw into outreach efforts, offering the opportunity to

come into compliance with the obligations through the program. This approach proved to be very successful in communications with the community, providing an incentive for social change.

KEY LEARNINGS

The combination of an existing mandatory spay/neuter bylaw and a subsidized spay/neuter program boosted both the enforcement of the bylaw as well as the uptake of program participation.

Asking for a fee for each spay/neuter voucher that was offered to a client allowed the Branch to raise money that was used for additional medical expenses and has provided a fund for low-cost spay/neuter beyond the grant. This has helped to extend the program to outlying areas that the branch covers but that were not part of the original program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It's important to continue to offer subsidized services after the grant funding has ended, to ensure the cat population is kept in check. Having the \$30 voucher fee allowed the branch to build resources and have them available after the grant funding was exhausted to continue to offer this service. Additional funding opportunities also arose: the City increased the cost of dog licenses, and this money now goes into the Port Alberni branch's spay/neuter fund.

APPENDIX III

A Partnership Program for Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Transportation

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Thanks in great part to funding from the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS) launched a new program in April 2017, called “We Are Here for the Animals. We Are Here for You.” This program features a newly-created Satellite Outreach Centre where cat owners from the area can book appointments for low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. The program provides free transportation of cats from the outreach centre to the spay/neuter clinic and back. Surgeries are performed at the Winnipeg Humane Society or a partnering veterinary clinic.

Situated in Winnipeg’s North End, an urban area with a low-income population, the new outreach centre serves as a hub of cat information, education and resources. A network of volunteers and community leaders based at the centre will reach out and empower community members to learn more about cats and their needs through a variety of school and community presentations. Volunteers will also circulate with people in the community, seeking out cats who need these essential services.

The program will address cat overpopulation from feral cats by providing a network of volunteers with the education and training needed to become cat colony managers. Volunteers will learn how to humanely trap feral cats and transport them to the WHS clinic for spay/neuter surgery.

The program will run from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, and the goal is sterilize an additional 1,800 cats and kittens during this time. It is hoped the program will be renewed.

BACKGROUND

Winnipeg Humane Society consulted with its stakeholders, including community members, donors, volunteers and staff. Stakeholders asked WHS to work together with other animal welfare organizations in the community who share the same goals and step up their efforts to end cat overpopulation.

Significant barriers to spay/neuter for low-income households include both the cost of the surgery and transportation to clinics. A number of low-cost spay/neuter options exist in the city, so addressing the barrier of transportation was the next hurdle. Winnipeg Humane Society worked with partners to engage volunteers who could assist with transportation of cats and kittens for surgery.

In addition to supporting spay/neuter of owned cats, the program also sought to address the feral cat contribution to overpopulation. Such efforts require dedicated volunteers to manage feral cat colonies, providing care, as well as trapping and transportation to

spay/neuter clinics. Thus, volunteers were needed to establish the colonies and coordinate and train colony caretakers. Because sheltering and caring for free-roaming, unlicensed cats in the City of Winnipeg is considered unlawful, approval from the City was needed to establish feral cat colonies.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The Winnipeg Humane Society is the lead organization for the initiative. They were invited by the City of Winnipeg to apply for funding to establish a new low-cost spay/neuter program for cats. Fifty percent of the proceeds from cat licensing is available under the City’s “FIXIT” grant program for special initiatives that provide spay/neuter to high volumes of cats at a low cost to members of the community.

WHS listened to their stakeholders and partnered with Cat Advocacy Rescue & Education (CARE) and Winnipeg Lost Cat Alert (WLCA) to propose an initiative that would reduce the number of unwanted cats in the city. WHS secured the grant money and now provides clinic space and veterinarians for surgeries. It also contributes to the rent for the outreach centre, as well as food and supplies for individuals who have financial difficulty supporting their pets.

The City of Winnipeg provided grant funding for the program in the amount of \$176,000, which covers the costs of the spay/neuter surgeries. Winnipeg Foundation funding in the amount of \$25,000 was used toward educational materials and programs.

CARE developed educational materials for the community and distributes them at the outreach centre and by volunteer canvassing. CARE secures, trains and coordinates volunteers who transport owned cats. This organization also distributes food and supplies for those needing assistance for their pets.

WLCA secures, trains and coordinates volunteers to be feral colony caretakers. WLCA also provides transportation for feral cats.

A few months into the program, three private vet clinics (Central Veterinary Services, Machray Animal Hospital and Tuxedo Animal Hospital) were engaged to assist with the surgeries of owned pets.

CHALLENGES

While the grant provided funding for a dedicated veterinarian to perform the surgeries, it was not possible to secure a vet to fill this position. Therefore, vets from local private clinics were called upon and agreed to perform the surgeries.

A number of welfare concerns were encountered when knocking



on doors of community members to promote the program. Determining how to address those concerns and provide support without being intrusive continues to be a challenge.

Scheduling appointments also poses challenges. Cat owners who want to make use of the program are not inclined to make future appointments. They prefer an immediate appointment in order to participate in the program. Some ideas to address this challenge include adding a team at the WHS clinic for the sole purpose of conducting these surgeries, as well as seeking additional private veterinarians.

PROGRAM SUCCESS

From April to October, 2017, 732 owned cats and 14 TNR colony cats were spayed or neutered. Of the owned cats, 375 were transported using the services offered.

While the number of cats sterilized by this ongoing program is being tracked until March 31st, the initiative is already being seen as a big success. Winnipeg Humane Society is pleased to be able to reach people and cats they were not able to help previously. The stakeholders are enjoying improved relationships and stronger community support, and there is satisfaction

from making a difference in the community.

WHS attributes this success to listening to their stakeholders. Offering the leadership to those partners who are closest to the targeted clients and accepting their expertise also proved invaluable.

KEY LEARNINGS

It is all about the partnerships. Small organizations are more nimble and can achieve things that larger organizations cannot. Working together allowed everyone to reach common goals.

There are a few areas for improvement: having additional partners could allow for expansion of the feral cat component of the program. Similarly, having the participation of more private clinics could increase the number of surgeries performed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Don't write the plan in a vacuum. Listen to your stakeholders to establish the plan.
2. Partner with the organizations best suited to get the job done.
3. Don't under-budget. Determine the full cost and ask for what's needed.

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: British Columbia

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	1	1%
SPCAs	37	53%
TNR groups	4	6%
Municipalities	12	17%
Rescues	2	3%
Spay/neuter groups	—	—
Veterinarians	13	19%
Other	1	1%
Total	70	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	51	62%
Percent of capacity being used today	51	51%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	51	16,560
Percent kittens	51	44%
Number owner surrendered	51	5,726
Number stray/public surrendered	51	7,687
Number reclaimed by owner	51	1,332
Number adopted	51	12,083
Number euthanized	49	1,420
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		1,725
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	44	7,873
Percent puppies	44	17%
Number owner surrendered	44	2,087
Number stray/public surrendered	41	4,325
Number reclaimed by owner	44	3,659
Number adopted	44	3,545
Number euthanized	44	459
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		210
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	51	2,671
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	51	2,829
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	44	1,149
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	44	1,535
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	57	89%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	51	6,587
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	44	1,604

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: Alberta

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	4	6%
SPCAs	6	9%
TNR groups	—	—
Municipalities	39	58%
Rescues	14	21%
Spay/neuter groups	—	—
Veterinarians	4	6%
Other	—	—
Total	67	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	35	77%
Percent of capacity being used today	35	68%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	35	24,618
Percent kittens	35	37%
Number owner surrendered	35	3,455
Number stray/public surrendered	35	12,491
Number reclaimed by owner	35	1,694
Number adopted	35	15,002
Number euthanized	28	2,613
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		5,309
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	32	14,907
Percent puppies	32	19%
Number owner surrendered	32	1,961
Number stray/public surrendered	24	7,520
Number reclaimed by owner	32	4,364
Number adopted	32	6,669
Number euthanized	27	705
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		3,169
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	35	1,468
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	35	468
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	32	669
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	32	340
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	63	51%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	32	11,750
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	29	3,831

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: Saskatchewan

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	6	19%
SPCAs	3	10%
TNR groups	—	—
Municipalities	17	55%
Rescues	2	6%
Spay/neuter groups	—	—
Veterinarians	3	10%
Other	—	—
Total	31	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	11	93%
Percent of capacity being used today	11	89%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	11	5,454
Percent kittens	11	33%
Number owner surrendered	11	1,046
Number stray/public surrendered	11	3,892
Number reclaimed by owner	12	391
Number adopted	12	3,821
Number euthanized	7	933
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		309
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	9	3,637
Percent puppies	9	63%
Number owner surrendered	9	649
Number stray/public surrendered	6	2,590
Number reclaimed by owner	10	1,394
Number adopted	10	1,566
Number euthanized	5	225
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		452
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	11	24
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	11	416
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	9	40
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	9	364
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	28	39%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	11	963
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	9	434

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: Manitoba**

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	3	18%
SPCAs	—	—
TNR groups	1	6%
Municipalities	8	47%
Rescues	1	6%
Spay/neuter groups	—	—
Veterinarians	3	18%
Other	1	6%
Total	17	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	8	76%
Percent of capacity being used today	8	65%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	8	6,091
Percent kittens	8	34%
Number owner surrendered	8	2,010
Number stray/public surrendered	8	3,775
Number reclaimed by owner	9	329
Number adopted	9	3,356
Number euthanized	7	1,316
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		1,090
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	6	2,804
Percent puppies	6	22%
Number owner surrendered	7	657
Number stray/public surrendered	4	970
Number reclaimed by owner	6	813
Number adopted	6	1,367
Number euthanized	7	224
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		400
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	8	25
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	8	—
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	7	21
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	6	3
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	14	50%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	7	2,544
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	4	757

** Extremely small number of respondents; interpret with caution

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: Ontario

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	14	34%
SPCAs	2	5%
TNR groups	4	10%
Municipalities	11	27%
Rescues	6	15%
Spay/neuter groups	1	2%
Veterinarians	2	5%
Other	1	2%
Total	41	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	31	77%
Percent of capacity being used today	32	71%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	32	29,726
Percent kittens	32	41%
Number owner surrendered	32	6,705
Number stray/public surrendered	32	17,692
Number reclaimed by owner	34	1,399
Number adopted	34	17,142
Number euthanized	24	5,549
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		5,636
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	25	10,697
Percent puppies	25	11%
Number owner surrendered	25	2,675
Number stray/public surrendered	24	6,109
Number reclaimed by owner	26	4,087
Number adopted	26	4,357
Number euthanized	22	1,038
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		1,215
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	32	568
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	32	465
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	25	288
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	25	120
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	39	85%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	33	20,186
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	24	4,619

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: Quebec

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	3	10%
SPCAs	3	10%
TNR groups	2	7%
Municipalities	12	40%
Rescues	8	27%
Spay/neuter groups	—	—
Veterinarians	1	3%
Other	1	3%
Total	30	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	19	66%
Percent of capacity being used today	19	63%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	19	23,032
Percent kittens	19	44%
Number owner surrendered	19	7,593
Number stray/public surrendered	19	14,522
Number reclaimed by owner	17	780
Number adopted	17	11,411
Number euthanized	13	7,613
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		3,228
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	13	5,704
Percent puppies	13	6%
Number owner surrendered	13	2,599
Number stray/public surrendered	11	2,523
Number reclaimed by owner	11	1,776
Number adopted	11	2,778
Number euthanized	10	939
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		211
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	19	2,086
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	19	630
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	13	998
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	13	231
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	29	59%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	17	11,420
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	10	1,852

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: New Brunswick**

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	—	—
SPCAs	3	10%
TNR groups	10	33%
Municipalities	9	30%
Rescues	1	3%
Spay/neuter groups	—	—
Veterinarians	7	23%
Other	—	—
Total	30	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	10	86%
Percent of capacity being used today	10	76%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	10	4,115
Percent kittens	10	60%
Number owner surrendered	10	716
Number stray/public surrendered	10	1,853
Number reclaimed by owner	15	139
Number adopted	15	2,577
Number euthanized	10	618
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		781
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	3	666
Percent puppies	3	—
Number owner surrendered	3	312
Number stray/public surrendered	2	291
Number reclaimed by owner	4	197
Number adopted	4	365
Number euthanized	4	92
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		12
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	10	8
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	10	25
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	3	9
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	3	9
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	23	61%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	14	2,445
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	3	84

** Extremely small number of respondents; interpret with caution

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: Nova Scotia**

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	—	—
SPCAs	1	11%
TNR groups	—	—
Municipalities	2	22%
Rescues	1	11%
Spay/neuter groups	1	11%
Veterinarians	3	33%
Other	1	11%
Total	9	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	5	89%
Percent of capacity being used today	5	92%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	5	2,607
Percent kittens	5	70%
Number owner surrendered	5	374
Number stray/public surrendered	5	1,118
Number reclaimed by owner	5	46
Number adopted	5	2,277
Number euthanized	4	249
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		35
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	2	309
Percent puppies	2	—
Number owner surrendered	2	112
Number stray/public surrendered	2	13
Number reclaimed by owner	2	12
Number adopted	2	234
Number euthanized	2	54
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		9
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	5	112
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	5	118
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	2	31
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	2	8
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	6	83%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	5	2,257
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	2	177

** Extremely small number of respondents; interpret with caution

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: Prince Edward Island**

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	1	17%
SPCAs	—	—
TNR groups	—	—
Municipalities	5	83%
Rescues	—	—
Spay/neuter groups	—	—
Veterinarians	—	—
Other	—	—
Total	6	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	1	70%
Percent of capacity being used today	1	50%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	1	979
Percent kittens	1	40%
Number owner surrendered	1	325
Number stray/public surrendered	1	430
Number reclaimed by owner	1	64
Number adopted	1	703
Number euthanized	2	137
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		75
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	1	335
Percent puppies	1	14%
Number owner surrendered	1	129
Number stray/public surrendered	1	76
Number reclaimed by owner	1	131
Number adopted	1	146
Number euthanized	2	46
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		12
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	1	89
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	1	30
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	1	48
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	1	27
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	6	17%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	1	581
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	1	111

** Extremely small number of respondents; interpret with caution

APPENDIX IV Provincial Tables: Newfoundland & Labrador**

RESPONDENTS	N	TOTAL
Humane societies	—	—
SPCAs	—	—
TNR groups	1	12%
Municipalities	4	50%
Rescues	—	—
Spay/neuter groups	1	12%
Veterinarians	2	25%
Other	—	—
Total	6	
SHELTER CAPACITY		
Percent of capacity used in 2016	3	42%
Percent of capacity being used today	3	30%
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - CATS		
Total intake	3	949
Percent kittens	3	—
Number owner surrendered	3	—
Number stray/public surrendered	3	—
Number reclaimed by owner	4	130
Number adopted	4	62
Number euthanized	4	17
Net new cats without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=cats without homes)		740
INTAKE AND OUTCOME DATA - DOGS		
Total intake	3	291
Percent puppies	3	—
Number owner surrendered	3	—
Number stray/public surrendered	—	—
Number reclaimed by owner	2	130
Number adopted	2	62
Number euthanized	3	17
Net new dogs without home (Intake-Reclaimed-Adopted-Euthanized=dogs without homes)		82
SPAY/NEUTER DATA – CATS AND DOGS		
Total owner surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	3	—
Total stray/public surrendered cats already spayed/neutered on intake	3	—
Total owner surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	3	—
Total stray/public surrendered dogs already spayed/neutered on intake	3	—
Percent stakeholders that spay/neuter	6	33%
Total cats spayed/neutered while in care	2	4
Total dogs spayed/neutered while in care	1	—

** Extremely small number of respondents; interpret with caution

