



## Effective Spay-Neuter Programs

Eradicating the Euthanasia of  
Healthy, Adoptable  
Dogs and Cats



# How We Eradicate Euthanasia



Zero  
Euthanasia  
can be  
done. It  
has been  
done...

Some  
communities  
are working  
toward it using  
best practices  
and will likely  
be there soon,  
but one  
community  
has already  
achieved it.

## Let's Learn from Success - No Need to Reinvent the Wheel

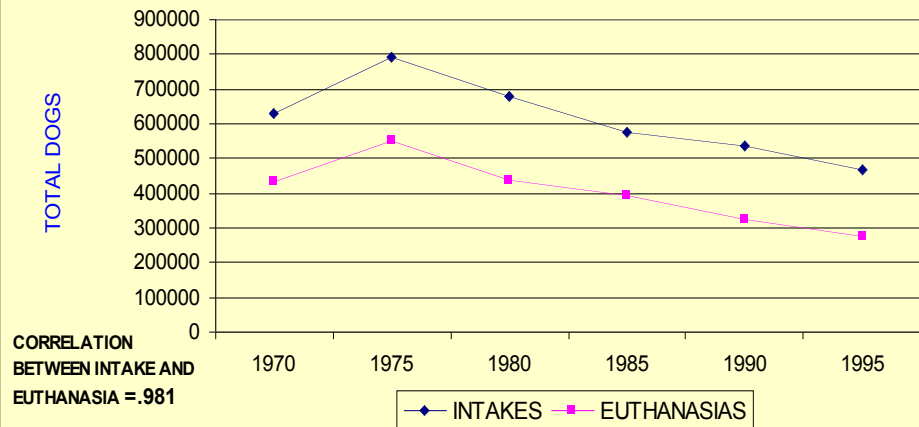
- Peter Marsh and his organization have spearheaded initiatives and programs that have effectively eradicated the euthanasia of healthy dogs and cats in New Hampshire.
  - From 1994-2000, in just six years, through effective, targeted programs, New Hampshire reduced their euthanasia numbers by 75%.
  - Today they euthanize about 2,200 dogs/cats per year, or 1.8 pptp (pets per thousand people) - a number that equates to only sick or aggressive dogs/cats being euthanized.
  - In fact, in 2009, New Hampshire major shelters and rescue groups imported almost 3,000 puppies and/or dogs into the state to adopt out.

We  
Cannot  
Adopt Our  
Way Out  
of Pet  
Over-  
population

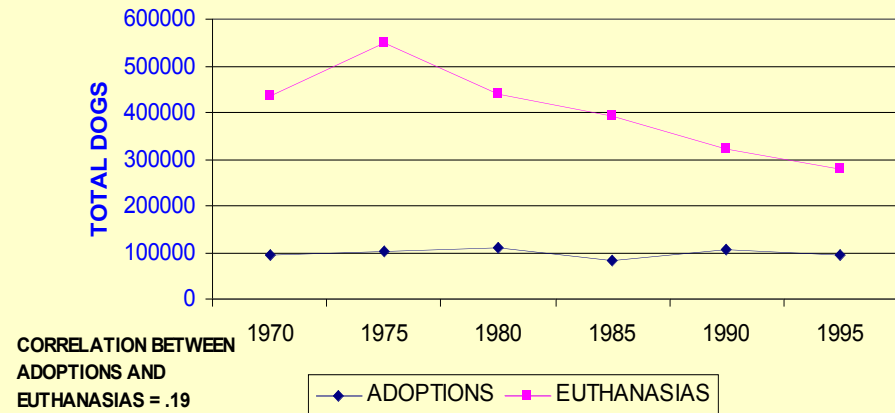
## Intake rates drive euthanasia rates

- Euthanasia rates have an almost 1:1 correlation with intake rates.
  - As intake goes up/down, euthanasia goes up/down accordingly
- Adoption rates are not correlated with euthanasia rates.

1970-1995 CALIFORNIA ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCY  
CANINE INTAKES AND EUTHANASIAS



1970-1995 CALIFORNIA ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCY  
CANINE ADOPTIONS AND EUTHANASIAS





# Key Lessons from Peter Marsh



## Pet sterilization rates drive intake rates.

High pet sterilization rates ---->Low shelter intake rates--->Low euthanasia rates

STATE	YEAR	ADOPTION RATE (PPTP)	INTAKE RATE (PPTP)	EUTHANASIA RATE (PPTP)
New Hampshire	2008	9.4	13.2	1.8
Michigan	2003	7.2	24.2	13.2
Utah	2007	9.1	29.1	12.6
Ohio	2004	9.0	26.4	14.9
Virginia	2003	9.2	32.2	18.1
St. Louis*	2008	10.4	29.1	14.1

### **CORRELATION:**

**ADOPTION & EUTHANASIA = -.09**

**INTAKE & EUTHANASIA = .96**

\*Source: Missouri Department of Agriculture. Data is for 2008 and includes the main animal shelters and animal control centers in St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

PPTP = Pets Per Thousand People

We cannot adopt our way out of shelter over-population

Even the best, most well-funded adoption programs cannot keep up with the reproductive capacity of dogs and cats.



# Key Lessons from Peter Marsh



## Spay-Neuter is Cost Effective

- In the USA the average cost of sheltering and adopting out an animal is \$500
- The average cost per reduced shelter intake via well-designed spay-neuter programs is \$100.
- The effects of spay-neuter are compounding.

**We cannot adopt our way out of shelter over-population**

**Even the best, most well-funded adoption programs cannot keep up with the reproductive capacity of dogs and cats.**



# Key Lessons From Peter Marsh



## Designing Effective Spay-Neuter Programs

- Poverty is directly related with high shelter intake and euthanasia rates.
  - Successful spay-neuter programs that effectively and efficiently reduce shelter intake/euthanasia focus valuable resources on low income individuals/households.
    - Those who want to spay-neuter, but cannot afford to do so.

**Zero  
Euthanasia  
can be  
done. It  
has been  
done...**

**Some  
communities  
are working  
toward it using  
best practices  
and will likely  
be there soon,  
but one  
community  
has already  
achieved it.**



# Key Lessons From Peter Marsh



## Designing Effective Spay-Neuter Programs

- Proof of need for heavily subsidized programs is critical to success.
  - The cost-effectiveness of income-targeted programs depends on accurately limiting eligibility to caretakers in genuine need of assistance.
  - Data proves that the programs--in which subsidies are given to everyone who claims to need them, but don't ask for proof or eligibility-- are notoriously ineffective.
  - It can annoy the veterinarians who provide the services if they are providing surgeries at or below their own cost and find that some people who receive subsidies really don't need them.

**Zero Euthanasia can be done. It has been done...**

Some communities are working toward it using best practices and will likely be there soon, but one community has already achieved it.



# Key Lessons From Peter Marsh



## Designing Effective Spay-Neuter Programs

- Proof of need for heavily subsidized programs is critical to success - Continued.
  - Limited and valuable resources are wasted on those who would have gotten the surgery anyway.
  - Communities that have required proof indicate that people are usually happy to show proof of government assistance or low income status - they are accustomed to showing this proof for other programs in which they participate.

**Zero  
Euthanasia  
can be  
done. It  
has been  
done...**

**Some  
communities  
are working  
toward it using  
best practices  
and will likely  
be there soon,  
but one  
community  
has already  
achieved it.**





# Key Lessons From Peter Marsh



## Designing Effective Spay-Neuter Programs

- Proof of need for heavily subsidized programs is critical to success - Continued.
  - Medicaid is the gold standard/best practice for proof of low income status
    - It is a great universal catch-all for low income
      - it covers people in a variety of subsidy programs
      - People are already pre-qualified by a government agency as low income/eligible for Medicaid.
    - Takes a lot of the administrative work out of the equation.
    - People on Medicaid are used to having to show their card - it's not intrusive.
    - It simplifies the qualification process.

Zero  
Euthanasia  
can be  
done. It  
has been  
done...

Some  
communities  
are working  
toward it using  
best practices  
and will likely  
be there soon,  
but one  
community  
has already  
achieved it.



# Key Lessons From Peter Marsh



## Designing Effective Spay-Neuter Programs

- The cost of a spay/neuter surgery for low income/indigent individuals/families, must be very low in order for them to participate.
  - \$0 - \$25 maximum per surgery
- Individuals/families must be able to do one stop shopping
  - No requirement for shots before surgery
- Programs must address all sources of shelter intake to be effective:
  - Pets from low income households
  - Free roaming/feral cats
  - Relinquished pets
  - Lost pets
- Programs need years to achieve their full impact
  - And must be maintained once the goal of eradicating euthanasia (of healthy, adoptable pets) is achieved.

**Zero Euthanasia can be done. It has been done...**

Some communities are working toward it using best practices and will likely be there soon, but one community has already achieved it.



# Key Lessons From Peter Marsh



**Zero Euthanasia can be done. It has been done...**

Some communities are working toward it using best practices and will likely be there soon, but one community has already achieved it.

## Examples of Need For Targeted – Per Peter Marsh

- New Hampshire – eradicated euthanasia
  - hit “The Wall” at 10 PPTP and
  - they weren’t able to break through until they set up a program in 1994 that made it affordable for people living in low-income households to have their pets sterilized.
- Humane Alliance In Ashville – thus far reducing euthanasia, but not eradicating it
  - clinic opened in 1994
  - expanded its operation in 2000 with a transport service that serves many surrounding counties.
  - Performs about 23,000 low-cost surgeries per year and has maintained that volume for the past decade.
  - In 2012 the animal control shelter in Asheville put down about 1,311 cats and 958 dogs – a euthanasia rate of 9 PPTP. Have not been able to get below this euthanasia number – they have hit “the wall”
  - Versus New Hampshire rate of 1.8 PPTP or Zero Euthanasia



# Best Practice Programs On The Way To Zero



**Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic – PAWS Chicago**

“PAWS Chicago envisions a city where pets are not destroyed just because they are homeless. The only way to control dog and cat overpopulation and the killing of adoptable animals is by decreasing birth rates. This is why we opened the Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic – the only spay and neuter clinic of its kind located in and serving Chicago’s underserved communities.”

## Lurie Spay-Neuter Clinic, Chicago

- PAWS Chicago Lurie Spay-Neuter Clinic
  - Targeted low cost surgeries with proof of low income status
    - Medicaid Card

<b>Pricing for Results</b>	<b>Medicaid Card - Targeted Zip Codes*</b>	<b>Medicaid Card - Other Chicago Zip Codes</b>	<b>Medicaid Card - Outside Chicago</b>	<b>Regular Low Cost Price</b>
<b>Dogs &amp; Puppies (8 weeks and older)</b>	<b>FREE</b>	\$35	\$50	\$125
<b>Cats &amp; Kittens (8 weeks and older)</b>	<b>FREE</b>	\$25	\$25	\$35

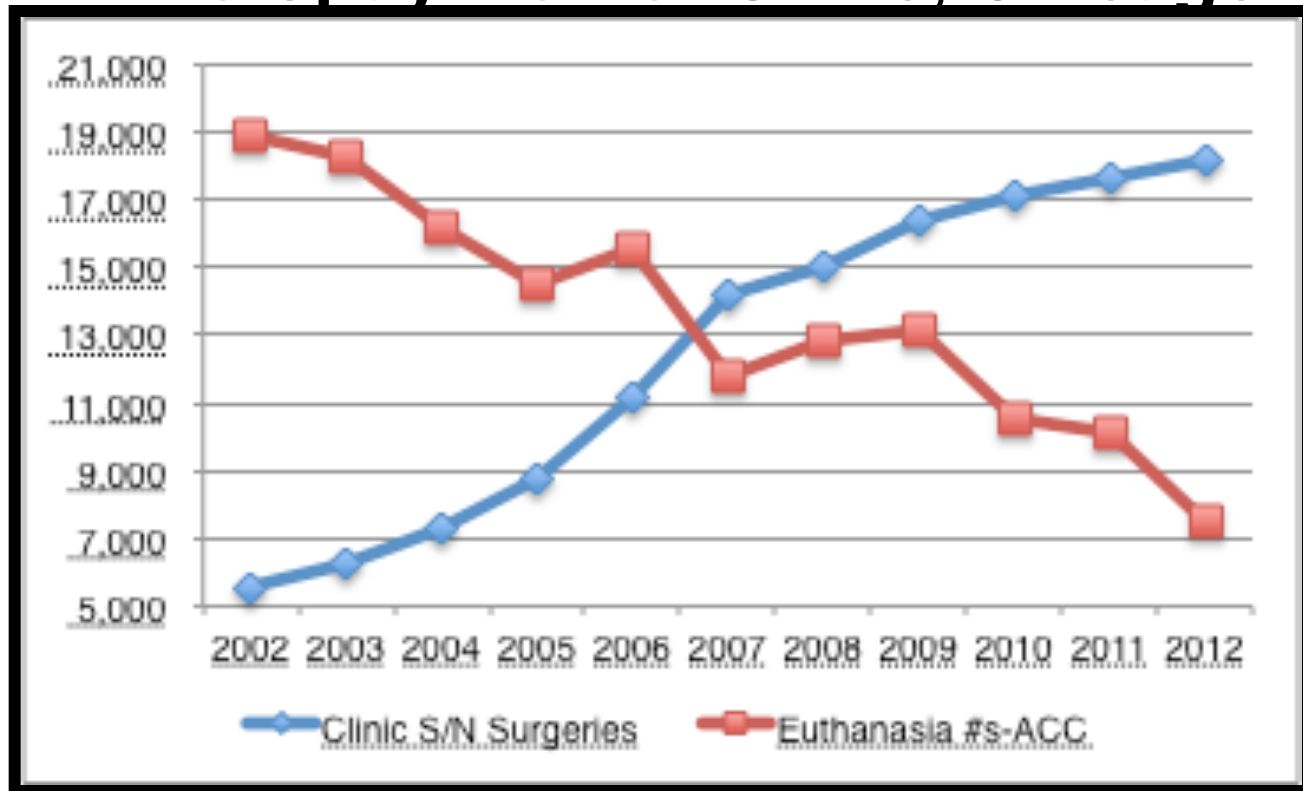
\*includes free distemper shot



# Best Practice Programs...On The Way To Zero



## Lurie Spay-Neuter Clinic, Chicago



- The Lurie Clinic is hitting the target audience (public assistance) and the results show.
- Euthanasia at Chicago Animal Care & Control is down 71% since 1997 and 60% since 2002
- In 2012, only 17% of the surgeries were full-price and most of those were for rescue groups.

Note: Chicago Animal Care & Control accounts for most, but not all euthanasia numbers.

Lurie  
Spay/  
Neuter  
Clinic –  
PAWS  
Chicago  
... on the  
way to  
ZERO

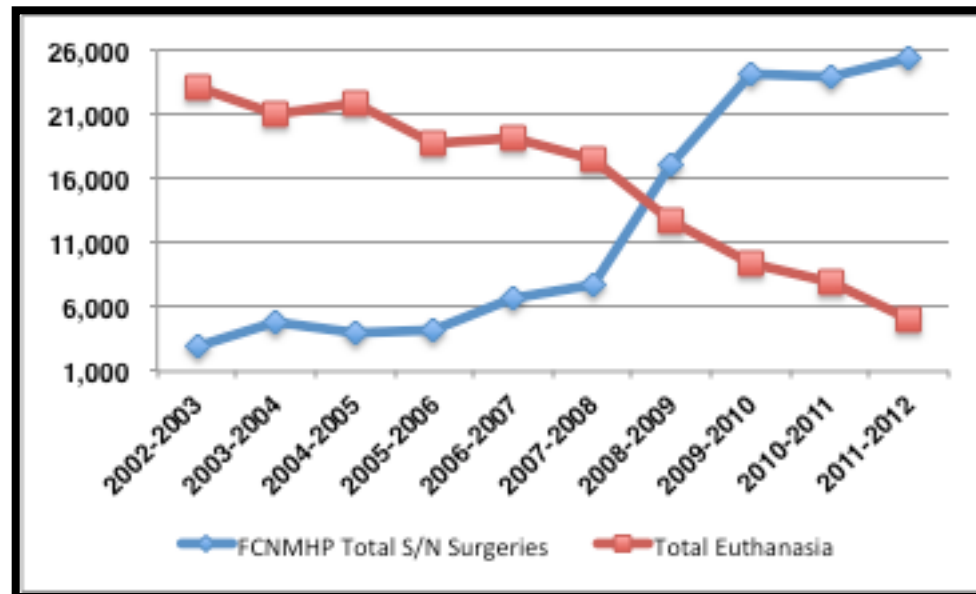


# Best Practice Programs...On The Way To Zero



## FCNMHP – Jacksonville, Florida

- 2002 program began with more than 23,000 animals dying in local shelters.
- Ten years later that number is down to 5,090, a reduction of 78%
- Utilizes a combination of free spay/neuter for low-income or government assistance (with proof), Pit Bull/Pit Mix programs, Feral Cat, and Geographic
- With appropriate resources, Jacksonville could be no kill within a year.



First Coast  
No More  
Homeless  
Pets  
(FCNMHP)

**Mission:** To eliminate the killing of dogs and cats in our community through free and low-cost spay and neuter programs



# All Programs Not Created Equal



## Communities Have to Decide, Do They Want to Reduce Euthanasia or Eliminate It

-Eliminating Euthanasia is possible, it has been done

-There is no need to reinvent the wheel, only a need to learn from BEST PRACTICES

-Unless resources are unlimited, getting to zero euthanasia requires targeted programs

- free or very low cost (\$25 or less) to those most in need
- proof of low-income for subsidized surgeries
- one stop shopping – no shots required for surgery

Spay-  
Neuter  
Always  
Good,  
But To  
Get To  
Zero  
Requires  
A  
Targeted  
Program



## St. Louis Rockin' Zero



# Rockin' Zero Euthanasia In St. Louis

- Based on Peter Marsh research and data, learned in other communities, we need to be doing 5 surgeries (for low income/public assistance pet owners) per 1,000 human inhabitants.
  - For St. Louis that amounts to about 6,600 TARGETED (low income/public assistance) surgeries/year
  - Plus BARC serves other communities surrounding St. Louis, so BARC will need funding for an additional 6,400 surgeries
  - That's 13,000 total surgeries that BARC needs to perform annually to get to Zero in St. Louis

\*St. Louis County, 2012 Estimated population 1,000,438 + 318,172 St. Louis City

BARC's  
Mission:  
To  
Eradicate  
the  
Euthanasia  
of Healthy,  
Adoptable  
Dogs &  
Cats in St.  
Louis






# BARC St. Louis is Rockin' Zero



## BARC St. Louis Statistics

	# of Spay/Neuter Targeted Surgeries	Yearly % Increase
<b>2003</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>718%</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>-45%</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>108%</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>2,370</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>4,135</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>4,414</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>2013*</b>	<b>4,859</b>	<b>10%</b>

\*711 of these surgeries were from BARC's Free Pit Fix Program

You Are  
Rockin'  
Zero  
With Us



# Are You Rockin' Zero With Us



We Need Help To Get There- To Eliminate The Euthanasia of Healthy, Adoptable Dogs & Cats in St. Louis

-We need funding to be Rockin' Zero

-Major fund raising effort (\$650,000 annually) behind Rockin' Zero Initiative



You Are  
Rockin'  
Zero  
With Us