

# Foster Care -- a Program for Saving Lives

Susanne Kogut,  
Executive Director





# Why is foster care needed?

- ⇒ Limited space
- ⇒ Limited staff and resources
- ⇒ Recover from medical conditions
- ⇒ Animal needs socialization
- ⇒ Underage animals need extra TLC

**SPACE, SPACE, SPACE**

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.





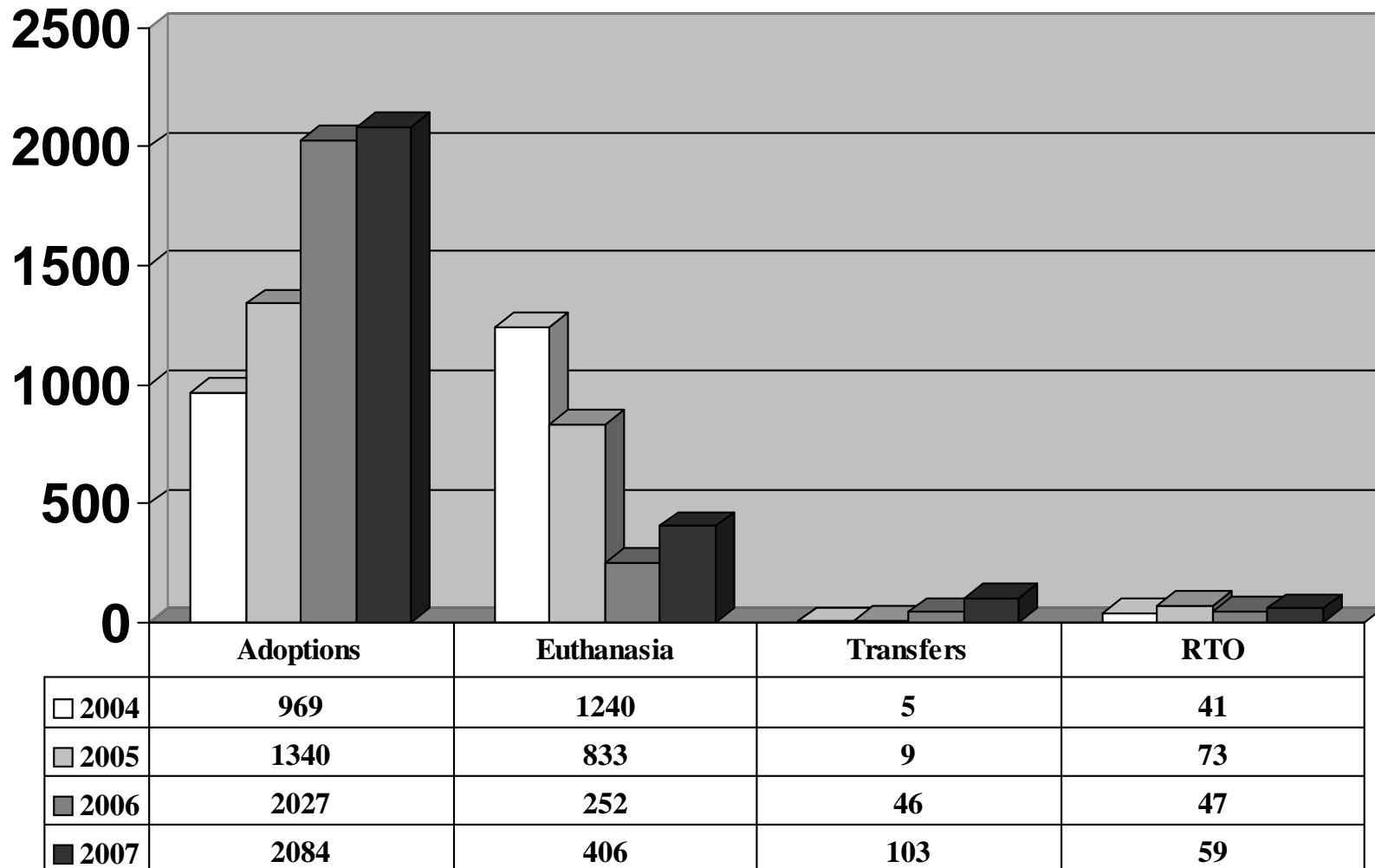


# Foster Care



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Animals	4643	4813	4889	4885	4515
Total Animal in Foster	300	992	1407	1578	1489
Total Instances			1790	1996	1925

# Cat Adoption, Euthanasia, Transfer & RTO Rates 2004 - 2007





## Adoption Specials

- Cap and Hound
- Bark back to School
- Fat Cat/Big Dogs
- Hoos for Hounds
- Happy Mew Year -- Cat's 20.08
- Two for One
- Black Cat Special





# Lead by example



Foster  
Recruit  
Teach and train  
Empathize







# Foster Care

- ➔ Find
- ➔ Organize and activate
- ➔ Support
- ➔ Train/teach
- ➔ Empathize/energize
- ➔ Reward/thank





# Find

- ⇒ Flyers
- ⇒ Newsletters/mailings
- ⇒ Media:
  - News stories (good and bad)
  - Ads
- ⇒ Emails - good to address immediate needs
- ⇒ Existing fosters word of mouth
- ⇒ Blog, Tweet and Facebook
- ⇒ Constantly recruit





# Find - mailing



We Knead you





# Find - mailings



We'll Provide the Pets,  
You Provide the Love

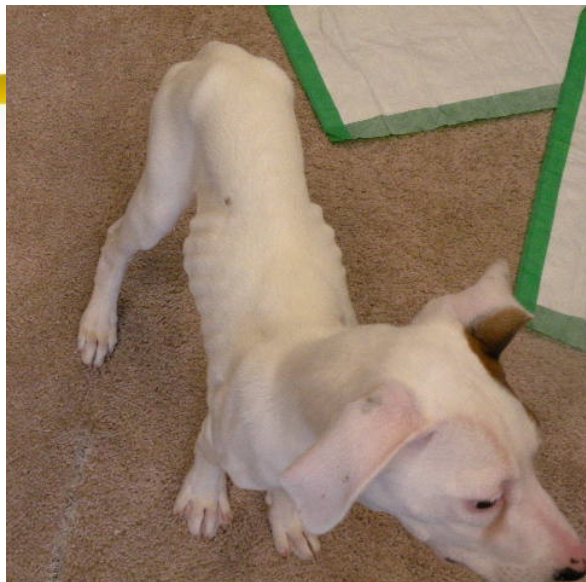
Are you smitten with kittens? Spring has sprung and the orphaned kittens of our community need your help. All they're asking for is a spare room where they can play and grow!

**Help us save lives, become a  
Foster Parent Today!!!**

For more information on how you can save a life please contact us at 434-973-5959 ext. 256 or send an email to [foster@caspca.org](mailto:foster@caspca.org)



# Social Media





# Videos

QuickTime™ and a  
Motion JPEG OpenDML decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.



# Find - who are you looking for?

- ⇒ Animal career personnel
- ⇒ Families
- ⇒ Young couples, single woman/men, seniors, students
- ⇒ All income levels
- ⇒ Media, government employees
- ⇒ Business owners
- ⇒ Anyone who loves animals and is willing to help



# Organize and Activate

## ➔ Organize

- Excel spreadsheet/Shelter buddy software

## ➔ Application/Interview/Homevisit

- Respond **IMMEDIATELY**, give them an animal **IMMEDIATELY!!!**
- Home visit versus interview
- Listen and learn - information to manage of fosters
- Flexibility

## ➔ Contract

- Should include any legal requirements
  - Adequate Care
  - Non-conviction
- Liability waivers and release
- Ownership

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.





# Organize and Activate

Name	Home Phone	Work Phone	Cats	Dogs	Notes	Date of Last Foster	Date Last Contacted	Signed Contract	Will Choose Adopters?
Debra			Y		Orphaned kittens, nursing mother & kittens and Shy/sensitive cat. Has 2 cats & 1 dog. No sick animals.	8/22/08	8/3/08		
Brian & Jennifer				Y	Orphaned puppies, nursing mother & puppies, shy/sensitive dog, dog recovering from injury/trauma, dog receiving treatment/therapy, adult dog needing behavior modification.	4/28/08	6/22/08		



# Organize and Activate

- ➔ It may not always be pretty
- ➔ Do not give up
- ➔ Try, try again
- ➔ Focus on the positive
- ➔ Develop solutions
- ➔ Allow your program to evolve





# Support

- ➔ Basic information
- ➔ Medical care
  - Medical information sheet
  - Medical history sheet
  - Need to provide ongoing vaccinations, worming, etc..
- ➔ Emergency assistance -
  - Provide emergency contacts
- ➔ Foster mentor program



# Support



## Foster Care Contact Information

**For medical concerns  
& to schedule your foster return:**

CASPCA Clinic and medical staff  
(8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. daily)  
964-3310

Jennifer Hall, Director of Clinic Operations  
foster@caspca.org  
964-3324 (Tuesday – Saturday)

**For basic information about foster care**

Makena Yarbrough, Director of Operations  
(8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday– Friday)  
964-3314



**After Hours Medical  
Emergencies**

(After 6:00 p.m. daily)

Marc Waldemar  
Licensed Vet Tech  
Pager: 888-617-8968.



# Train and teach

## ⇒ Train

- Neonatals
- Giving meds
- Caring for injured animals and socializing/modifying behavior
- Review of applicants
- Adoption from home

## ⇒ Educate on expectations

- Risk to other pets
- Common illnesses, risk of death
- Medical treatments given and needed

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.



# Empathize and energize

- ➔ Be helpful, understanding, non-judgmental and solutions oriented
- ➔ Talk to fosters - what do they need
- ➔ Unassisted death and euthanasia - be compassionate
  - Fosters present during euthanasia
  - Fosters visiting sick animals

# Reward - thank you

- ➔ On a daily basis
- ➔ Foster Party Awards
  - Big Dog
  - Neonatal
  - Cootie Award
  - Family Foster (baby pool)
  - Full House (air freshener)
  - Best Junior Fosters





# Reward







# Foster Follies

- ➔ No adoption by foster
- ➔ Fosters cannot approve adopters or adopt out of home
- ➔ Limits
  - number of animals in a foster home
  - organization total animals fostered at point in time
- ➔ Medical treatment req'd at organization
- ➔ Fenced in yards/landlord approval
- ➔ Vaccine history of owned animals

# Difficult situations will occur

- ⇒ Contagious disease in foster home
  - Ringworm, skin conditions, parvo
- ⇒ Adoption restrictions imposed by fosters
- ⇒ Unexpected medical bills
- ⇒ Euthanasia/death -
  - Need to go the extra mile/only serious medical/behavioral





# Fosters are essential to no-kill

- ⇒ Intake is cyclical, especially with respect to cats
- ⇒ Adoption, customer service and marketing programs take time to catch up to the intake
- ⇒ Over the hump in 2007

***FOSTERS ARE THE ANSWER!!!!***



HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN!