

**Myth: Life saving strategies
lead to warehousing of animals
which leads to unhealthy
animals**

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Warehouse

According to Webster . . .

- **storehouse for goods or merchandise**

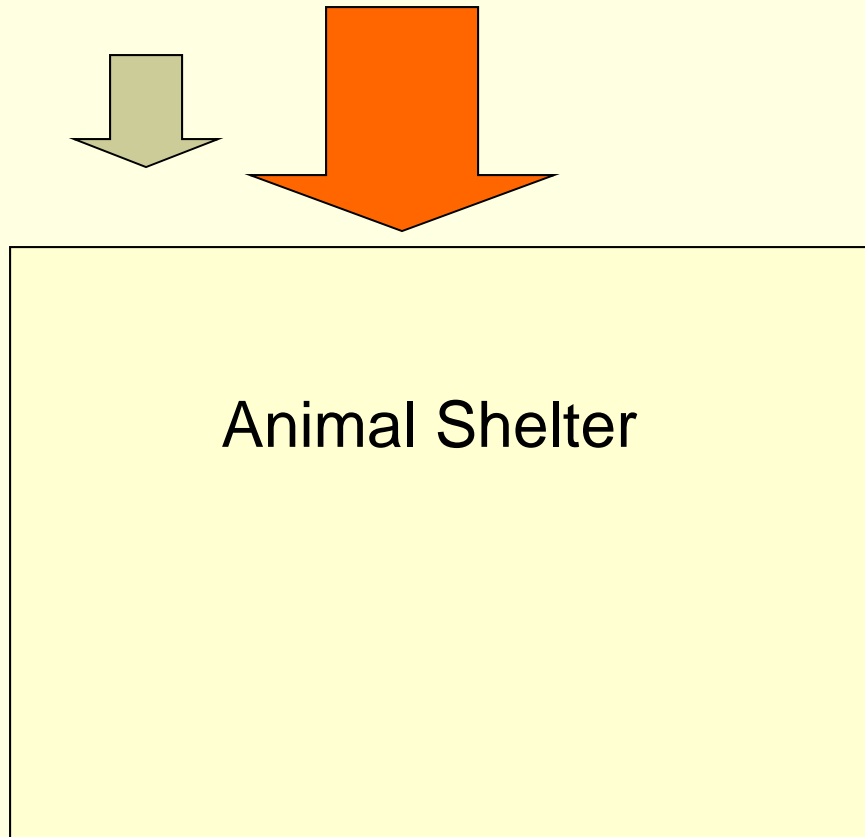


Warehousing

According to Webster

- To set aside or accumulate, as for future use
- To confine or house in conditions suggestive of a warehouse
- Informal definition: to confine (e.g., the mentally ill) to large institutions for long-term custodial care

What is the basis for the myth?



If intake exceeds outflow
the options are:

restrict intake

good foster care
network

effective adoption
program

transfer programs

enhanced RTO
efforts

[**eutanasia**]

My concern as a veterinarian

**Failure to follow these strategies
can lead to**

- **Overcrowding**
- **Lengthy stays**

Leading to . . .

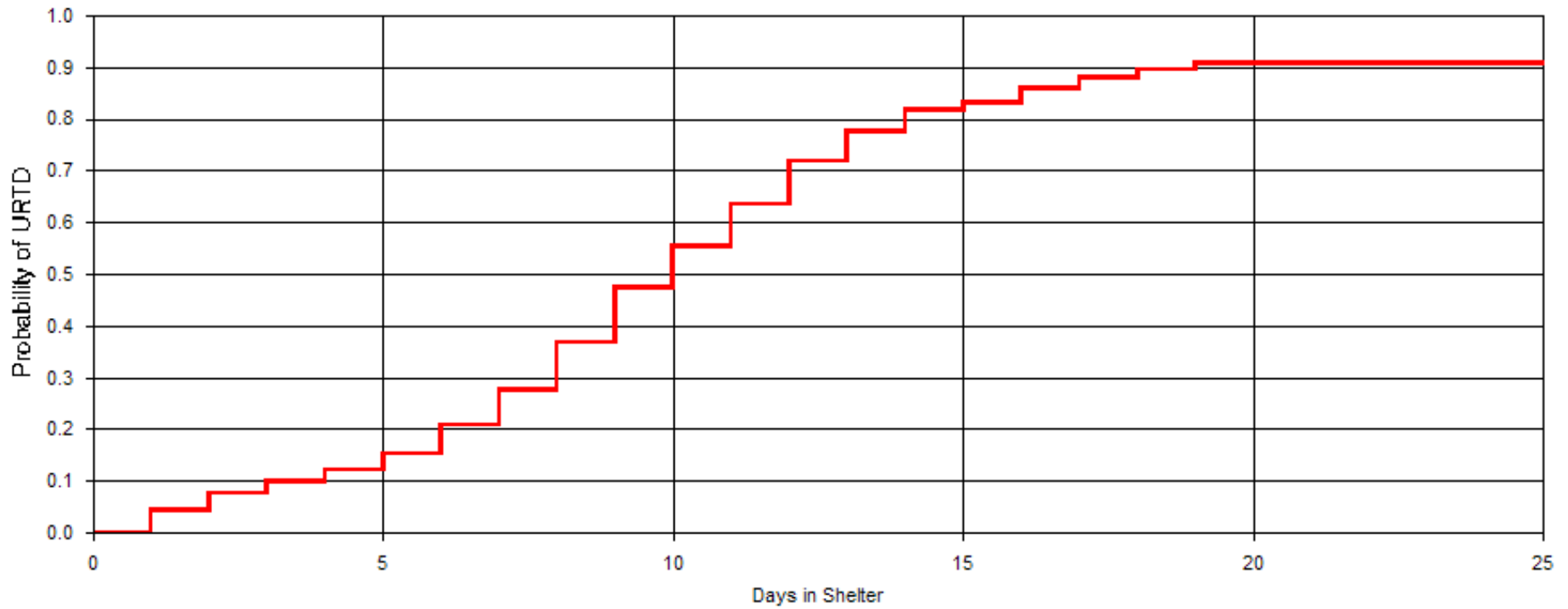
- **Sick animals**
- **Deteriorating behavior**
- **Poor welfare**

Length of stay and health

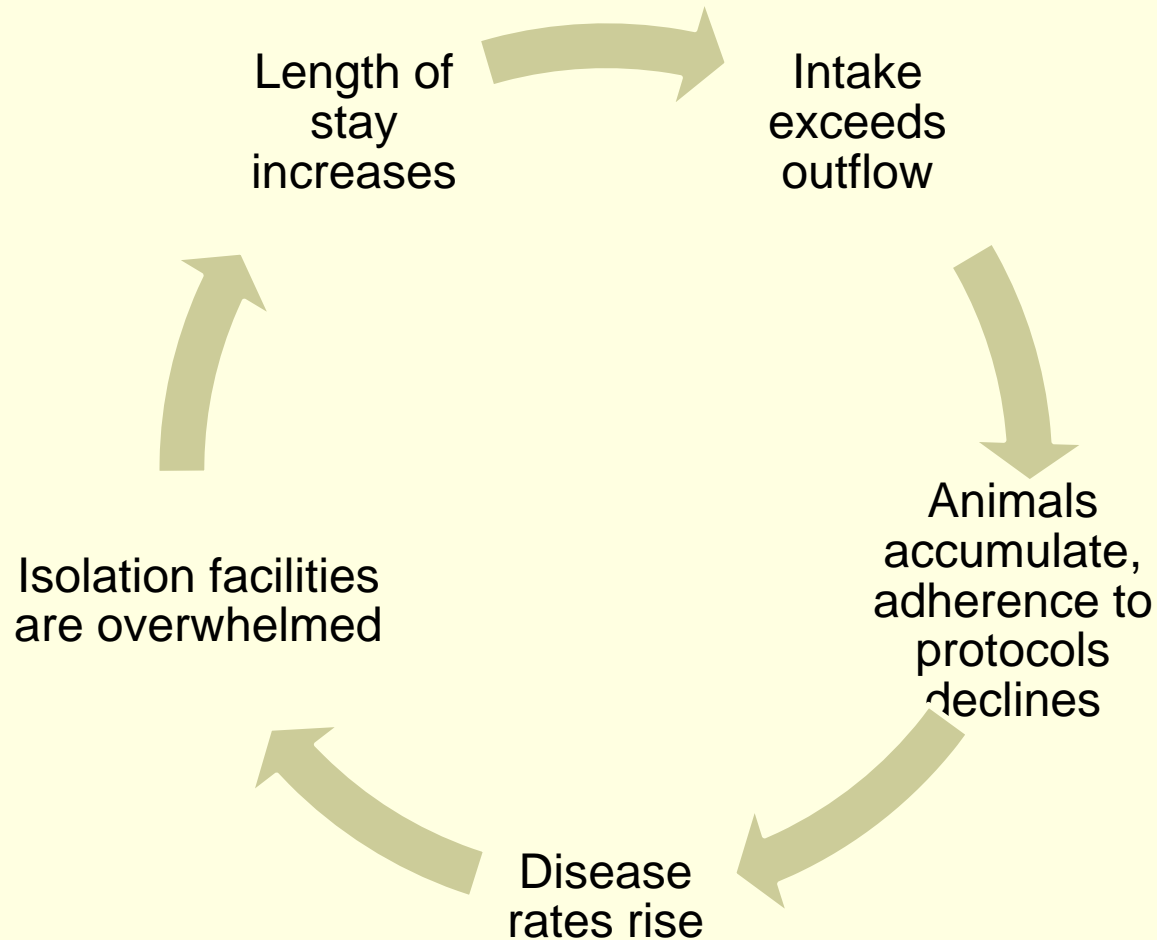
- Increasing lengths of stay
 - Increase the risk of exposure to infxs agents
 - Tie up needed cage space
 - Increase the risk of deleterious behaviors

Probability of URTD by Time in Shelter

All Cats



Capacity is a function of space and staffing requirements



Five keys to avoiding these problems

- Good shelter management
- Make health of the animals a high priority
- Goal-driven health program
- Efficient flow-through of animals
- Disease surveillance / monitoring system

Keys to avoiding these problems

- **Good overall management of the shelter**
 - Good leadership
 - Staff and volunteer training programs
 - Clear responsibilities
 - Accountability and rewards
 - People management that leads to good morale
 - Other management techniques

Health of the animals must be a high priority

- How is health made a priority issue?
 - Appointment and regular meetings of a health committee
 - State of the art, written protocols
 - Identification and empowerment of an “infection control” staff member
 - Job is to oversee the implementation of health-related protocols and monitor the effects
 - Clear channels of communication to the shelter manager / Executive Director

Health of the animals must be a high priority

- How is health made a priority issue?
 - Staff and volunteer training
 - Develop a goal-driven health program
 - E.g., reduce the number of sick cats by 5% next year.
 - Regular feedback to staff/volunteers

Goal-driven health program

- Health related goals established on a regular basis
- Reviewed regularly
- Progress reports back to the volunteers and staff

Efficient flow-through of animals

Regular assessment of the flow of animals

➤ Identify the potential bottlenecks

E.g., monitor time to examination and vaccination, time to neutering, too many sick animals

- Innovative, productive adoption program
- Daily assessment of progress of each animal

Disease surveillance / monitoring program

- Need to monitor how the population is doing
 - Disease increasing / decreasing?
 - Disease manifestations changing?
 - Time to cure
 - Other measures

Many other essential practices

For example:

- Vaccinate all animals on entry
 - Only exception are the very young or very sick
- Isolate animals with signs of infectious disease
 - TRULY isolate!!!
- Stress reducing strategies
- Intelligent traffic flow of people and animals

Take questions after Bonney's presentation
