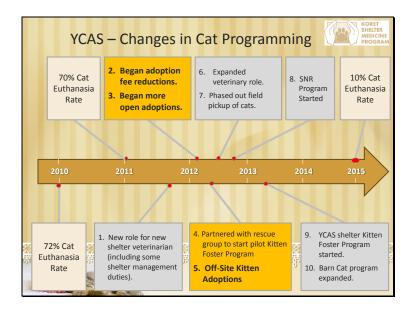
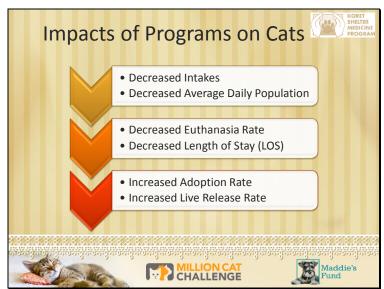
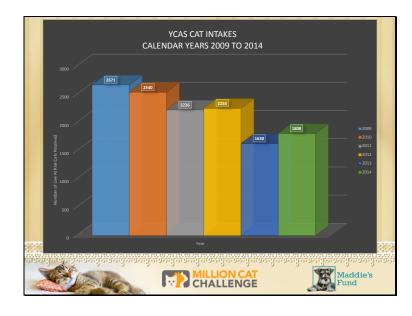
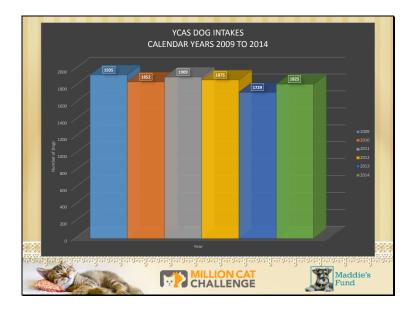


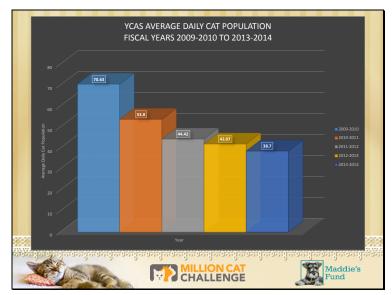
	New Programs at YCAS Primarily Implemented Between 2012 to 2014				
	ver the past 3 years, YCAS has implemented programs in all 5 areas of the Million Cat hallenge's Five Key Initiatives to increase cat live release rates: Alternatives to Intake Managed Admission Capacity for Care Removing Barriers to Adoption Return to Field				
As a result of these and other programs implemented between 2009 and 2014 Live Release Rate Increases (calendar year basis) have been significant: All Cats/Kittens – increased from 26% to 88% Kittens Only – increased from 33% to 92%					
	Maddie's Fund Maddie's				

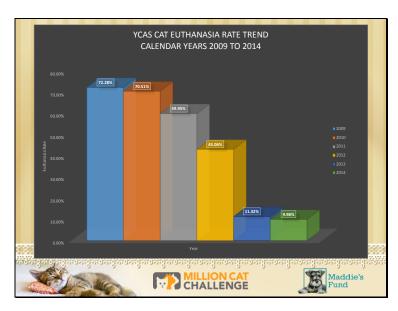


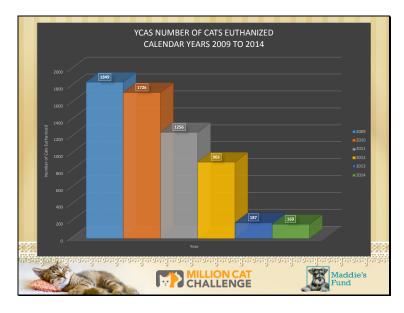




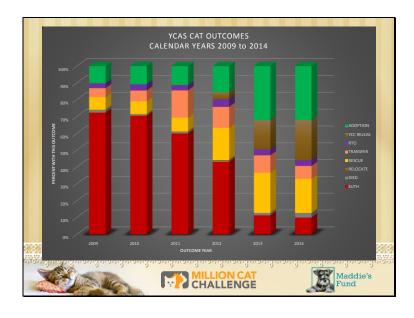


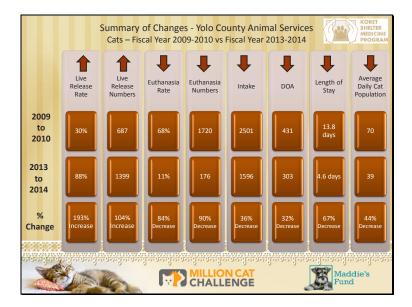


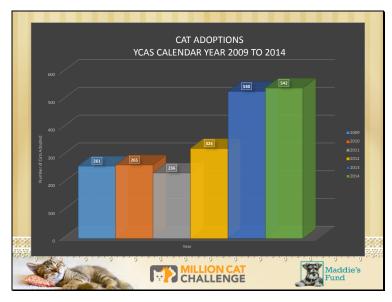


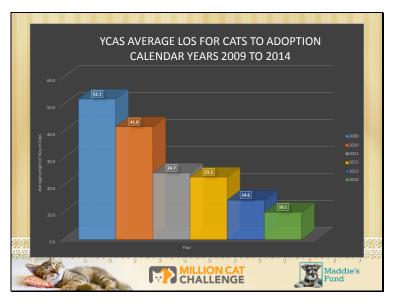


	Average Length of Stay (LOS) Before and After New Programs						
	Average LOS						
	Outcome Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	ADOPTION	52.1	41.8	24.7	23.2	14.6	10.1
	DIED	6.4	16.5	4.8	3.9	2.2	0.3
	EUTH	6.1	3.8	3.8	3.9	2.7	2.4
	RESCUE	14.0	8.0	5.7	7.2	4.6	3.4
	RTO	4.3	4.9	4.0	3.9	2.9	3.7
	TRANSFER	55.4	20.7	12.7	6.9	7.2	6.9
	YCC RELEAS				6.5	2.6	4.2
9	Grand Total	13.9	9.3	7.5	7.8	6.4	5.7
Z.V	MILLION CAT CHALLENGE Maddie's Fund						











Removing Barriers to Adoption

- The primary change needed for us to remove barriers to adoption was a philosophy shift.
- We love animals and want to give them the best lives possible.
- We often saw and were profoundly impacted by examples of "bad"/irresponsible animal owners.
- We wanted to protect our shelter animals from a bad outcome.
- So, we made it very difficult to adopt to try to "ensure" that the animals would go to an "ideal" home.







We Need to Remember

- We see only a very small portion of the owned animal population.
 - Estimates are that we see less than 6% of owned animals in our shelters (some of whom are actually being redeemed by a responsible owner).
 - For cats this is probably even lower when you account for the large numbers of unowned free-roaming cats we see.
 - Most of the cats we see are brought in as stray and very few are redeemed, so we tend not to interact with a lot of cat owners at our shelters.
 - As a result, we see only a tiny portion of the cat owning public maybe 2-3% or less.
 - Most cat owners are responsible and do the best they can for their pets and we never interact with them at shelters.
- BUT, our brains have a "Negativity Bias"
- We remember BAD things much more vividly than GOOD things.
- Think of your last "Bad" day, you might have had 98 good things happen and 1 or 2 bad things and you remember it as a bad day.







What Wasn't Working



- Only 11% of our cats and kittens were being adopted.
- Almost 70% of our cats and kittens were being euthanized.
- We were "protecting" our cats and kittens to death.
- We were "saving" them from a possible less than ideal home (or life living as a free roaming cat) so that we could walk them into our euthanasia room and put them to sleep.







What Wasn't Working • What else was wrong: - Our Length of Stay to adoption was VERY LONG. - Our average on-site cat population was VERY HIGH. • All of this: - Low adoption rate - High euthanasia rate - Long LOS - High average population • Was bad for our cats • And, it was bad for us: - Bad for the shelter and its employees, bad for the public, bad for our department, bad for our community as a whole.

Things we USED To Do

CHALLENGE



- Required proof of home ownership (for a cat or kitten adoption too) often requiring
 a paid property tax bill.
- Landlord check required if not a home owner.
- Requiring other pets to meet new pets (primarily for dogs) currently still working on this being more optional than required for dogs.
- Requiring all family members to meet new pet.
- Requiring a full adoption application to be filled out with no "wrong" answers on the
 application and counseling against adoption if we judged any answers were wrong.
 - Possible wrong answers:
 - Ages of people in the home
 - Other pets and other pets' medical and S/N status
 - Indoor/outdoor question for cats (fenced yard question for dogs)
 - Declawing question
 - Former pets bad outcomes, lack of medical care, other issues.
 - Owner lifestyle issues including work hours





Things Others Might Want to Reconsider

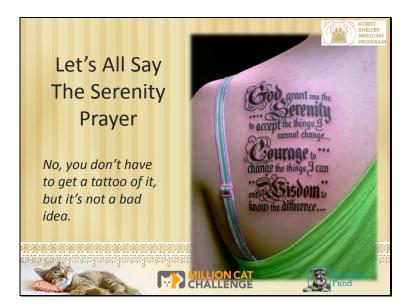


- Things we didn't require but others might currently require that might be worth reconsidering:
 - Home visits
 - Veterinary references
 - Background checks
 - Waiting periods prior to animal going to new home

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	MILLION CAT CHALLENGE	Maddie's Fund

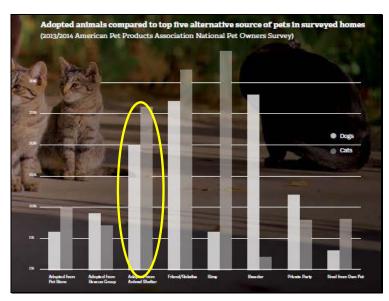
Let He Who is Without Sin... · How many of us on this webinar (arguably some of the most dedicated animal lovers there are) haven't fallen into one of these categories: Kept a pet a landlord didn't know about Had pets who lived together even though they didn't really get along Let their pet's vaccines or other medical care lapse Worked long hours outside our home - Had young children in your home that might have negative interactions with a pet Lived in a home without a secure, fenced yard Allowed a pet cat to live outdoors or go in and out at will Owned more animals than allowed by city/county

CHALLENGE



What Can't We Control • We can't control whether or not people get pets. • We can't control if people tell us the truth or not. • We can't control what kind of pet owners people are going to be. • We can't control the universe – bad things can happen to good people and their pets.







What we Can Control if We Help People Get a Cat From Us

- Whether people get a cat that is already spay/neutered, current on vaccines, microchipped.
- Whether people get some guidance and advice on selecting an appropriate pet.
- Whether people get education and advice on how to introduce their new pet to their home and provide it with medical and behavior care/training.
- Whether people have a resource if they need help, to avoid the pet ending up back in the shelter in the future.
- Getting back a healthy, adoption-ready animal if for any reason the



What Did We Do at Yolo? Implemented "Open Adoptions"



- The goal was to focus on helping people to adopt (rather than trying to prevent them from adopting).
- We still use an adoption application but use it as a conversation starter.
- The goal is to talk to the adopter, help them make the best adoption choice and provide them with guidance, resources and advice about their new pet.
- The goal is to be less judgmental, more helpful and give adopters a positive adoption experience (and a great, lifelong



Other Steps We Took to Remove Adoption Barriers



- Increasing accessibility:
 - Shelter hours/adoption days, adoption locations.
 - Increasing friendliness of shelter staff and volunteers.
 - Discounted cat adoptions fee waived, 2 for 1 on kittens, or 1 kitten with a free adult mentor cat (studies, including Weiss 2009 found no increase in return rates for animals adopted at
 - Allowing volunteers to act as adoption counselors to staff off-site adoption events
 - Special adoption promotions and advertising of adoptions social media, on-site, press releases, participating in bigger events
 - Not declining adoptions for pets as gifts (studies show no difference in retention/attachment or even greater retention for pets given as gifts)
 - No special restrictions associated with holidays



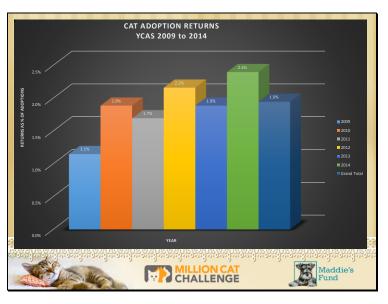




We could implement a shelter-based kitten foster program Now that we knew we would be able to find homes for the kittens when old enough. We started offering some cats for adoption that were a little more shy or cat reactive. Previously they would have had to go to rescue or be euthanized. We have now started to offer for adoption some cats that historically would not have been made available (and based on very low historical adoption rates they wouldn't have previously been adopted or at least not without an excessively long LOS) Senior cats Cats with treatable but long-term illnesses like hyperthyroidism Very special medical needs – like FIV positive cats We are still careful to manage our population and balance fast track and slow track cats offered for adoption but have more flexibility and alternatives in how we manage our population.



MILLION CAI CHALLENGE









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