

**THANK YOU, HUMANS
YOU DID GOOD. BUT NOW
WE ARE TAKING OVER**

KORET SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM

Maddie's Fund

YCAS Initial Euthanasia Risk Analysis

Performed Late 2011 Based on Calendar Year 2010 Data

| Cats Euthanized | Reason for Euthanasia | 2010 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| FERAL | | 571 |
| TOO YOUNG | | 495 |
| FEARFUL | | 210 |
| MED COND | | 126 |
| TIMID | | 104 |
| AGED | | 51 |
| URI | | 41 |
| UNPREDICTA | | 36 |
| ANIM AGGR | | 34 |
| HUMANE | | 33 |
| AT VET | | 26 |
| SHLTR FULL | | 16 |
| FIV | | 9 |
| FELV | | 4 |
| Grand Total | | 1756 |

YCAS Cats Euthanized - Calendar Year 2010

By Reason for Euthanasia

| Reason for Euthanasia | Number of Cats Euthanized |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Behavioral | 955 |
| Underage | 495 |
| Medical | 290 |
| Population Management | 16 |

83% of euthanized cats - Euthanized for Non-Medical Reasons

MILLION CAT CHALLENGE

Maddie's Fund

New Programs at YCAS

Primarily Implemented Between 2012 to 2014

Over the past 3 years, YCAS has implemented programs in all 5 areas of the Million Cat Challenge's Five Key Initiatives to increase cat live release rates:

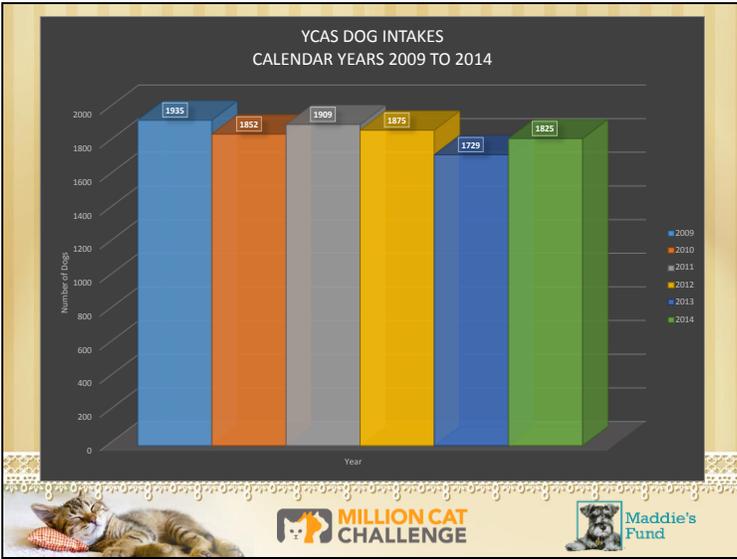
- Alternatives to Intake
- Managed Admission
- Capacity for Care
- Removing Barriers to Adoption
- Return to Field

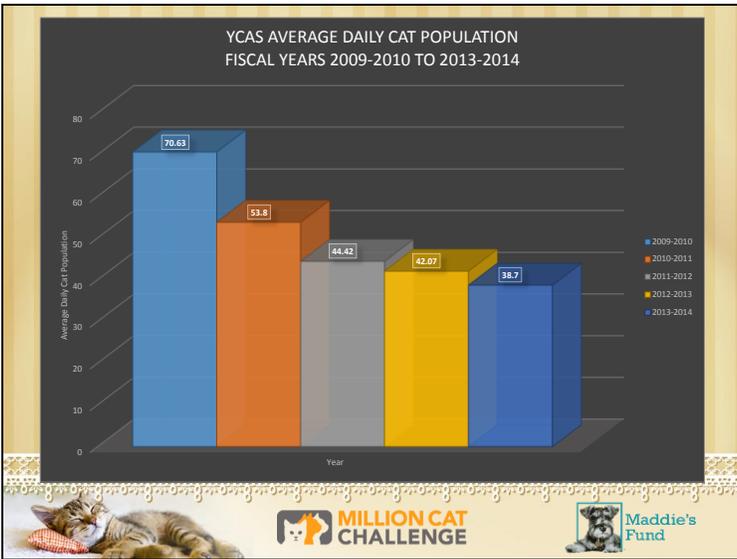
As a result of these and other programs implemented between 2009 and 2014 Live Release Rate Increases (calendar year basis) have been significant:

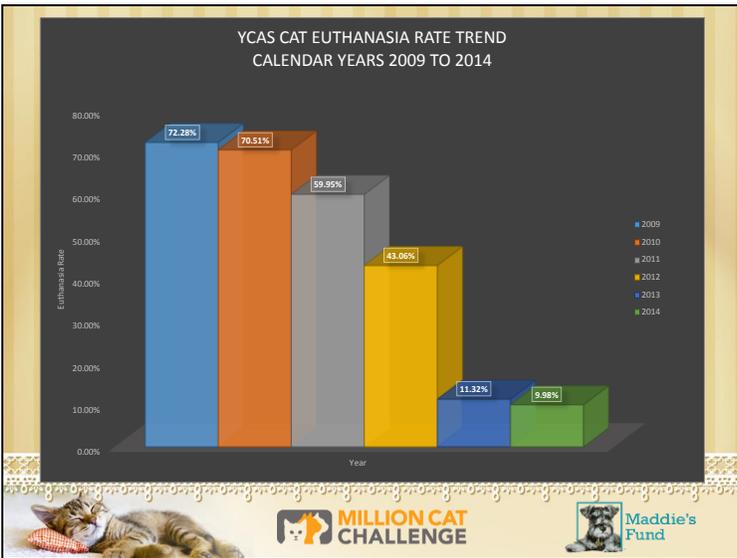
All Cats/Kittens – increased from 26% to 88%
Kittens Only – increased from 33% to 92%

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.









Do you have any questions?

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References and Resources

- UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program – www.sheltermedicine.com
- Million Cat Challenge – www.millioncatchallenge.org
- Maddie's Fund – www.maddiesfund.org
- University of Florida – Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program - <http://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/>
- HSUS "Adopters Welcome." <http://gateway.hsus.org/files/adopters-welcome/AdoptersWelcome.pdf>
- HSUS, "Pets for Life: An In-Depth Community Understanding." humansociety.org/assets/pdfs/pets/pets-for-life/pfl-report-0214.pdf
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- Weiss, E., & Gramann, S. (2009). "A Comparison of Attachment Levels of Adopters of Cats: Fee-Based Adoptions Versus Free Adoptions." *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 12(4), 360-370.





