

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

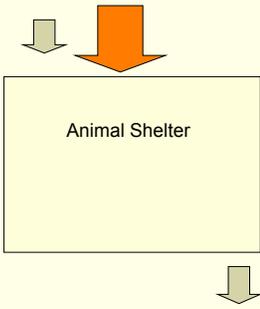



Warehousing

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?



Animal Shelter

If intake exceeds outflow the options are:

- restrict intake
- good foster care network
- effective adoption program
- transfer programs
- enhanced RTO efforts

[euthanasia]

My concern as a veterinarian

Failure to follow these strategies can lead to

- Overcrowding
- Lengthy stays



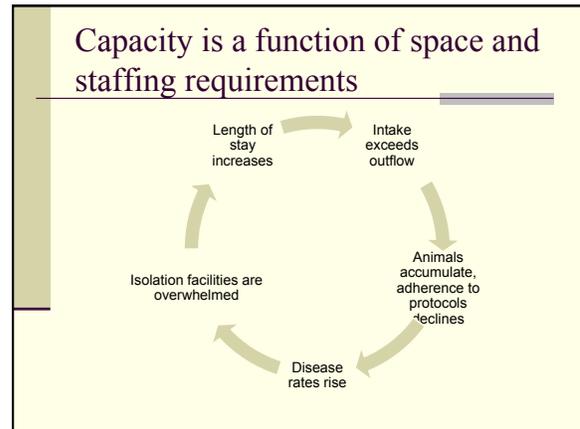
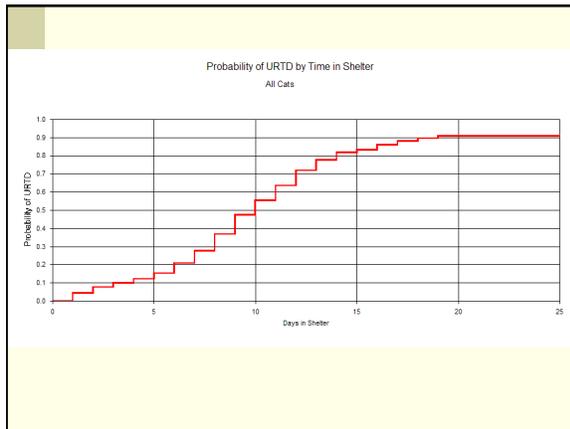
Leading to . . .

- 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





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



"I've seen this before: Combustion due to extreme resistance to change."

- **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



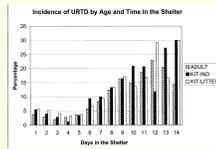
Efficient flow-through of animals

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? – is Isolation overflowing?
 - 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

Questions?

