



**Maddie's
Fund**
The Duffield Foundation

Dog and Cat Foster Care in the United States

2018 SURVEY REPORT



Background

Foster care is a strategic initiative of Maddie's Fund, yet we didn't have data to inform us about the utilization, structure and policies regarding foster care. To gather accurate information about this topic, we would have needed to embark upon a large scale project which would have been costly. Because that cost was prohibitively expensive, we embarked upon a less expensive in-house project. The existing survey provides information about foster care and rough estimates about programs, but **should not be considered highly accurate information as it relies upon information shared by staff at animal welfare organizations, which may be inaccurate. This data should NOT be shared without Maddie's Fund's permission.** The goal of this study was to explore the utilization of foster care, foster care program structure and policies at US animal welfare organizations. The project also collected feedback about the foster-centric model of animal sheltering.



Methods

An online survey collected detailed information about shelters' firmographics, the types of foster care organizations provide, the number and type of pets sent to foster care, foster caregiver selection process and general opinions about foster care. It also explained the foster-centric model of foster care and sought feedback about the model from respondents. The survey was sent to a convenience sample and distributed via the Maddie's Fund email list, Petco, PetSmart Charities, Adopt a Pet and Best Friends in January 2019. Responses were collected in Survey Monkey, and duplicate responses from the same organization were removed from the sample. When duplications occurred, first priority was given to completed responses, second priority was given respondents with a "foster coordinator" title as well as titles with higher seniority than foster coordinators. If titles were similar in seniority, then a random respondent was selected. After duplicate responses were removed, 2,159 organizations responded to the survey. Descriptive statistics were generated, and data was analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics, version 25. Since the data was not normally distributed non-parametric statistics were utilized to identify the difference between policies and number of fosters. p value less than 0.05 was considered significant for all comparisons.



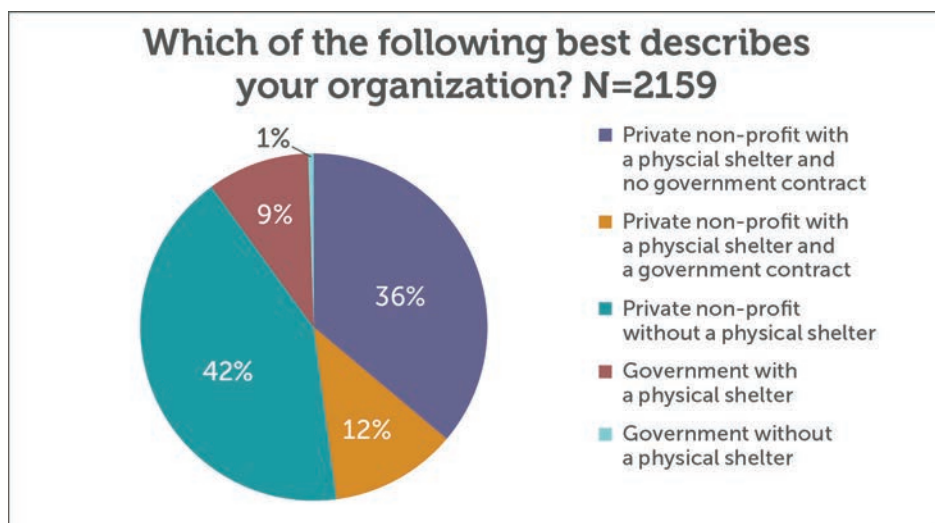
Results

ORGANIZATION PROFILES

One of the goals for conducting the study was to gain a better understanding of the utilization of foster care amongst animal welfare organizations. The marketing plan for the survey was designed to gather information from as many shelter and rescue organizations as possible, whether or not they had a foster program. Initial questions asked about organization size, type and location. Our original assumption was that by using these characteristics we'd be able to identify what percentage of organizations in the United States have foster programs. However, only 8% (144/1629) of respondents indicated that their organization does not have foster care. Future surveys should be more specific in defining what comprises a foster program (e.g, if you send three pets per year to foster, do you have a foster program?) and/or do a better job at wording marketing materials to encourage organizations without foster programs to participate.

The following categories of shelters were grouped during this survey:

- Private non-profit physical shelter and no government contract (Non-profit Shelter)
- Private non-profit physical shelter with a government contract (Non-profit/Govt Shelter)
- Private non-profit without a physical shelter (Rescue)
- Government with a physical shelter (Animal Control)

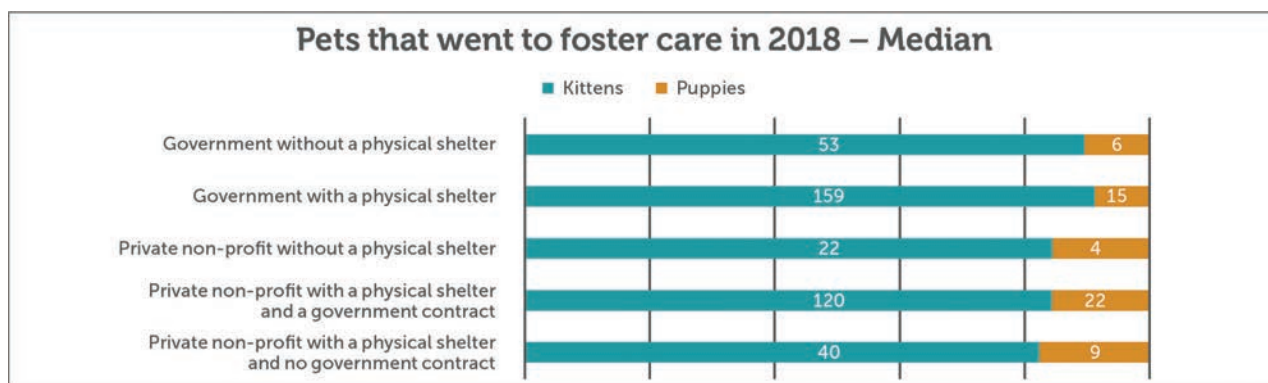
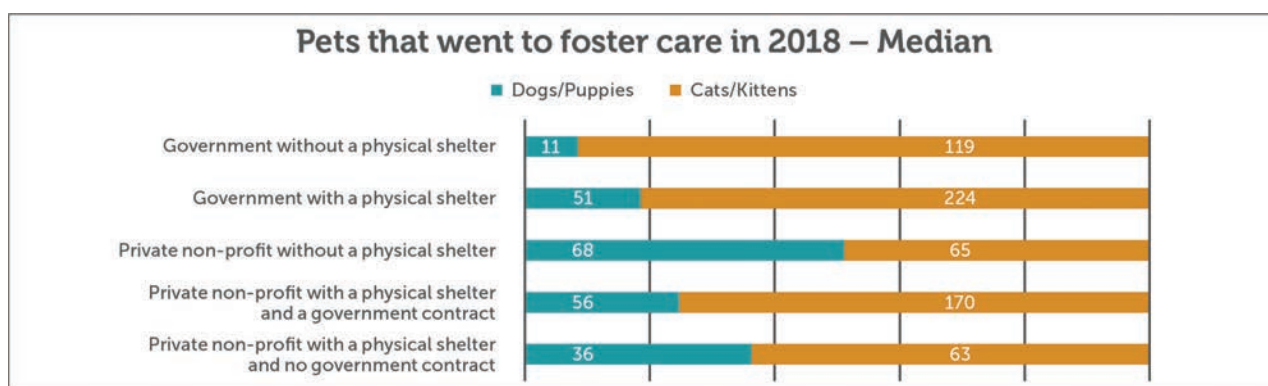


One hundred forty-four organizations didn't have a foster program. Of these, 44% were non-profit shelters, 27% were animal control, 17% were private non-profit organizations without a shelter, 10% were non-profit/government shelter, and 1.4% were animal control (without a shelter). Of the 144 organizations without a foster program, the top three reasons for not having foster care were: difficulty in finding foster homes (52%), lack of staff (44%), and concerns about liability (33%).

Results

After adjusting data relative to intake numbers, the profiles of organizations with foster programs were not statistically significantly different when compared to the number of dogs and/or puppies organizations sent into foster care in 2018. However, organizations differed significantly in the number of kittens they put into foster care, after adjusting data related to intake numbers. Non-profit Shelters and Rescues placed on average significantly less kittens into foster care than Animal Control and Non-profit/Gov't Shelters. This is likely because organizations with a government contract more frequently intake kittens less than eight weeks old because of their animal control function.

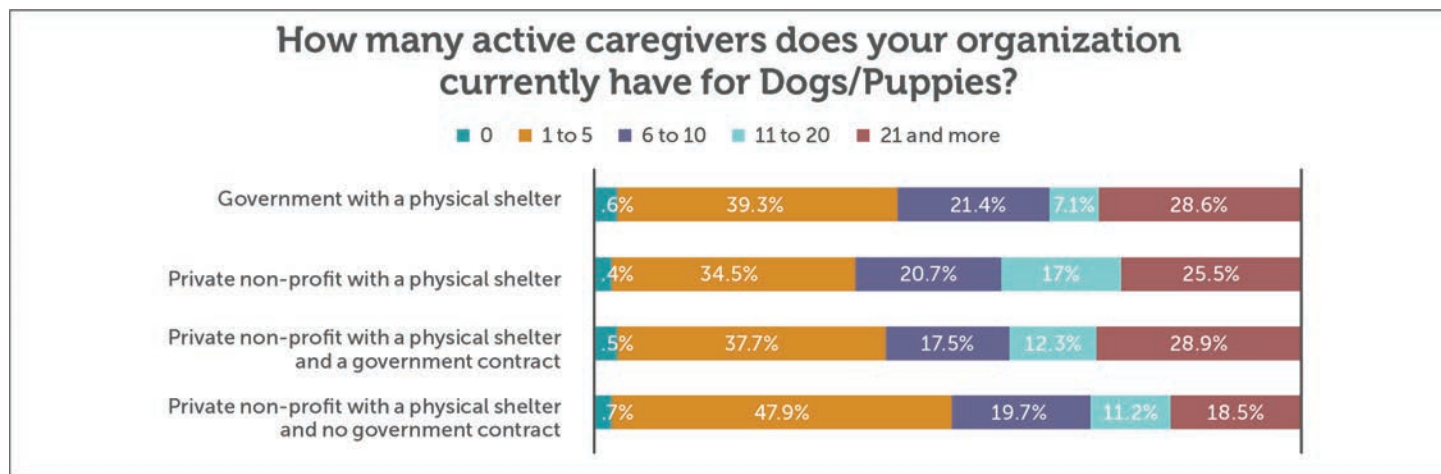
Overall, the median number of pets who went to foster care for varying organization types was low, especially considering answers to questions later in the survey regarding number of pets in foster vs. shelter in a typical summer month.



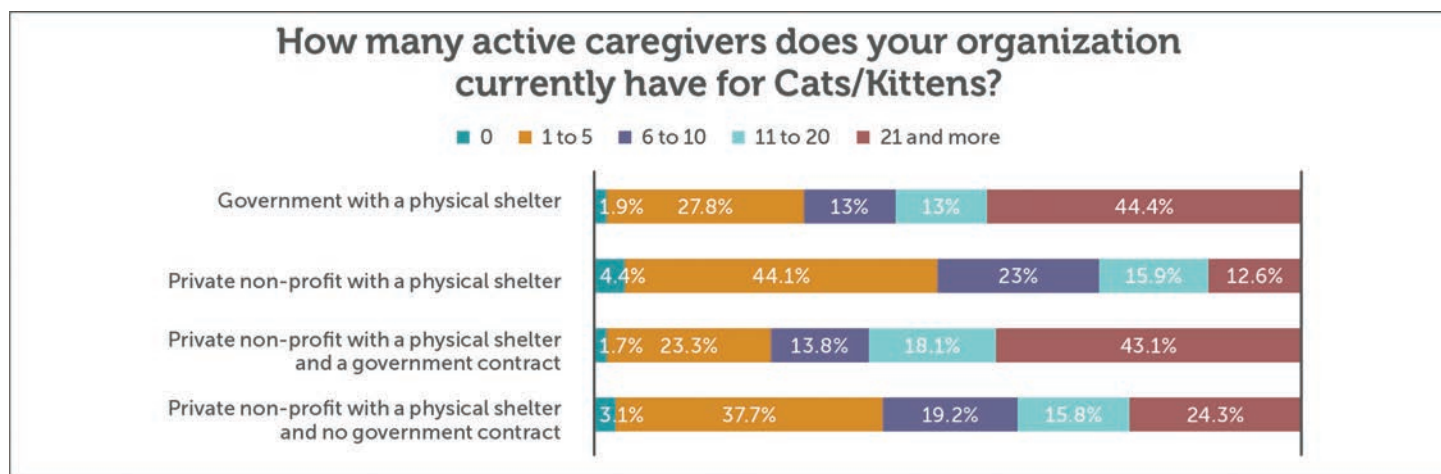
	How many pets went into foster care during 2018? Number of dogs/puppies			How many pets went into foster care during 2018? Number of cats/kittens			How many pets under eight weeks old went into foster care during 2018? Kittens			How many pets under eight weeks old went into foster care during 2018? Puppies		
	Mean	Median	Sum	Mean	Median	Sum	Mean	Median	Sum	Mean	Median	Sum
Private non-profit with a physical shelter and no government contract	148.46	36	52109	254.55	63	97494	120	40	43748	42	9	13910
Private non-profit with a physical shelter and a government contract	156.83	56	22426	378.59	170	54139	279	120	38715	65	22	8887
Private non-profit without a physical shelter	150.42	68	78818	166.96	65	64949	75	22	27154	31	4	15360
Government with a physical shelter	324.93	51	26644	434.19	224	34301	304	159	22170	73	15	5512
Government without a physical shelter	23.67	11	71	159.25	118.5	637	55	53	220	9	6	26

Results

Dog/puppy foster caregivers are less common than cat/kitten foster caregivers. A majority of organizations who responded to the survey had only 1-5 active dog/puppy volunteers.



The situation was different when the survey inquired about cats. Animal Control and Non-profit/Gov't Shelters had significantly more fosters available to take a cats/kittens than other types of organizations. The majority of these types of shelters had 21 or more foster caregivers available for this type of pet. Rescues and Non-profit Shelters were most likely to have 1-5 people available to foster cats/kittens, similar to dogs/puppies. Overall, there were more fosters available to foster cats/kittens than dog/puppies. The difference could be influenced by the fact that kittens were part of the cats/kittens category and foster care is much more common for kittens than for adult animals. Shelters also, on average, intake more kittens than puppies.

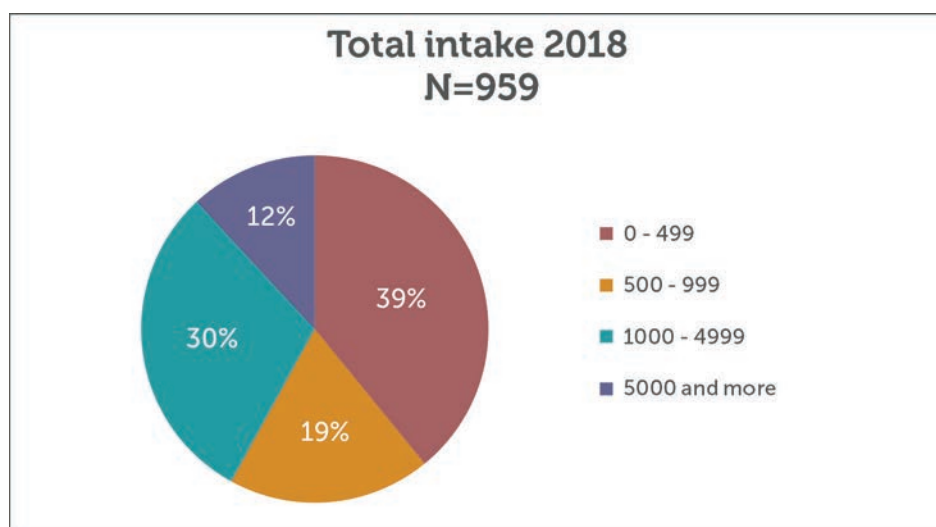


Results

FOSTER CARE AT ORGANIZATIONS WITH PHYSICAL SHELTERS

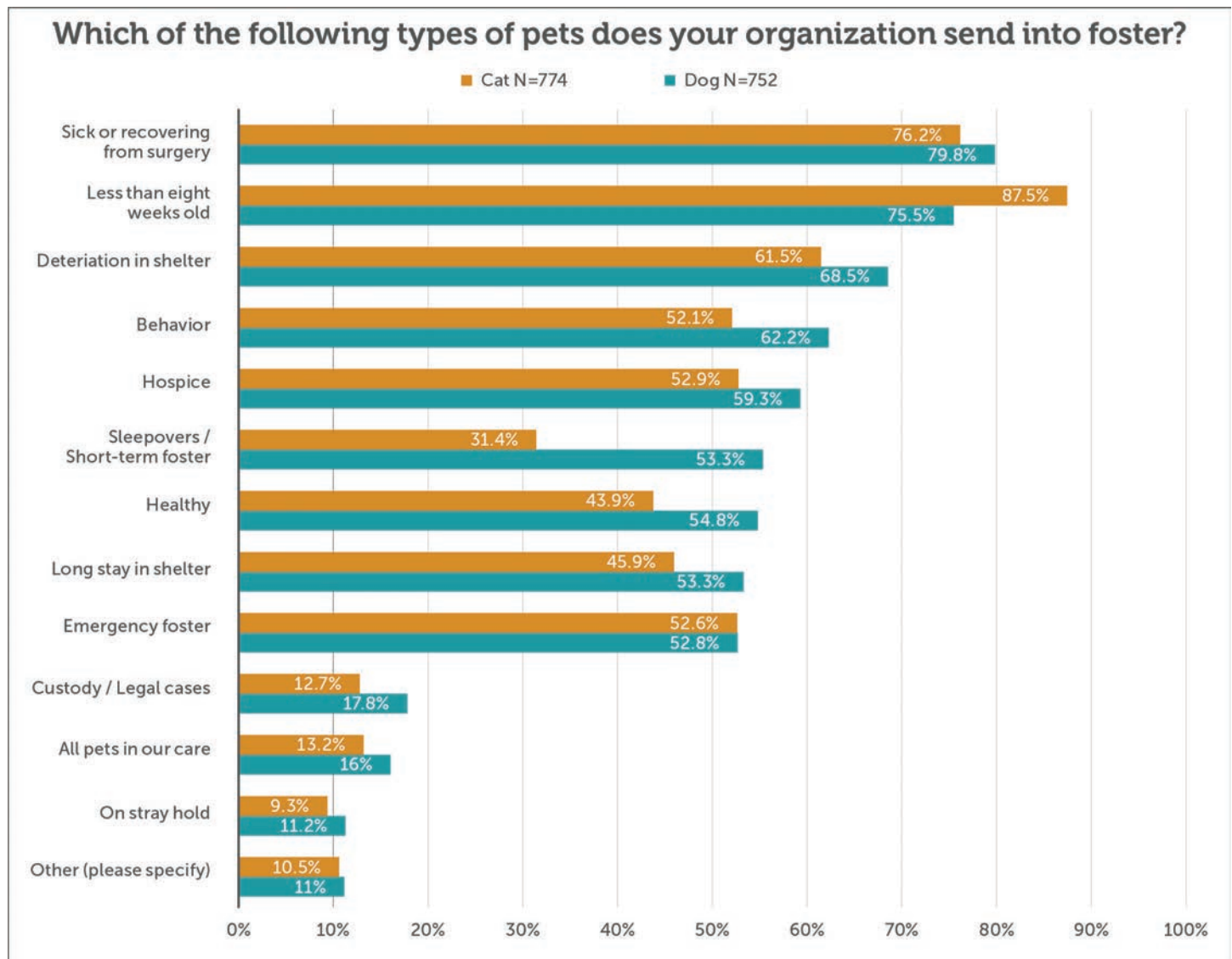
For the rest of the analysis, the data was split to include organizations with physical shelters only. Foster care is particularly important for this organizational profile since efficient operation of foster programs could improve the function of the organization through improved animal welfare, effective space utilization, staff time redistribution, cost savings, shorter length of stay for the animals and improved adoption outcomes.

The sample was skewed towards organizations with smaller intake numbers. 58% of organizations who responded to the survey were small organizations that accepted less than 1000 animals in 2018.



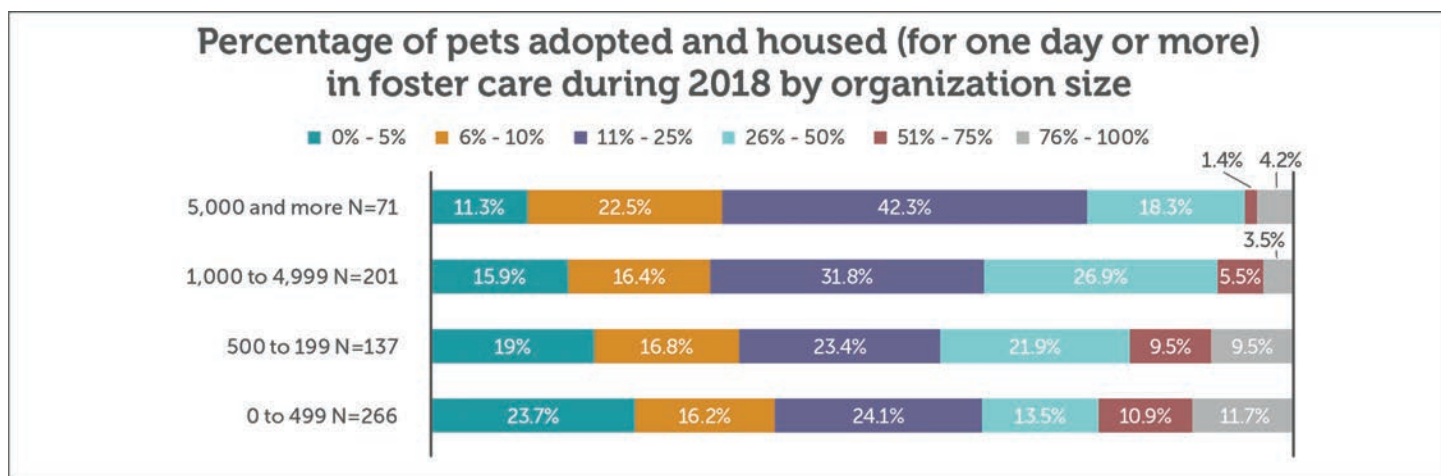
Results

When asked about the types of pets they sent to foster care, organizations varied (see chart below). However, only 16% of organizations indicated that all of their dogs were available for fostering and only 13% indicated that all cats in their care were available for fostering. Note that this was a 'check all that apply' question and some respondents selected 'all pets in our care' and not the other categories. Technically, they should have selected all the categories if all the pets in their care were available for fostering. We'll need to fix this if we repeat the survey in the future. The rest of the results were very similar for cats and dogs.



Results

The number of pets that organizations placed in foster care was explored via several questions. Organizations were asked to provide an estimate of the percentage of pets that were housed in the foster care during 2018. Small shelters with an intake below 1000 animals tended to house slightly more pets in foster care than larger organizations. However, the difference was not statistically significant.



In terms of number of foster caregivers, on average each organization had 24 (SD=52) active fosters for dogs and 33 (SD=65) for cats. However, the data was not normally distributed; the majority of the organizations had a median of 5 dog fosters and 10 cat fosters. There was also statistically significant difference between organizational sizes and the number of foster caregivers. Organizations with smaller intake had less active foster caregivers. Overall, organizations with physical shelters reported a total of 11,659 (N=499) active foster caregivers available to foster dogs/puppies and 16,544 (N=510) active foster caregivers to foster cats/kittens.

		How many active foster caregivers does your organization currently have for Dogs/Puppies		
Dog intake 2018		Mean	Median	Count
	0 - 499	8.89	4	445
	500 - 999	18.38	10	140
	1,000 - 4,999	52.15	20	213
	5,000 and more	124.06	100	41
		How many active foster caregivers does your organization currently have for Cats/Kittens		
Cat intake 2018		Mean	Median	Count
	0 - 499	9.25	5	447
	500 - 999	29.42	20	152
	1,000 - 4,999	74.71	35	231
	5,000 and more	211.00	213.50	31

Results

ORGANIZATION PROFILES

The survey also asked about shelter versus foster inventory during a typical summer month, when presumably a maximum number of pets would be in foster care. The following questions were utilized to collect this information:

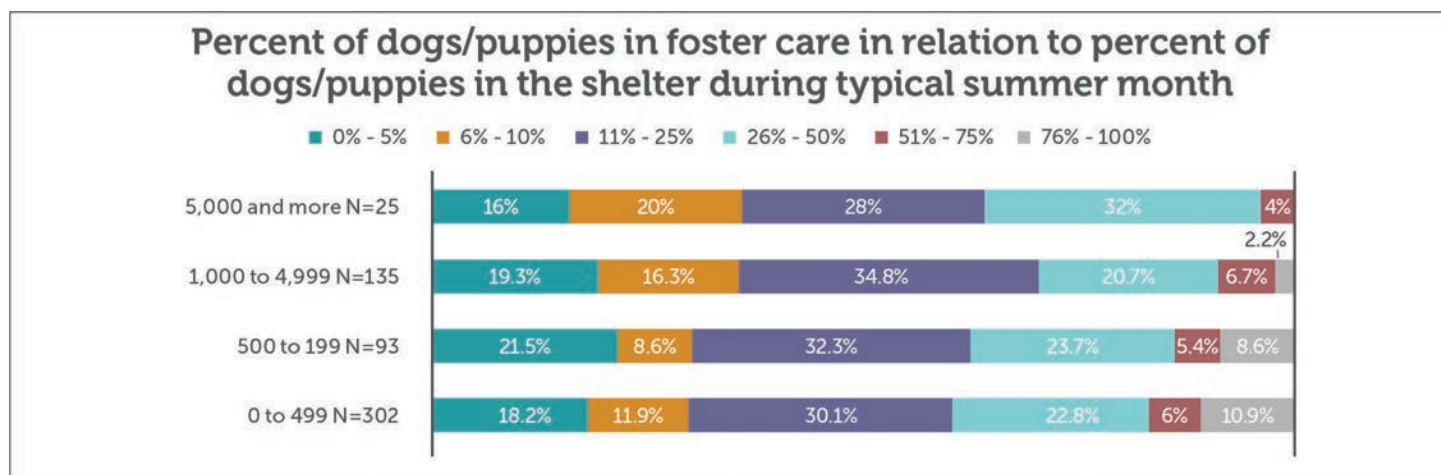
- During a typical summer month, how many cats/kittens are in the following locations?
- During a typical summer month, how many kittens are in the following locations?
- During a typical summer month, how many dogs/puppies are in the following locations?
- During a typical summer month, how many puppies are in the following locations?

Respondents were asked to enter the number of pets in foster and the number of pets in the shelter, in response to the above questions. Later, the data was converted to the percent of pets in foster in relation to the percent of pets in shelter during typical a summer month. For dogs (chart below), no significant difference was found between organization size and the percent of dogs that were placed into foster care during a typical summer month.

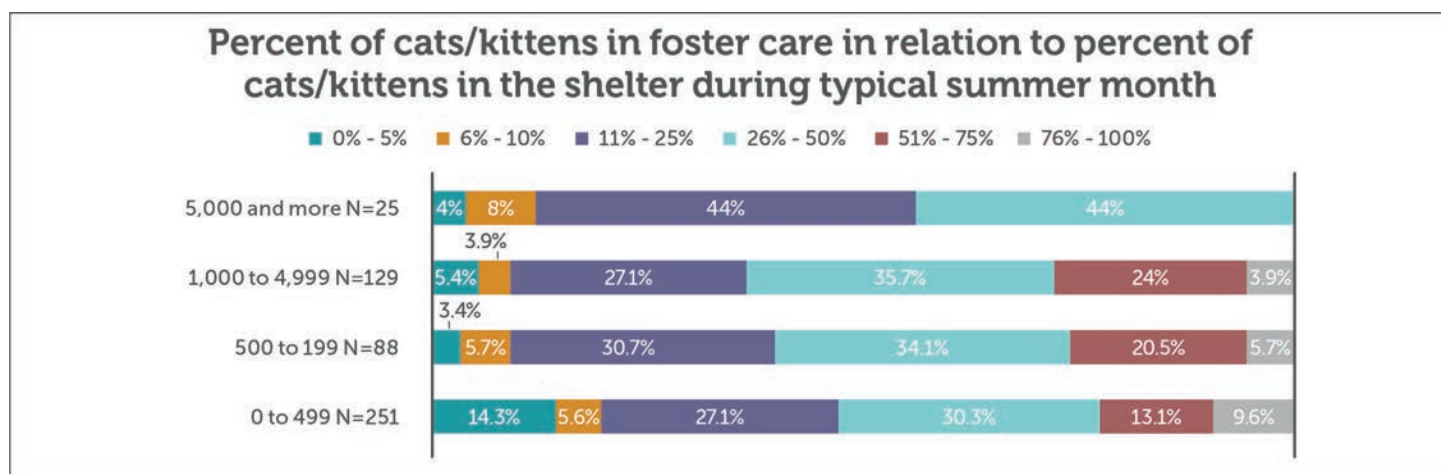
	Private non-profit animal organization with a physical shelter and no government contract				Private non-profit animal organization with a physical shelter and a government contract				Government animal organization with a physical shelter				Total			
	Mean	Median	Sum	Valid N	Mean	Median	Sum	Valid N	Mean	Median	Sum	Valid N	Mean	Median	Sum	Valid N
During a typical summer month, how many pets are in the following locations? Number of dogs/puppies in your shelter	14920	24	43	346	13524	50	94	144	10984	60	134	82	39428	30	69	572
During a typical summer month, how many pets are in the following locations? Number of dogs/puppies in foster care	6509	8	19	341	2939	6	20	144	2215	5	28	80	11663	7	21	565
During a typical summer month, how many pets are in the following locations? Number of cats/kittens in your shelter	25193	45	67	378	20229	75	140	144	8846	75	112	79	54268	54	90	601
During a typical summer month, how many pets are in the following locations? Number of cats/kittens in foster care	18063	20	48	378	10313	40	71	145	6907	40	87	79	35283	25	59	602

Results

NUMBER OF DOGS/PUPPIES IN FOSTER CARE RELATED TO NUMBER OF DOGS IN SHELTER DURING A TYPICAL SUMMER MONTH



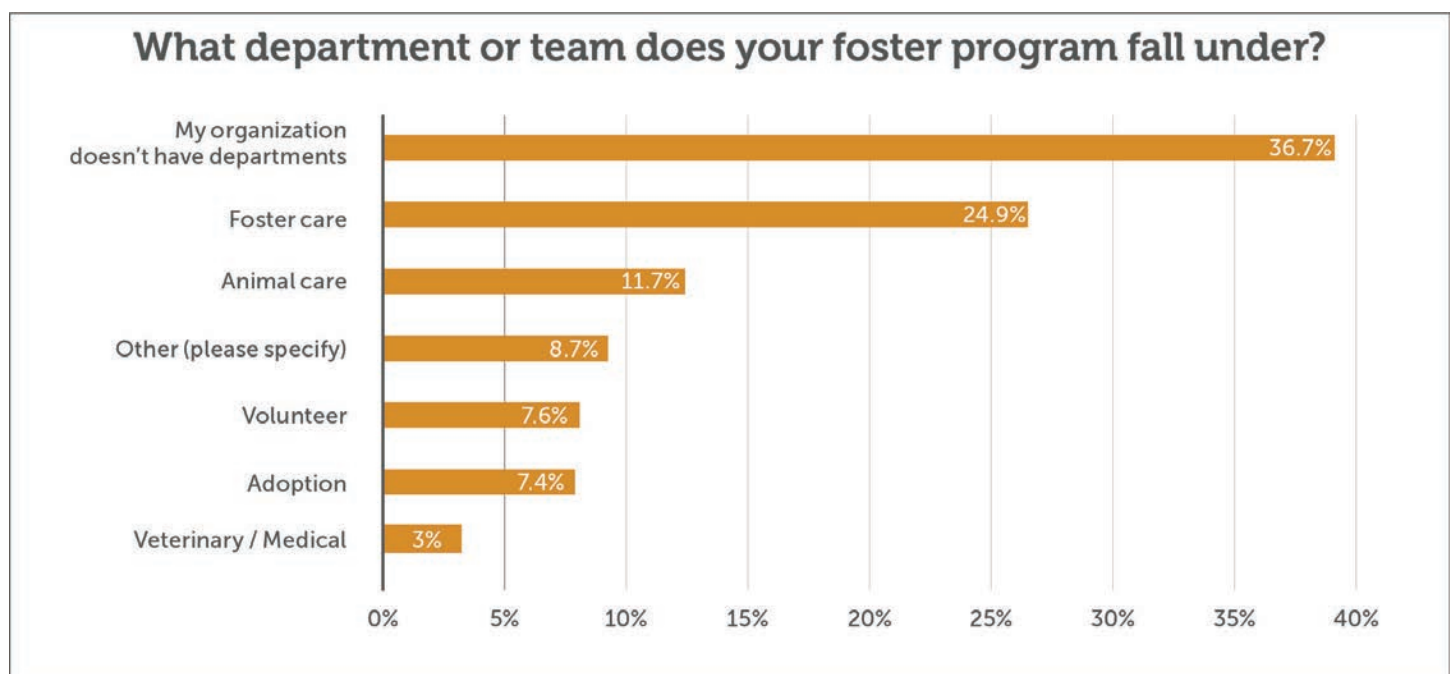
With regard to cats/kittens (chart on next page), a Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed that a significantly higher percent of cats/kittens were placed into foster care during a typical summer month than dog/puppies. Moreover, organizations with an intake of 5000 or more cats placed higher percent of cat/kittens into the foster care during typical summer month than organizations with intake between 0-499 cats. It's notable that NO organizations with intake over 5000 placed 0-5% of their population in foster care. This might be because larger organizations might be more established and admit (and save) more kittens. Larger organizations might also run out of space during peak season and send more pets to foster care to prevent euthanasia. Kittens are also the primary category of pets who enter foster care in the US, resulting in a more cats/kittens in foster care for large organizations.



Results

FOSTER CARE COORDINATORS AND REPORTING STRUCTURE

Eighty percent (N=575) of organizations with a physical shelter reported having at least one foster coordinator/manager whether the person was staff or volunteer, full or part time. Among them 41% (N=237) reported having a full-time paid (staff) foster coordinator/manager. Seventy four percent (N=427) of organizations indicated that their foster coordinator/manager was part of thier organization's management or leadership team and 65% (N=377) indicated that the person who oversees the foster program reports directly to the executive director or shelter manager. Only twenty five percent (N=141) of organizations have a foster care department. For the rest of the respondents, foster care was a part of other departments and 37% (N=208) of organizations did not have departments at all at their organization.



Results

ORGANIZATIONS' POLICIES AND PRACTICES REGARDING FOSTER CAREGIVERS

Many policies had a direct impact on the number of foster caregivers organizations had. Three groups of policies related to fosters were explored: enrollment, support, and appreciation policies. The enrollment practices on the next page were common requirements to become a foster caregiver, and many enrollment policies had a significant impact on the number of active fosters in organizations. Mann-Whitney U Test revealed that organizations requiring interviews in person or via phone for prospective fosters (prospects) had significantly less fosters for cats and dogs than organizations that did not. Organizations that required a background check for prospects had significantly less fosters available for cats; the difference was not significant for dogs. Organizations that provided online orientation and foster caregiver trainings had significantly more cat and dog fosters than organizations that did not. The difference was explored for all organizations together; there are possible covariates to these results such as size of organizations. A covariate is something else that we haven't identified that might result in the differences we observed. Organizations with a larger dog intake tended to have more fosters and less rigid interview policies.

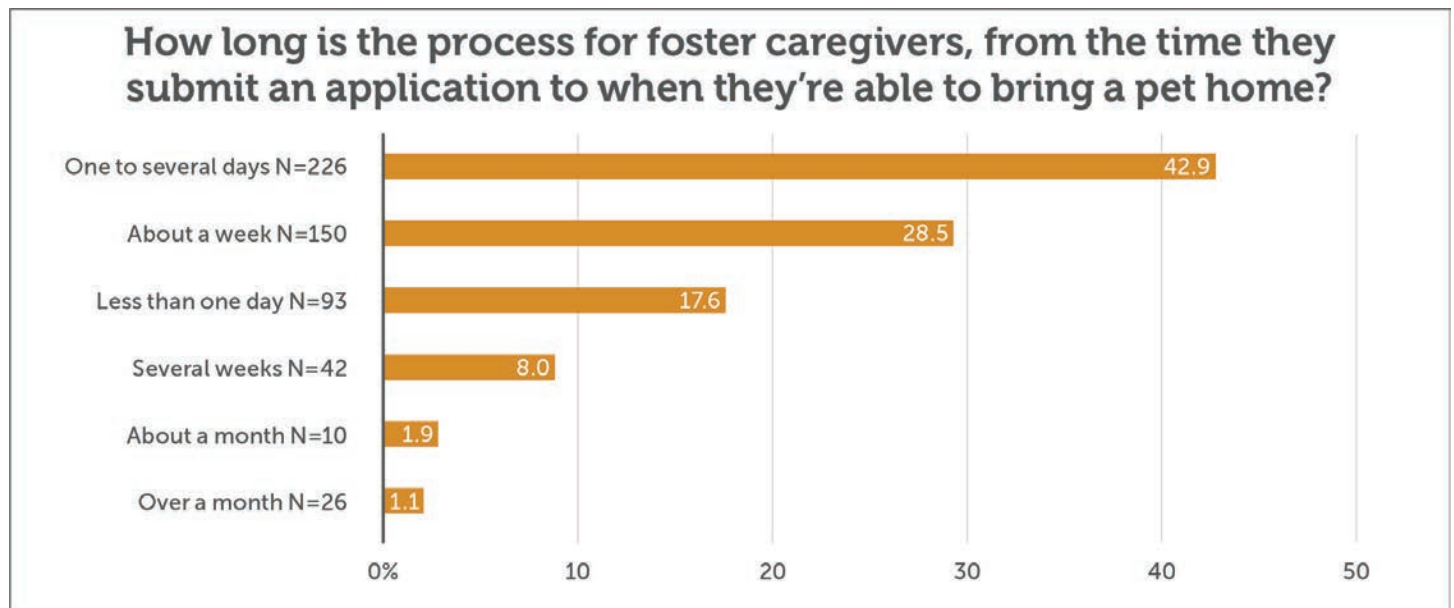


Results

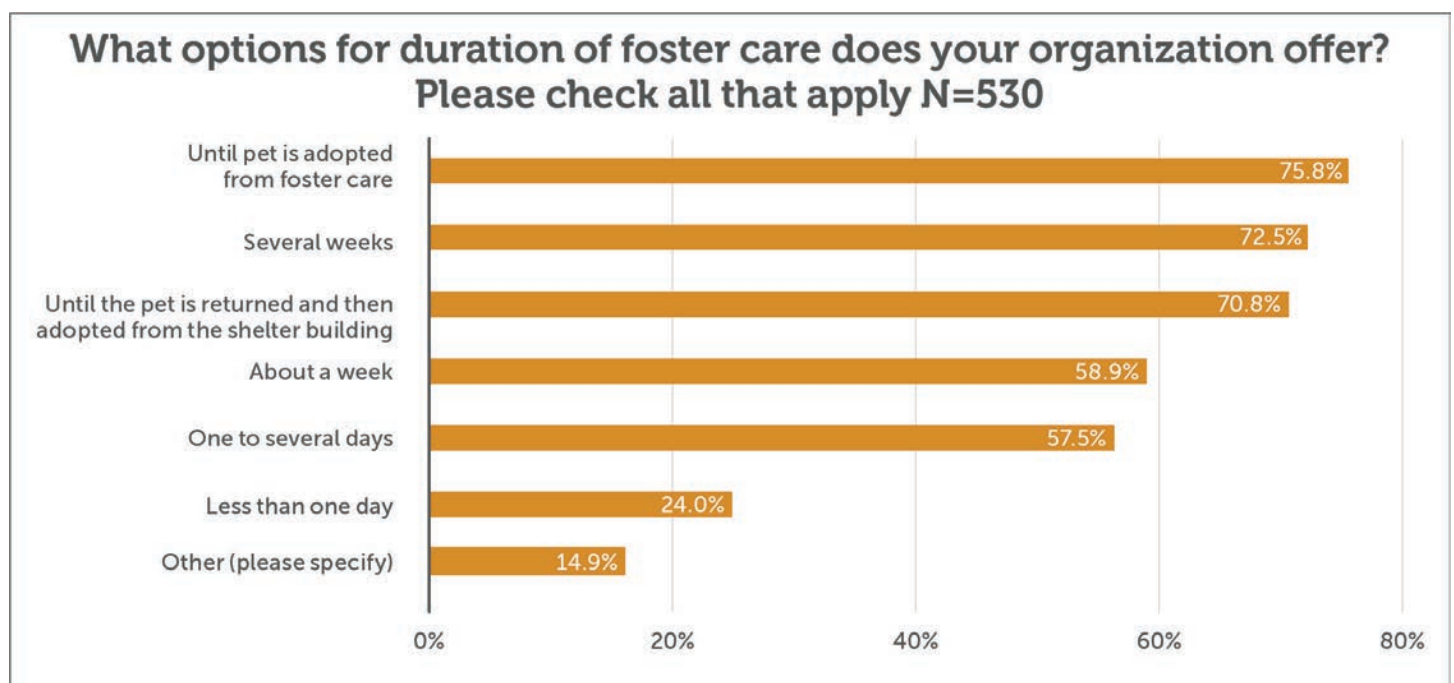
		How many active foster caregivers (are available to foster if there was a pet of that type who needed fostering) does your organization currently have for Dogs/Puppies			How many active foster caregivers (are available to foster if there was a pet of that type who needed fostering) does your organization currently have for Cats/Kittens		
		Mean	Median	Valid N	Mean	Median	Valid N
Fill out an application	Does not require	21.20	2.00	35	23.68	3.00	38
	Require	23.53	5.00	464	33.14	10.00	472
Be interviewed in person or via telephone	Does not require	40.05	6.00	143	56.41	12.00	146
	Require	16.66	5.00	356	22.82	10.00	364
Background check	Does not require	25.71	5.00	385	35.90	10.00	398
	Require	15.46	5.00	114	20.14	6.00	112
Foster caregiver training (online)	Does not require	21.80	5.00	460	29.07	10.00	468
	Require	41.79	16.00	39	69.93	31.50	42
Foster caregiver training (in-person)	Does not require	19.12	5.00	173	26.40	5.00	175
	Require	25.62	6.50	326	35.59	12.00	335
Orientation training about organization (online)	Does not require	22.21	5.00	469	30.74	10.00	478
	Require	41.47	18.00	30	57.84	22.50	32
Orientation training about organization (in-person)	Does not require	18.51	5.00	262	26.05	7.00	264
	Require	28.73	6.00	237	39.30	12.00	246
Volunteer training (online)	Does not require	23.32	5.00	473	32.50	10.00	482
	Require	24.19	5.00	26	31.32	5.00	28
Volunteer training (in-person)	Does not require	26.64	5.00	310	37.36	10.00	318
	Require	18.00	5.00	189	24.28	9.50	192
Home Visit	Does not require	31.51	8.00	296	45.99	15.00	306
	Require	11.49	4.00	203	12.12	5.00	204
Meet other members of house	Does not require	28.26	6.00	368	40.91	14.00	381
	Require	9.61	4.00	131	7.43	4.00	129
Meet pets living in household	Does not require	30.15	6.00	313	44.75	15.00	324
	Require	11.95	5.00	186	11.00	5.00	186
Veterinary exam for existing household pets	Does not require	24.28	5.00	469	33.56	10.00	480
	Require	9.03	4.50	30	14.53	5.00	30
Review of veterinary records for existing household pets	Does not require	27.17	5.00	313	41.04	12.00	323
	Require	16.96	5.50	186	17.59	6.00	187
Up-to-date vaccinations for existing household pets	Does not require	27.63	5.00	199	39.78	12.00	209
	Require	20.54	5.00	300	27.35	8.00	301
Sign foster agreement	Does not require	16.79	4.00	56	27.91	6.00	57
	Require	24.20	5.00	443	33.01	10.00	453
Other	Does not require	21.92	5.00	441	30.33	10.00	449
	Require	34.34	4.50	58	48.00	12.00	61

Results

The amount of time it takes to become a foster caregiver did not have a significant impact on the number of dog or cat fosters (see next table). However, organizations with “less than one day” wait time to become a foster caregiver had a significantly larger intakes for both cats and dogs than organizations with a wait time of “about a week”.

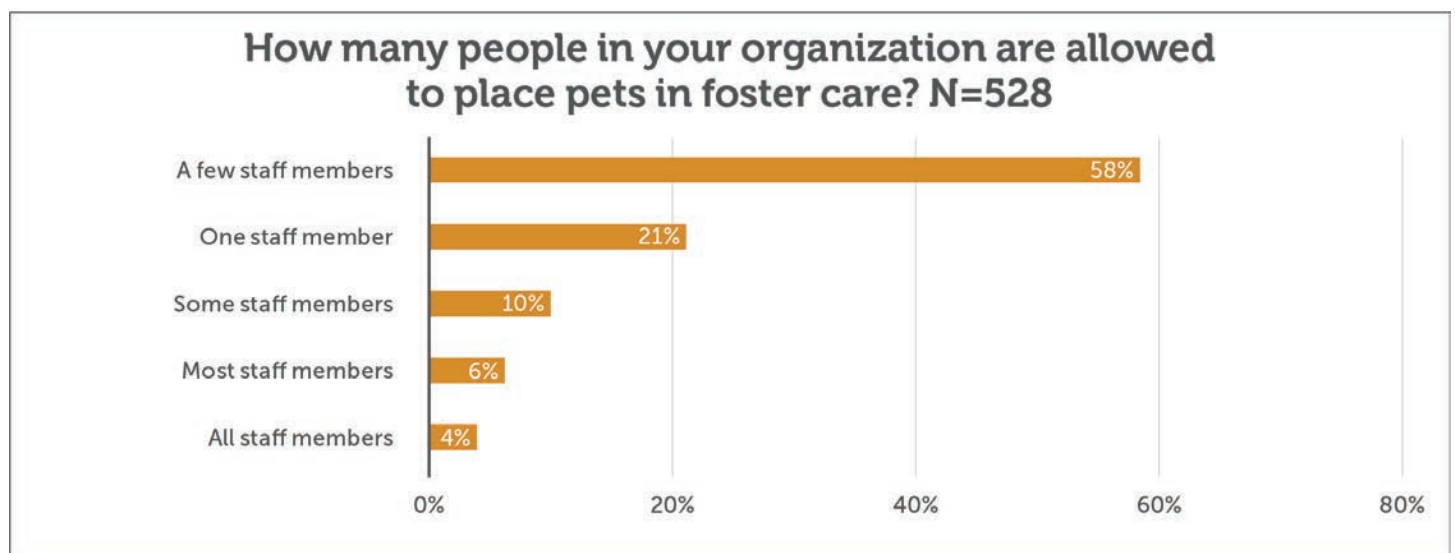
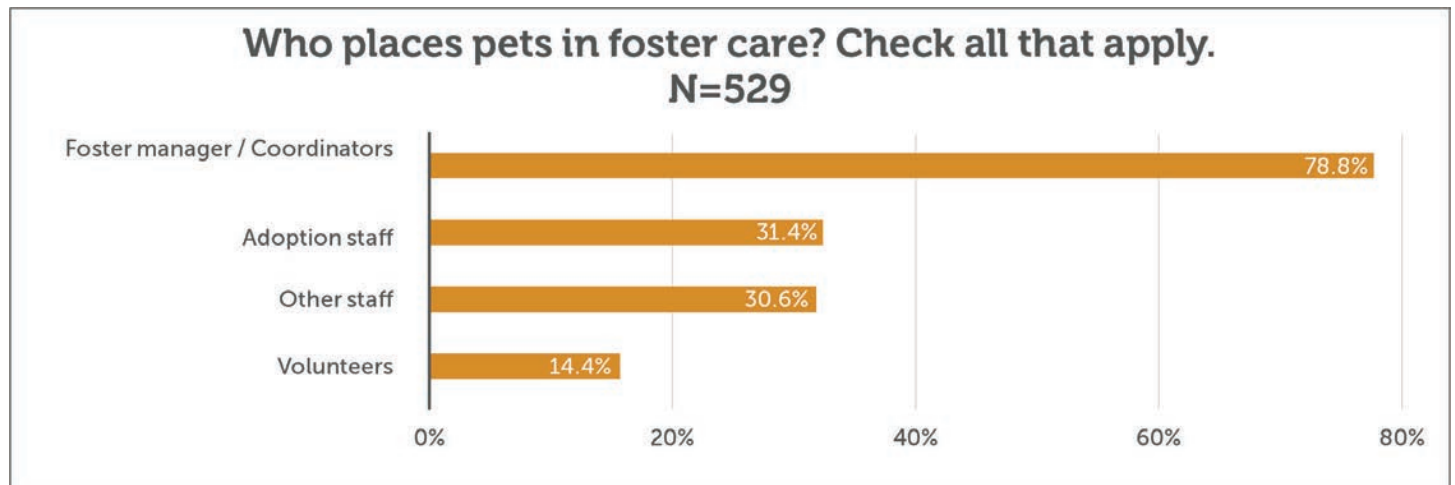


With regard to types of fostering opportunities, a variety of fostering durations were allowed but the majority of organizations were most likely to utilize longer durations of fostering. The results were very similar for cats and dogs with the exception to short term fostering which was more popular type of fostering for dogs (55% versus 31% for cats).



Results

The survey explored different ways organizations place animals into foster care (next page). Organizations were asked to provide information about who places animals into foster care and how many people are allowed to do so. In the majority of organizations (79%), only the foster manager/coordinator placed pets into foster care and only one or a few staff members were allowed to do so (58%).



Results

Organizations provided many types of support to foster caregivers during fostering. Organizations with more supportive policies for fosters tended to have significantly more fosters. Organizations that provided food, basic supplies, bed, toys, foster manuals, behavioral support, emergency phone number, marketing support and foster training opportunities tended to have significantly more fosters for cats and dogs than organizations that did not provide these services.

		How many active foster caregivers (are available to foster if there was a pet of that type who needed fostering) does your organization currently have for Dogs/Puppies			How many active foster caregivers (are available to foster if there was a pet of that type who needed fostering) does your organization currently have for Cats/Kittens		
		Mean	Median	Valid N	Mean	Median	Valid N
Organization regularly provides pet food	Does not require	21.12	2.00	51	22.39	4.00	54
	Require	23.73	5.50	448	33.63	10.00	456
Organization regularly provides basic supplies (leash, litterbox)	Does not require	17.44	3.00	64	21.35	5.00	68
	Require	24.24	6.00	435	34.14	10.00	442
Organization regularly provides pet bed	Does not require	17.73	4.00	181	24.54	6.00	184
	Require	26.57	7.00	318	36.90	11.50	326
Organization regularly provides bed	Does not require	15.12	4.00	155	20.47	6.00	160
	Require	27.08	7.00	344	37.91	11.00	350
Organization regularly provides foster manual	Does not require	10.79	4.00	238	15.42	5.00	242
	Require	34.83	10.00	261	47.81	20.00	268
Organization regularly provides veterinary care	Does not require	5.82	2.00	11	6.67	4.00	12
	Require	23.76	5.00	488	33.06	10.00	498
Organization regularly provides behavioral support	Does not require	10.34	4.00	135	16.75	5.00	139
	Require	28.20	7.00	364	38.32	12.00	371
Organization regularly provides 24 hour/day phone support	Does not require	14.92	6.00	115	18.29	6.00	119
	Require	25.89	5.00	384	36.75	10.00	391
Organization regularly provides adoption events for foster pets	Does not require	15.03	5.00	216	26.67	10.00	219
	Require	29.73	8.00	283	36.78	10.00	291
Organization regularly provides marketing to help find homes for foster pets	Does not require	12.69	4.00	162	20.06	7.50	164
	Require	28.50	8.00	337	38.31	10.00	346
Organization regularly provides training opportunities for foster	Does not require	15.29	5.00	276	22.13	7.00	283
	Require	32.13	10.00	223	45.29	15.00	227

Results

In terms of recognition and acknowledgement, organizations that acknowledged their foster volunteers on social media or newsletters had significantly more fosters. A similar trend was discovered for organizations that organized events and parties for their fosters. There were no significant differences in the number of foster volunteers between organizations that wrote personal letters or gave rewards or gifts to their volunteers and organizations that did not. Almost all organizations (95%) praised their volunteers verbally.

		How many active foster caregivers (are available to foster if there was a pet of that type who needed fostering) does your organization currently have for Dogs/Puppies			How many active foster caregivers (are available to foster if there was a pet of that type who needed fostering) does your organization currently have for Cats/Kittens		
		Mean	Median	Valid N	Mean	Median	Valid N
Organization regularly praising volunteers verbally	Does not require	14.74	4.00	27	14.81	6.00	27
	Require	23.86	5.50	472	33.42	10.00	483
Organization regularly writing personal letters to volunteers	Does not require	21.98	5.00	329	30.28	10.00	338
	Require	26.04	7.00	170	36.69	13.00	172
Organization regularly providing rewards and gift cards to volunteers	Does not require	20.34	5.00	389	30.00	10.00	397
	Require	34.05	7.00	110	41.02	10.00	113
Organization regularly acknowledging in newsletters	Does not require	18.24	5.00	282	26.07	8.00	290
	Require	30.02	10.00	217	40.84	11.50	220
Organization regularly acknowledging on social media	Does not require	12.23	3.00	116	21.66	10.00	121
	Require	26.74	7.00	383	35.79	10.00	389
Organization regularly organizes events and parties	Does not require	17.12	5.00	286	24.13	6.00	292
	Require	31.76	10.00	213	43.57	15.00	218

Results

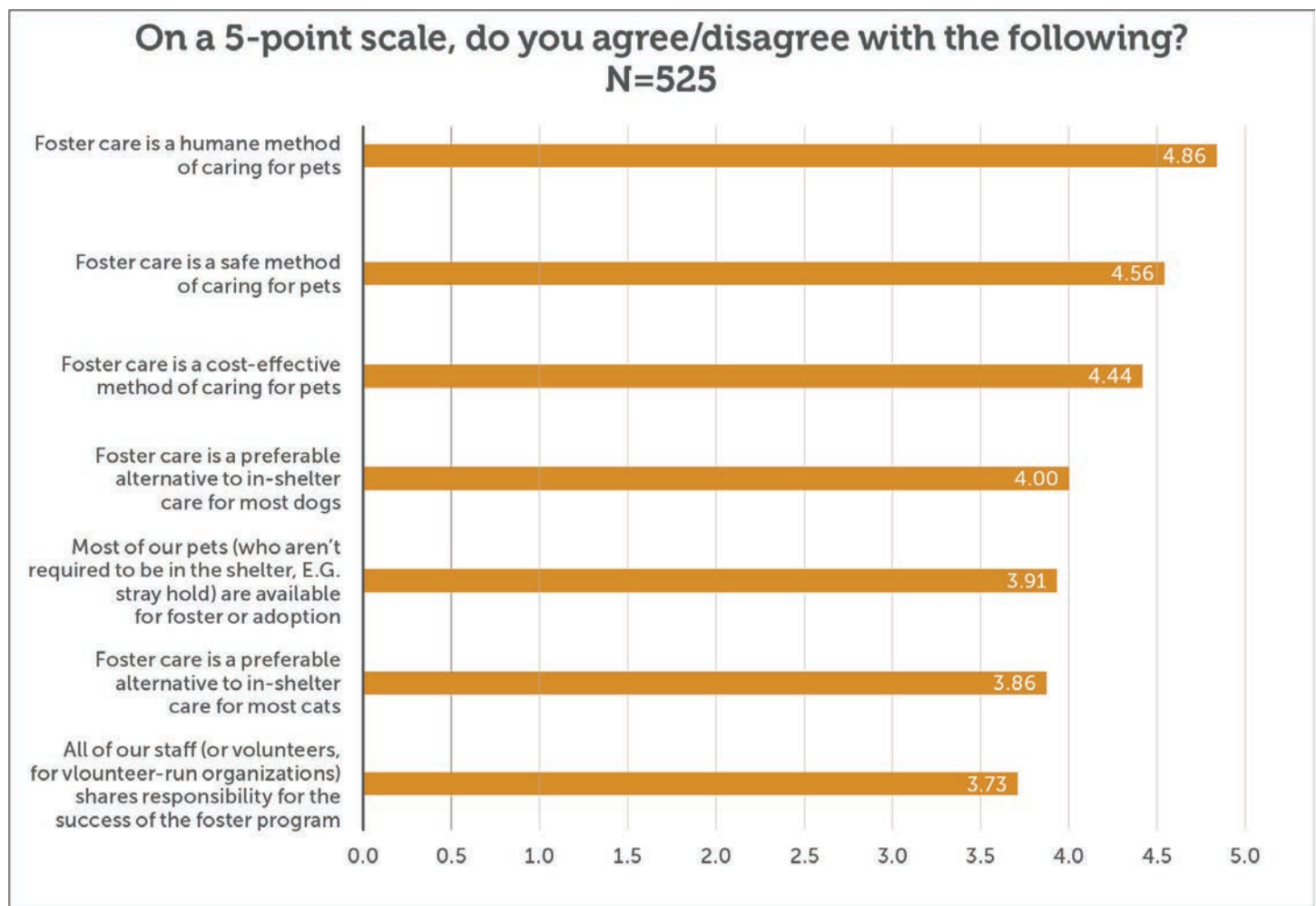
OPINIONS ABOUT SUPPORT OF FOSTER CAREGIVERS AND FOSTERING AS A PRACTICE

Organizations were asked to agree or disagree on two groups of statements. The scale ranged from 1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree with 3 being a neutral opinion. The first group of statements asked about policies regarding foster caregivers and caregiver support and the second group focused on the respondent's opinion about foster caregiving in general. The results revealed that majority of the organization disagree on the statements about allowing foster caregivers to manage the adoption process for their foster pets as well as adopt foster pets directly from their home.



Results

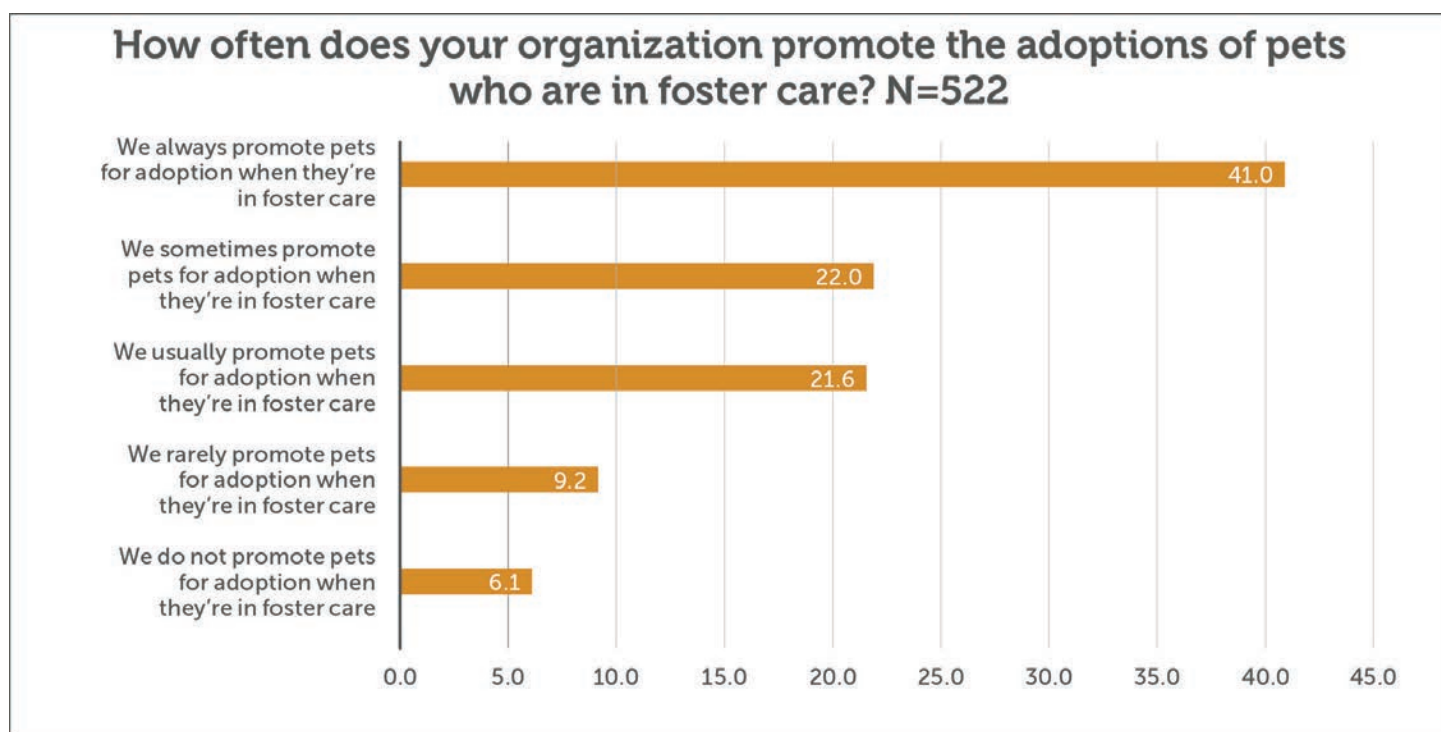
Respondents provided very positive feedback when they were asked about foster care as a practice in general. The most favorable ratings were for the statement about foster care being a humane method of caring for pets and foster care being a safe method of caring for pets. It is very important to stress this finding since safety is one of the main concerns organizations have when they consider launching foster care at their shelters. The response to the statement 'most of our pets are available for foster or adoption' was interesting as most respondents agreed with this statement, while in practice it's unusual to visit a shelter where it's clear that pets are available for foster or adoption. It's possible that this statement was misinterpreted, and it should have been worded 'simultaneously available for foster or adoption.'



Results

PROMOTION OF FOSTER PETS

Promoting dogs and cats for adoption when they are in foster homes helps them to get adopted. This theme was explored in the survey with two questions. The organizations were asked how often they promote pets in foster and if foster pets getting the same amount of media exposure as pets in the shelter. Sixty three percent of organizations reported “always” or “usually” promoting pets in the foster care and only 15% reported promoting rarely or never. Sixty three percent of organizations reported that they promote animals in foster care the same amount or more as the pets in the shelter and 37% answered that they promote pets in foster care less than pets in the shelter.



SUCCESS OF FOSTER PROGRAMS

Organizations were asked to rank the success of their foster program. All organizations rated their foster program very high on a 5-point Likert scale. Fifty nine percent (N=619) rated their program as “very successful” and 33% (356) rated their program as “somewhat successful”. However, when data was explored with consideration to organizations’ profiles there was a significant difference in rating between organizations with a physical shelter and without. Kruskal-Wallis non parametric test revealed that private non-profit organizations without a physical shelter rated their foster program as more successful than private non-profit organizations with physical shelter and no government contract and private non-profit organizations with a physical shelter and a government contract. When asked to describe factors that resulted in success, having a good foster coordinator and supportive community were the main factors that are critical to the success of these foster care programs.

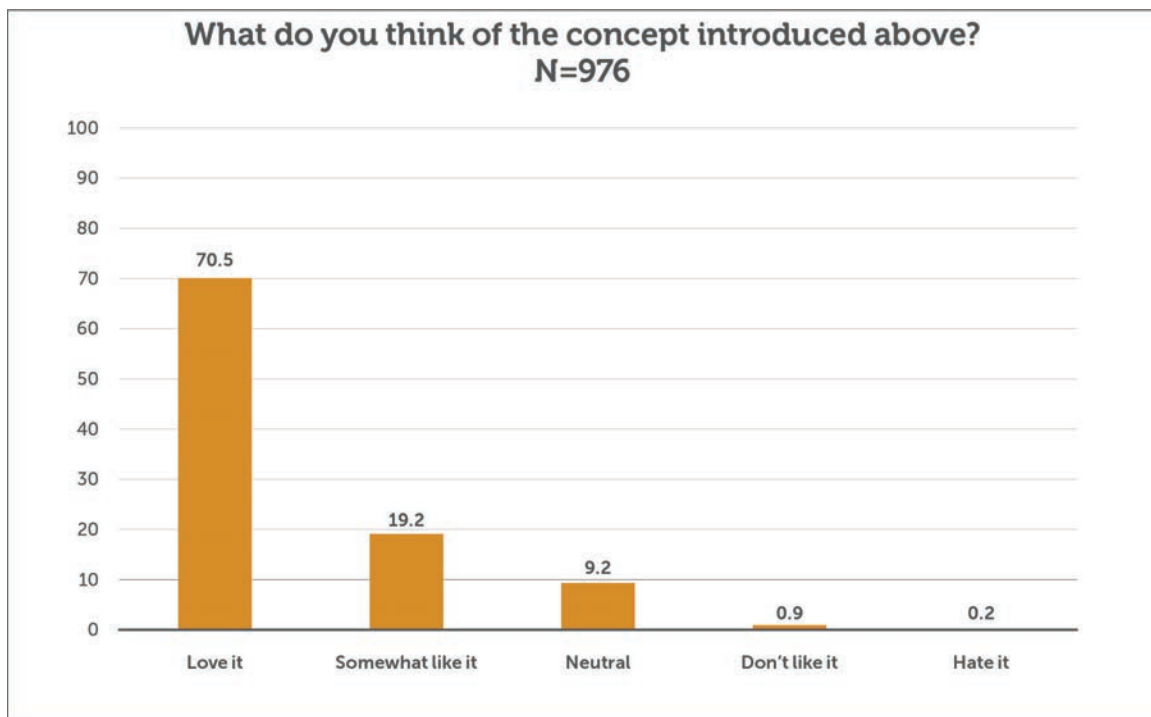
Results

FOSTER-CENTRIC MODEL - ALL ORGANIZATIONS WITH FOSTER PROGRAMS

All respondents were presented with the idea of the foster-centric model of animal sheltering and were asked to answer questions about this idea.

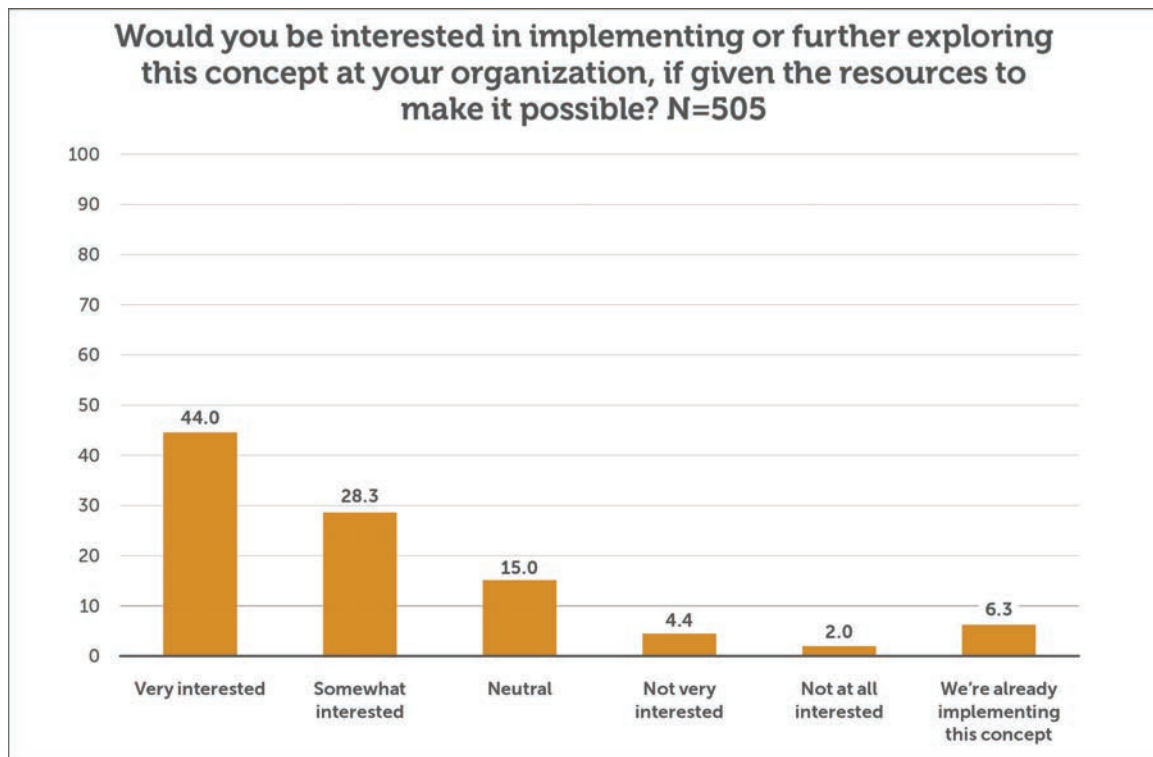
The foster-centric model of animal care puts foster care at the heart of the organization. A foster-centric shelter strongly focuses on dog and cat welfare and believes most pets are happier and healthier when in homes. ALL dogs and cats who are not immediately benefitting from being in the shelter (e.g., a condition being evaluated/assessed or having a high probability of being adopted quickly) are eligible to go to foster homes. Foster-centric organizations create comprehensive foster programs that make it easy and enjoyable for people to foster pets for any amount of time. Foster caregivers are valued, supported, and appreciated.

Overall, organizations rated the idea of the foster-centric model very high on a 5-point Likert scale. However, organizations without physical shelters rated the idea significantly higher than organizations with physical shelters.



Results

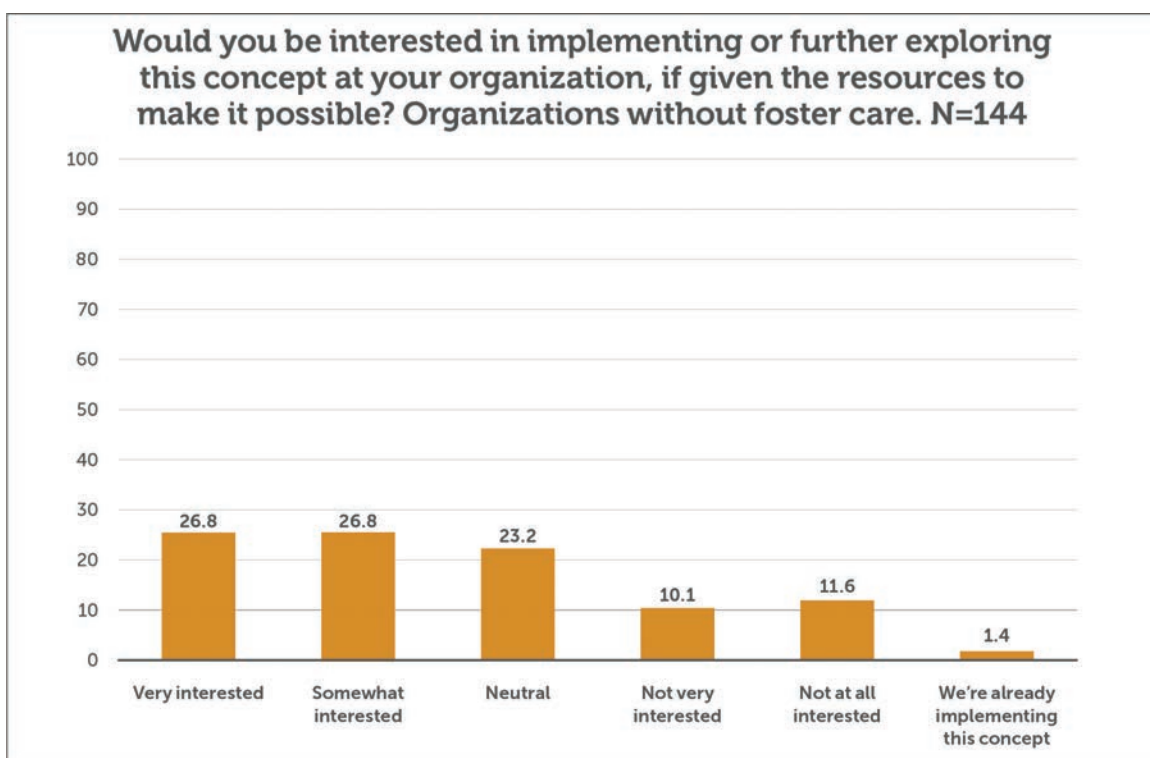
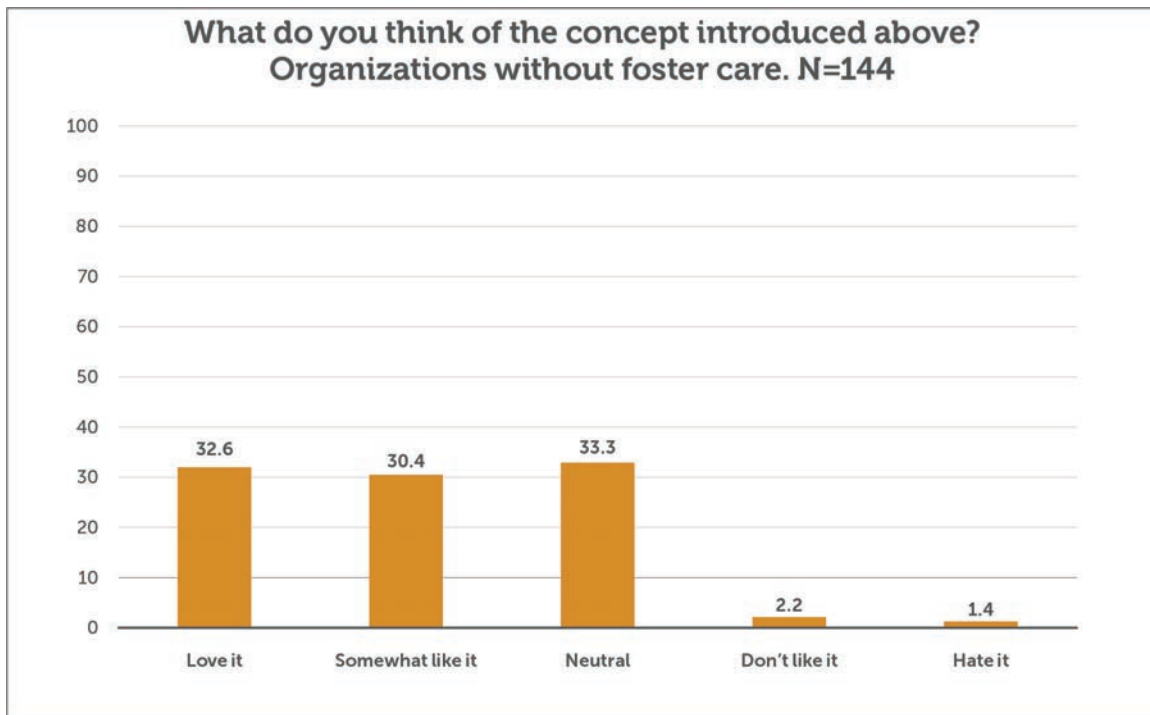
Organizations with physical shelters were asked if they would be willing to implement the foster-centric model at their shelter if given the resources to make it possible. The answers were slightly lower than on the question above. There was no difference in answers regarding willingness to implement a foster-centric model when comparing organizations of different sizes.



Results

FOSTER-CENTRIC MODEL - ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT FOSTER PROGRAMS

Organizations without foster programs rated foster centric idea much lower than organizations with foster care. Moreover, they were also less enthusiastic about implementing this idea at their organizations.



Summary and Conclusions

FOSTER-CENTRIC MODEL - ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT FOSTER PROGRAMS

Good news! In this first exploration of foster programs in the United States, foster programs appear to be more common than we would have expected. There's a lot of fostering that happens in the summer when shelters are full, but based on this survey there are relatively few shelters where fostering is a part of organizational culture. So, while it's common for organizations to have foster programs, there is clearly much room for improvement and we still have a lot of work to do!

Most foster programs are relatively small with a small number of pets in foster care and a small number of active volunteers. The majority of organizations don't employ policies and practices that lead to strong programs that promote welfare, such as fostering healthy pets, emergency fostering, custody fostering and options for varying durations of fostering for foster caregivers.

On the positive side, we discovered correlation between practices of a foster-centric shelter and having more foster caregivers. Organizations that utilize techniques that make it easy for people to start fostering have more foster caregivers. Organizations that offer supplies and support have more foster caregivers. Organizations that recognize and appreciate their volunteers have more foster caregivers.

Lastly, the vast majority of organizations in the United States who responded to this survey love the foster-centric model of animal care, although there is considerably less interest in implementing the model. This might be because the concept seems impossible, but could also be because they prefer how they're doing things now. Regardless of the reason, there's lots of encouraging news and lots of work ahead for us if we hope to create a foster-centric nation.





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