

Early Spay-Neuter

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Why Early S-N Discussion?

Population Control

Prevent Euthanasia



Early S-N: Population Control

Check it out!

REPRODUCTIVE STATUS OF DOGS AND CATS ADMITTED TO MICHIGAN SHELTERS IN 2003

	<u>DOGS SIX MONTHS OF AGE OR OLDER</u>	<u>CATS SIX MONTHS OF AGE OR OLDER</u>
INTACT	74,609 (80.4%)	52,071 (79.0%)
STERILIZED	18,105 (19.5%)	13,776 (20.9%)



Early S-N: Population Control

Consider this...

- Cats: 3 litters/year, 4-6 kittens/litter
 - **12 to 18 cats produced yearly**
- Dogs: 2 litters/year, 6-10 puppies/litter
 - **12 to 20 puppies produced yearly**

Early S-N: Prevent Euthanasia

Humane Society of the United States:

- 6-8 million animals admitted per year
- 3-4 million euthanized

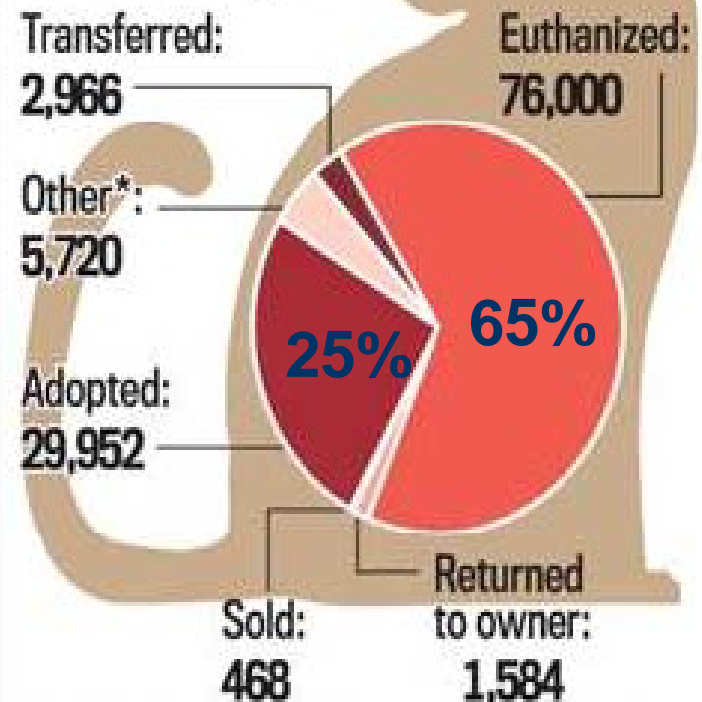


Why Early S-N?

- Population control
- Prevent euthanasia

Feline frenzy

The 140 shelters surveyed received 120,602 cats last year. How 116,690 were discharged:



*Died, stolen, escaped or otherwise disappeared.

Source: Michigan Department of Agriculture

2007

The Detroit News

What is Early S-N?

- Pediatric surgical sterilization
 - 8 – 16 weeks of age



Who Supports Early S-N?

- American Veterinary Medical Asscn.
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Asscn.
- British Small Animal Veterinary Asscn.
- HSUS
- ASPCA
- AAHA
- Cat Fanciers
- AKC
- American Humane Association



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**What do YOU know about
Early S-N?**

MYTHBUSTERS

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MYTH or FACT?

- Obesity
- Anesthetic & Surgical risk
- Stunted growth
- Musculoskeletal diseases
- Urinary disorders & diseases
- Behavioral disorders



Obesity

- **MYTH**
- Multi-factorial problem irrespective of age at time of S-N
- Cornell: decrease in obesity with early S-N



Anesthesia & Surgery

- **MYTH**

- Cornell/Texas Study

- Shorter Surgery
- Faster Recovery
- Fewer Complications



- Procedures are SAFE
- Special considerations
 - Body heat
 - Metabolism
 - Feeding

Growth & Development

- **MYTH**
- Florida: No adverse outcomes to Early S-N
- Longer bones, taller patients → No clinical significance



Hip Dysplasia

- **Equivocal**
- Texas A&M: No increased incidence with Early S-N
- Cornell: Increased incidence (2%), possibly less severe form



Urinary Incontinence

- **Equivocal**
- Texas A&M: No increased incidence with Early S-N
- Cornell: Increased incidence, most notably in patients <12 weeks



Urinary Tract Diseases

- Urinary tract infection
- Urethral obstruction
- Idiopathic LUTD
- Cystitis
- **MYTH**
- Cornell
- Florida
- Texas A&M
- **NO association with Early S-N**



Behavior – Feline

Texas A&M

- No behavioral changes with Early S-N



Cornell

- Less abscesses (M)
- Less aggression to vets (M)
- Less sexual behaviors (M)
- Less urine spraying (M)
- Less hyperactivity (M/F)
- Less asthma (M/F)
- Less gingivitis (M/F)
- (Shyness) (M/F)

Behavior - Canine



- **Equivocal**
- Texas: No negative behaviors associated with early S-N
- Cornell:
 - **increased**: noise phobias, sexual behaviors, barking
 - **decreased**: escaping, separation anxiety, and urination when frightened

MYTHBUSTERS of EARLY S-N

- Obesity
- Anesthesia
- Growth and Development
- Urinary Tract Disease (Feline)
 - Behavioral Changes

Early S-N Considerations

- Hip Dysplasia
- Urinary Incontinence*

***Cornell: Early S-N at 12+ weeks**





Is S-N Working?



STERILIZATION RATE AFFECTS SHELTER INTAKE.

LOS ANGELES 1970-1983

<u>DATES</u>	<u>ANIMALS IMPOUNDED</u>	<u>LICENSED DOGS STERILIZED</u>
'70-71	144,000	5%
'82-83	72,454	49.0%

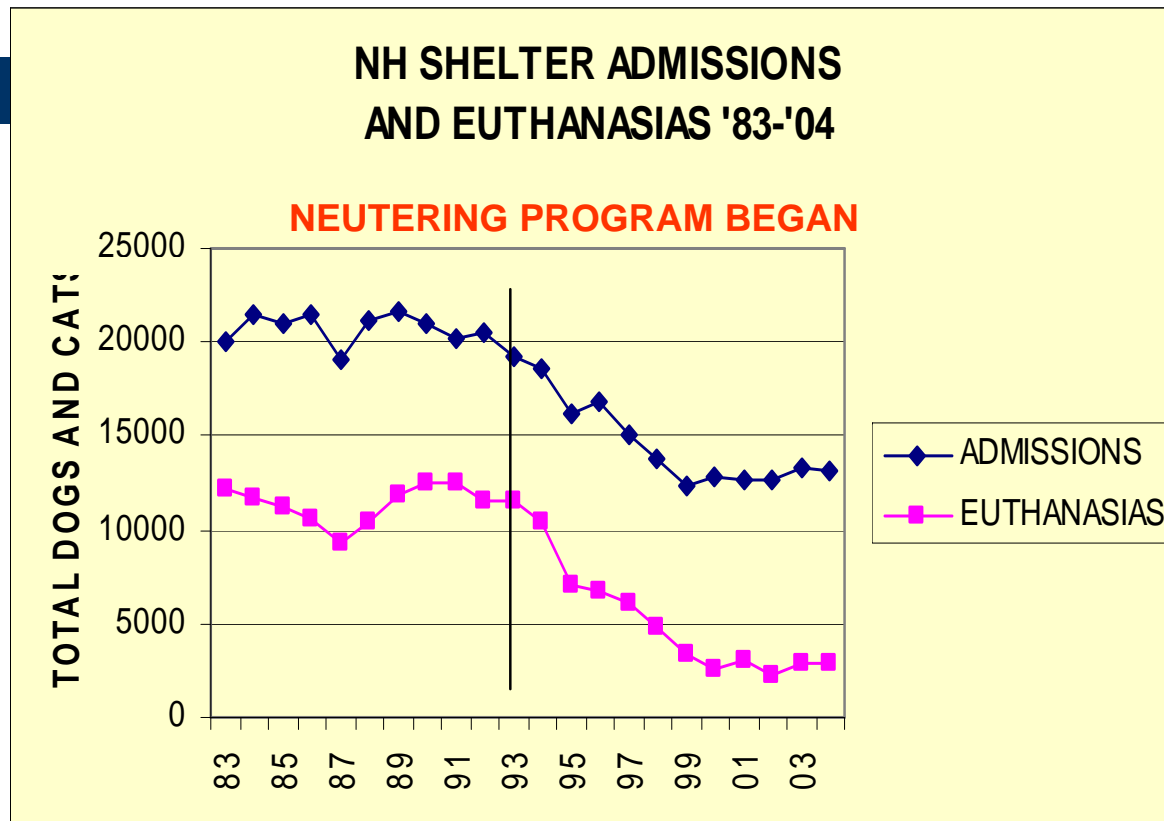


STERILIZING PRE-ADOPTION REDUCES SHELTER POPULATION.

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>'00 INTAKE</u>	<u>'05 INTAKE</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>
LOS ANGELES	193,190	184,723	-4.4
ORANGE	44,200	41,081	-7.1
SAN DIEGO	50,798	43,078	-15.2
RIVERSIDE	55,947	42,794	-23.5
SANTA CLARA	30,114	22,910	-24.0
FRESNO	<u>51,963</u>	<u>48,911</u>	<u>-5.9</u>
TOTAL	426,203	383,501	-10.0

SHELTER INTAKES **DROPPED 10%** DURING THE FIRST FIVE YEARS AFTER THE STERILIZATION-AT-ADOPTION LAW WAS PASSED IN CALIFORNIA.

1983 - 1993, SHELTER EUTHANASIA RATE IN NH DID NOT IMPROVE.



IN THE FIRST SIX YEARS AFTER NEUTERING SUBSIDY PROGRAMS WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1994, THE EUTHANASIA RATE DROPPED BY 77%.

STERILIZATION RATE AFFECTS EUTHANASIA RATE.

**LOW PET
STERILIZATION RATES** ⇒ **HIGH SHELTER
INTAKE RATES** ⇒ **HIGH SHELTER
EUTHANASIA RATES**

**HIGH PET
STERILIZATION RATES** ⇒ **LOW SHELTER
INTAKE RATES** ⇒ **LOW SHELTER
EUTHANASIA RATES**



TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- **STERILIZATION REDUCES OVERPOPULATION**
- **REDUCING OVERPOPULATION REDUCES EUTHANASIAS**





**What can YOU do with this
information?**

RESCUERS CALL TO ACTION

- **Early S-N**
- **S-N pre-adoption**
(Voucher compliance <60%)
- **Discuss with your veterinarian**
- **Seek assistance from humane organizations, veterinary clinics**
 - **Educate adopter families**



Questions?