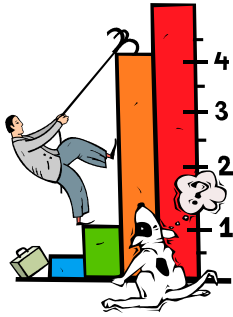




**LOS ANGELES
Animal Services
2008 Statistical Report**

**221 North Figueroa, Suite 500
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www.laanimalservices.com



Message from the General Manager

LA Animal Services releases a Statistical Report each January comparing the progress the Department made towards achieving the City's euthanasia reduction goals during the past year compared to previous years. LA Animal Services has access to data going back to 1960. However, the Department's automated data base only goes back to 2001. Consequently, most of the statistical information and charts in this Report reflect the years from 2001 to 2008.

LA Animal Services is a data-driven Department. Data creates the link between assessment, planning, and results. Data-driven animal care and control agencies design targeted programs based on shelter intake data. For example, in Los Angeles, data is used to develop, adjust and implement targeted adoption events, shelter population management strategies, transfer and foster programs; training, and [New Hope](#) and [Big Fix](#) program adjustments.

During 2008 two programs were introduced to address aspects of the 20% increase in surrendered animals; [A House is Not a Home without a Pet](#) and [Operation Safety Net](#).

Home foreclosures hit new highs and the amount of equity in homes reached new lows as the housing crisis escalated across the country in 2007 and 2008. Though some skeptics initially questioned both the foreclosure surge and its linkage to animal relinquishments until the national economy began to crash this past autumn, animal shelters across the United State began feeling the impact during the first half of the year and ultimately reported a sharp increase in the number of surrendered pets in 2008.

Pets are clearly the silent victims of the on-going economic crisis. LA Animal Services began to experience the crisis in January 2008 with a sudden 20% increase in impounds. We ended the year with a 20.5% increase, meaning that 54,191 dogs and cats were taken in. The last time the Department took in this many animals was in 2002.

Fortunately, the Department also experienced a 21% increase in adoptions, meaning 4,581 more dogs and cats were adopted in 2008 compared to 2007. The Department also returned 4,622 lost pets to their grateful owner/guardians. That is a 10% increase which means 428 more pets were returned to their guardians in 2008 than in 2007. One reason for both the increase in intakes and adoptions is clearly the City's new Animal Care Centers. The new Centers increased shelter space by more than two hundred and fifty percent and better helped accommodate the on average 150 lost, sick, injured, neglected, abused, lost or unwanted animals entrusted to us each day. The new Centers are attracting a greater client base, leading to more animals turned in, redeemed, and adopted, more people coming in for information, more medical care needed and provided, and more volunteers and trainers wanting to help.

The new Centers, with their wide aisles, solar and radiant heating, cooling misters, veterinary and spay/neuter clinics, park benches for visitors, fountains and lush landscaping are a world away from the typical "dog pound," where animals become so agitated or depressed that they may seem ill-tempered and, thus, "un-adoptable" by old school animal control reckoning.

By transforming our animal shelters into places of hope and life, instead of despair and doom, we experienced over a 30% increase in our adoption rates over the past two years - despite the current economic downturn - making LA Animal Services one of the largest, if not *the* largest, volume pet adoption agency in the world with 26,285 live placements in 2008. The greater intake rates following the opening of the new Animal Care Centers was actually predicted in the 2000 audit on Proposition F, the 2000 Bond measure that funded the construction of the new facilities.

Los Angeles Animal Services - 2008 Statistical Report

The adoption increases are welcome and provide a needed buffer to the increased intake rates that may continue as a result of current economic conditions. Efforts to increase both adoptions and spay/neuter through marketing and financial incentives is the most effective way to reduce euthanasia rates going forward.

The 2008 euthanasia rate for dogs and cats rose 30% compared to 2007. When normalized to account for the 20.5% increase in intakes the euthanasia rate rose 3%. 19,617 dogs and cats were euthanized in 2008. The years 2006 through 2008 are the three lowest euthanasia rates in the Department's history. The worst year was 1971 when 110,835 dogs and cats were euthanized.

The following pages focus on 2008 Intake, Live Placement, and Euthanasia rates compared to previous years. Neonate Kittens and Pit Bulls are highlighted because they represent the two most significant challenges to achieving LA's No-Kill Goal. Chihuahuas were added in 2008 as an emerging concern. Monitoring these trends is important to understanding how best to allocate the Department's and the community's limited resources. The Department reports monthly on Dog, Cat, and Rabbit statistical trends. More information on these species as well as other animals can be found on our website: www.laanimalservices.com.

This report focuses on the following categories:

1. Dog/Cat Statistics Combined on Page 4
2. Cat Statistics; Neonate Kittens on Page 7
3. Dog Statistics; Pit Bulls; Chihuahuas on Page 10
4. Dog and Cat Mortality Report on Page 15
5. Summary: The Challenges in 2009 on Page 16

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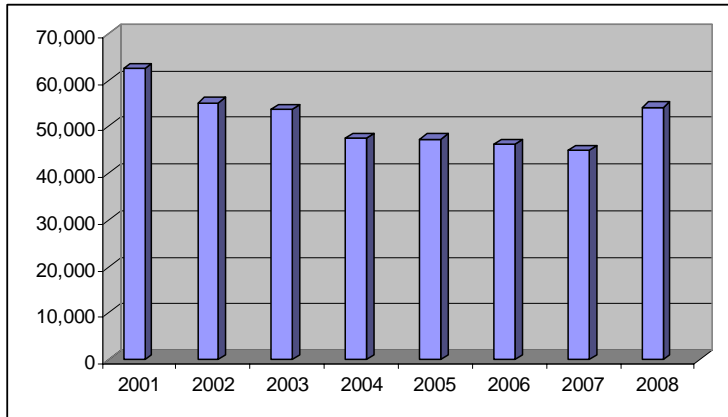
1. Cat and Dog Statistics

LA Animal Services combines Dog and Cat statistics because the industry definition for “No-Kill” focuses on ending the use of euthanasia as a methodology for controlling dog and cat populations.

Cat and Dog Intake

For reasons explained in the introduction the Department saw a 20.5% increase in cat and dog intakes in 2008.

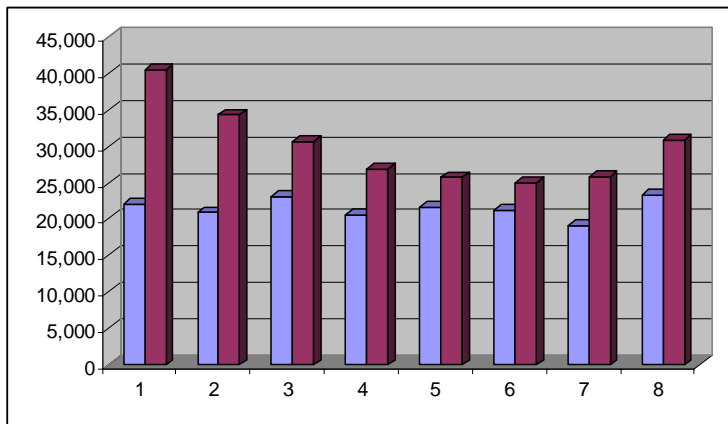
Table 1: Cat and Dog Intake Combined



Cat & Dog Intake	
2001	62,536
2002	55,203
2003	53,722
2004	47,594
2005	47,391
2006	46,272
2007	44,964
2008	54,191

Table 2: Cat and Dog Intake Separated

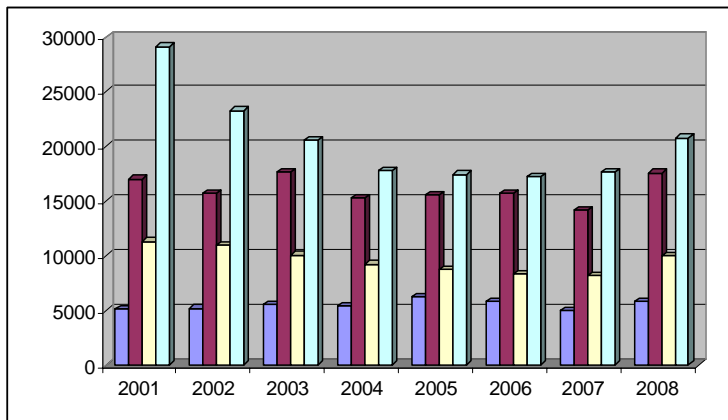
Blue = Cat Intakes; Red = Dog Intakes



Year	Cats	Dogs
2001	22,094	40,442
2002	20,908	34,295
2003	23,117	30,605
2004	20,645	26,949
2005	21,651	25,740
2006	21,273	24,999
2007	19,172	25,792
2008	23,378	30,813

Table 3: Source of Impound

Blue = Owner Surrendered Cats; Red = Stray Cats; Yellow = Owner Surrendered Dogs; Turquoise = Stray Dogs



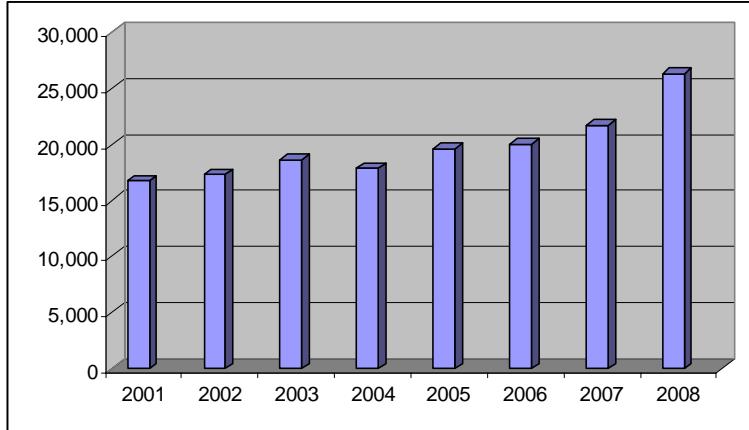
Year	CATS		DOGS	
	Owner Sur	Stray Lost	Owner Sur	Stray Lost
2001	5067	17031	11315	29158
2002	5176	15738	11005	23299
2003	5494	17625	10059	20547
2004	5405	15246	9208	17750
2005	6225	15539	8769	17429
2006	5763	15683	8352	17202
2007	4970	14202	8178	17614
2008	5790	17585	10000	20805

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Cats and Dogs Placements

LA Animal Services adopted 20,994 dogs and cats and placed an additional 5,297 dogs and cats through its New Hope program. New Hope is an adoption partnership program with 107 animal welfare organizations. Through the Department's Adoption and New Hope programs combined 26,291 dogs and cats were placed into loving homes in 2008, making LA Animal Services one of the highest, if not *the* highest, volume pet adoption agency in the world.

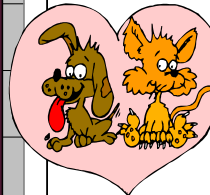
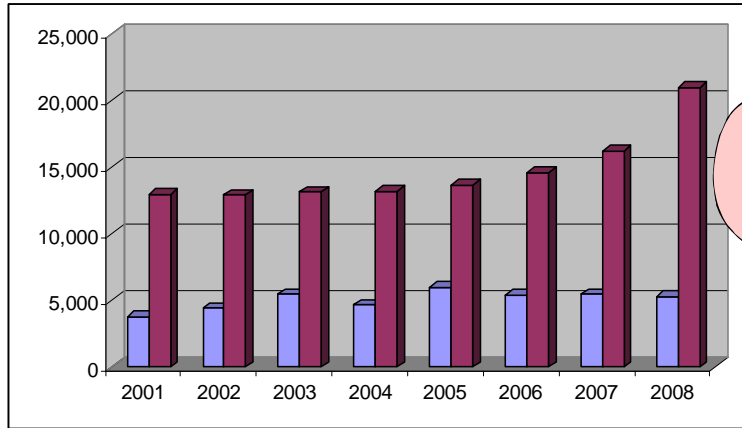
Table 4: Cat and Dog Adoptions Combined



Cat & Dog Adoptions Combined	
2001	16,742
2002	17,308
2003	18,615
2004	17,837
2005	19,644
2006	20,002
2007	21,704
2008	26,285

Table 5: Cat and Dog New Hope and Adoption Rates Combined

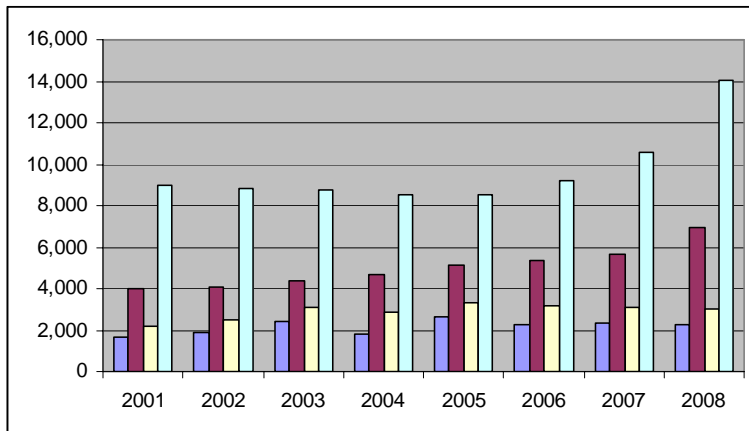
Blue = Cat and Dog New Hope placements; Yellow = Cat and Dog Adoptions



Year	New Hope	Adoption
2001	3,811	12,931
2002	4,416	12,892
2003	5,468	13,147
2004	4,653	13,184
2005	5,967	13,677
2006	5,426	14,576
2007	5,454	16,250
2008	5,297	20,994

Table 6: Cat and Dog New Hope and Adoption Rates Separated

Blue = New Hope Cats; Red = Cat Adoptions; Yellow = New Hope Dogs; Turquoise = Dog Adoptions

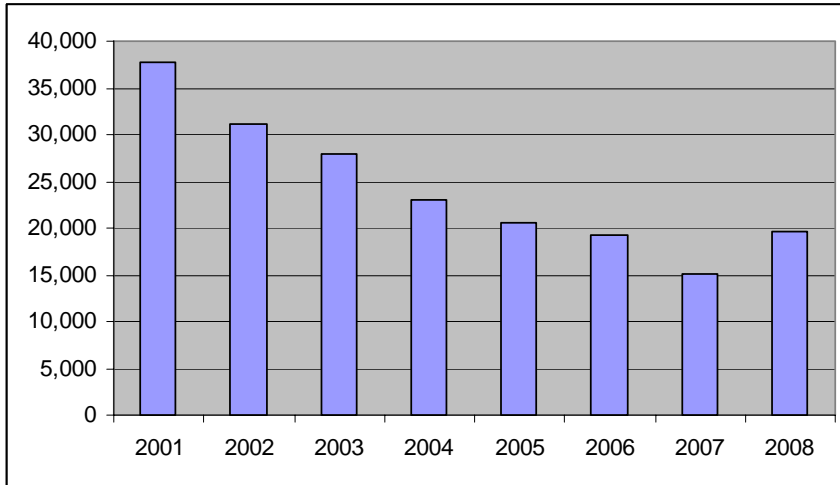


Year	Cat New Hope	Cat Adoption	Dog New Hope	Dog Adoption
2001	1,647	3,986	2,164	8,945
2002	1,903	4,093	2,513	8,799
2003	2,389	4,400	3,079	8,747
2004	1,812	4,668	2,841	8,516
2005	2,657	5,126	3,310	8,551
2006	2,244	5,374	3,182	9,202
2007	2,377	5,660	3,077	10,590
2008	2,251	6,929	3,046	14,065

Cat and Dog Euthanasia

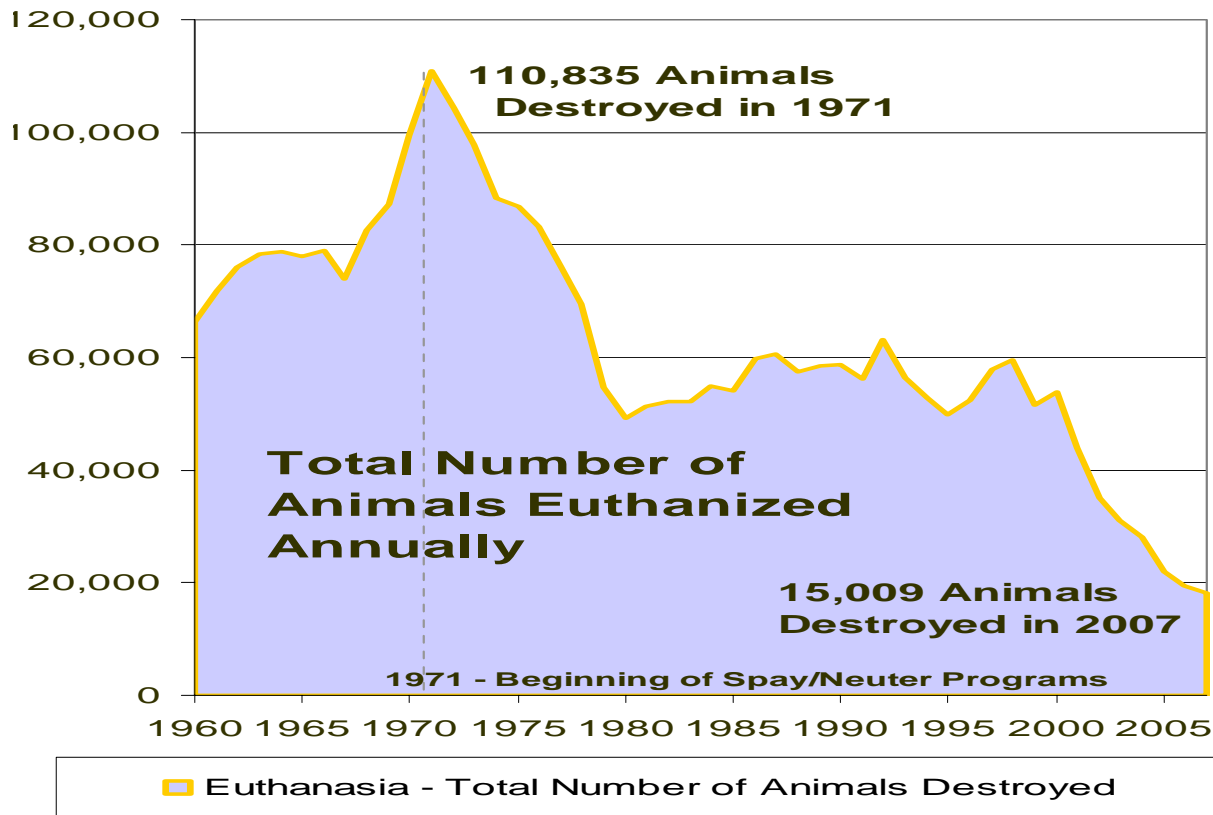
The 2008 euthanasia rate for dogs and cats rose 30% compared to 2007. When normalized to account for the 20.5% increase in intakes the euthanasia rate rose 3.02%. Years 2006 through 2008 are the three lowest euthanasia rates in the Department's history. The worst year was 1971 when 110,835 animals were euthanized.

Table 7: Annual Cat and Dog Euthanasia Rate



Dog & Cat Euthanasia	
2001	37,818
2002	31,151
2003	27,955
2004	23,111
2005	20,561
2006	19,226
2007	15,009
2008	19,617

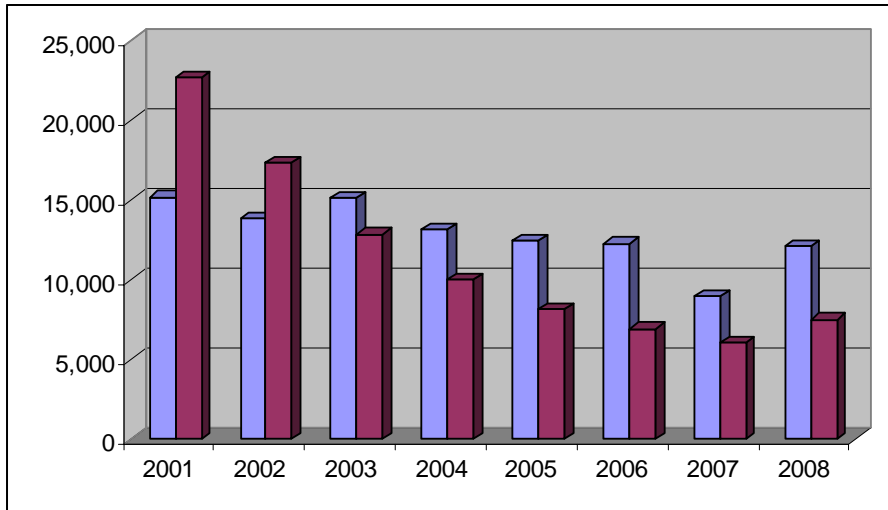
ANIMALS EUTHANISED BY YEAR



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Table 8: Cat and Dog Euthanasia Rates Comparison

Blue = Cats Euthanized; Red = Dogs Euthanized



Year	Cats	Dogs
2001	15,143	22,675
2002	13,816	17,335
2003	15,134	12,821
2004	13,126	9,985
2005	12,434	8,127
2006	12,277	6,949
2007	8,961	6,051
2008	12,099	7,518

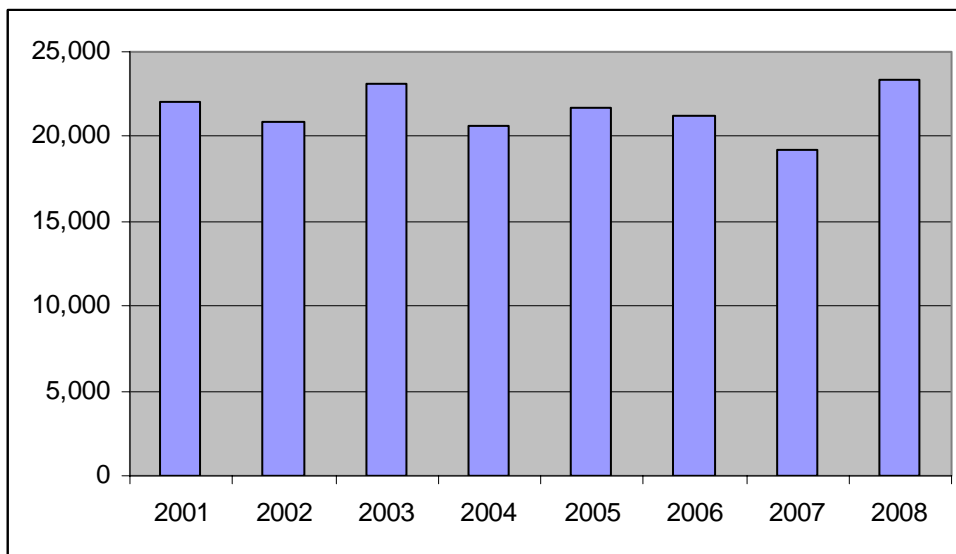
2. Cat Statistics

Cat Intakes:

The cat intake rates from 2002 through 2008 suggest that the neutering assistance programs funded by the City have not been as effective as they could be. To maximize the benefits of the mandatory spay/neuter ordinance and offset the increased intakes caused by the current economic climate it will be critical to maximize the effectiveness of the Department's spay/neuter programs going forward. 2008 saw nearly a 22% increase in the number of cats taken in. The last time the Department took in this many cats was before 2001. One impediment to reducing cat intakes has been the Department's inability to implement any kind of official Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program to deal with feral and stray cats pending state environmental requirements being met and, in 2008, litigation filed by bird protection groups to petition the Department to stop supporting such efforts.



Table 9: Annual Cat Intake Rates



Cat Intakes	
2001	22,094
2002	20,908
2003	23,117
2004	20,645
2005	21,651
2006	21,273
2007	19,172
2008	23,378

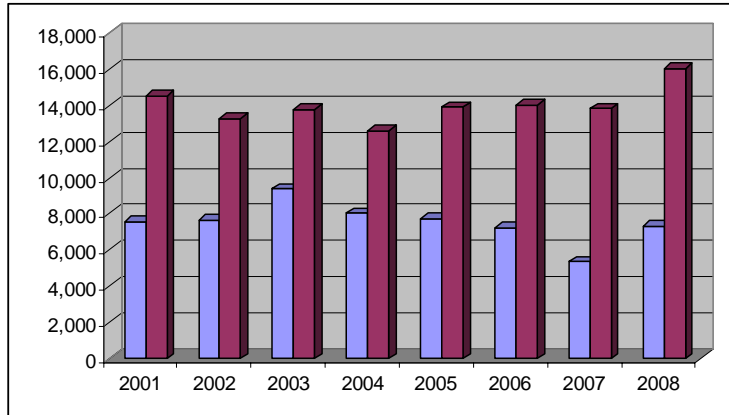
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Neonate Kitten Intakes

Orphaned Neonate Kittens on average represent nearly 40% of all cats taken in by LA Animal Services. Orphaned Neonate Kittens cannot survive for long without a surrogate mother or foster care-giver. Even then, their mortality rate can be high. In 2008 Neonate Kittens represented 31% of all cats taken in.

Table 10: Neonate Kitten Intake Rate Compared to Cat Intake Rate

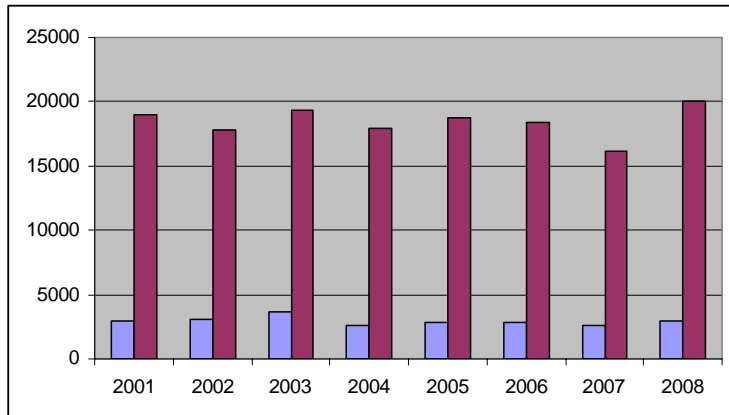
Blue = Neonate Kittens Taken In; Red = Weaned and Adult Cats Taken In



Year	Neonate	Mature
2001	7,574	14,520
2002	7,651	13,257
2003	9,364	13,753
2004	8,027	12,618
2005	7,749	13,902
2006	7,236	14,037
2007	5,355	13,817
2008	7,327	16,051

Table 11: Cats Impounded in the Field Compared to Turned in Over the Counter

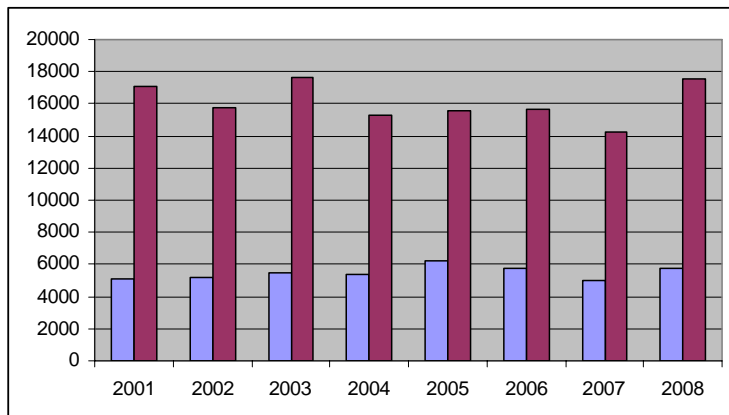
Blue = Cats Impounded in the Field; Red = Cats Turned in Over the Counter



Year	Picked Up	Over the Counter
2001	2,997	19,027
2002	3,064	17,753
2003	3,621	19,332
2004	2,537	17,936
2005	2,837	18,725
2006	2,790	18,384
2007	2,639	16,168
2008	2,935	20,031

Table 12: Cats Surrendered by Owner/Guardian Compared to Stray and Lost Cats

Blue = Cats Surrendered; Red = Lost and Stray Cats



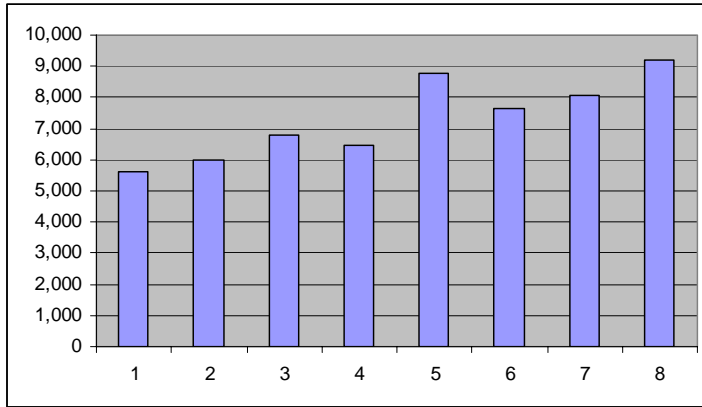
Year	Owner Sur	Stray Lost
2001	5,067	17,031
2002	5,176	15,738
2003	5,494	17,625
2004	5,405	15,246
2005	6,225	15,539
2006	5,763	15,683
2007	4,970	14,202
2008	5,790	17,585

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Cat Adoption Rate

LA Animal Services Adopted 6,929 cats in 2008. This is a 22% increase. An additional 2,251 cats were placed through New Hope for a total of 9,180 cats placed in 2008.

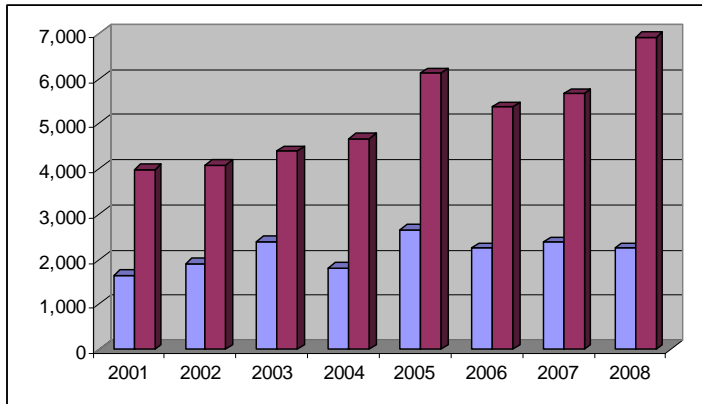
Table 13: Cat Adoption



Cat Adoption	
2001	5,633
2002	5,996
2003	6,789
2004	6,480
2005	8,783
2006	7,618
2007	8,073
2008	9,180

Table 14: Cat New Hope and Adoption

Blue = Cat New Hope placements; Red = Cat Adoptions

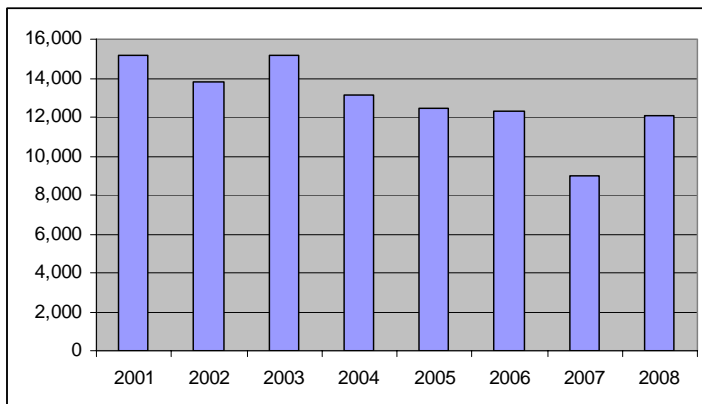


	New Hope	Adoption
2001	1,647	3,986
2002	1,903	4,093
2003	2,389	4,400
2004	1,812	4,668
2005	2,657	6,126
2006	2,244	5,374
2007	2,377	5,660
2008	2,251	6,929

Cat Euthanasia Rate

The 2008 cat euthanasia rate rose 35%. This follows the steep 2007 decline, which was the steepest decline in cat euthanasia since the Department began collecting this data. The increase in cat euthanasia in 2008 underscores the fact that cats remain a significant challenge in the effort further reduce euthanasia. When normalized to account for the increase in intakes the euthanasia rate for cats rose 5%.

Table 15: Annual Cat Euthanasia Rates



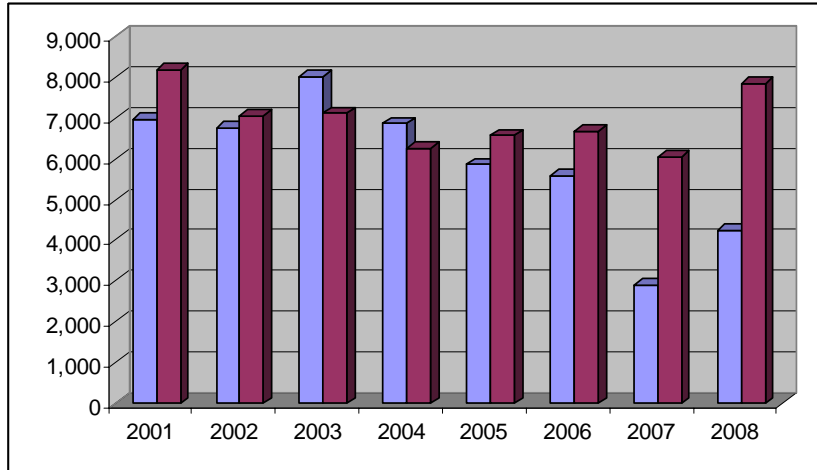
Cat Euthanasia	
2001	15,143
2002	13,816
2003	15,134
2004	13,126
2005	12,434
2006	12,277
2007	8,961
2008	12,099

Euthanasia Rate for Neonate Kittens

The 2008 Neonate Kitten euthanasia rate rose 45%. This still represents the second lowest euthanasia rate in this category in the last eight years. Thanks to a robust Neonate foster program that has become a Department fixture, 2007 saw the steepest decline in Neonate Kitten euthanasia since the Department began collecting this data. LA Animal Services reports on Neonate Kittens separately because they represent a significant challenge to achieving No-Kill.

Table 16: Neonate Kitten Euthanasia Rate Compared to Total Cat Intakes

Blue = Neonate Kittens Euthanized; Red = Weaned and Adult Cats Euthanized



Year	Neonates	Cats
2001	6,959	8,184
2002	6,767	7,049
2003	8,011	7,123
2004	6,866	6,260
2005	5,857	6,577
2006	5,591	6,686
2007	2,918	6,043
2008	4,243	7,856

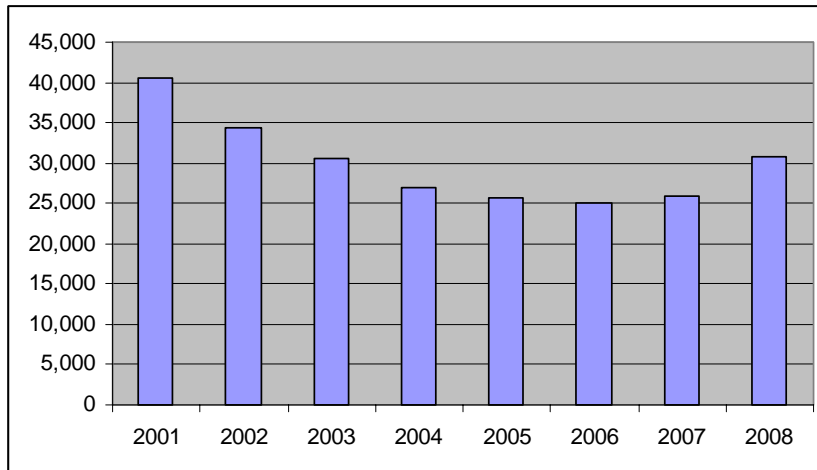
3. Dog Statistics

Dog Intake Rate

LA Animal Services saw a consistent reduction in the number of lost and homeless dogs taken into city shelters over the years. This is believed to have been the result of an effective dog licensing program that encourages spay/neuter through a differential licensing fee. However, this trend was stalled in 2008 with a 19.4% increase in the number of dogs taken in. The last time the Department took in this many dogs was in 2002.



Table 17: Annual Dog Intake Rates

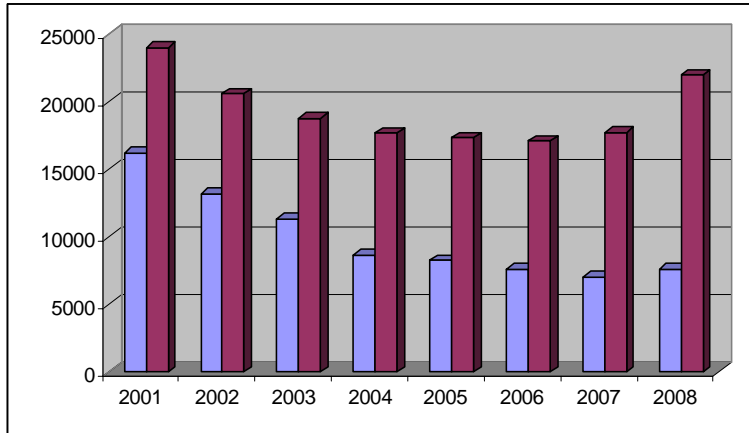


Dog Intake	
2001	40,442
2002	34,295
2003	30,605
2004	26,949
2005	25,740
2006	24,999
2007	25,792
2008	30,813

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Table 18: Dogs Impounded in the Field Compared to Impounded Over the Counter

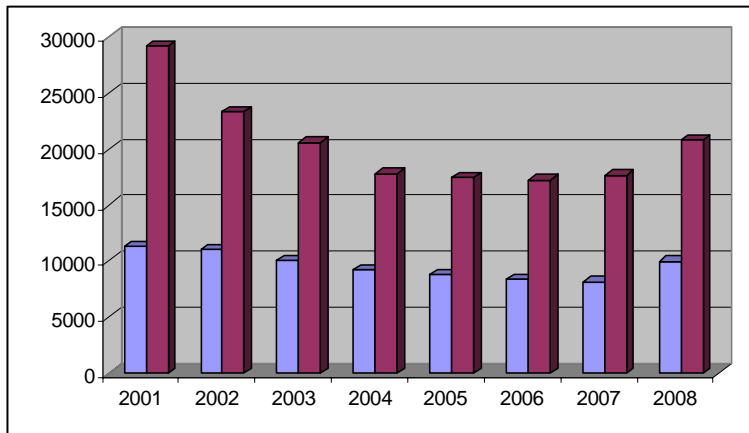
Blue = Dogs Impounded in the Field; Red = Dogs Taken in Over the Counter



Year	Picked Up	Over the Counter
2001	16193	24021
2002	13215	20563
2003	11319	18763
2004	8664	17656
2005	8247	17316
2006	7644	17097
2007	7004	17719
2008	7582	21984

Table 19: Dogs Surrendered by Owner/Guardian Compared to Stray and Lost Dogs

Blue = Dogs Surrendered; Red = Lost and Stray Dogs

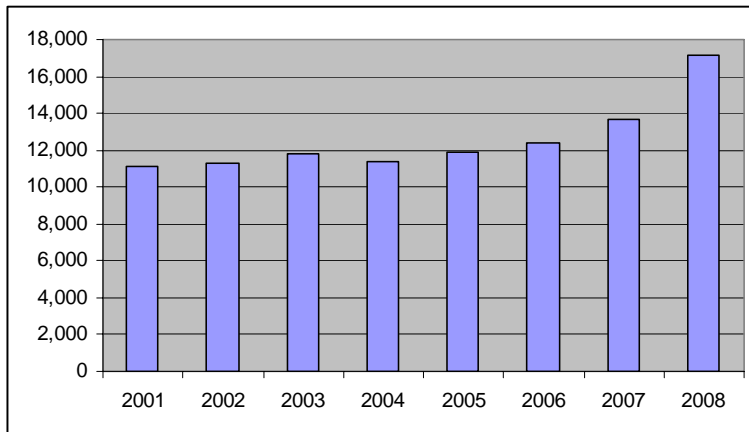


Year	Owner Surrender	Stray Lost
2001	11315	29158
2002	11005	23299
2003	10059	20547
2004	9208	17750
2005	8769	17429
2006	8352	17202
2007	8178	17614
2008	10000	20805

Dog Adoption Rate

LA Animal Services adopted 14,065 dogs in 2008. That is nearly a 33% increase. Through the Department's Adoption and New Hope programs combined 17,111 dogs were placed into loving homes in 2008.

Table 20: Dog Adoption Rates

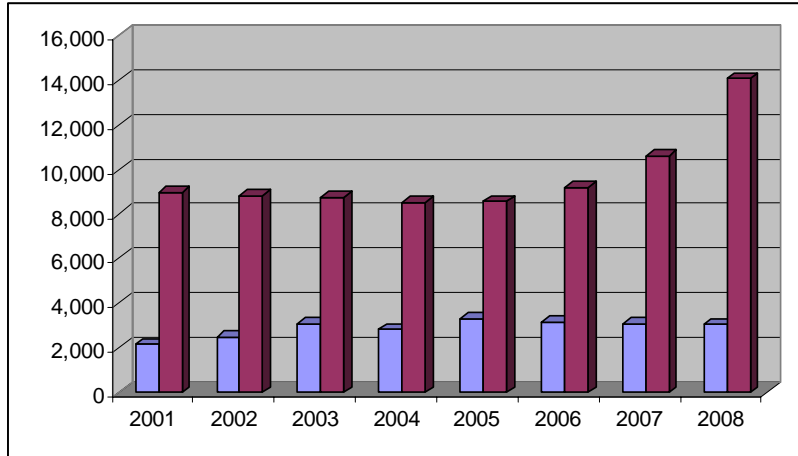


Dog	
2001	11,109
2002	11,312
2003	11,826
2004	11,357
2005	11,861
2006	12,384
2007	13,667
2008	17,111

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Table 21: Dog New Hope and Adoption

Blue = New Hope placements; Red = Adoptions

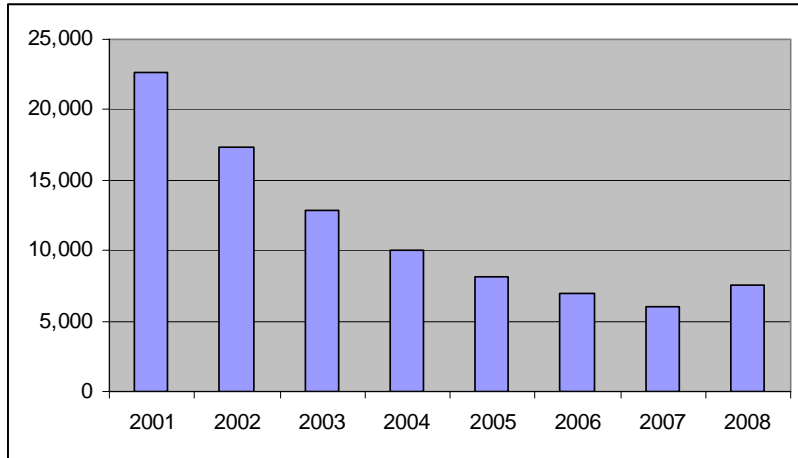


Year	New Hope	Adoption
2001	2,164	8,945
2002	2,513	8,799
2003	3,079	8,747
2004	2,841	8,516
2005	3,310	8,551
2006	3,182	9,202
2007	3,077	10,590
2008	3,046	14,065

Dog Euthanasia Rate

The euthanasia rate for dogs rose 24% in 2008, stalling a long-standing trend of impressive annual double digit decreases. The years 2006 through 2008 represent the three lowest annual euthanasia rates since the Department started recording these statistics. When normalized to account for the increase in Intakes the euthanasia rate for dogs rose 1%.

Table 22: Dog Euthanasia Rates



Dog	
2001	22,675
2002	17,335
2003	12,821
2004	9,985
2005	8,127
2006	6,949
2007	6,051
2008	7,518

Pit Bull Intake Rate

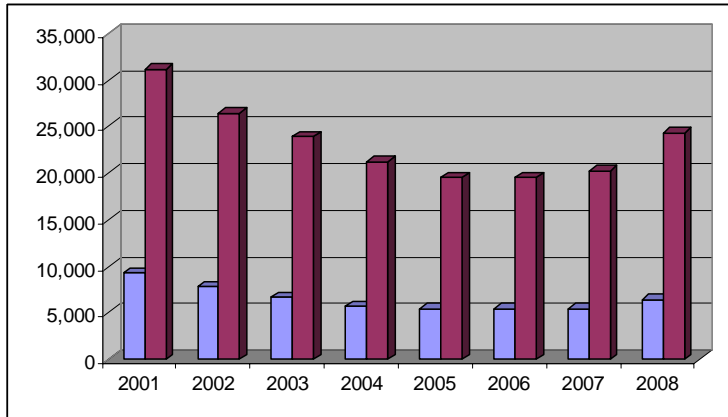
Statistically the ratio of Pit Bulls coming into City shelters has been modestly decreasing. The ratio in 2001 and 2002 was 23%; in 2003 it was 22%; 2004 through 2007 it was 21%. The ratio in 2008 was 20.8%. With programs like Operation Safety Net and LA’s spay/neuter law this trend is expected to continue and, we hope, accelerate in future years. Pit Bulls taken in increased 41% in 2008 compared to all other dog breeds increasing a total of 20%. This unbalanced intake ratio indicates a continuing need to focus on this group of dog breed and mixes.



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Table 23: Pit Bull Intakes Compared to Total Dog Intakes

Blue = Pit Bull and Pit Bull mixes Taken In; Red = All Other Dogs (not including Pit Bulls)



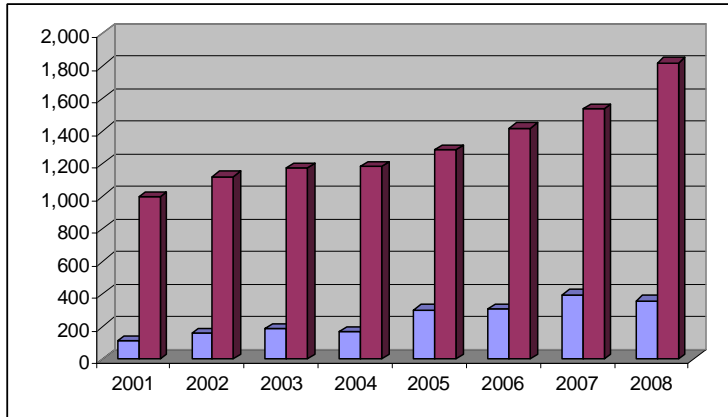
Year	Pit Bulls	Dogs
2001	9,292	31,150
2002	7,825	26,470
2003	6,685	23,920
2004	5,686	21,263
2005	5,469	19,530
2006	5,445	19,554
2007	5,492	20,300
2008	6,429	24,384

Pit Bull Adoption Rate

The Pit Bull Adoption Rate increased 18% in 2008. Pit Bull New Hope placements declined 9%, ending the year with a cumulative 12% increase in total placements.

Table 24: Pit Bull New Hope and Adoption Rates

Blue = New Hope Pit Bull placements; Red = Pit Bull Adoptions



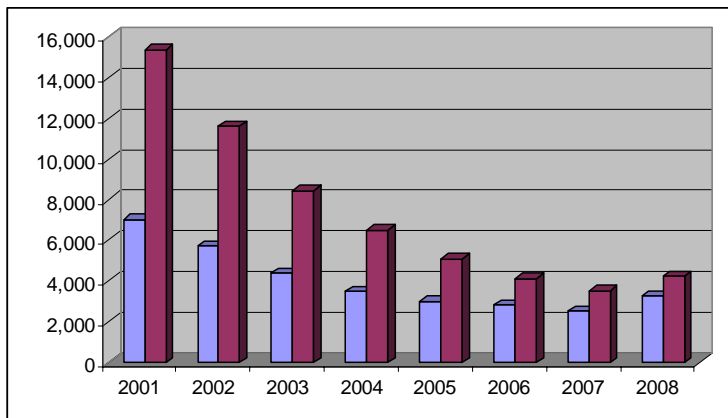
Year	New Hope	Adoption
2001	112	995
2002	157	1,123
2003	186	1,172
2004	169	1,180
2005	300	1,284
2006	307	1,419
2007	395	1,535
2008	358	1,816

Pit Bull Euthanasia Rate

The ratio of Pit Bulls euthanized each year compared to Total Dog Euthanasia Rates averages nearly 40%; the highest ratio was 44.5% in 2002. It was 43.6% in 2008.

Table 25: Pit Bull Euthanasia Rate Compared to Total Dog Euthanasia

Chart Below: Blue = Pit Bulls Euthanized; Red = All Other Dogs



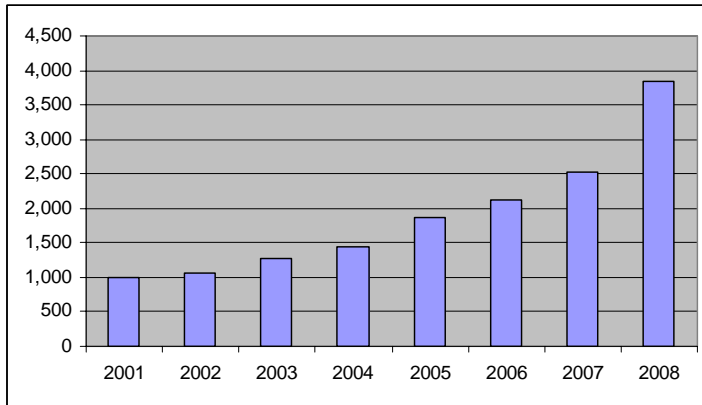
Year	Pit Bulls	Dogs
2001	7,040	15,365
2002	5,716	11,619
2003	4,396	8,425
2004	3,489	6,496
2005	3,027	5,100
2006	2,826	4,123
2007	2,526	3,525
2008	3,279	4,239

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Chihuahua Rates

LA Animal Services may be experiencing a *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* “backlash”. Just three months after the opening of the popular Disney movie the Department is reporting a 47% increase in the number of Chihuahuas taken into the City’s six Animal Care Centers (681 in Oct/Dec 07 compared to 999 in Oct/Dec 08). The Department reports a 14% to 29% increase in Chihuahua intake every year since 2001. However, that rate skyrocketed 53% in 2008. The Department and humane community volunteers made efforts to use the release of the movie to heighten public awareness of shelter Chihuahuas with unfortunately limited cooperation from the film studio.

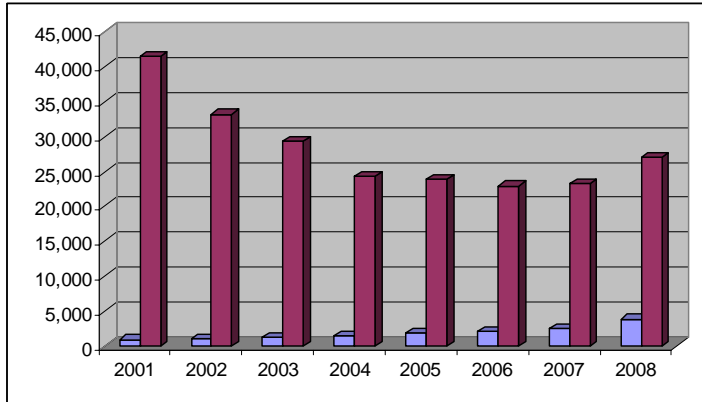
Table 26: Chihuahua Intake Rates



Chihuahuas	
2001	993
2002	1,060
2003	1,273
2004	1,440
2005	1,861
2006	2,128
2007	2,520
2008	3,852

Table 27: Chihuahua Intake Rates Compared to Total Dog Intake

Blue = Chihuahuas; Red = All Dogs except Chihuahuas

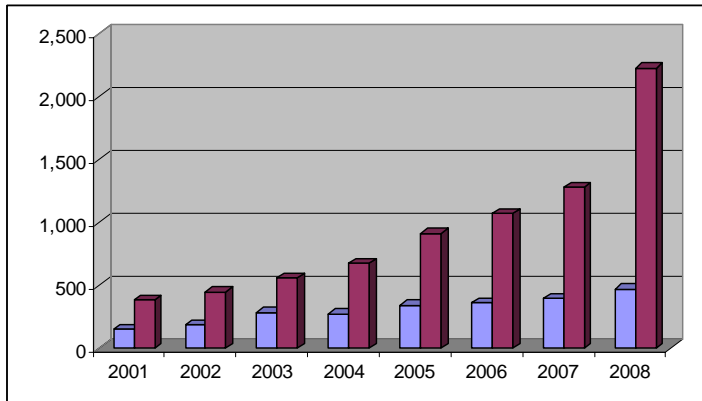


Year	Chihuahuas	Dogs
2001	993	41,435
2002	1,060	33,235
2003	1,273	29,332
2004	1,440	24,300
2005	1,861	23,879
2006	2,128	22,871
2007	2,520	23,272
2008	3,852	26,961

Table 28: Chihuahua Adoption Rates

Fortunately, the influx of Chihuahuas resulted in a 61% increase in Chihuahua adoptions in 2008.

Blue = Chihuahua New Hope placements; Red = Chihuahua Adoptions.

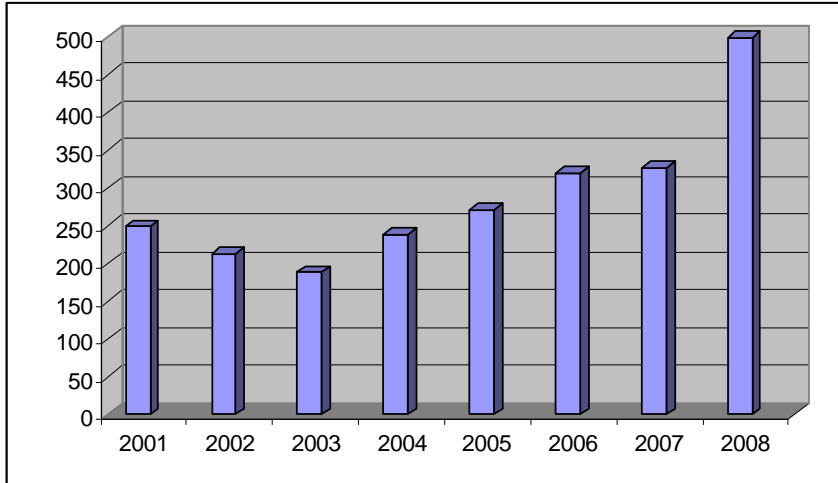


Year	New Hope	Adoptions
2001	150	385
2002	188	446
2003	287	556
2004	276	673
2005	344	914
2006	362	1,071
2007	395	1,277
2008	468	2,226

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Table 29: Chihuahua Euthanasia Rates

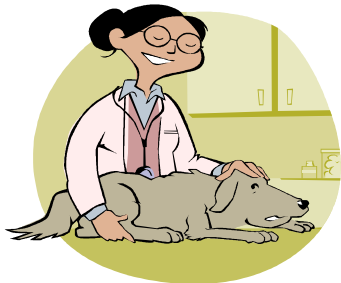
Distressingly, nearly a 53% increase in the number of Chihuahuas euthanized is also reported for 2008.



Chihuahua Euthanasia	
2001	249
2002	213
2003	188
2004	239
2005	271
2006	320
2007	327
2008	499

The Department is monitoring these trends to determine if further increases in intakes will follow the October 2008 release of **Beverly Hills Chihuahua**. Such a trend was reported to have plagued municipal shelters for years following the release of Disney’s **101 Dalmatians** in 1961 and its remake in 1996. The Department is equally concerned about the potential for a similar trend resulting from the 2008 release of **Marley and Me** and other pet-related films.

Dogs and Cat Mortality: Animals that Died – Not Euthanized



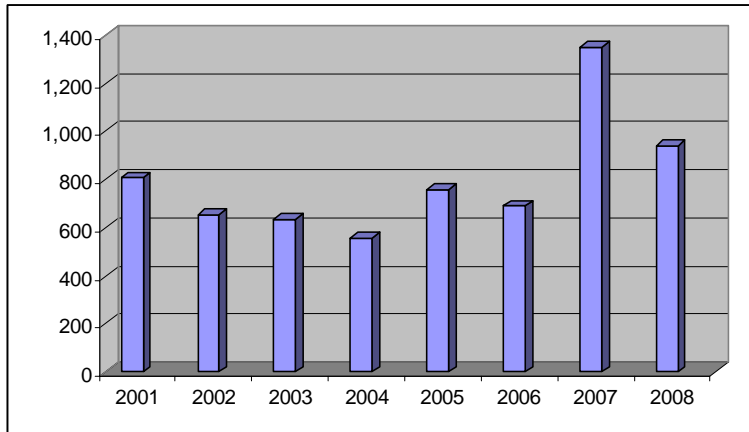
In 2008 the Department experienced a 30% decline in the number of dogs and cats who died while in the care of LA Animal Services, a foster care-giver, or a private veterinarian. That is a decrease from 1350 to 939. The Department’s goal is to save all the animals and in 2007 we stepped up efforts to do so. We were able to make this effort thanks to over 100 volunteer foster care-givers, a new veterinary team, upgraded clinic facilities and our dedicated staff.

Thanks to our newly assembled, highly competent and compassionate medical team, LA Animal Services now has the capacity to treat many animals that historically would have been euthanized or outsourced to private veterinarians. Today our staff veterinarians remove tumors, treat pyometra, repair hernias, perform dentistry, treat animals with intravenous fluids, non-narcotic, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and narcotic pain-relieving drugs, and through the use of our new state-of-the-art digital X-ray machines, they are able to successfully mend fractures, and so much more.

As is the case in any hospital, attempts at life-saving treatments are not always successful. But it is a tribute to the City of Los Angeles that nearly \$500,000 is spent on medicines and medical treatments administered to our community’s lost and homeless animals each year. This amount does not take into account the value of Veterinary and Registered Veterinary Technician time.

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Table 30: Dog and Cat Mortality Rate



Mortality Rate	
2001	807
2002	656
2003	636
2004	555
2005	758
2006	691
2007	1,350
2008	939

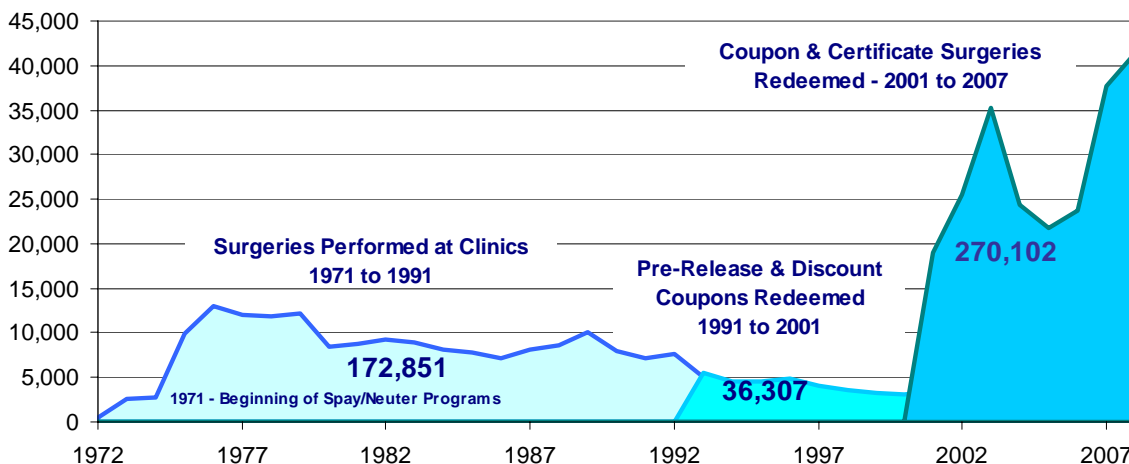
Summary: The Challenges in 2009

The industry standard for calculating a community's euthanasia rate is the number of dog and cat killings for each 1000 residents. In 2008 the City of Los Angeles euthanized 5 dogs or cats for every 1,000 residents. The national average as of July 2008 is 13.8. Los Angeles' euthanasia rate continues to be one of the lowest in the United States. LA Animal Services remains committed to achieving its No-Kill Goal.

In the drive to achieve No-Kill there are two commonly recognized hurdles to clear. A community's progress towards No-Kill will usually stall at the first hurdle which is typically found when its pet euthanasia rate is reduced to between 12 and 10 shelter killings per 1,000 human residents annually. Once a community achieves this rate, further significant reductions are stalled and require the implementation of aggressive spay/neuter programs to achieve further euthanasia reduction goals. With effective, targeted spay/neuter programs progress to the second hurdle can be fairly quick, as it has been in the City of Los Angeles. Note in the Chart on Page 6 the precipitous decline in euthanasia starting in 1971 and its correspondence to the Chart below showing the City's spay/neuter efforts beginning that same year. After adding the spay/neuters from 2008 the City will have funded or subsidized over a half million surgeries since 1971.

Surgeries Performed From 1971 to 2007

Total: 479,260



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The first hurdle becomes apparent after a community has successfully persuaded all the people who are likely to spay/neuter their pets to do so. The challenge then is to persuade the more difficult populations, which include the poor, the elderly on fixed income, individuals with negative attitudes about spay/neuter, people who speak languages other than English, and those who live in relatively remote areas.

To break through the first barrier, LA Animal Services developed free and low-cost spay/neuter programs for our community's needy pet guardians, and free spay/neuter for the pets of our low income senior citizens and disabled residents, as well as cat specific spay/neuter programs. These programs accounted for over 45,000 spay/neuter surgeries in 2008. By the end of 2009 LA Animal Services plans to open six new spay/neuter clinics, making a total of seven. LA Animal Services also partners with the *Amanda* and *Sam Simon Foundations* to provide over 10,000 mobile spay/neuter surgeries annually throughout the City's underserved areas.

The second hurdle in the drive to achieve No-Kill has been characterized as "the wall". Few communities have been able to break through "the wall". A community hits "the wall" when it reduces its pet euthanasia rate to between five and 2.5 shelter killings per 1,000 human residents annually. Hitting "the wall" tells a community that it has come to the point where most of the animals dying in its shelters are irremediably suffering due to sickness or injury, demonstrate dangerously aggressive behavior, or are feral or neonate cats, or pit bulls. Hitting "the wall" reveals the success of an earlier generation of effectively targeted programs.

To break through "the wall" requires a new generation of programs to address the needs of special populations not met by earlier programs. The paradigm remains the same: comprehensive data collection, assessment, and the steady implementation of programs targeted to meet the special needs of residual populations. Breaking through "the wall" requires taking the information-based targeting approach to the next level.

As a result, LA Animal Services is focusing its efforts on saving at-risk animal populations. The feral cat/neonate kitten side of the equation is fairly straightforward and can often be handled through volunteer programs. However, to be successful, it does require a significant amount of volunteer time and dedication coupled with meaningful animal care and control support. As noted earlier, the Department has been unable to explore some viable solutions for addressing the feral and stray cat population due to the aforementioned lawsuit that must first be resolved.

The pit bull side of the equation is more difficult. According to *Animal People* magazine, San Francisco is currently the only major city in the U.S. experiencing a decline in pit bulls. San Francisco credits local pit bull-targeted spay/neuter legislation for this decline, which may largely be the case. However, other factors may also contribute to this decline. For instance, it is much more difficult for dogfighters and backyard breeders to go underground in San Francisco compared to most other cities. It has been said that a dog can't bark in San Francisco without 100 neighbors complaining, while a hundred dogs can bark in parts of Los Angeles and not be heard above the noise of the freeways.

This report is only a snapshot of the current situation in Los Angeles. Thanks are due to all of LA Animal Services employees, volunteers, partners, as well as the Mayor and the City Council for their continued support in achieving these results.

LA Animal Services is committed to eliminating euthanasia as a tool for controlling pet populations. We recognize our need of everyone's help to do that. We thank everyone who is participating in this noble effort. Thank you all!

For all the numbers of 2008 visit our website at www.laanimalservices.com, click on *About Us* and go to *Statistics*.