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**MILLION PET
CHALLENGE**

Best Practices in Animal Welfare

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Team Shelter USA
PetSmart Charities***





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Pro bono consults that included the onsite visit and a one-year mentorship were awarded to Cochise County and the city of Douglas.

Maddiesfund.org





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Holistic Systems Overview

Public Policy

Local ordinances/state

Area AWOs

Pet Resource Programs

Targeted Spay/Neuter

Access to Vet Care*

Field Services

Data/trends/policies

Housing/Enrichment

Adoption/foster/rescue

Partnerships and collabs

Funding and budgeting

Geography-Expanse of County



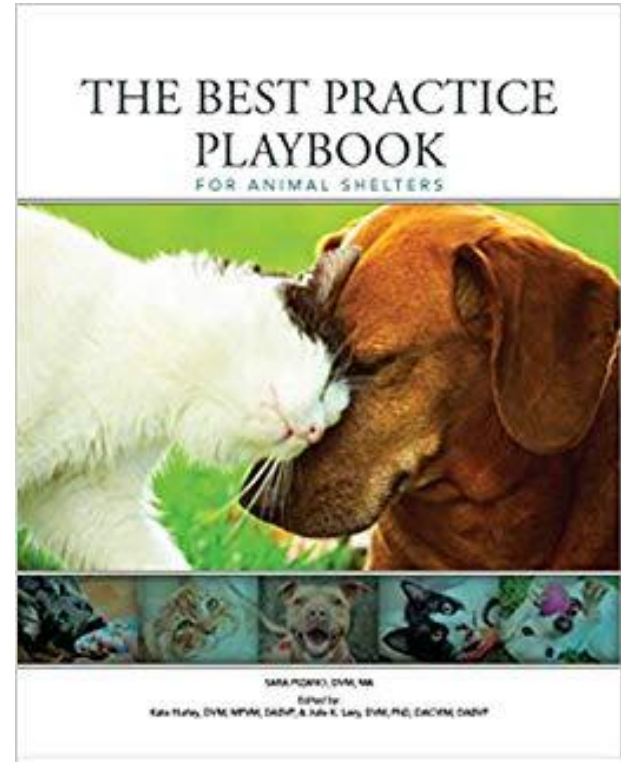


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Core Recommendations



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**Best
 Friends
 Animal
 Society**





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Cochise County is responsible for public and animal safety and contributes to the intake numbers at all contract shelters. MOUs and funding must support and ensure the most efficient and best practices at those shelters to best serve the entire community.





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Progress Already Being Made...

At the City of Douglas:

- Vet on Record who will oversee medical care including vax on intake, provide training and ongoing support
- Shelter coordinator position in the works
- Potential **Best Friends** Embed program*
- Kennel positions
- Inmate program
- Volunteer program

These important changes will allow for 7-day care, RTO, adoption, foster and rescue transfer programs!

Please attend the **9/11** City of Douglas council meeting to show your support for these shelter changes. The council will be voting on the Shelter Coordinator position and Embed program with Best Friends, both crucial actions!





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Public Policy*

- Provided redline ordinance revision recommendations to County staff
- Chart from playbook in the consult report
- Community cat language
- Impoundment policies
- City of Douglas revisions also recommended

*In line with state statute





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Proactive Programs can...

- Reduce enforcement complaints
- Minimize shelter intake and those going to rescue groups
- Reduce economic euthanasia
- Improve population immunity and therefore incidence of infectious disease at the shelter
- Keep pets with their loving families
- Fiscally responsible approach





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Access to Care Crucial

- 29m pet owners on govt assistance
- Subsidized care including SN, vaccine clinics, etc.
- **Nation-wide veterinary shortage**
- In the meantime, strategize and prioritize SN for high-risk animals





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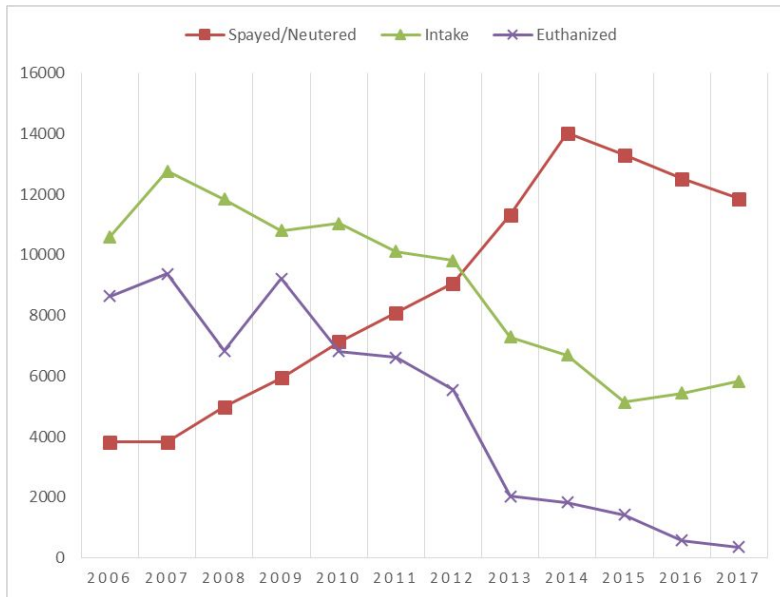
Targeted Spay Neuter

- Large breed dogs
- Socioeconomically challenged pet owners
- Cats with access to the outdoors
- At risk pets

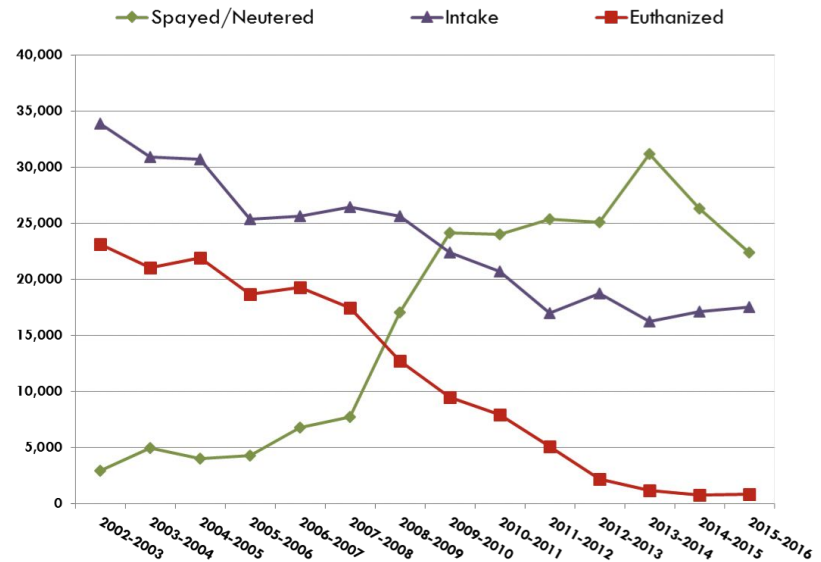




Waco, Texas

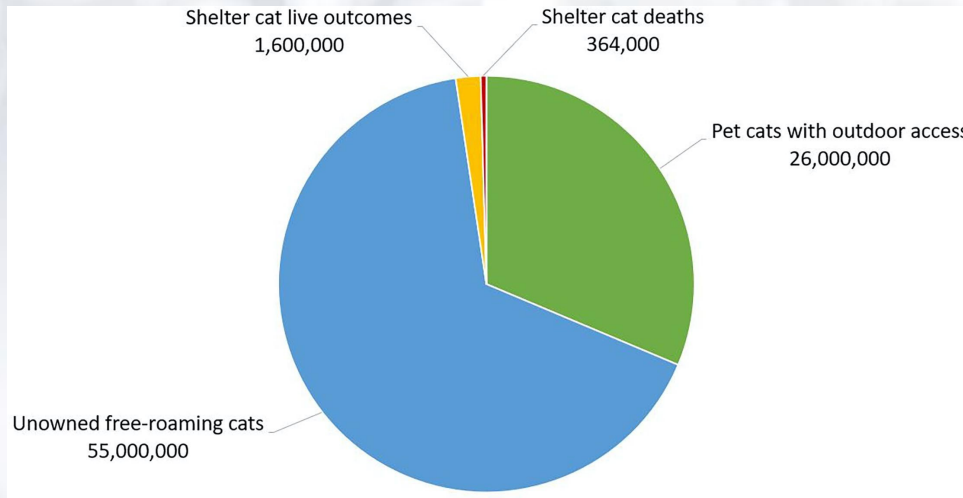


Jacksonville, Florida





Cats with Outdoor Access



Frontiers Vet. Sci.; Hurley/Levy, 2022

- Est. ½ cat owners allow outdoor access
- 2% RTO from shelters
- Spay neuter if/when capacity
- Leave in place if **visually healthy**
- Kittens on an adoption track





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Decreases # cats, impact
on wildlife, shelter intake
of cats, enf. calls

Fiscally responsible plan
for *all* shelter types and
communities

**TNR/SNR
BENEFITS ALL**

More resources for
dogs

Provides sustainable
resolution, increased
community immunity





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Community-Minded Field Services



- Reserving punitive measures for true perpetrators of cruelty and malicious neglect
- Providing links to accessible services in lieu of citations
- Keeping non-aggressive/non-enforcement/healthy dogs at large in their neighborhoods





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Kudos to the Cochise County Field Team

- Excellent team
- Focus is on helping constituents
- Trying to reunite dogs in the field
- Need viable, proactive and reactive outlets/tools





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Sheltering...when all other options exhausted





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A Shelter Stay under the Best Circumstances...

Unfamiliar everything

Evokes fear/anxiety/stress/frustration

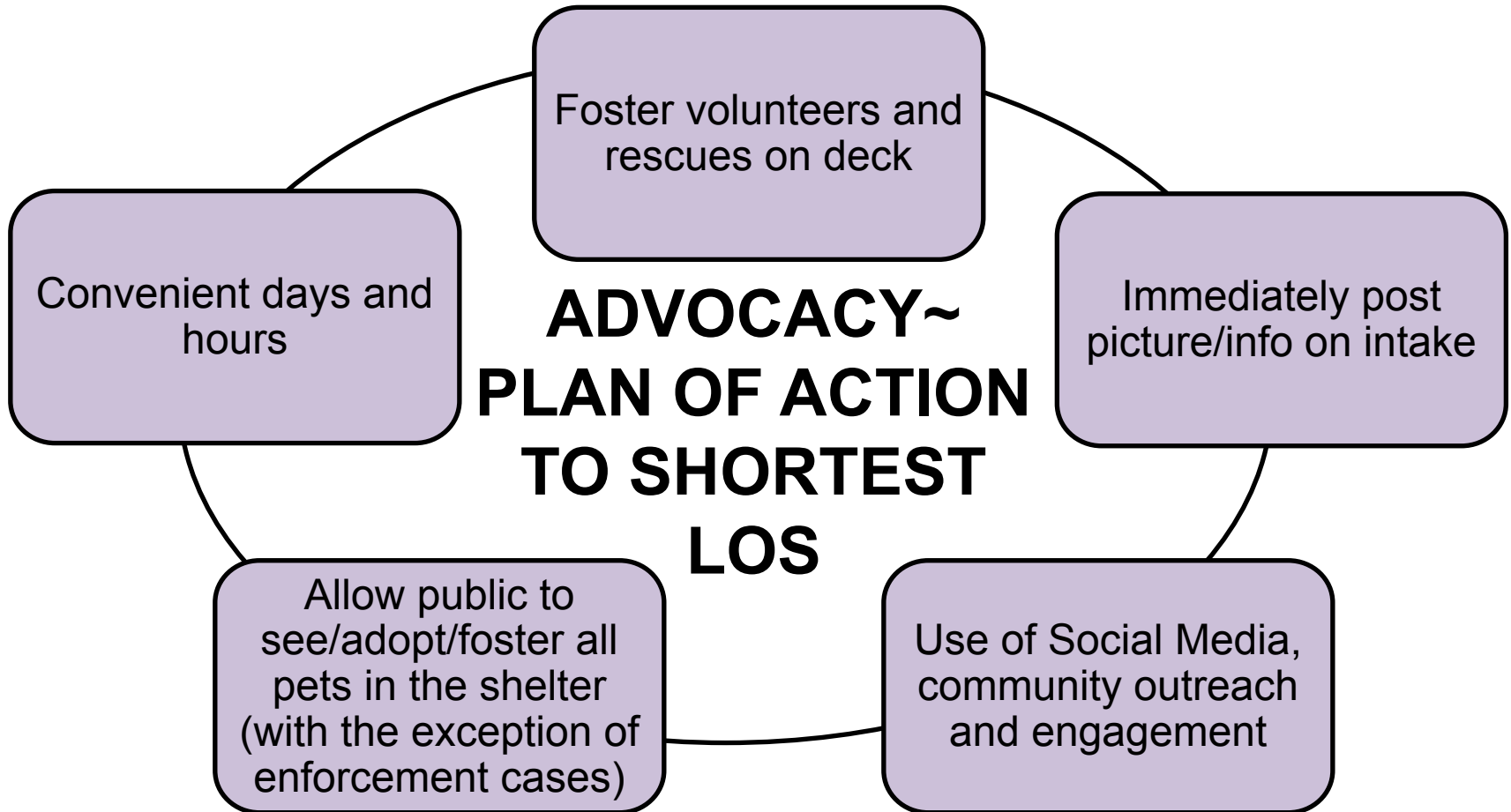
Risk of exceeding Capacity for Care and EU

Higher levels of infectious disease, stress
for people

Inability to provide a Fear Free environment

Without MCI, waste of all resources







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Non-Negotiable Enrichment

Appropriate housing,
sanitation, soft bedding



Kennel/cage
enrichment/playgroups for
dogs

Human contact, toys to
prevent boredom

Cats NOT housed
with/near dogs





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Medical Care and Disease Surveillance

Daily rounds

Standard Protocols with
decision tree

MOUs with local veterinarians

AAFP 2020 Guidelines





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Placement

- RTO (dogs)
- Adoption
- Foster pathway
- Rescue/shelter partnerships



GOAL: SHORTEST LENGTH OF STAY



Partnerships and Collaboration





Retrofit Tovreaville Road

PROS

USDA grant +county funding
set aside for retrofit

County owned facility
available for retrofit

Life saving/overcrowding
challenges at other shelters
(but those are being
resolved/worked on now with
unprecedented progress)

CONS

No central location

No non-profit to operate so county
would have to operate/fully fund

City of Douglas has empty SNC
(work being done to utilize space)

Multiple locations more efficient to
provide services for more county
residents

City MOUs already in place that can
be improved





Purchase and Utilize Taitopia

PROS

Building ready to house dogs

Potential to retrofit spaces for cats and a spay neuter clinic

Sierra Vista is the most populated city in the county

CONS

>\$1m purchase price

City of Sierra Vista shelter so duplication of services/adoption competition

Multiple locations more efficient to provide services for more county residents





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Improve current shelters and increase funding (recommended)

PROS

Contracts already in place

Multiple locations more efficient to provide services for more county residents

Potential to use USDA funding for retrofits

CONS

City of Douglas with historic/ongoing issues (but these are being resolved)





References and Resources

- *Best Practice Playbook for Animal Shelters* (Amazon, Apple, Kobu)
- Shelter Animals Count (shelteranimalscount.org)
- National Animal Control Association (naca.net)
- Association of Shelter Veterinary Guidelines (shelternvet.com)
- Fear Free Sheltering (fearfreesheltering.com)
- Humane Animal Support Services (humananimalsupportservices.org)
- Dogs Playing for Life (Dogsplayingforlife.com)
- *Adopters Welcome* (animalsheltering.org)
- Open Door Veterinary Collective (opendoorconsults.org)
- Maddie's Million Pet Challenge (maddiesmillionpetchallenge.org)
- Best Friends Animal Society (BestFriends.org)

