

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. PROGRAM INTENT:

The goal of the state's Animal Population Control Program (APCP) is to reduce the overpopulation of surplus dogs and cats in Connecticut. Pet overpopulation is a significant burden on the limited resources of local municipalities. The goal of reducing the overpopulation of cats and dogs and immunizing animals placed through the program significantly impacts the local public health and safety agenda. The reduction of surplus animals in Connecticut's communities decreases the risk of the spread of rabies and other infectious diseases. Additionally, the reduction in animal overpopulation allows municipalities to shift their resources to activities focused on law enforcement, animal control and those issues that include education and public awareness regarding responsible pet ownership.

Statutory Compliance

This report has been produced in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statute Sec. 22-380k titled, animal population control program: Report re operation of program. This section states in part pursuant to Sec. 22-380e to 22-380m inclusive and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the general assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment setting forth a complete operating and financial statement regarding the operation of said program. The commissioner shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness of said program and any recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes deemed appropriate. For further reference, please see Attachment B titled Chapter 436a Spaying and Neutering.

History

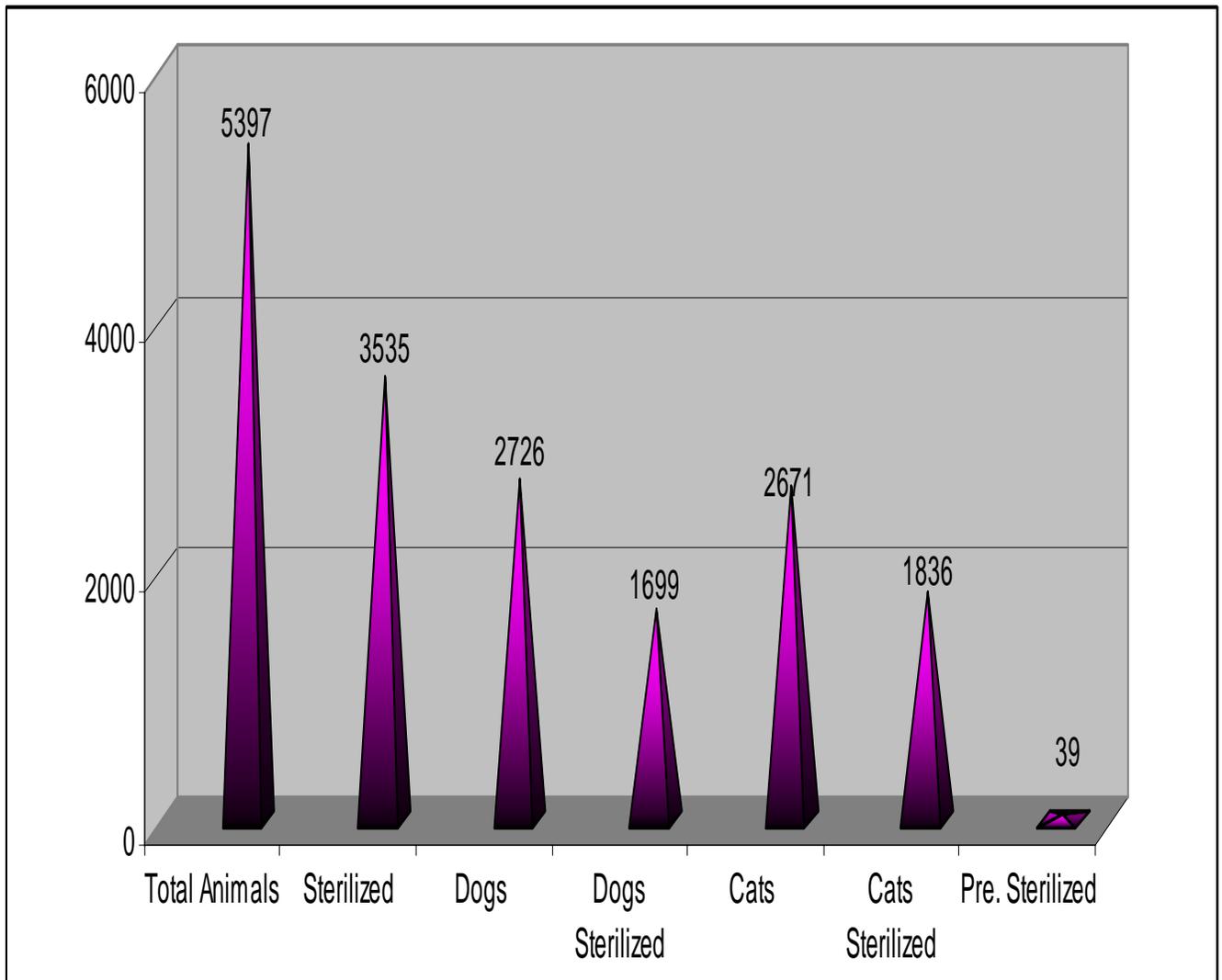
The Animal Population Control Program was created by Public Act #92-187 in July 1992 and implemented on May 22, 1995, to provide vaccination/sterilization benefits for any unsterilized dog or cat adopted from a municipal impound facility. In 2007, the program expanded to provide benefits to non-profit organizations to help sterilize feral cats and in 2008 to low-income residents for their own pets. Connecticut is one of only a few states in the country to offer a companion pet sterilization program through a state agency and is believed to be the only program offering benefits to municipal pound animals, feral cats and low-income families.

II. HOW THE PROGRAM OPERATES:

Vouchers are issued at the municipal pound for unsterilized dogs/cats to Connecticut residents who must pay a \$50 fee (\$45 adoption, \$5 municipal). The voucher is good for sixty (60) days from the adoption date and provides for a one-time sterilization fee of \$50 for a male cat, \$70 for a female cat, \$100 for a male dog and \$120 for a female dog. In addition, two coincident pre-surgical vaccinations are provided with the sterilization. Pets that are too young or sick will be granted a medical extension from a participating veterinarian. Connecticut non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for feral cat grant vouchers issued annually as well as low-income Connecticut residents for their owned pets.

PROGRAM VACCINATION/STERILIZATIONS

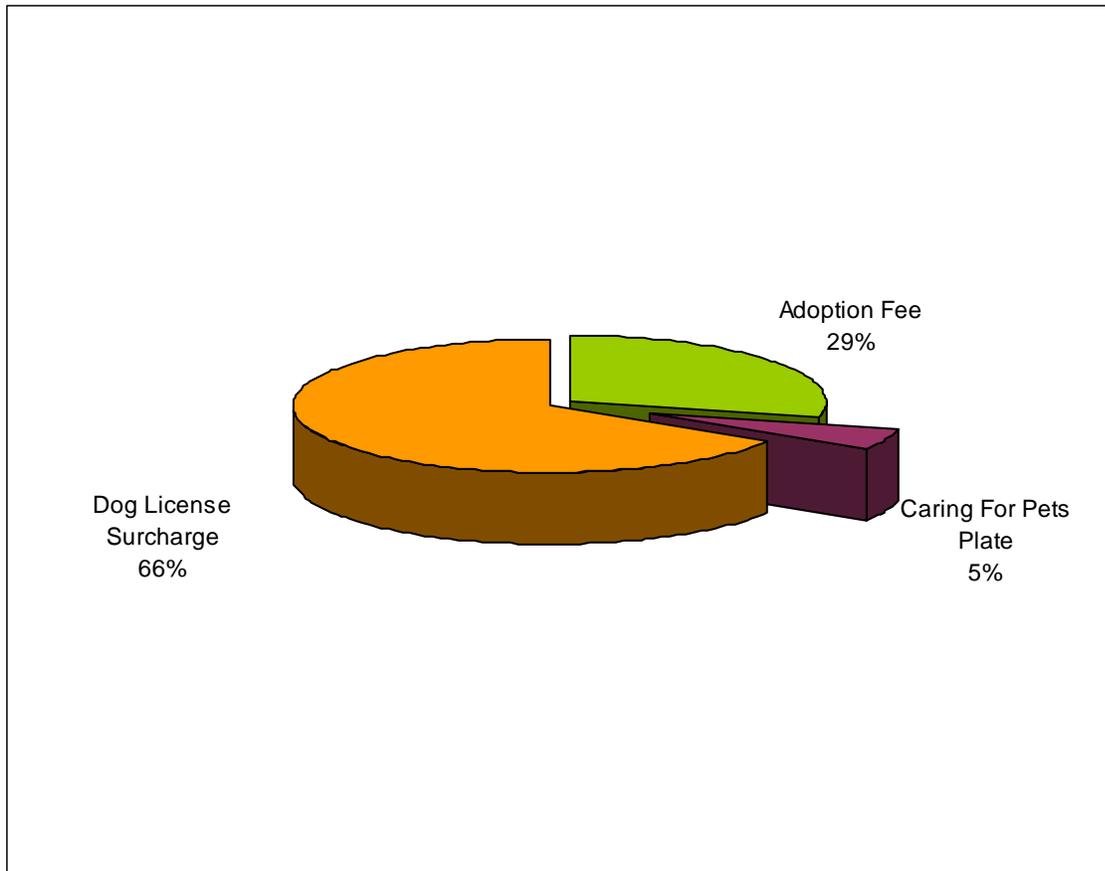
For FY 2009, the APCP provided benefits for 5,397 (2726 dogs/2671 cats) animals from municipal pounds, feral cat organizations and pets owned by low-income CT citizens. Benefits were provided for 3535 (1,699 dogs/1836 cats) companion pets for a 66% overall sterilization compliance rate. From that total 39 animals (34 dogs/5cats) were found to be previously sterilized. In addition, 7,070 pre-surgical vaccinations were issued, of which one-half were rabies vaccines. For the first time since the program's implementation in 1995, more cats were adopted and sterilized than dogs.



PROGRAM INCOME

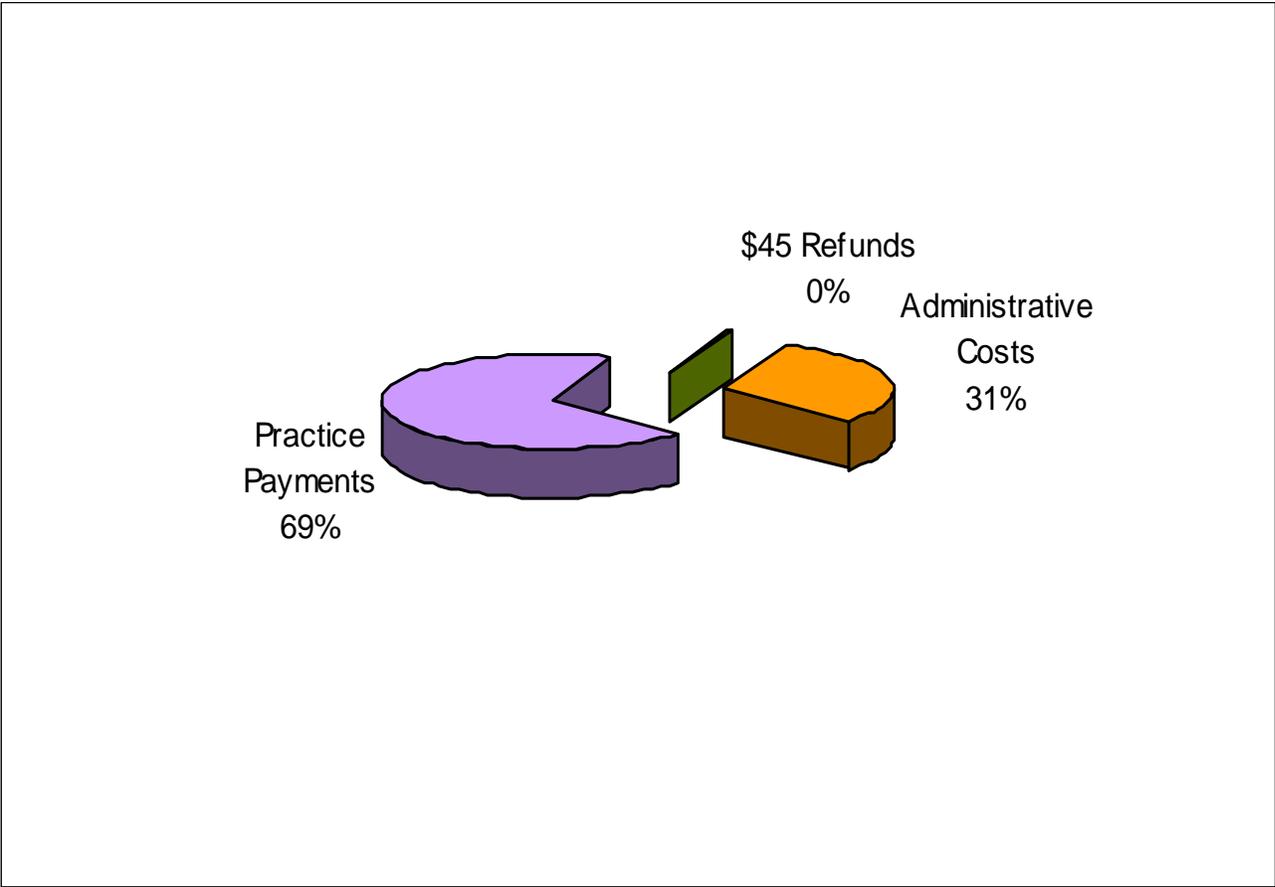
The APCP has its own dedicated account and receives no money from the state's general fund. Revenue is received from the following: annual surcharge on Connecticut dog licenses (\$2.00 sterilized/\$6.00 unsterilized), the \$45 mandatory voucher fee, proceeds from the sale of the "caring of pets" commemorative license plate and donations. Dog license surcharge fees are collected by the municipalities and forwarded to the Department of Agriculture on an annual basis, voucher fees are sent in quarterly and revenue from pet plate sales are deposited weekly by the DMV into the program's account.

For FY 2009, \$495,350 was received from dog license surcharge revenue, \$215,223 from the \$45 program adoption fee, \$39,540 from the DMV for the sale of the "caring for pets" commemorative license plate and no donations for a total of \$750,113.



PROGRAM EXPENSE

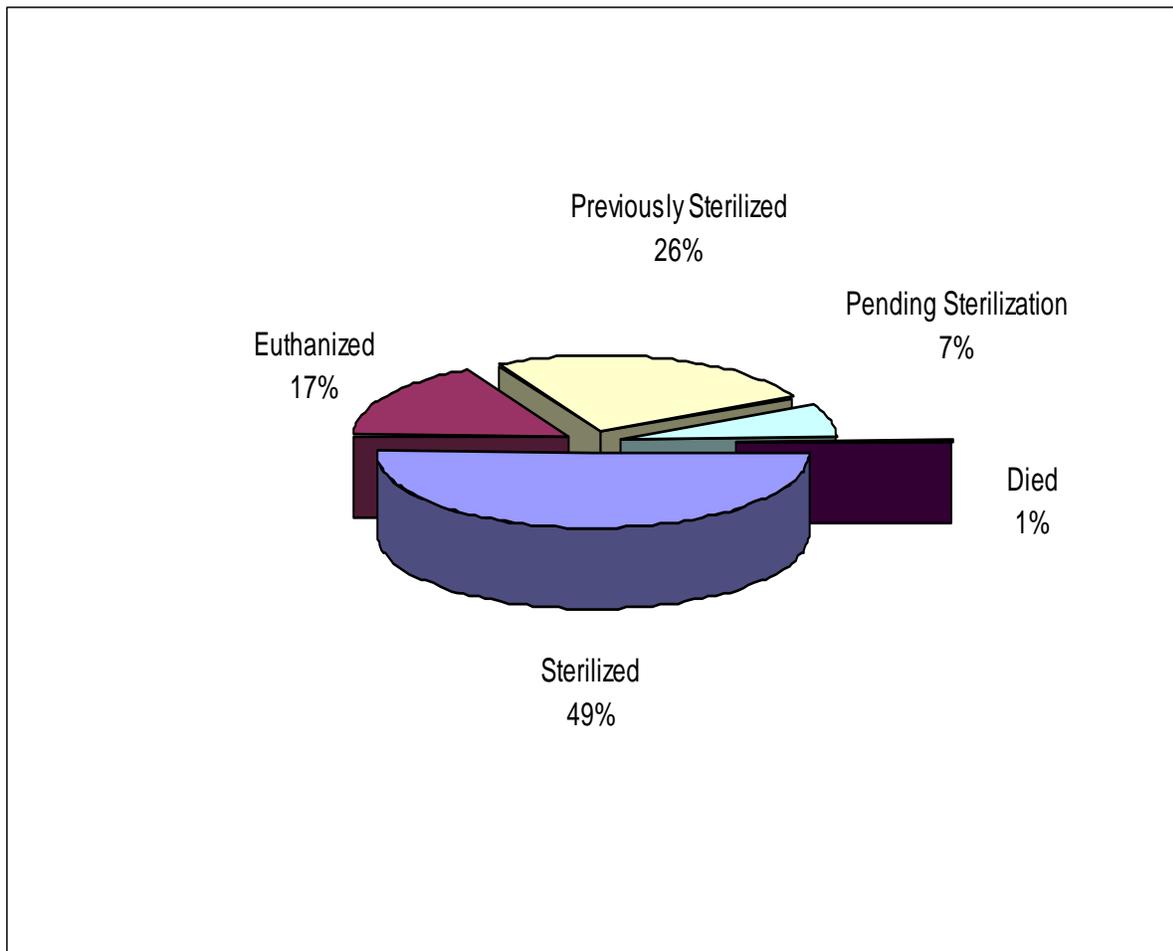
For FY 2009, the program provided benefits for 3,535 pets for a total payment of \$414,435 to 218 participating veterinary practices. The monthly average payment to practices was \$34,536 and the average benefit for cats/dogs including two coincident vaccinations (\$20 per pet) is \$117. In addition, \$2,925 was paid out as \$45 adopter refunds for 65 pets that were either previously sterilized, returned to the pound or humanely destroyed. Administrative costs totaled \$187,177 for an overall program expense of \$601,612.



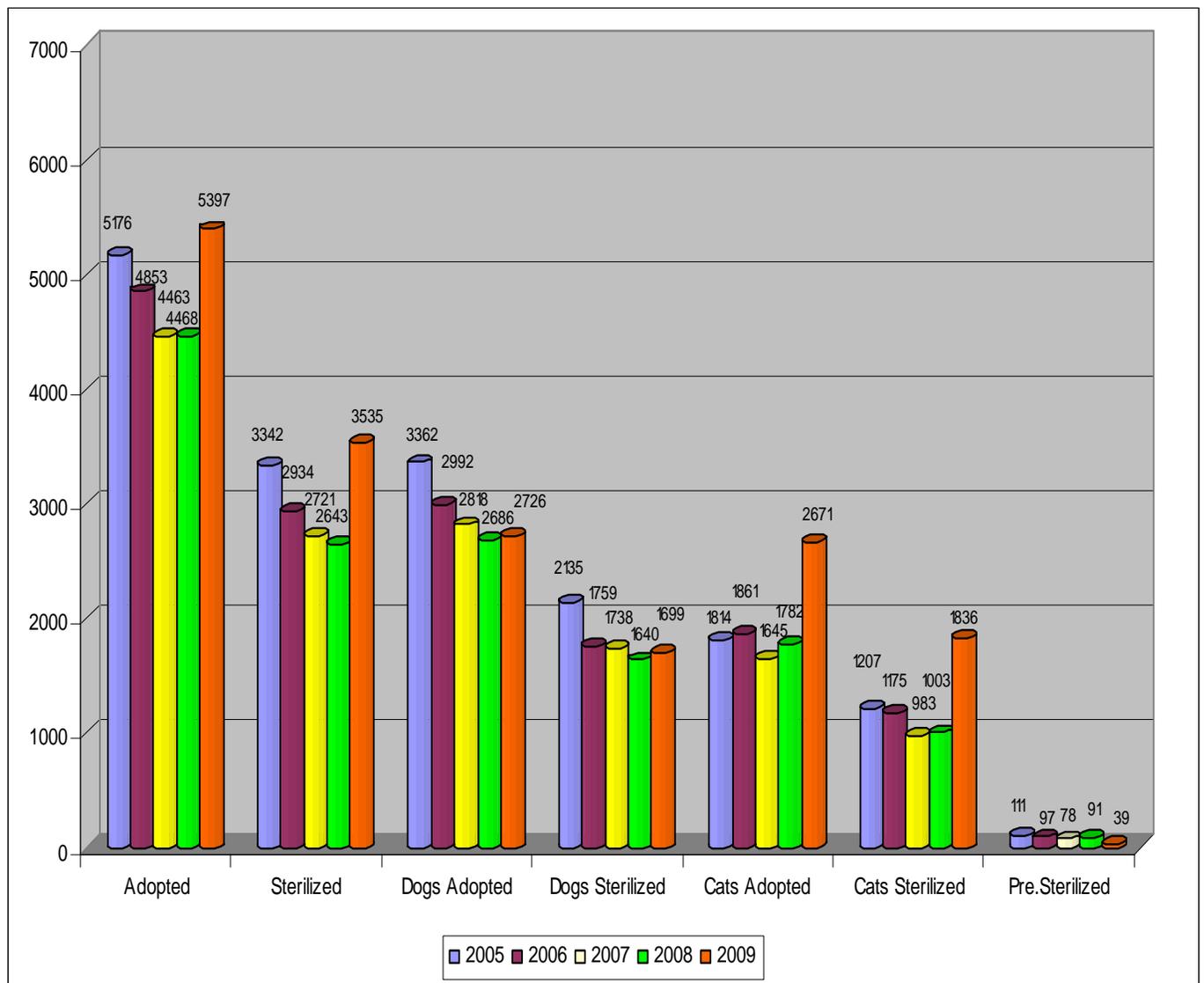
CONNECTICUT HUMANE SOCIETY

Effective October 1, 2003, statutory language was added to Sec. 22-380f (a) (b) (c) and (d), allowing the Connecticut Humane Society (CHS) to assist with pet overpopulation efforts at local municipal facilities by removing dogs and cats fee free. Once a pet is removed from a municipal impound facility, CHS is required to provide vaccination, sterilization (if unaltered) and adoption services through one of its three statewide facilities. The Society is also required to submit a biannual report to the APCP, accounting for the disposition of each pet removed. If the Society fails to comply with any provision of this section, the Commissioner of Agriculture may terminate the organization's fee exemption status.

For calendar year 2009, 149 pets (54 dogs, 95 cats) were removed from municipal facilities. From that total, 75 pets were vaccinated and sterilized, 38 were found to be previously sterilized, 25 were euthanized, 1 died and 10 sterilizations are still pending.



ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM FIVE YEAR REPORT*

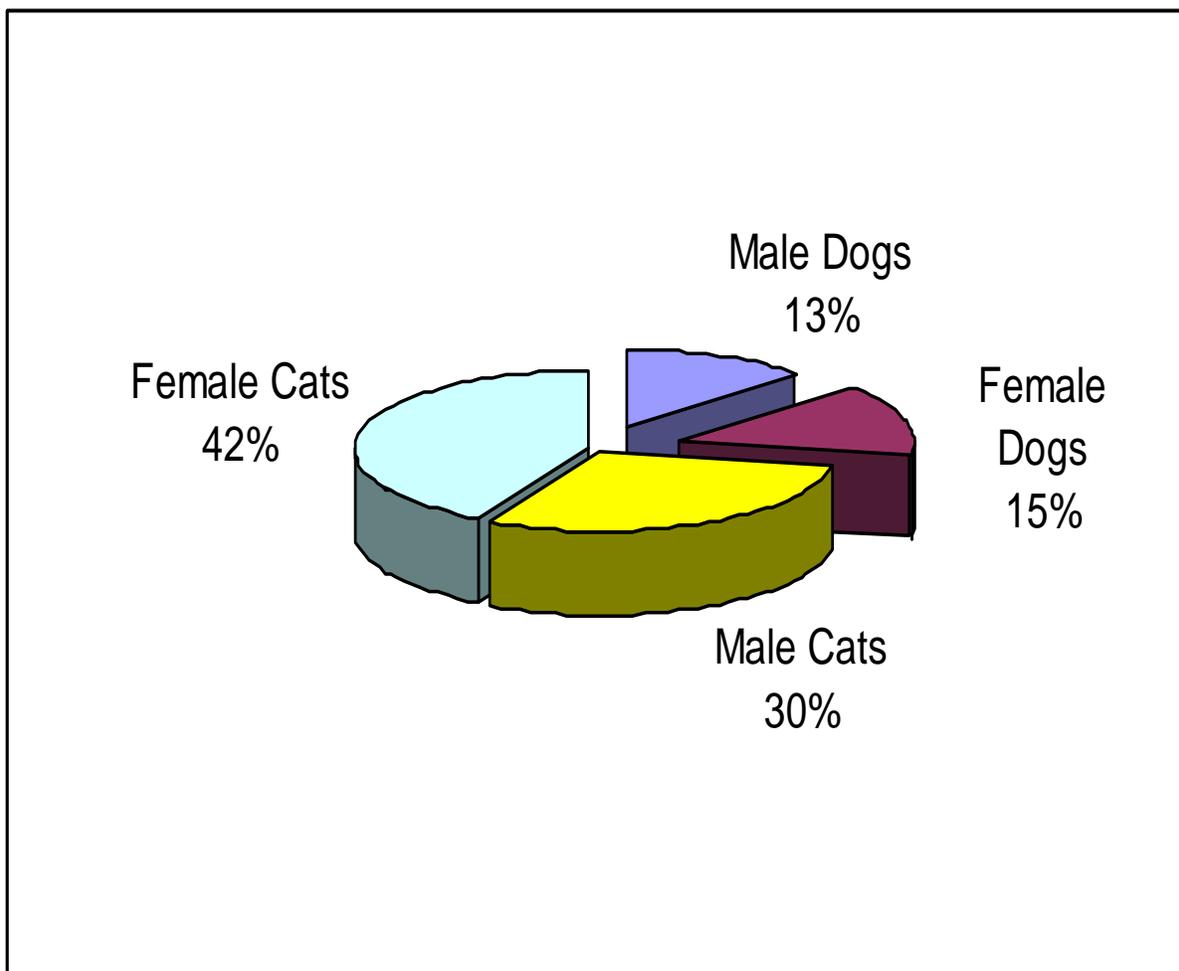


* FY 2009 includes municipal pound pets, feral cats and animals from low-income residents.

LOW-INCOME PROGRAM

Public Act 07-105 became law after H.B. No. 7194 was passed overwhelmingly in both the House and Senate. Part of the bill allows the APCP to set aside up to 10% of program income to be used to vaccinate/sterilize the pets of CT Low-Income residents. To be eligible for benefits, recipients must be a CT resident and on one of six public assistance programs as outlined in Sec. 22-380e (12) (A – G) and then verified by the Department of Social Services (DSS). Once approved, vouchers are issued by the APCP and good for up to three pets per household.

For FY 2009, \$54,000 was set aside resulting in 555 vouchers issued and 284 used for a 51% overall sterilization rate (see 2009 sterilizations/county report). Vouchers were issued for 72 male dogs (36 neutered), 108 female dogs (42 spayed), 144 male cats (86 neutered) and 231 female cats (120 spayed). In addition, 543 presurgical vaccinations were issued.

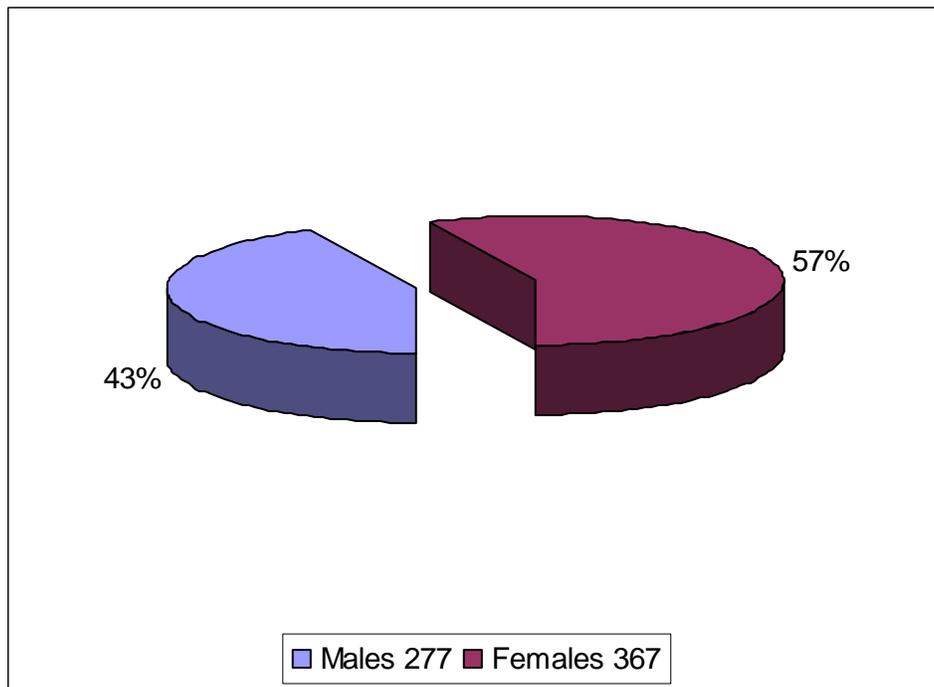


FERAL CAT GRANT PROGRAM

For FY 2009, the Department of Agriculture provided feral cat grant funds for the third consecutive year to Connecticut non-profit organizations for the purpose of providing vaccination and sterilization benefits to feral cats. Vouchers were awarded during the Fall of 2008 with a sterilization completion date of March 31, 2009. Legislation passed in 2007 replaced the previous \$40,000 limit with new language that provides up to 10% of APCP income to be used for feral cats. For FY 2009, \$54,000 was set aside for this program.

Vouchers were issued equal to the monetary award granted to twelve non-profit organizations (see 2009 Feral Cat Outcome Report). Each voucher provides for two vaccinations and the sterilization of the cat. The average payment per cat is \$80. Vouchers can be used at any of the 218 Connecticut participating veterinary practices. For FY 2009, 676 vouchers were issued and 654 vouchers used for a 97% compliance rate.

The following chart was created to show the total number of male and female cats.



IV. BREED PROFILE (Pound Animals Only):

Of the 4,145 total pets adopted from municipal pounds, the mix breed was once again the primary dog type with 1,095 adopted and 732 sterilized (67 %). The Pit Bull is second with 457 adoptions and 275 sterilized (60%). The top five purebreds are as follows: Chihuahua (79/53 sterilized 67%), German Shepard (74/59 sterilized 80%), Labrador Retriever (74/53 sterilized 72%), Beagle (63/38 sterilized 60%) and Rottweiler (63/34 sterilized 54%).

Cat adoptions totaled 1,633 with 980 sterilized (60%). The domestic shorthair lead the way with 1,334/806 sterilized (61%). The domestic longhair was second with 184/115 sterilized (63%) and the domestic medium hair third with 115/59 sterilized (51%). A few pedigree cats such as Himalayans, Manx, Persians and Siamese were included in the total. Please see Attachment A titled Breed Profile Report, for more details about breeds adopted from Connecticut impound facilities.

V. PARTICIPATING PRACTICES:

The program provides for certification of Connecticut Veterinary Practices wishing to perform vaccination/sterilization benefits for the state. Practices wishing to participate need to complete a program application form APCP-02, state form SP-26 NB and federal Request for Taxpayer ID number form W-9. Once certified, practices will receive the standard voucher amount as previously outlined in this report. Veterinarians may also charge adopters for post-surgical complications and a fee differential, which is the amount between the voucher and the hospital's normal spay/neuter fee. At the end of the fiscal year, 218 practices were certified to participate encompassing over 500 individual veterinarians.

VI. CARING FOR PETS COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATE:

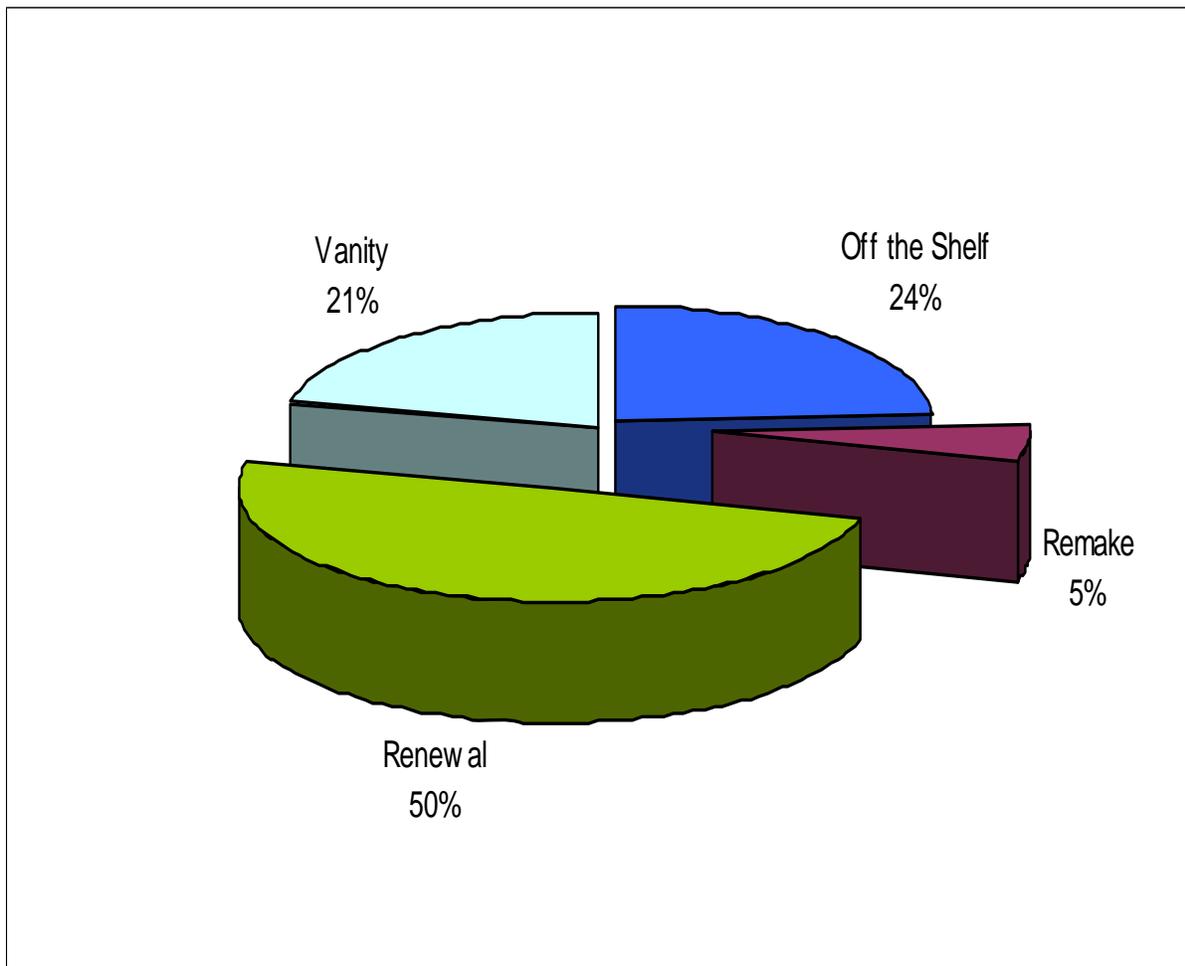
Plate Categories

The “caring for pets” commemorative license plate is available through the Department of Motor Vehicles in three different categories. An off-the-shelf plate with random numbers/letters combination is sold for \$50 (APCP receives \$35). Next is a transfer of a current marker plate for \$70 (APCP receives \$55). The third choice is a new vanity plate for \$135 (APCP receives \$55).

Along with the regular renewal fees, there is an additional \$15 fee for each renewal of which \$10 is deposited into the program’s dedicated account. Plate applications are located at all DMV outlets, veterinary practices, municipal pounds, town halls, pet and grooming shops, boarding kennels, auto dealerships and can be ordered over the phone by calling the DMV at 1-800-842-8222 or the APCP at 1-860-713-2507. Plates can also be ordered on line as well by going to the DMV web site at **DMVCT.ORG**. The web address allows the public to view the dog/cat design and also provides citizens the ability to type in available acronyms for those seeking vanity plate combinations. The plate design was created in 1998 and donated by local Connecticut artists Mark Maglio of Plainville and Kathy Goff of Avon. A mix breed dog was selected for the canine choice because the majority of pound dogs adopted are mix breeds. The cat choice is a domestic shorthair, which makes up the majority of cats.

“CARING FOR PETS” PLATE REPORT

For FY 2009, \$39,540 was deposited into the program’s dedicated account from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Of the 463 plates sold, 274 (\$9,590) were the off the shelf type, 36 (\$1,980) remakes, 153 (\$8,415) vanities and \$19,555 was received from 1,955 biennial renewal fees. More than \$500,000 has been deposited into the APCP dedicated account since the unveiling of the plate in 1998. The “caring for pets” plate has maintained its popularity with Connecticut drivers and is still second in sales to only the Long Island Sound plate.



VII. APCP ON THE WEB

Information about the program, regulations, certification applications for veterinary practices, feral cat grant and low-income applications and even information about ordering a new “caring for pets” commemorative license plate can all be located by going to the Department’s web site.

www.ct.gov/doag

VIII. STANDARD DOG LICENSE APPLICATION

In the Spring of 2007, the artwork of New Haven second grader Kylee Brown was selected to act as the symbol for the new generic dog license application. More than 500,000 applications were distributed statewide in an attempt to increase the number of dog tags sold by making licensing easy and convenient for the public. All dogs over six months of age must be licensed and require a current rabies vaccination prior to licensing. Current fees are \$19.00 for any unsterilized dog and \$8.00 for those that are altered. The main source of APCP income is from a surcharge on all dog licenses. More than 65% of the program’s income comes from the sale of dog licenses. Simply put, the more tags sold the more benefits for pound pets, feral cats and low-income families.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS:

After fifteen years of existence (continually since 2001), the Animal Population Control Program continues to see a drop in the number of municipal dogs and cats. With the passage of P.A. 07-105 in 2008, which provides up to 10% of APCP income to be set aside for feral cats and low-income residents, it appears the direction of the program will be moving towards increasing benefits to those two new groups.

For the first time since the inception of the APCP in 1995, dog (51%) and cat (49%) adoptions are almost equal due to a decrease in the pound population and an increase of benefits to feral cats and low-income pets. Statistics for the feral cat and low-income programs contained in this report indicate that non-profit organizations are filling program requirements for ferals by using the majority of vouchers issued. However, the low-income program’s first year numbers needs to be more closely examined as to why this sector of the population is not taking better advantage of benefits.

In keeping with the program’s mission statement, to reduce the surplus dog/cat population in Connecticut and with the pound population on a continual decline, further evaluation and a possible increase in benefits to the low-income and feral cat portions of the program need to be considered.

END OF REPORT

