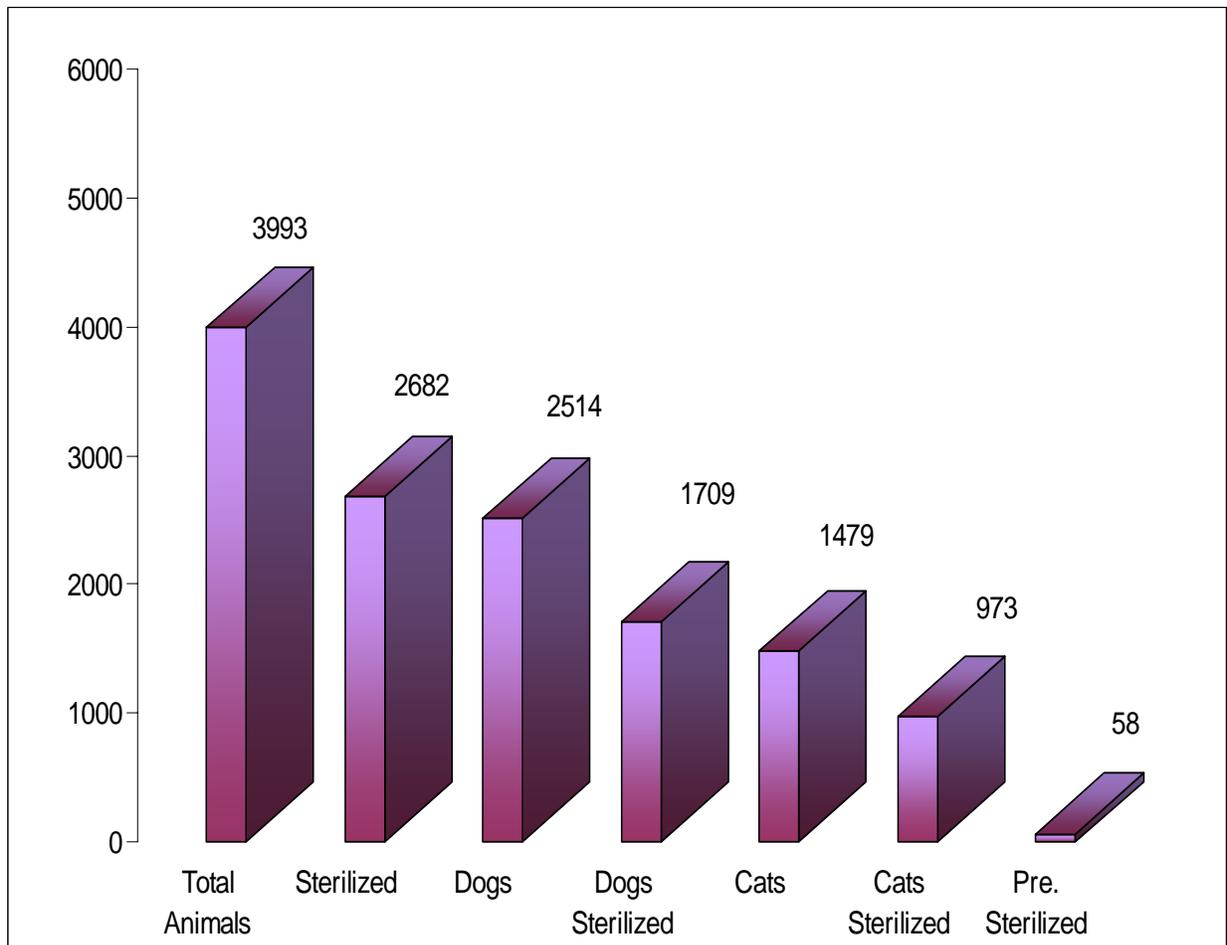


CT ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

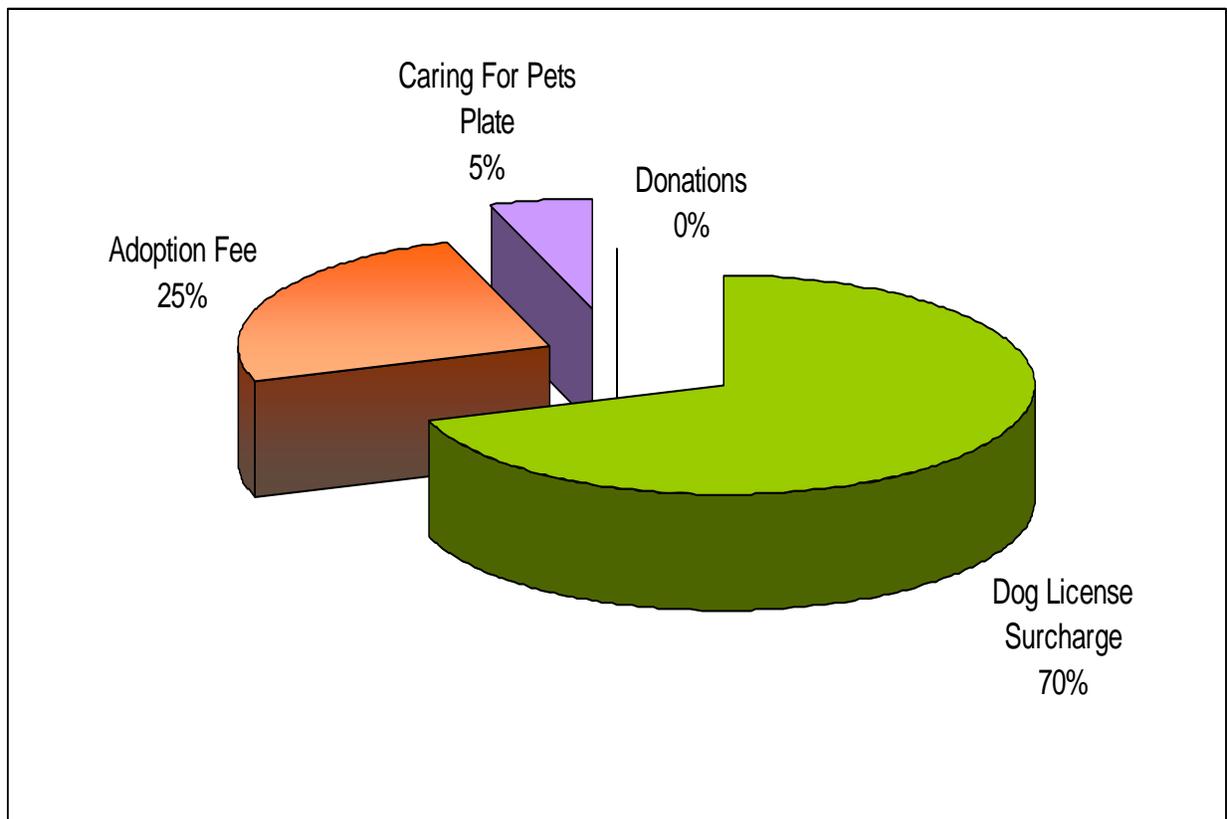
In 2010, the APCP handled 3993 animals (2514 dogs/1479 cats) from municipal impound facilities. Benefits were not offered to feral cat organizations and pets owned by low-income CT citizens due to the state budget crisis. Benefits were provided for 2682 pets (1709 dogs/973 cats) for a 67% overall sterilization compliance rate. From that total 58 animals (47 dogs/11 cats) were found to be previously sterilized. In addition, 5,364 pre-surgical vaccinations were issued, of which one-half were rabies vaccines.



INCOME

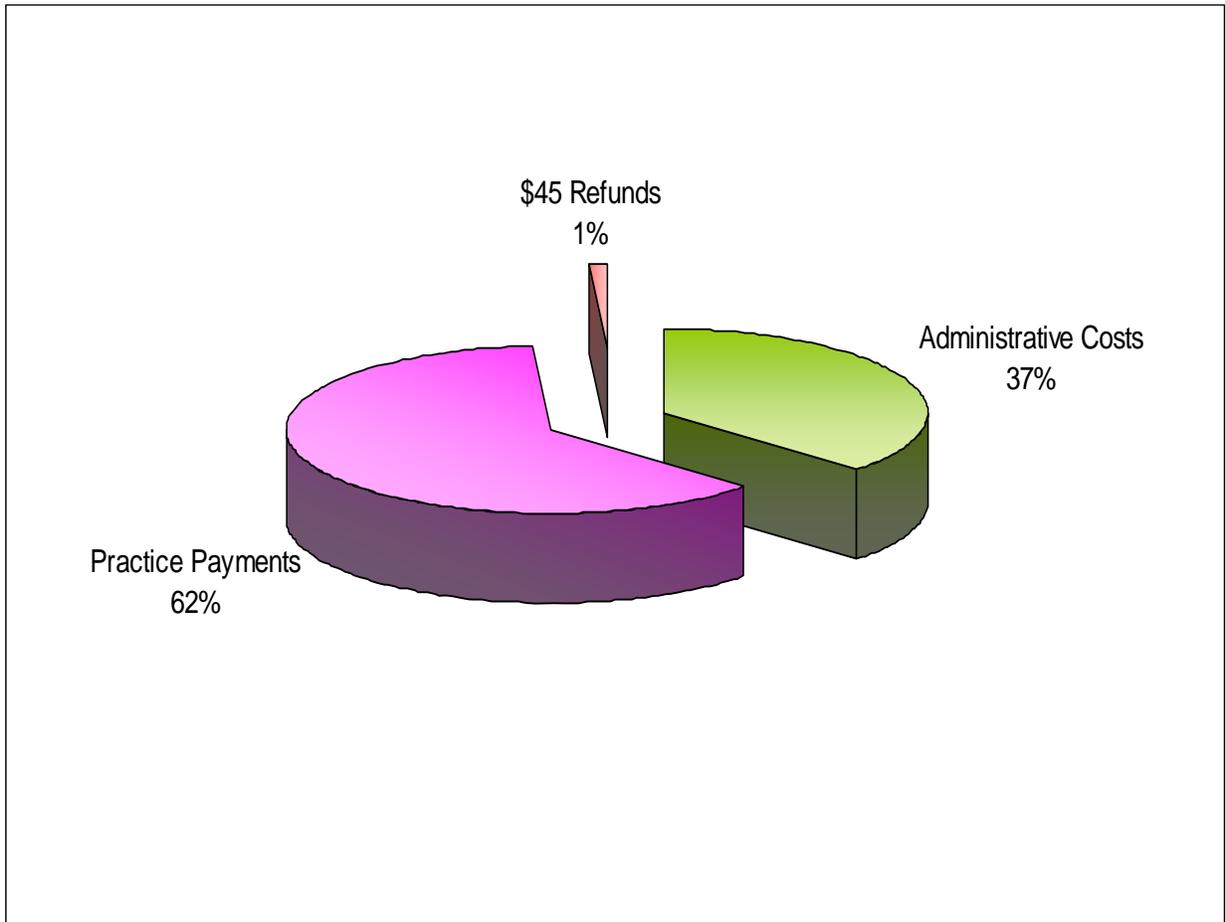
The program has its own dedicated account and receives no money from the state's general fund. Revenue is received from the following: annual surcharge on Connecticut dog licenses (\$2.00 sterilized/\$6.00 unsterilized), the \$45 mandatory voucher fee, proceeds from the sale of the "caring for pets" 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 also sent in by the towns on a quarterly basis and revenue from pet plate sales are deposited weekly by the DMV into a program account.

For FY 2010, \$514,040 was received from dog license surcharge revenue, \$184,295 from the \$45 program adoption fee, \$39,665 from the DMV for the sale of the "caring for pets" commemorative license plate and no donations for a total of \$738,000.



EXPENSE

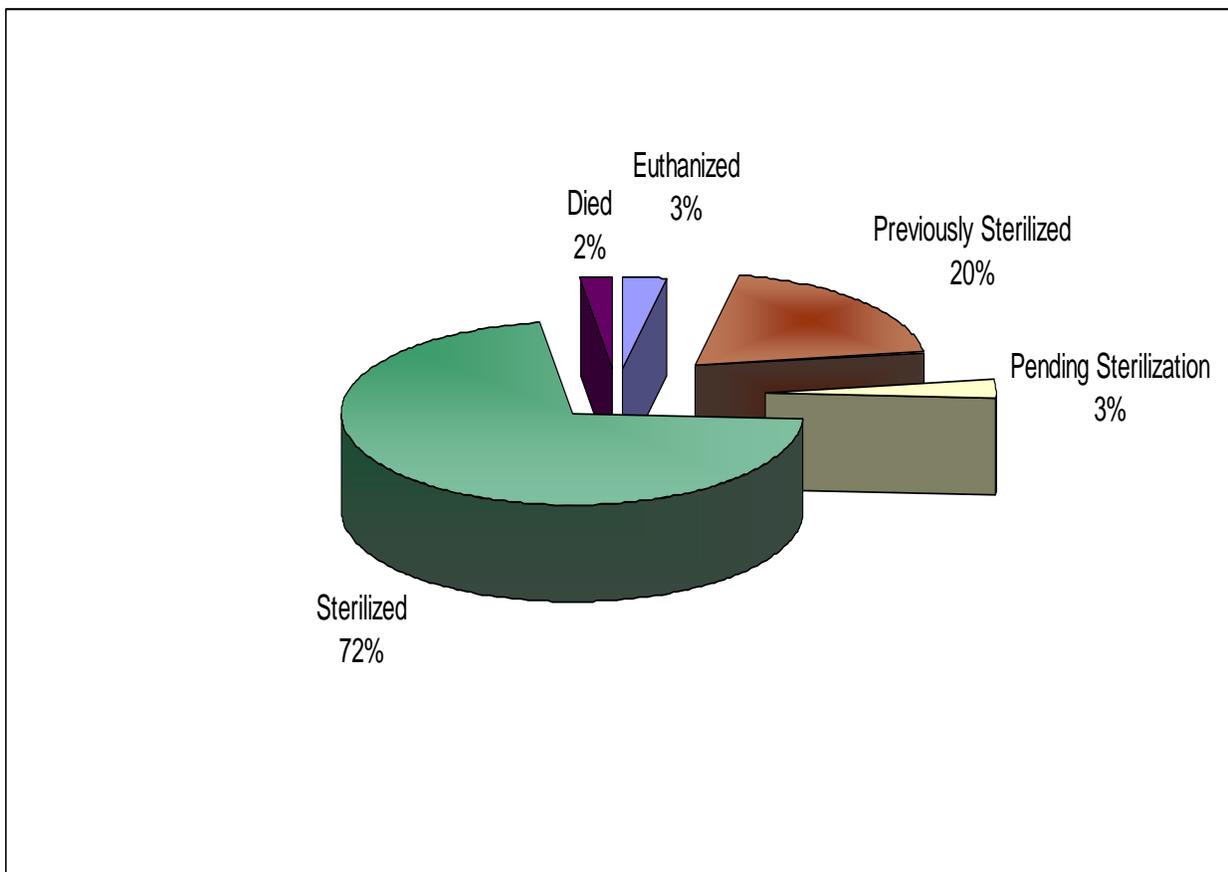
The program provided benefits for 2682 pets for a total payment of \$306,470 to 223 participating veterinary practices. The monthly average payment to practices was \$25,539 and the average benefit for cats/dogs including two coincident vaccinations (\$20 per pet) is \$117. In addition, \$2610 was paid out as \$45 adopter refunds for 58 pets that were either previously sterilized, returned or humanely destroyed. Administrative costs totaled \$184,964 for an overall program expense of \$491,434.



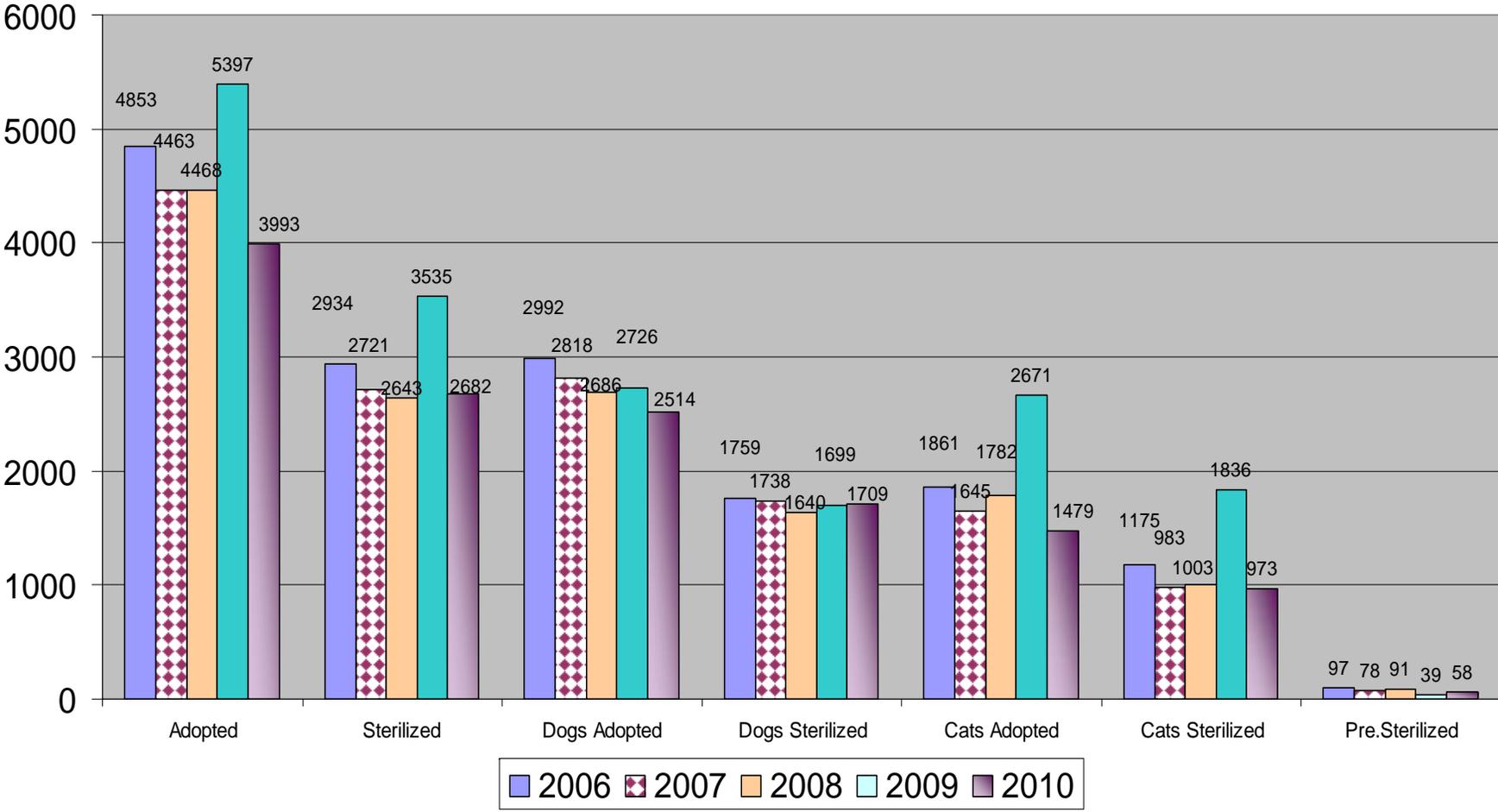
CONNECTICUT HUMANE SOCIETY

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 2010, 229 pets (100 dogs/129 cats) were removed from municipal impound facilities. From that total, 164 pets (72%) were vaccinated and sterilized, 45 were found to be previously sterilized, 7 were euthanized, 5 died and 8 sterilizations are still pending.



ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM FIVE YEAR REPORT*



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 must be verified by the Department of Social Services (DSS). Once approved, vouchers are then issued by the APCP to low-income recipients. All vouchers are good for sixty (60) days.

For FY 2010, benefits were not offered for this program due to the state budget crisis.

FERAL CAT GRANT PROGRAM

For FY 2010, the Department of Agriculture did not provide funding for the feral cat grant program due to the state budget crisis. When in operation, Connecticut non-profit organizations apply for grant vouchers at the start of each fiscal year for the purpose of providing vaccination and sterilization benefits to feral cats. Vouchers are awarded each Fall and organizations are then given seven months to utilize the benefits.

BREED PROFILE (Municipal Pets Only)

Of the 3993 total pets adopted from municipal pounds, the mix breed was once again the primary dog type with 1,089 adopted and 781 sterilized (72 %). The Pit Bull is second with 492 adoptions and 340 sterilized (69%). The top five purebreds are as follows: Chihuahua 98/75 sterilized (77%), Beagle 66/39 sterilized (59%), Labrador Retriever 60/32 sterilized (53%), Rottweiler 57/37 sterilized (65%) and German Shepherd 40/24 sterilized (60%).

Cat adoptions totaled 1467 with 971 sterilized (66%). The domestic short hair lead the way with 1,200/805 sterilized (67%). The domestic medium hair was second with 137/84 sterilized (61%) and the domestic long hair third with 130/82 sterilized (63%). A few pedigree cats such as Himalayan, Manx, Persians and Siamese were included in the total.

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, 224 practices were certified to participate encompassing 515 individual veterinarians.

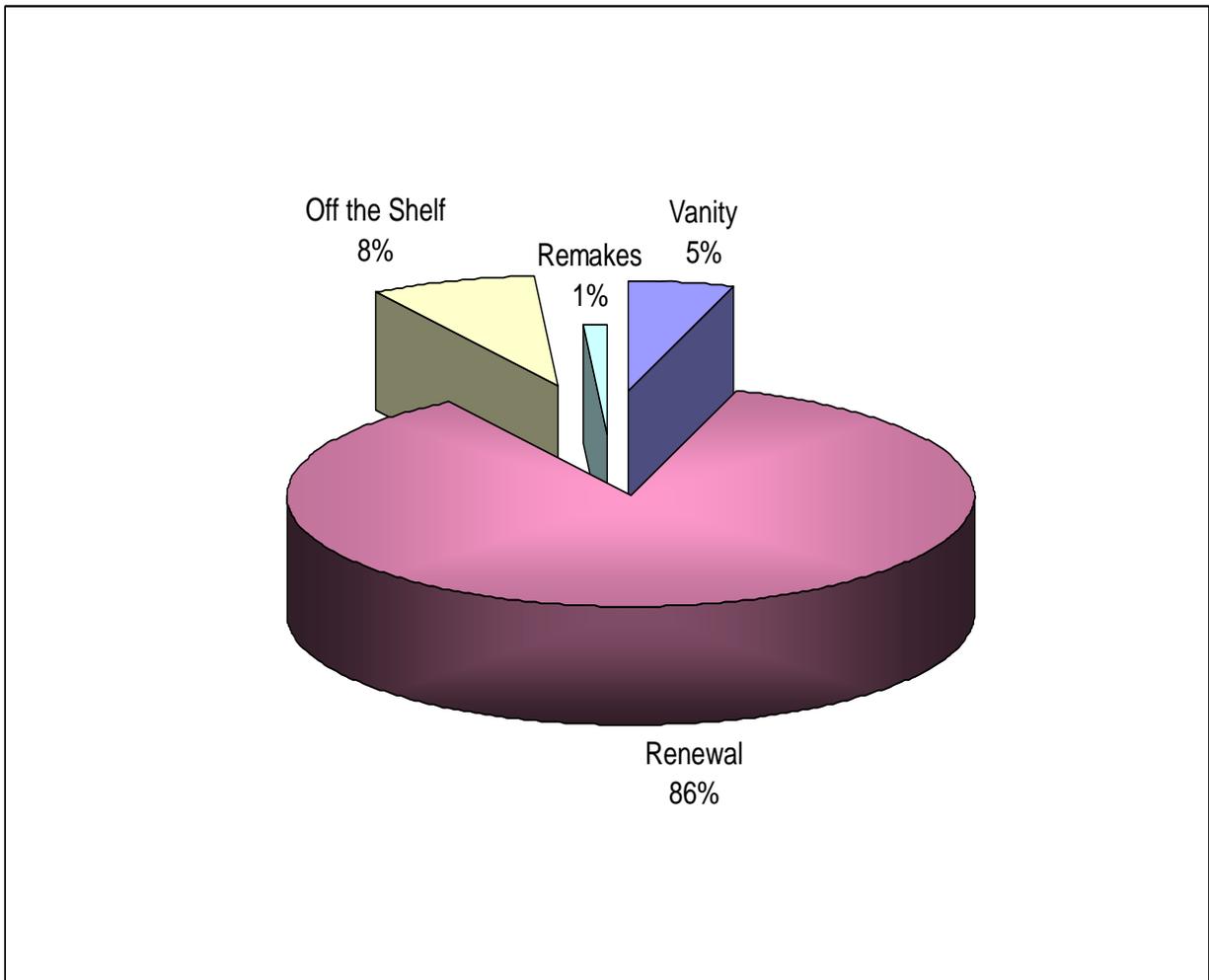
CARING FOR PETS COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATE:

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

In 2010, \$39,625 was deposited into the program’s dedicated account from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Of the 372 plates sold, 211 (\$7,385) were the off the shelf type, 29 (\$1,595) remakes, 132 (\$7,260) vanities and \$23,385 was received from 2,338 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.



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 70% of the program's income comes from the sale of dog licenses. From 2008 to 2010 dog license revenue increased by \$25,632. More tags sold means more pets eligible for sterilization benefits in Connecticut.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

After seventeen years of operation, the Animal Population Control Program (APCP) continues to see a reduction in the number of dogs and cats impounded at municipal facilities. The APCP expanded its scope of spay/neuter and vaccination benefits by implementing the provisions of Public Act No. 07-105 in 2008 which resulted in up to 10% of APCP income to be set aside for each of the feral cat and low-income resident programs. Based on an increased response for assistance from the low-income community, we recommend that up to 30% of APCP income be used for the low income resident program.

The payment to participating veterinarians for pre-surgical immunizations has not increased since implementation of the APCP in 1995 while, during the same time period, the cost of animal vaccines has significantly increased. Therefore, we recommend that the amount of reimbursement to participating veterinarians be increased for immunizations coincident with a spaying or neutering operation.

We recommend that an additional APCP payment be made to participating veterinarians for a pre-surgical heartworm test for dogs. This is required as an essential component of the pre-surgical protocol in most veterinary practices because dogs with heartworm disease present a high anesthetic and surgical risk. It appears that the added cost of this test, not covered by the APCP, has been a deterrent to some owners in the low-income resident program from using their APCP voucher to have their pets sterilized.

The above recommendations are based on what the Department views as the changing needs of the state's pet population and structuring the APCP to improve the delivery of its services and benefits to meet those needs.

