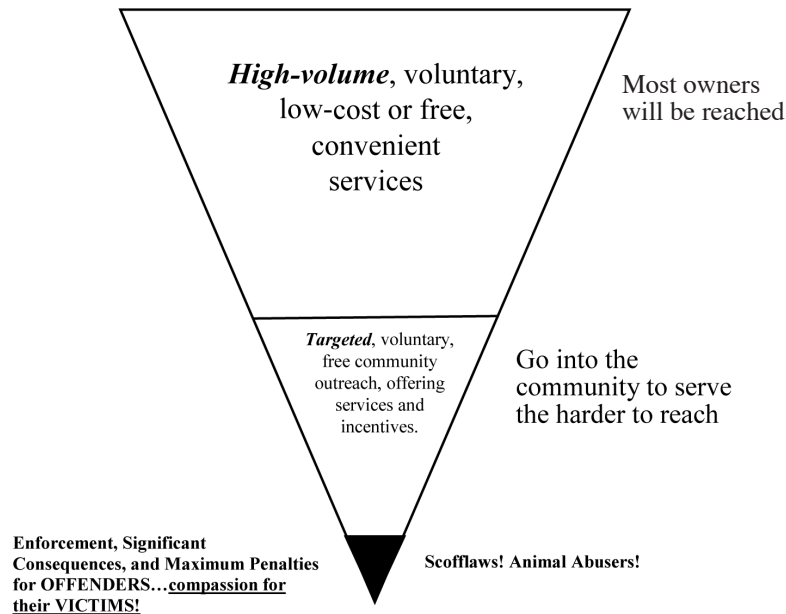


COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: COOPERATION, EDUCATION AND COMPASSION

Animal care and control agencies best serve their communities when they develop strong partnerships with stakeholders, utilizing each organization's strength to deliver to every member of the community: low-cost or free, accessible spay/neuter; education; and owner support.



Community partnerships target the right end of the leash!

- In Jacksonville, Florida, Animal Care and Protective Services and First Coast No More Homeless Pets partner to provide free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for dogs and cats. Since 2002, First Coast has performed over 85,000 pet sterilizations. Pet intake at JACPS has been reduced 31%. Pet euthanasia has been reduced by 58%.
- Berkeley, California has capitalized on available local resources: working with rescue groups, providing educational materials and support to potential adopters, and partnering with local groups to provide training for dogs. Over a period of 10 years, Berkeley Animal Services reduced impound numbers by 90%, euthanizing only 50 dogs in 2007.
- Shot fairs in lower income communities offering affordable and easily accessible vaccinations and spay/neuters, as well as education about responsible pet ownership, will have had a positive impact on dogs and owners. Over a period of 2 years, at shot fairs in Oakland, California, over 2500 dogs were vaccinated.

- In 2006, Calgary, Alberta, after extensive consultation with stakeholders in the community, enacted its Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, built on four simple principles: license and provide permanent identification; spay and neuter; provide training/socialization, proper diet/medical care; don't allow your pet to become a threat or a nuisance. In 2009, Animal Services received reports of 159 dog bites, 58 of which even broke skin. Their canine euthanasia rate was 5%, and confined to dogs with significant health or behavior issues.

“Not only are proactive programs... cost effective, in the end they are our only hope to end pet overpopulation. Bitter experience has shown that we cannot adopt our way out of pet overpopulation or build our way out. A system that continues to spend upwards of 95% of its resources on reactive programs is doomed to failure and frustration.... Investing in proactive programs allows the increasing reallocation of resources to proactive programs, building momentum to the day when shelters will realize their century-long mission--to rescue and rehabilitate homeless animals and find a loving home for each and every one.”

Peter Marsh, Esq.

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