

## **SUCCESS/FAILURE CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING PUNATIVE AND MANDATORY SPAY AND NEUTER ORDINANCES**

- 1. Does it achieve its goal which is to reduce the number of animals entering shelters and being euthanized?*
- 2. Does it have a positive or negative effect on budgeting costs?*
- 3. Does it have a positive or negative effect on licensing rates or licensing renewals, especially for the targeted categories?*

## FAILED PUNITIVE AND MANDATORY SPAY AND NEUTER LAWS

<p><b>Santa Cruz County, California</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. animal control costs <i>doubled</i> after mandatory spay/neuter passed</li><li>2. shelter impounds and euthanasias rates are decreasing more slowly than in surrounding counties that don't have spay/neuter mandates</li><li>3. licensing compliance dropped sharply</li></ol>
<p><b>Los Angeles City, California, 2000 enacted 'Spay or Pay'</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Animal Control budget <i>increased</i> 269%</li><li>2. Licensing renewals dropped 8% between 2005-2008 totaling ~ \$2M loss in revenue.</li></ol>
<p><b>Los Angeles City, California, 2008.</b> In the <i>SINGLE</i> year since passage of their mandatory spay/neuter ordinance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 30% increase in shelter euthanasias, sharply reversing 10 years worth of steady progress</li><li>2. 20% increase in shelter impounds</li><li>3. Request for increased budget was denied forcing a cancellation of free and low cost spay/neuter vouchers.</li></ol>
<p><b>Los Angeles County, CA</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Decrease in licensing compliance even though enforcement costs are up.</li></ol>

**FAILED PUNITIVE AND MANDATORY SPAY AND NEUTER LAWS (cont.)**

<p><b><u>Unincorporated San Mateo County, California</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. euthanasias <i>increased</i> 126% for dogs and 86% for cats after ordinance passed</li><li>2. dog licensing decreased by 35%</li></ol>
<p><b>Lake County, California</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ordinance took effect June, 2006</li><li>2. 4.5% drop in licensing between 2004-2006 (2005 – DNR)</li><li>3. A further 19% drop in licensing renewals from 2006-2007</li><li>4. Prior trend of decreasing dog impounds became flat</li></ol>
<p><b>King County, WA</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Animal Control expenses increased 56.8%</li><li>2. Euthanasia rates decreased more slowly than before the law was enacted. licensing compliance of intact dogs dropped.</li></ol>
<p><b>Montgomery County, Maryland</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>repealed</i> their ordinance after a 50% drop in licensing compliance.</li><li>2. When the law was enacted, it was estimated that 550 breeding permits would be issued per year. Only an average of 30 permits were actually issued per year.</li></ol>
<p><b>Fort Worth, Texas</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>Repealed</i> their ordinance after a drop in licensing compliance, and a decrease in rabies vaccinations.</li></ol>



# NEWS FROM

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## CITY CONTROLLER LAURA CHICK

City Hall East, Room 300, 200 N. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tuesday, May 27, 2008**

### **CHICK CITES ANIMAL SERVICES ON FISCAL OPERATIONS**

Los Angeles – The Department of Animal Services' fiscal operations are struggling with lax collection efforts, undocumented spending and haphazard contracting practices according to an audit released by City Controller Laura Chick.

"My audit of the fiscal operations has uncovered a Department which is struggling to move forward," said Chick.

"The largest source of revenue for Animal Services is from the dog license fee. The City of Los Angeles has anywhere from 400,000 to 800,000 dogs, however, my audit found that the Department has registered only 123,000. Increasing this number of licensed dogs would not only boost revenues, it would also help the Department achieve its mission," wrote Chick in a letter to the City's elected leadership.

"In addition, the Department, to say the least, is inactive in its collection of monies owed it, to the tune of at least \$2 million over the last two and a half years. Delinquent accounts are not transferred to the City Attorney as they should be," said Chick.

"My report also revealed that the Department's spending and contracting operations are haphazard and lack needed oversight. Thousands of dollars of charges made on purchasing cards had no requisite support information as to why the expenditures were made. Contracts were awarded with little transparency, lacking crucial documentation, and at times were executed without the required signatures of the City Attorney or City Clerk," said Chick

"In February, the City Council passed a mandatory spay and neuter ordinance which takes effect this October. This is a crucial time for Animal Services as it prepares for this new and significant responsibility. It is critical that it get its financial house in order and maximize every revenue generating opportunity available," said Chick.

"I will be bringing forward additional information regarding the Department's Spay and Neuter Program in a performance audit to be released this summer," concluded Chick.

The Animal Services audit can be accessed at Controller Chick's web-site at [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org).

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# NEWS FROM

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## CITY CONTROLLER LAURA CHICK

City Hall East, Room 300, 200 N. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tuesday, August 19, 2008**

**CHICK FINDS ANIMAL SERVICES ILL-PREPARED TO**  
**IMPLEMENT OR ENFORCE NEW MANDATORY**  
**SPAY AND NEUTER LAW**

Los Angeles- City Controller Laura Chick has found the Department of Animal Services to be ill-prepared to implement or enforce the new mandatory spay and neuter law.

Earlier this year, the City Council passed, and the Mayor signed, an ordinance that mandates all dogs and cats in the City of Los Angeles must be spayed or neutered.

“First and foremost, the Department has no plan to educate the public regarding mandatory sterilization and how they can comply. In fact, the City Council instituted a six-month grace period till the ordinance goes into effect this October to give the Department the opportunity to prepare the public. Now on the eve of its enactment, the Department has done little to promote awareness or compliance with the law,” said Chick.

-more-

Chick  
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“Though Animal Services is charged with enforcing the mandatory spay and neuter law, it does not intend to do so. Instead, the Department, as it does with the leash law and dog licensing, will rely on voluntary compliance. My recent fiscal audit shows the Department is losing out on millions of dollars by not enforcing existing laws and collecting fees and fines, such as with dog licenses,” said Chick.

The Chick report makes 24 recommendations for improving the spay and neuter program.

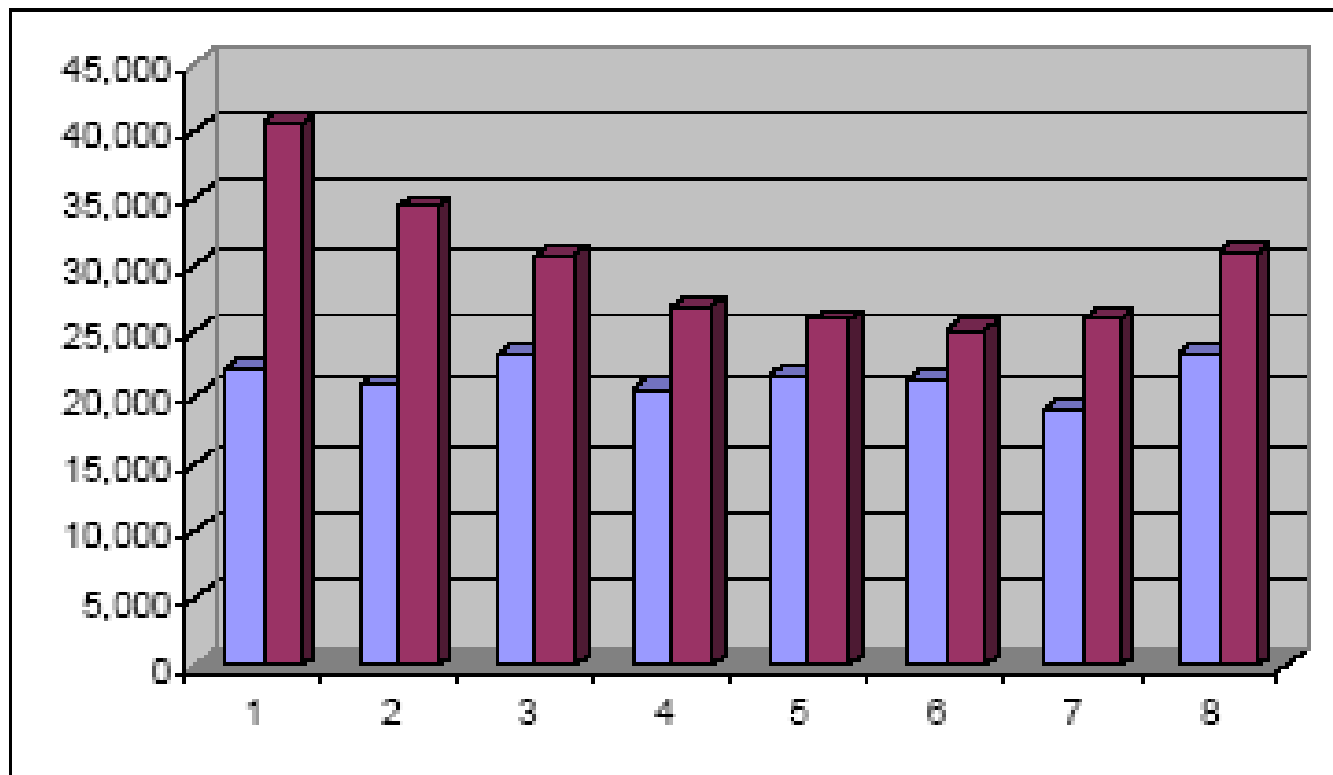
“Part of the City’s current efforts to increase spay and neuter services has been to create clinics in seven citywide animal care centers. We are just at the front end of this endeavor and the Department is already finding that very few veterinarian providers are responding to the City’s call for bids for services,” said Chick

“Animal Services is a key component in the safety and welfare of the public and our animal community. Many of the problems found in my audit are traced to the fact that Animal Services lacks a well-developed strategy for carrying out their Spay and Neuter Program. I hope my recent audits will help the City’s leadership focus on what this Department really needs to be successful,” concluded Chick.

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# Excerpt from Los Angeles Animal Services 2008 Statistical Report

**Table 2: Cat and Dog Intake Separated**  
*Blue = Cat Intakes; Red = Dog Intakes*

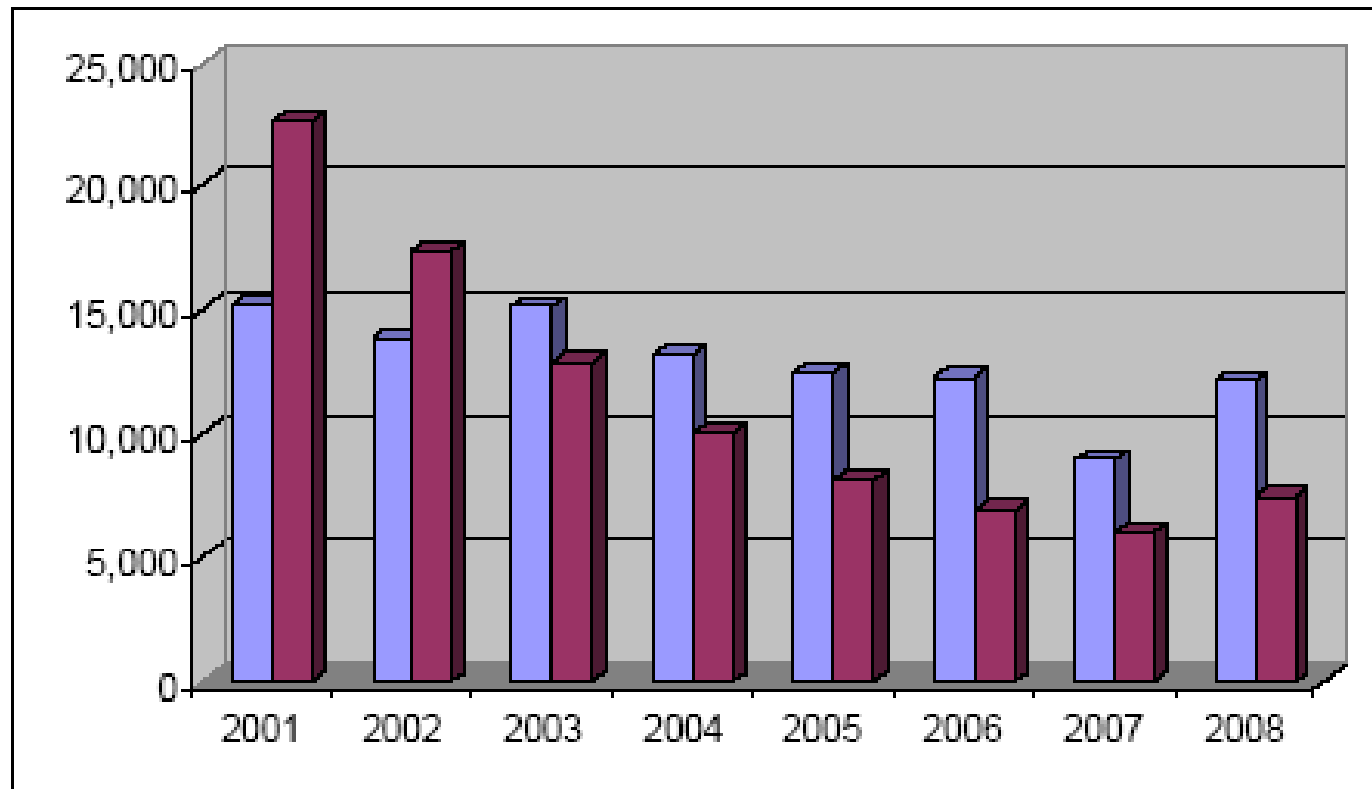


Year	Cats	Dogs
2001	22,094	40,442
2002	20,908	34,295
2003	23,117	30,605
2004	20,645	26,949
2005	21,651	25,740
2006	21,273	24,999
2007	19,172	25,792
2008	23,378	30,813

# Excerpt from Los Angeles Animal Services 2008 Statistical Report

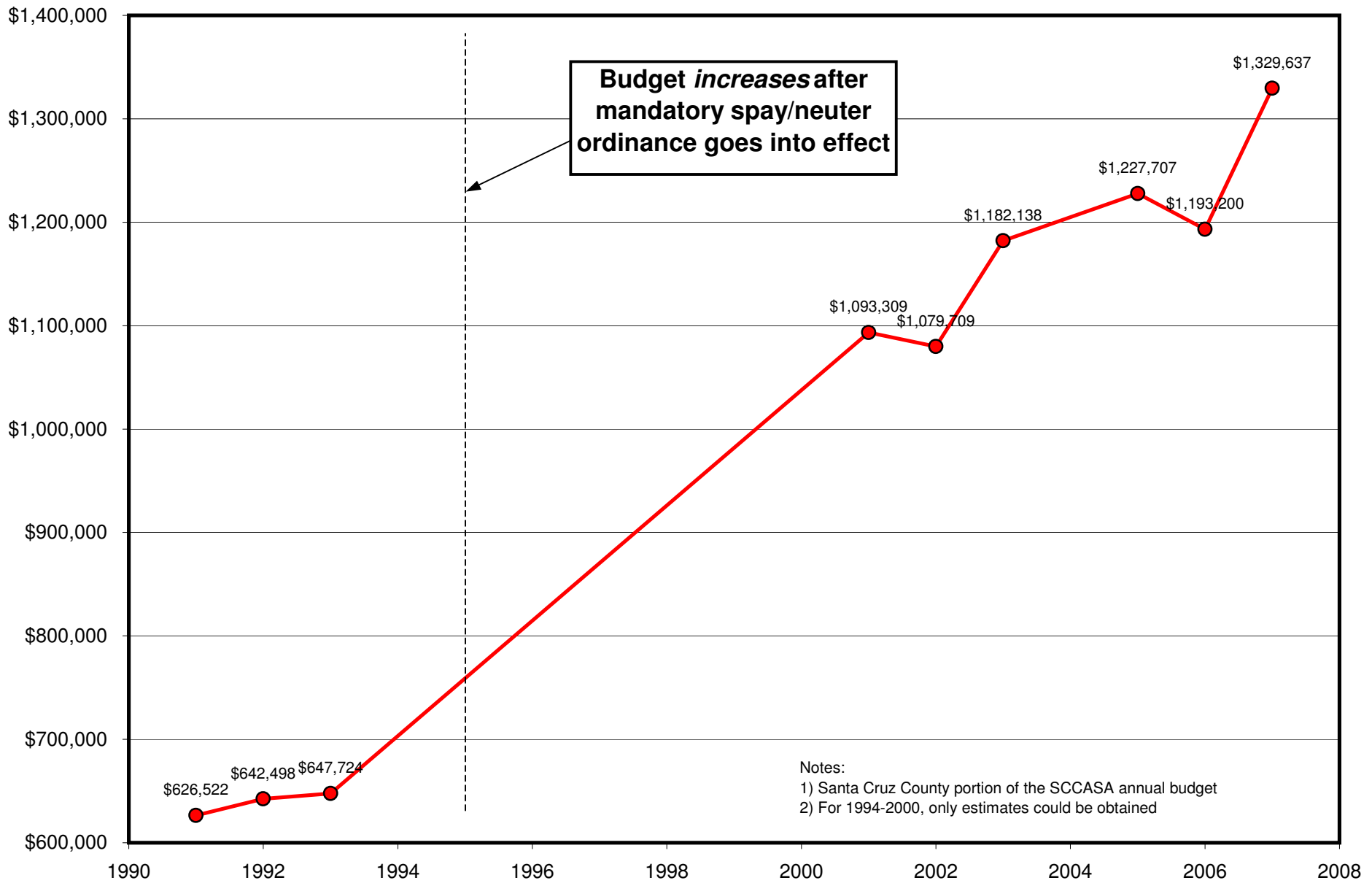
**Table 8: Cat and Dog Euthanasia Rates Comparison**

*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

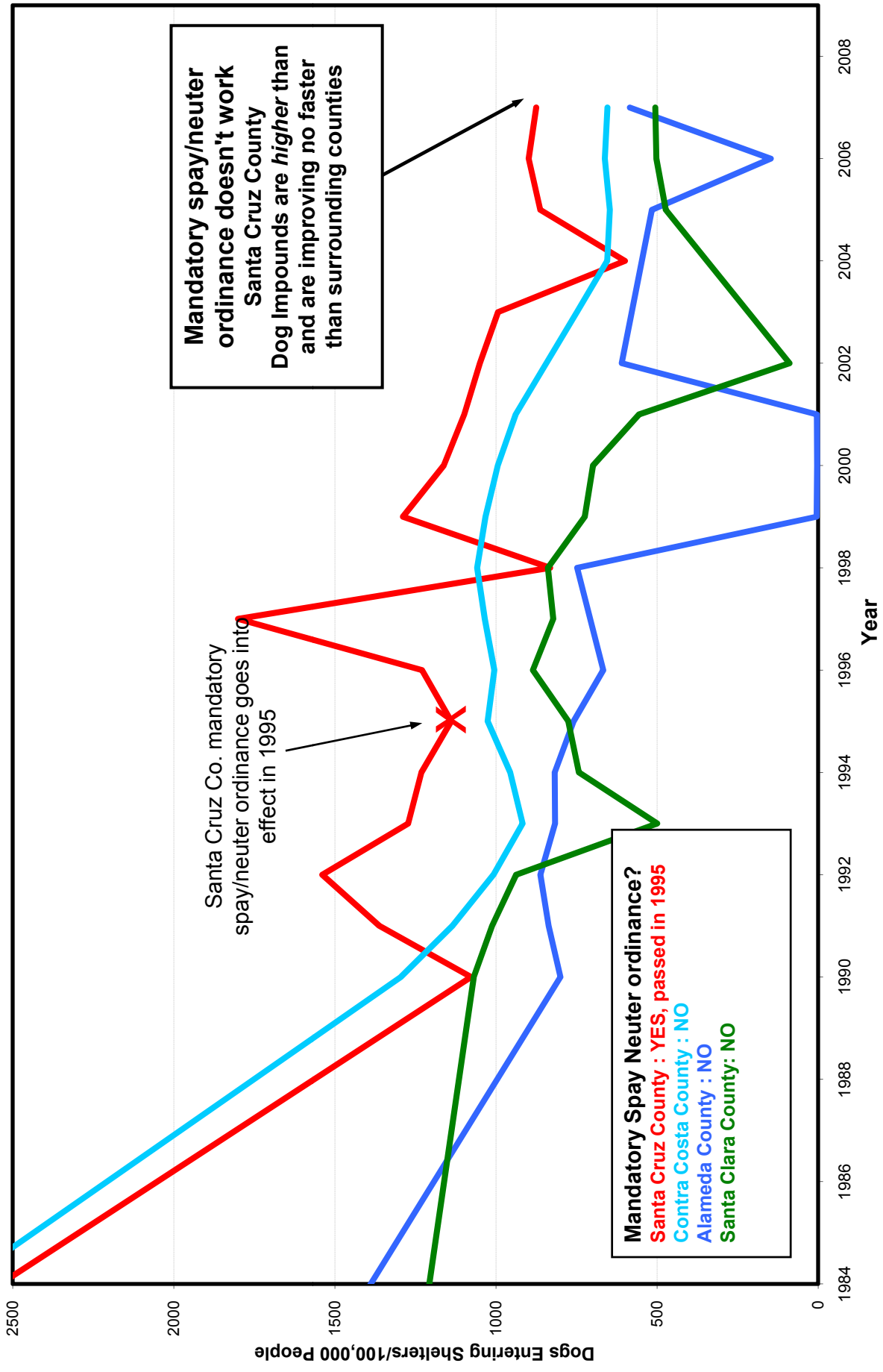
# Santa Cruz County Animal Services Budget



Source: County of Santa Cruz budgets per State Controller County Budget Act, provided by Teresa Johnson: Courtesy of the National Animal Interest Alliance



# California Department of Health Services - Veterinary Public Health Section Dog Impounds per 100,000 People Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa Counties



Mandatory spay/neuter ordinance doesn't work Santa Cruz County and are improving no faster than surrounding counties

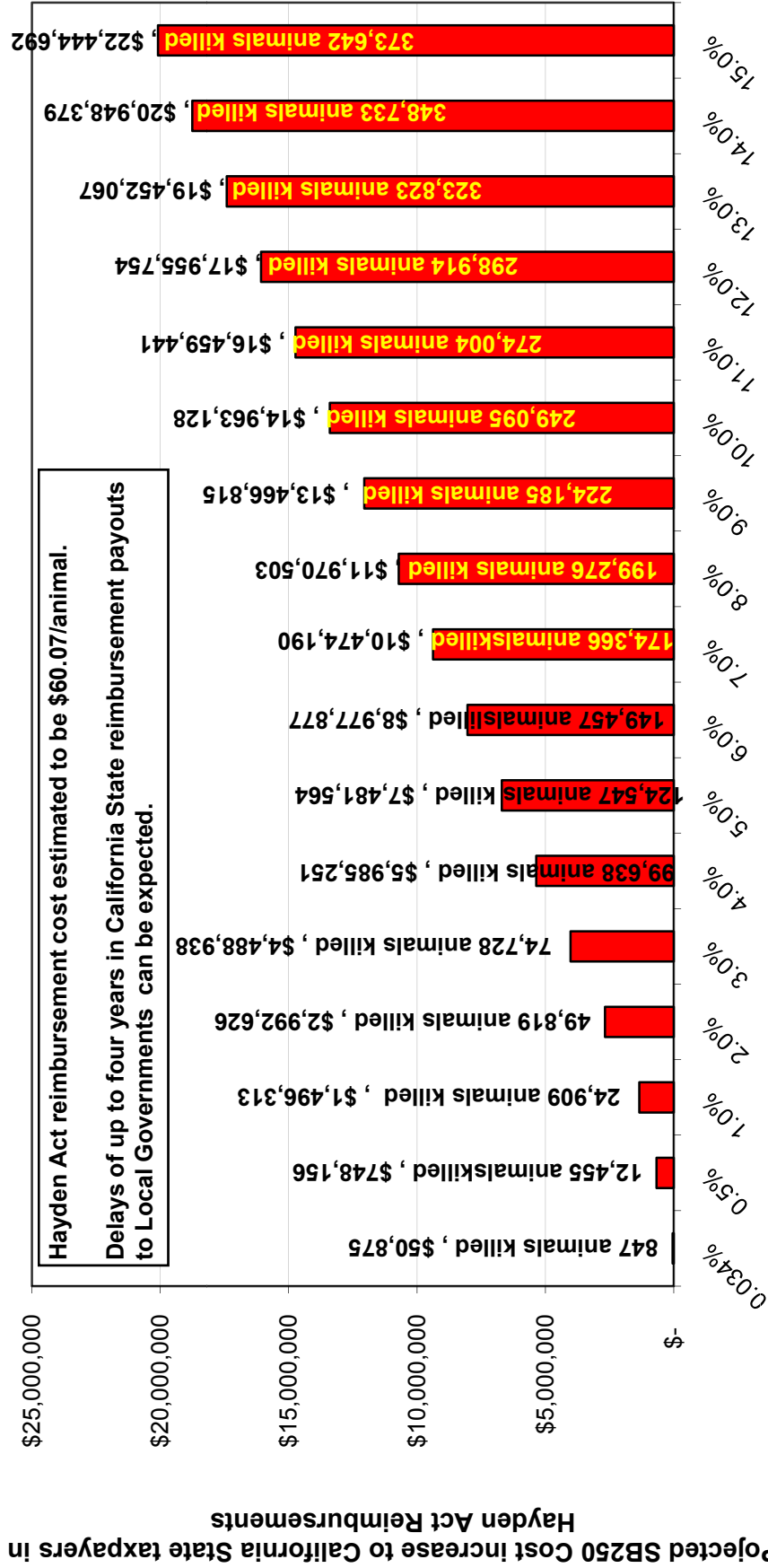
Santa Cruz Co. mandatory spay/neuter ordinance goes into effect in 1995

Mandatory Spay Neuter ordinance?  
Santa Cruz County : YES, passed in 1995  
Contra Costa County : NO  
Alameda County : NO  
Santa Clara County : NO

**PROJECTED INCREASE IN HAYDEN ACT COSTS DUE TO SB250.**

There are estimated to be 5.8 Million owned and unaltered dogs and cats in California.

*For every 1% of this target group cited (1% enforcement rate) due to SB250, 24,909 dogs and cats can be expected to be euthanized*



Hayden Act reimbursement cost estimated to be \$60.07/animal.  
Delays of up to four years in California State reimbursement payouts to Local Governments can be expected.

STARTING VALUES FROM REFERENCED SOURCES											
CA human population (2007) [5]	Average number of members per household (2000) [2]	Average number of dogs per household [1]	Average number of cats per household [1]	% CA households own dogs [1]	% owned dogs that are unaltered (home) [3]	% CA households that own cats [1]	% owned cats that are unaltered (home) [3]	2006 CA abandonment rate: Dogs [4]	2006 CA abandonment rate: Cats [4]	2006 CA average euthanasia rate: dogs [4]	2006 average euthanasia rate: cat [4]
36,553,215	2.80	1.70	2.20	37.2%	39.0%	32.4%	21.7%	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%

CALCULATED VALUES OF UNALTERED CALIFORNIA CATS AND DOGS		
total unaltered owned dogs in CA	total unaltered owned cats in CA	total unaltered owned cats & dogs in CA
3,219,764	2,019,273	5,239,037

[1] Statistics source: <http://www.avma.org/reference/marketstats/ownership.asp>  
 [2] California Current Population Survey Report as of March 2007 [2]  
[http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/ReportsPapers/documents/CPS07\\_final.pdf](http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/ReportsPapers/documents/CPS07_final.pdf)

[3] <http://www.petpopulation.org/characteristicsofshelter.pdf>  
 Characteristics of Shelter-Relinquished Animals and Their Owners Compared With Animals and Their Owners in U.S. Pet-Ownng Households'

[4] California Department of Health Services - Veterinary Public Health Section, National Animal Interest Alliance,  
[http://www.naiashelterproject.org/state\\_shelters.cfm?state=CA](http://www.naiashelterproject.org/state_shelters.cfm?state=CA)  
 [5] <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06000.html>

total unaltered dogs=(A3/B3)\*C3\*E3\*F3  
 total unaltered cats=(A3/B3)\*D3\*G3\*H3

**Predicted Hayden Act reimbursement cost/animal = \$23,000,000(2008-2009 budget projection)/382,855(dog&cats euthanized in 2006 as per CDHS-VPHS reported data) = \$60.07/animal**

AB1634 INCREASE OF HAYDEN ACT COST REIMBURSEMENT FOR CITATIONS ISSUED AS A PERCENT FUNCTION OF TOTAL AVAILABLE TARGET GROUP													
Increased Hayden Act cost reimbursement component due to AB1634 @ \$60.07/animal	total owned unaltered dogs in CA	% of total available owned unaltered dogs cited	number of available owned unaltered dogs cited	% total available owned unaltered cats cited	total owned unaltered cats in CA	number of available owned unaltered cats cited	% cited dogs abandoned (based on 2006 CA abandonment rate)	% cited cats abandoned (based on 2006 CA abandonment rates)	2006 CA average euthanasia rate: dogs	2006 average euthanasia rate: cat	Number of dogs euthanized	Number of cats euthanized	Number of animals euthanized
\$ 45,543	\$ 3,219,764	0.034%	1,095	0.034%	2,019,273	687	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	322	436	758
\$ 669,750	\$ 3,219,764	0.5%	16,099	0.5%	2,019,273	10,096	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	4,741	6,408	11,149
\$ 1,339,499	\$ 3,219,764	1.0%	32,198	1.0%	2,019,273	20,193	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	9,482	12,817	22,299
\$ 2,678,999	\$ 3,219,764	2.0%	64,395	2.0%	2,019,273	40,385	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	18,964	25,634	44,598
\$ 4,018,498	\$ 3,219,764	3.0%	96,593	3.0%	2,019,273	60,578	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	28,447	38,450	66,897
\$ 5,357,997	\$ 3,219,764	4.0%	128,791	4.0%	2,019,273	80,771	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	37,929	51,267	89,196
\$ 6,697,496	\$ 3,219,764	5.0%	160,988	5.0%	2,019,273	100,964	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	47,411	64,084	111,495
\$ 8,036,996	\$ 3,219,764	6.0%	193,186	6.0%	2,019,273	121,156	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	56,893	76,901	133,794
\$ 9,376,495	\$ 3,219,764	7.0%	225,383	7.0%	2,019,273	141,349	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	66,375	89,717	156,093
\$ 10,715,994	\$ 3,219,764	8.0%	257,581	8.0%	2,019,273	161,542	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	75,858	102,534	178,392
\$ 12,055,494	\$ 3,219,764	9.0%	289,779	9.0%	2,019,273	181,735	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	85,340	115,351	200,691
\$ 13,394,993	\$ 3,219,764	10.0%	321,976	10.0%	2,019,273	201,927	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	94,822	128,168	222,990
\$ 14,734,492	\$ 3,219,764	11.0%	354,174	11.0%	2,019,273	222,120	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	104,304	140,984	245,289
\$ 16,073,991	\$ 3,219,764	12.0%	386,372	12.0%	2,019,273	242,313	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	113,786	153,801	267,588
\$ 17,413,491	\$ 3,219,764	13.0%	418,569	13.0%	2,019,273	262,505	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	123,269	166,618	289,887
\$ 18,752,990	\$ 3,219,764	14.0%	450,767	14.0%	2,019,273	282,698	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	132,751	179,435	312,186
\$ 20,092,489	\$ 3,219,764	15.0%	482,965	15.0%	2,019,273	302,891	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	142,233	192,252	334,485
\$ 133,949,928	\$ 3,219,764	100.0%	3,219,764	100.0%	2,019,273	2,019,273	77.5%	97.8%	38.0%	64.9%	948,220	1,281,677	2,229,897

Increased Hayden Act cost: cats = (total unowned unaltered cats in CA)\*(%total available owned unaltered cats)\*(% cited cats abandoned (based on 2006 CA abandonment rate))\*(2006 CA average euthanasia rate: cats)\*(\$60.07)

Increased Hayden Act cost: dogs = (total unowned unaltered dogs in CA)\*(%total available owned unaltered dogs)\*(% cited dogs abandoned (based on 2006 CA abandonment rate))\*(2006 CA average euthanasia rate: dogs)\*(\$60.07)

total Increased Hayden Act cost = Increased Hayden Act cost:cats + Increased Hayden Act: dogs



## Position Statement on Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws

### Background

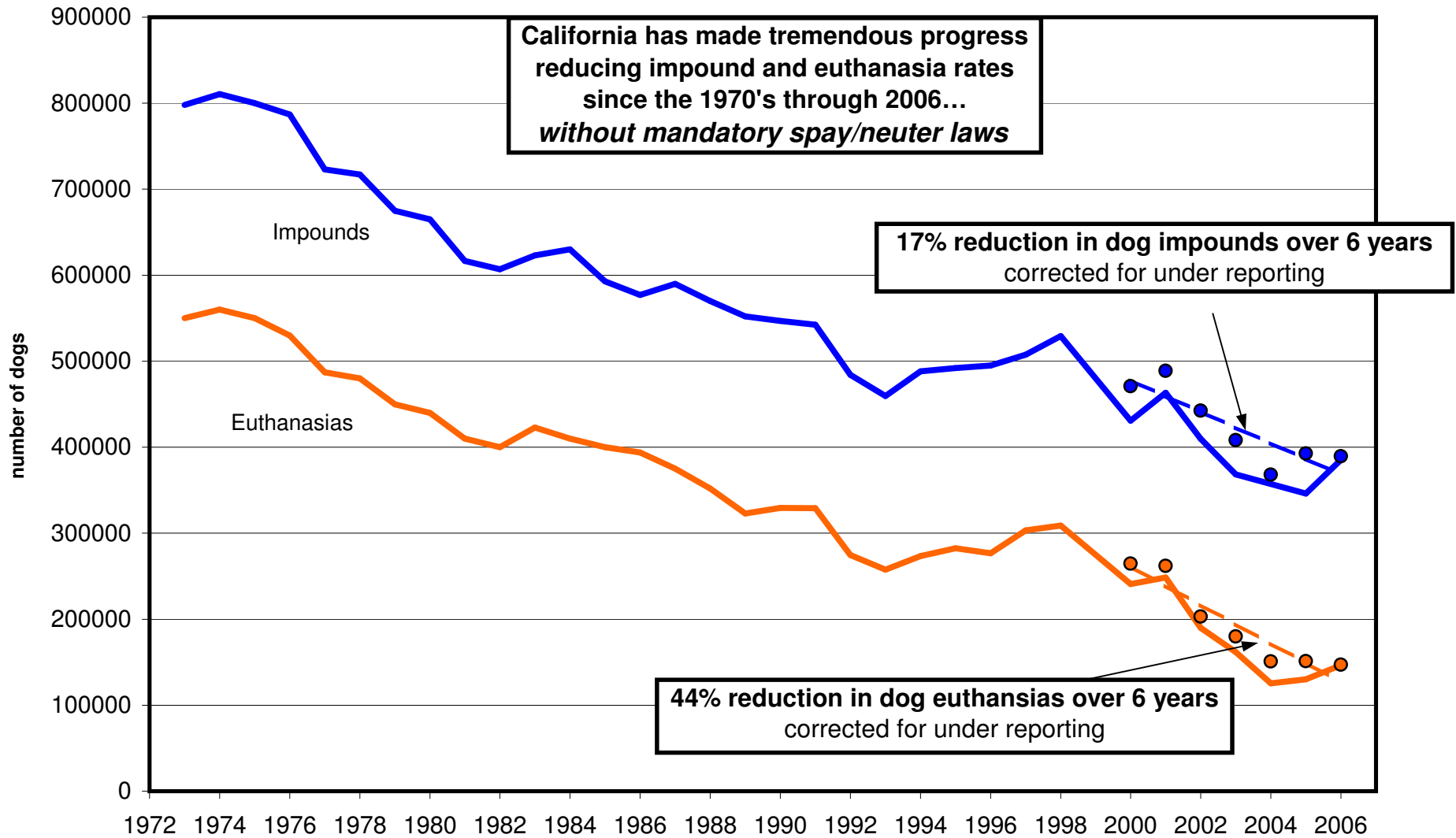
Nationwide, per capita shelter intake and euthanasia have been in a steady decline for the past several decades and research indicates that the main reason for this decline is the increasing incidence of spayed and neutered animals in the pet population (Zawistowski et al., 1998; Irwin, 2001; Clancy & Rowan, 2003). In fact, the veterinary community recently formally acknowledged the importance of safe, efficient, accessible sterilization programs as the "best antidote to the mass euthanasia of cats and dogs resulting from overpopulation" (Looney et al., 2008). There is, however, variation in the trend in shelter intake and euthanasia decline across communities as well as a difference between that for dogs and cats. As a result, many communities are currently searching for methods to reach the segments of the animal-owning population that are still contributing disproportionately to companion animal overpopulation. Attempts to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia through the passage of legislation mandating the spaying and neutering of companion animals has recently garnered much attention and debate.

**In contrast, the ASPCA is not aware of any credible evidence demonstrating a statistically significant enhancement in the reduction of shelter intake or euthanasia as a result of the implementation of a mandatory spay/neuter law.**

To the knowledge of the ASPCA, the only method of population control that has demonstrated long-term efficacy in significantly reducing the number of animals entering animal shelters is the voluntary sterilization of owned pets (Clancy & Rowan 2003; FIREPAW, 2004; Secovich, 2003).

# California Shelter Impounds and Euthanasias for Dogs, 1973-2006

California Department of Health Services - Veterinary Public Health Section



Sources: California Department of Health Services - Veterinary Public Health Section, with assistance from the National Animal Interest Alliance and The Animal Council