

Cat Demographics

by

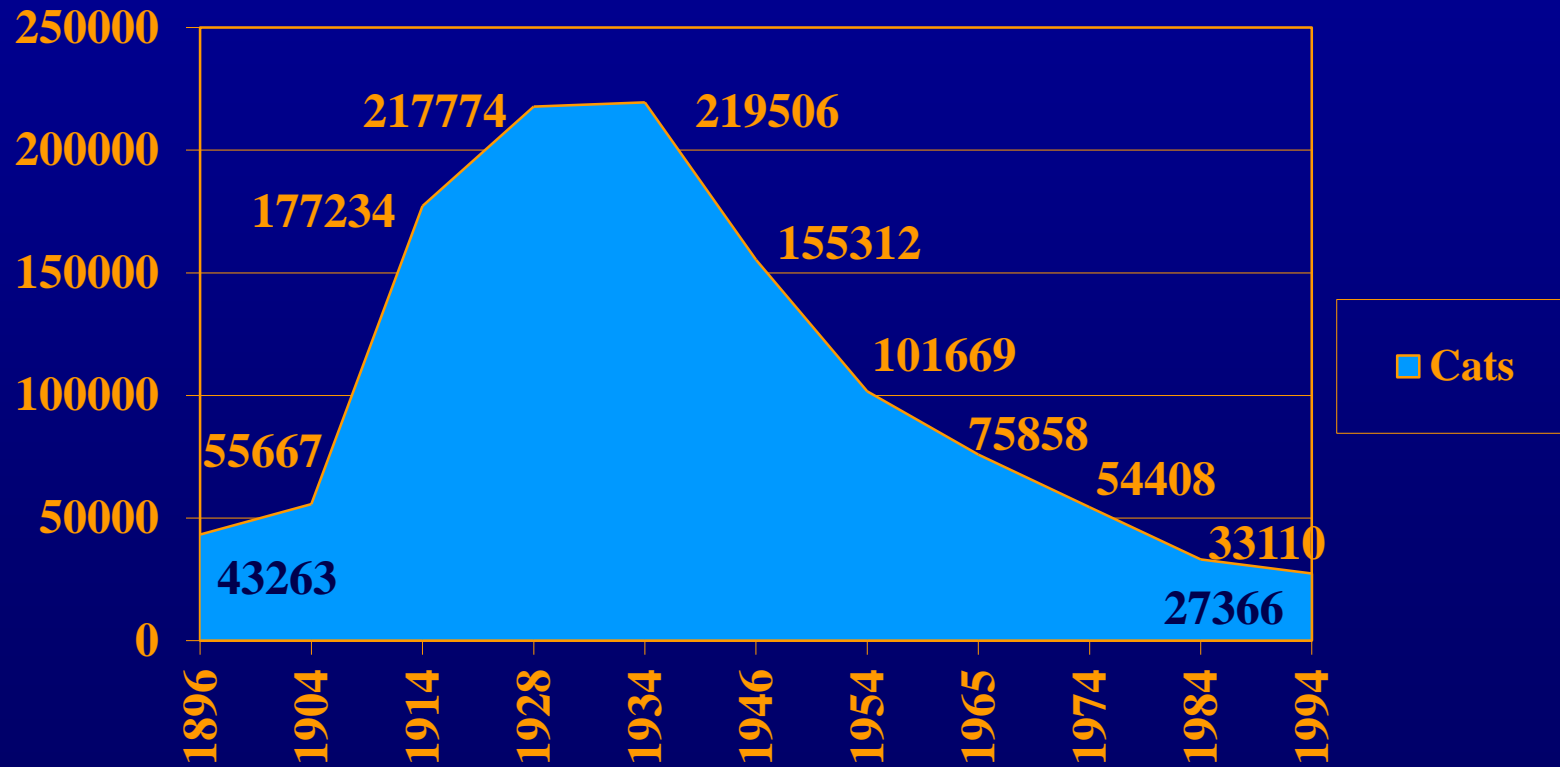
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As of October, 2010

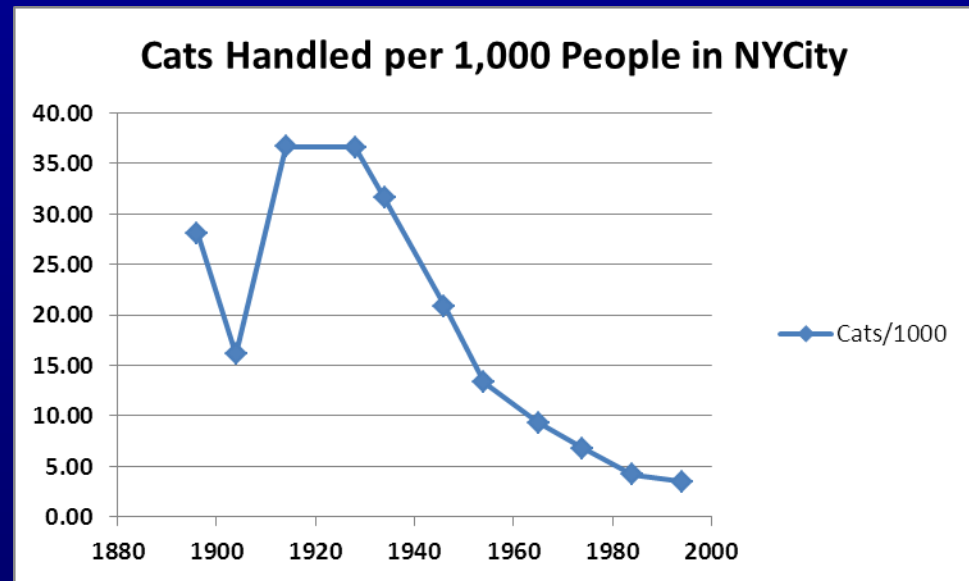
Cat Intakes at ASPCA

(1896-1994)



Historical Cat Intake Data - NYC

- **Very high cat intake into ASPCA shelter in first half of 20th Century.**



USA Trends

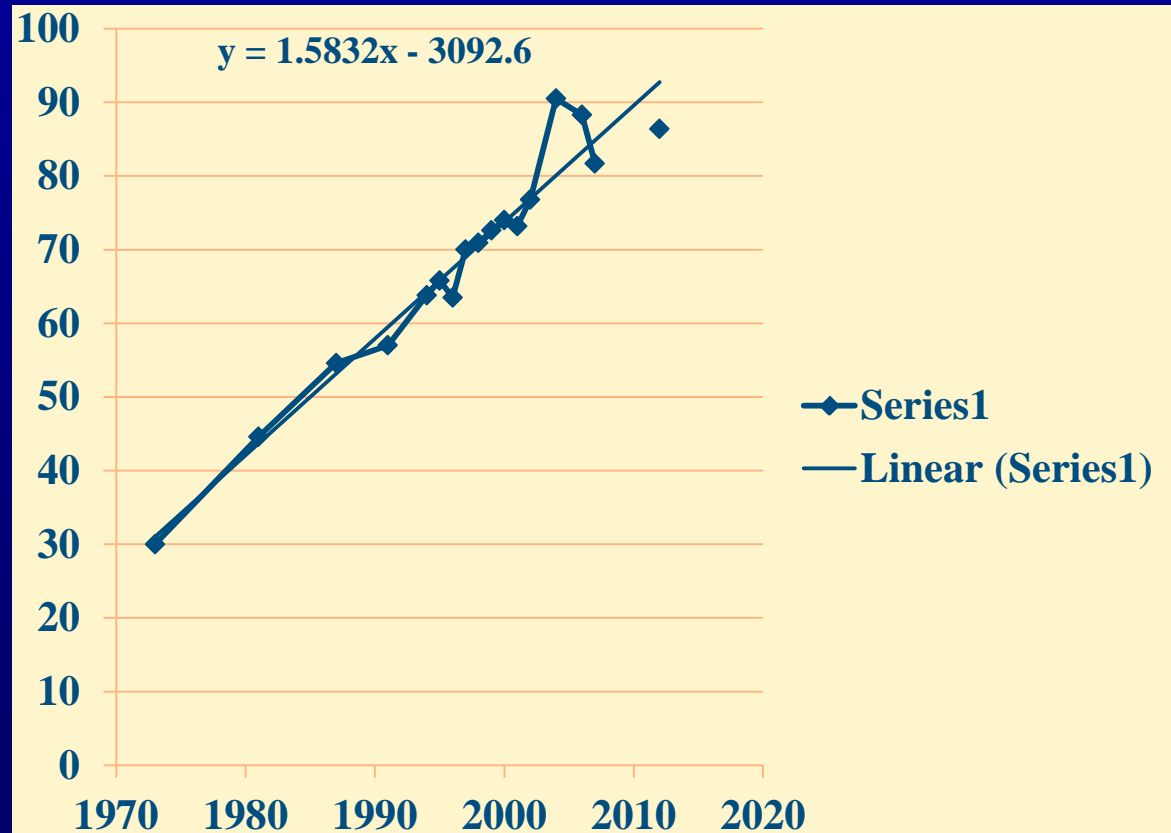
- In 1970, 25% dogs were strays, very low sterilization rates (ca. 10-20%)
- In 1973, ca. 13 million dogs & cats (20%) ex 65 million owned are euthanized.
- In 2008, ca. 4 million dogs & cats (3%) ex 140 million owned are euthanized.
- In 2008, approx. 85% of owned cats and 65-75% of dogs sterilized.
- Shelter numbers dramatically down since 1970, but, relatively, stray cats still a problem

US Owned Cat Numbers

	Total US HHs (mill)	% HHs with cats	# Cats per HH	Total # Cats (mill)
1987	88.1	30.5	2	54.6
1991	92.5	30.9	2	57.0
1996	98.6	27.3	2.2	59.1
2001	107.3	31.6	2.1	70.8
2007	115.6	32.4	2.2	81.7

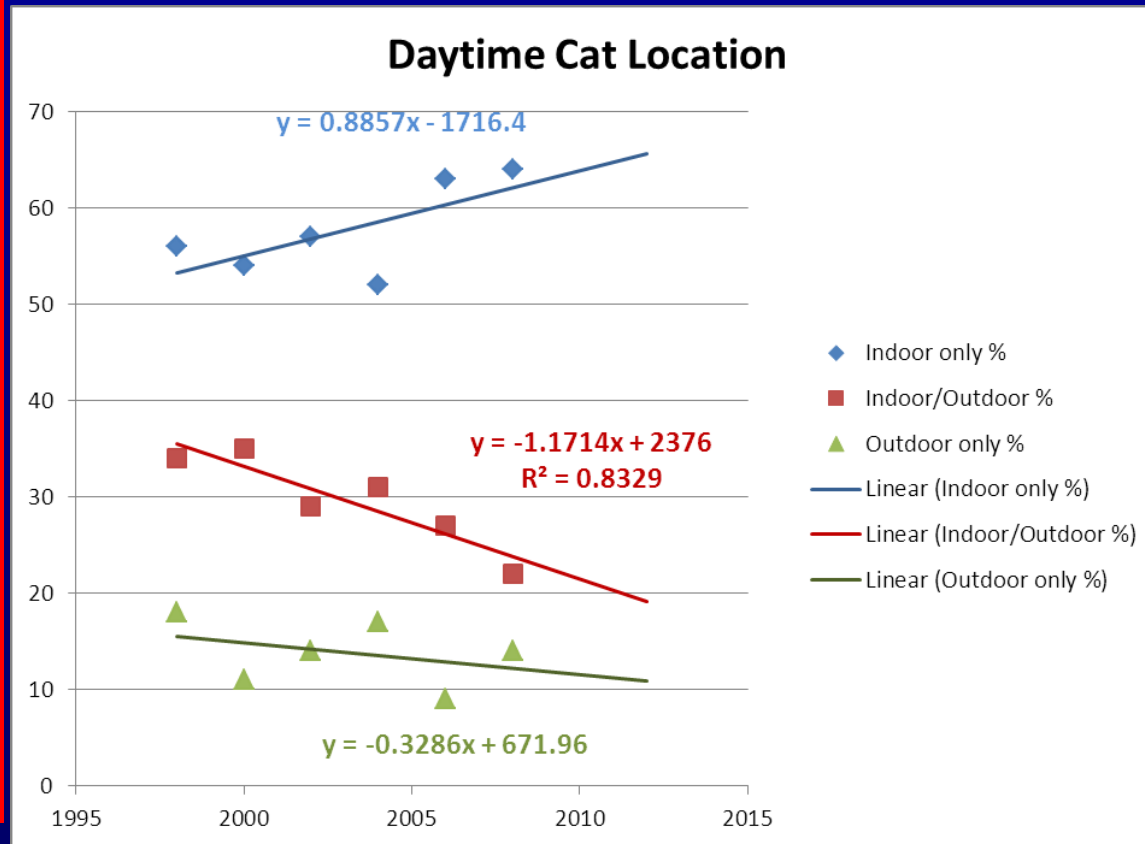
US Owned Cat Population Trends

- Graph based on three data sets – AVMA, APPA, PFI.
- Cat population growing at about 1.6 million a year

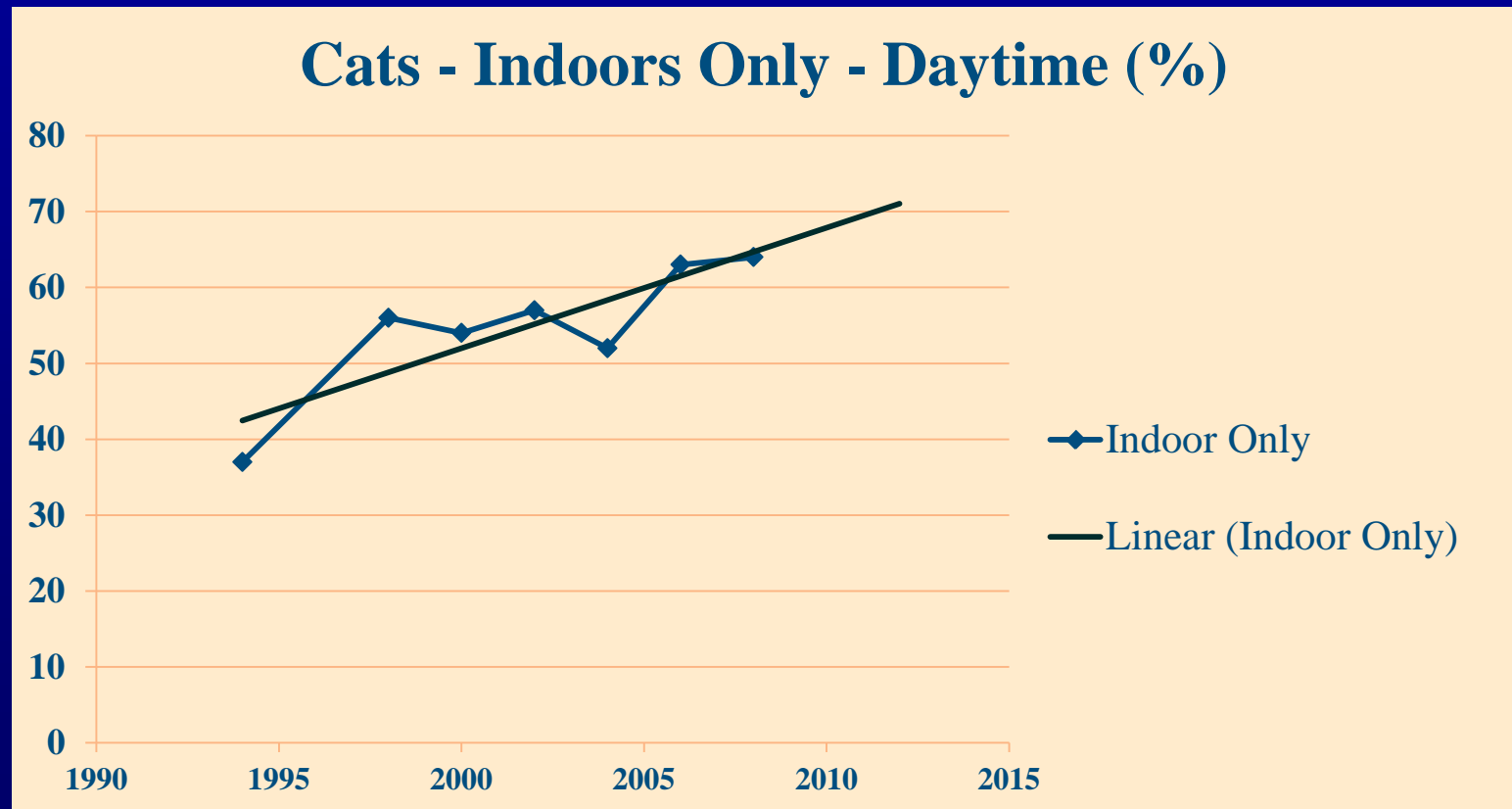


Cat Location Trends - Daytime

- **APPA** surveys show indoor cat proportion growing fast.

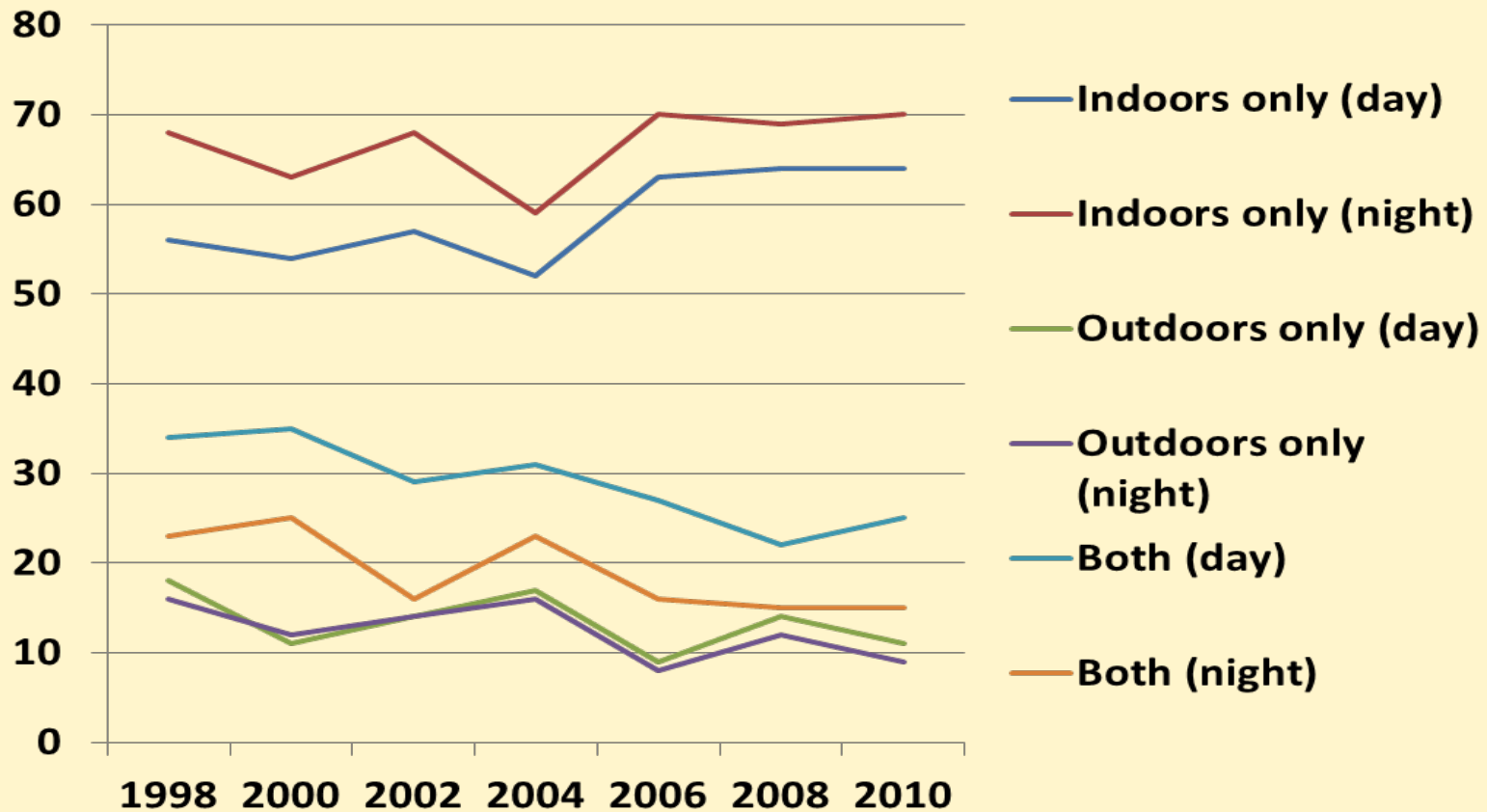


Indoor Cat (Daytime) %s



1994 Datapoint for California (Johnson, 1994), remainder from APPA Surveys

Where Cats are Kept (%)



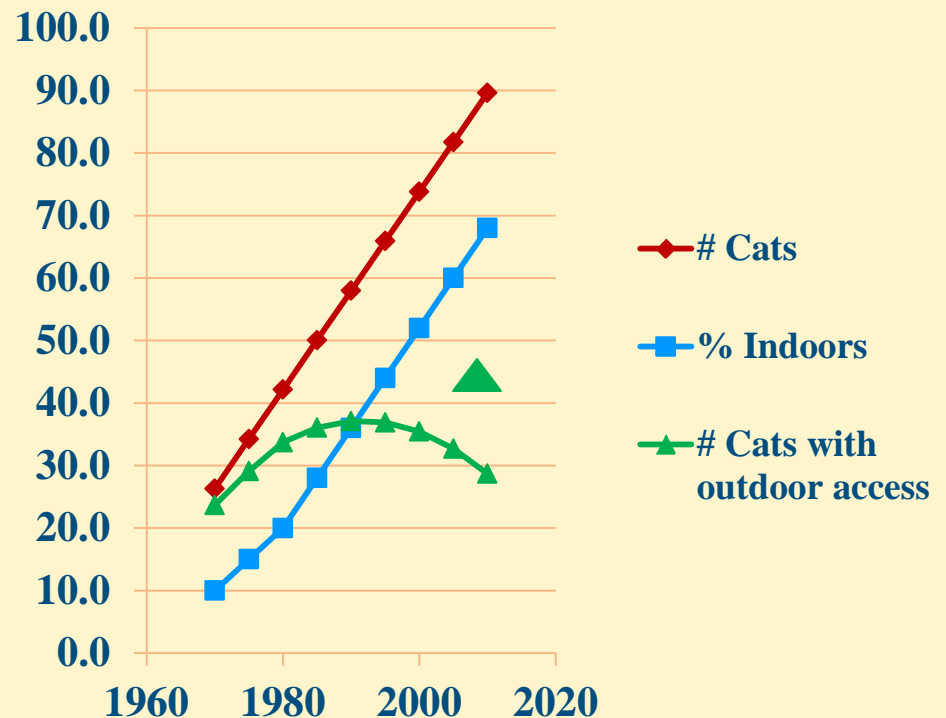
From APPA Surveys

Outdoor Access & Time Outdoors

- **Of the cats with outdoor access, only around 10% (of a total of 35% during day and 25% at night) are outdoors all the time = 1 Outdoor Cat FTE.**
- **Cats who are not outdoors all the time probably spend about one third of their time outdoors.**
- **Therefore, outdoor cat FTEs amount to about 0.15 of the total cat population FTEs during the day and about 0.12 outdoor cat FTEs during the night.**
- **Therefore, owned cat “predation number” is only around 12-15% of actual cat population.**

Owned Cats & Outdoor

- # owned cats has increased substantially.
- Increasing # confined indoors all the time.
- # of cats with outdoor access (29 mill) actually lower today than in 1990 (37 mill).



Must continue tracking indoor/outdoor #s – Actual # outdoors very sensitive to % indoors – at 50% indoors, # outdoors is then 44.8 million in 2010.

Stray/Feral Cat Numbers - 1

- **The range of estimates for feral/stray cat numbers is rather wide – ranging from around 10 million to over 50 million.**
- **High estimates based mainly on studies of outdoor cats in Florida and California where outdoor cat population estimated at 80% of owned cat population.**

Stray/Feral Cat Numbers - 2

- **But there do appear to be substantial differences in outdoor cat populations in states with mild winters compared to those with severe winter climates.**
- **In Maine, the outdoor cat population appears to be no more than 10-15% of owned population.**

U.S. Stray Cat Population Estimates

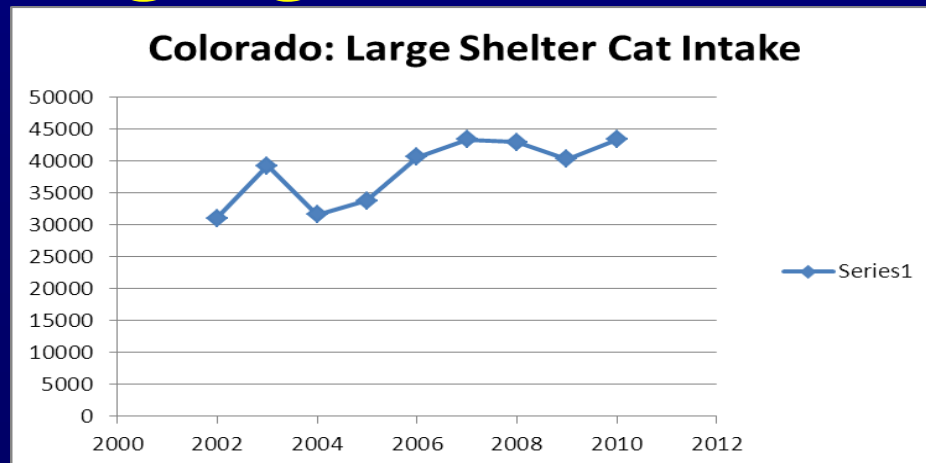
- **13 million in winter, 24 million in summer** (Clifton, M., *Where cats belong – and where they don't*, ANIMAL PEOPLE [June 2003] .) **Since revised down to 7.5 million in winter and 15 million in summer.**
- **50 million** (Levy, J., *Humane strategies for controlling feral cat populations* [2004], Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 225, No. 9.)
- **60 to 100 million** (Alley Cat Allies, *Tracking Our Success* [2005].)

STRAY/FERAL POPULATIONS

- **1992 – Extrapolations from HSUS Survey – 12.5 million households feed an average of 2.62 stray cats each = total of 32.7 million** (AZ 6:203-4, 1993)
- **1995 – Santa Clara, CA** (AZ 8:178-9, 1995)
 - 250,000 “owned” cats and 170,000 strays
- **1996 – San Diego, CA** (AZ 9:117-9, 1996)
 - 366,000 “owned” cats and 202,000 strays
- **Stray/feral populations are about 60% the size of the owned population, or about 40% of all cats.**

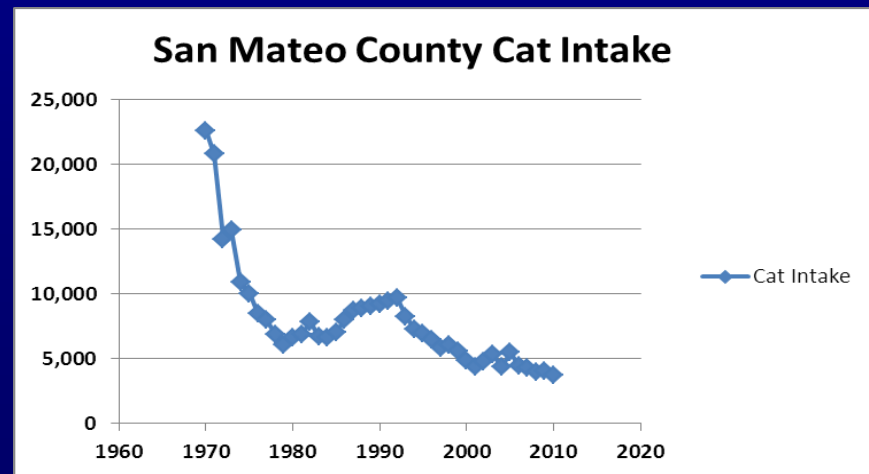
Stray/Feral Cat Numbers - 3

- **One possible source of trend data could be shelter intake data.**
- **Over past ten to fifteen years, cat intakes into shelters appears to have been stable or showing slight increases.**



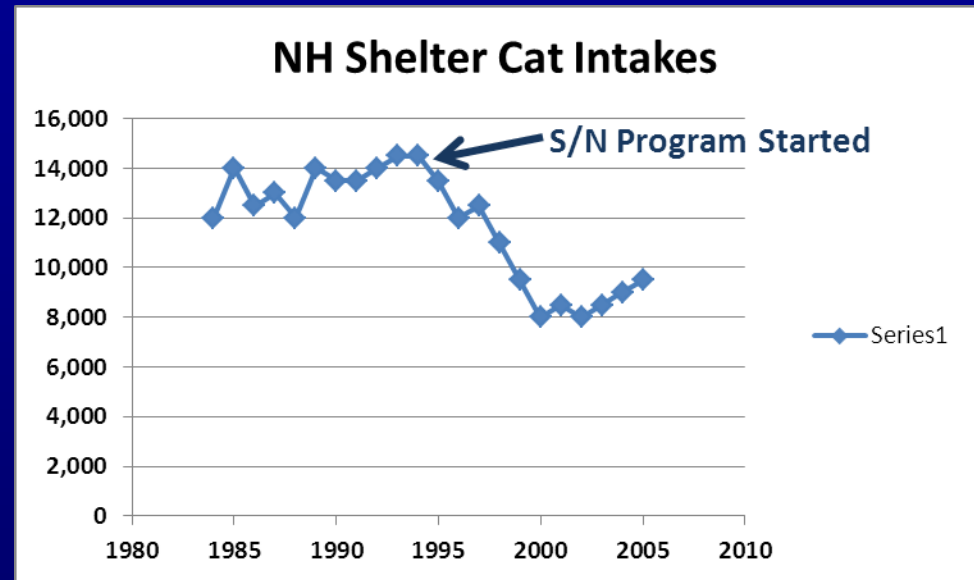
Stray/Feral Cat Numbers - 4

- **But, over longer time-span, there has been a substantial decline in shelter cat intake numbers.**
- **Decline of about 80%!**

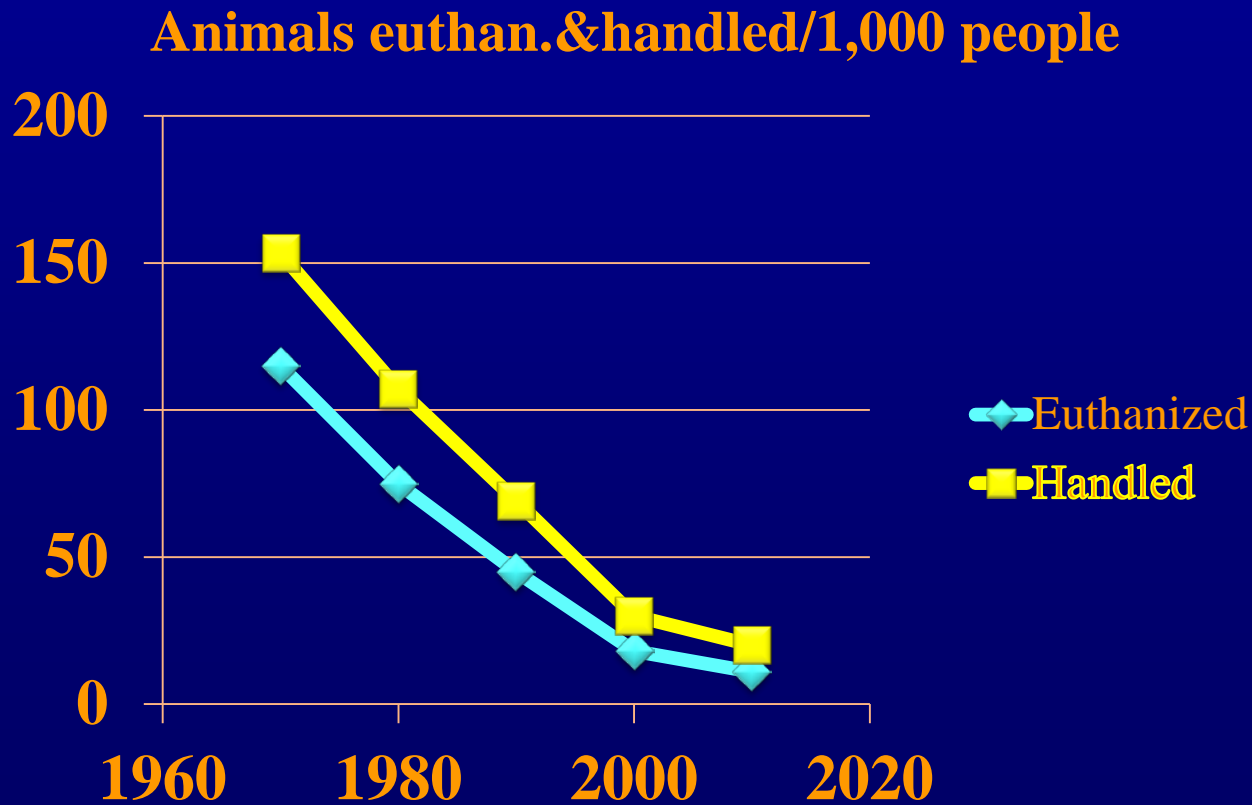


New Hampshire Cat Shelter Intakes

- NH cat shelter intakes unchanging until s/n program started.
- But again reached a plateau.

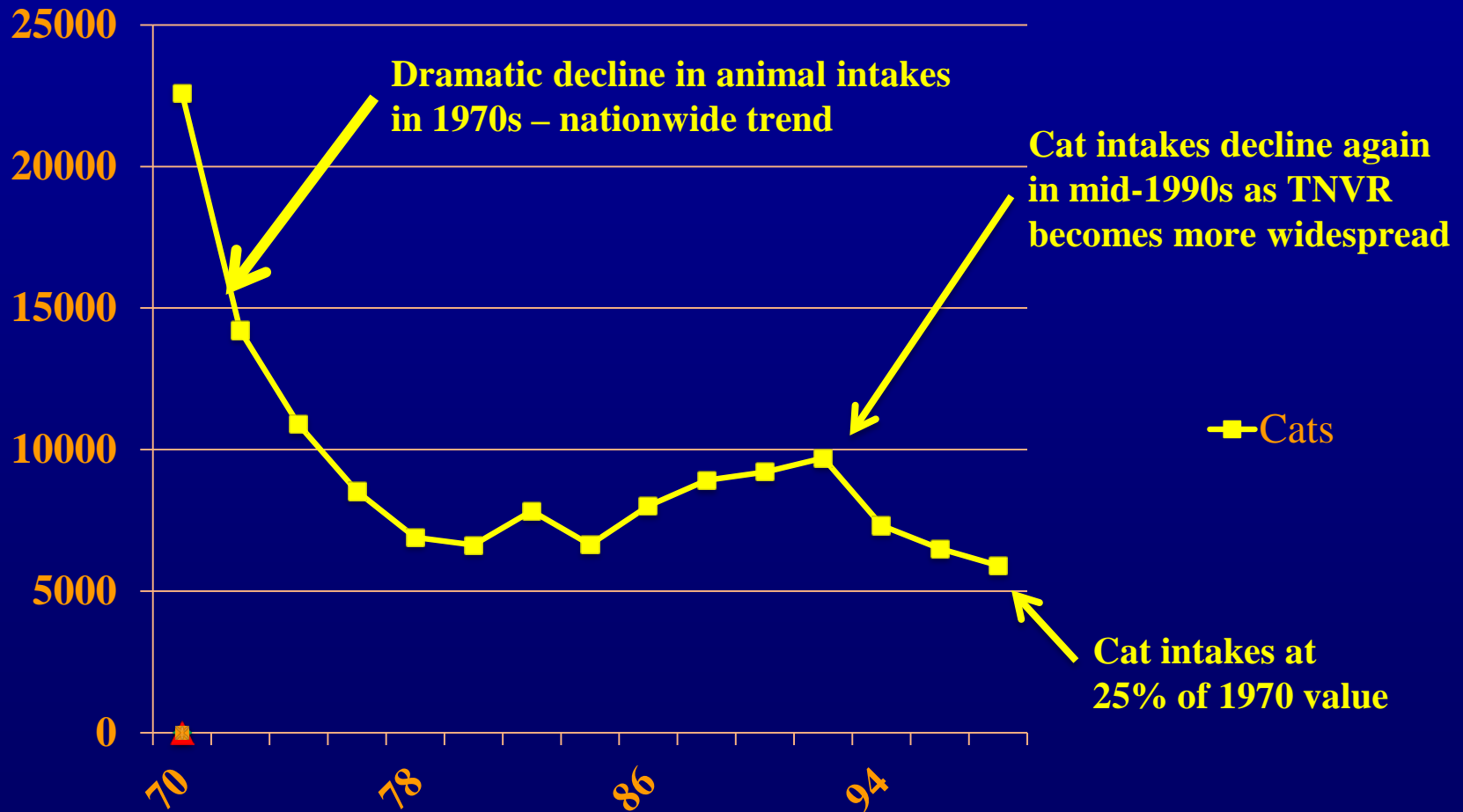


Trends in Shelter Euthanasia & Handling Rates - “Normalized”



Current Shelter Trends

(using data from one CA shelter)



Policy Issues

- **Two main approaches proposed**
 - **Trap and kill**
 - **TNR – manage populations to reduce breeding and the number of cats.**
- **Volunteer support**
 - **High for TNR – potentially millions of people**
 - **Unknown for Trap & Kill, but likely low**

Conclusions

- **Require much better understanding of cat populations**
 - **Regional variations**
 - **Historical trends**
 - **Population management**
 - **Hunting behavior and prowess**
- **Better data will permit better analyses leading to improved policy suggest**