

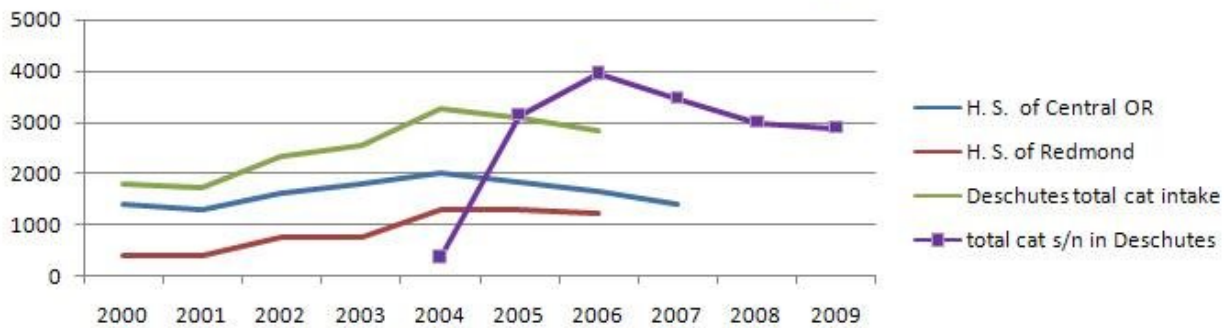
The effect of High-Volume Spay/Neuter Clinics on shelter intake and euthanasia in Deschutes County, Oregon

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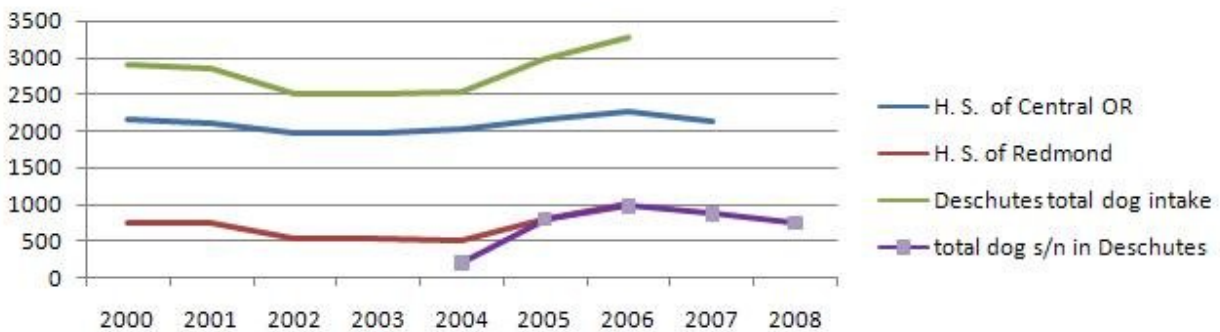
Abstract

The Bend SNP Spay/Neuter Clinic in Bend, OR (www.bendsnip.org) in addition to the SNIP House clinic in Prineville (www.sniphouse.org) has been able to provide enough high-volume service to impact cat intake at Deschutes County shelters. For dogs it is less clear if there has been an impact yet.

Deschutes Cat Intake and s/n

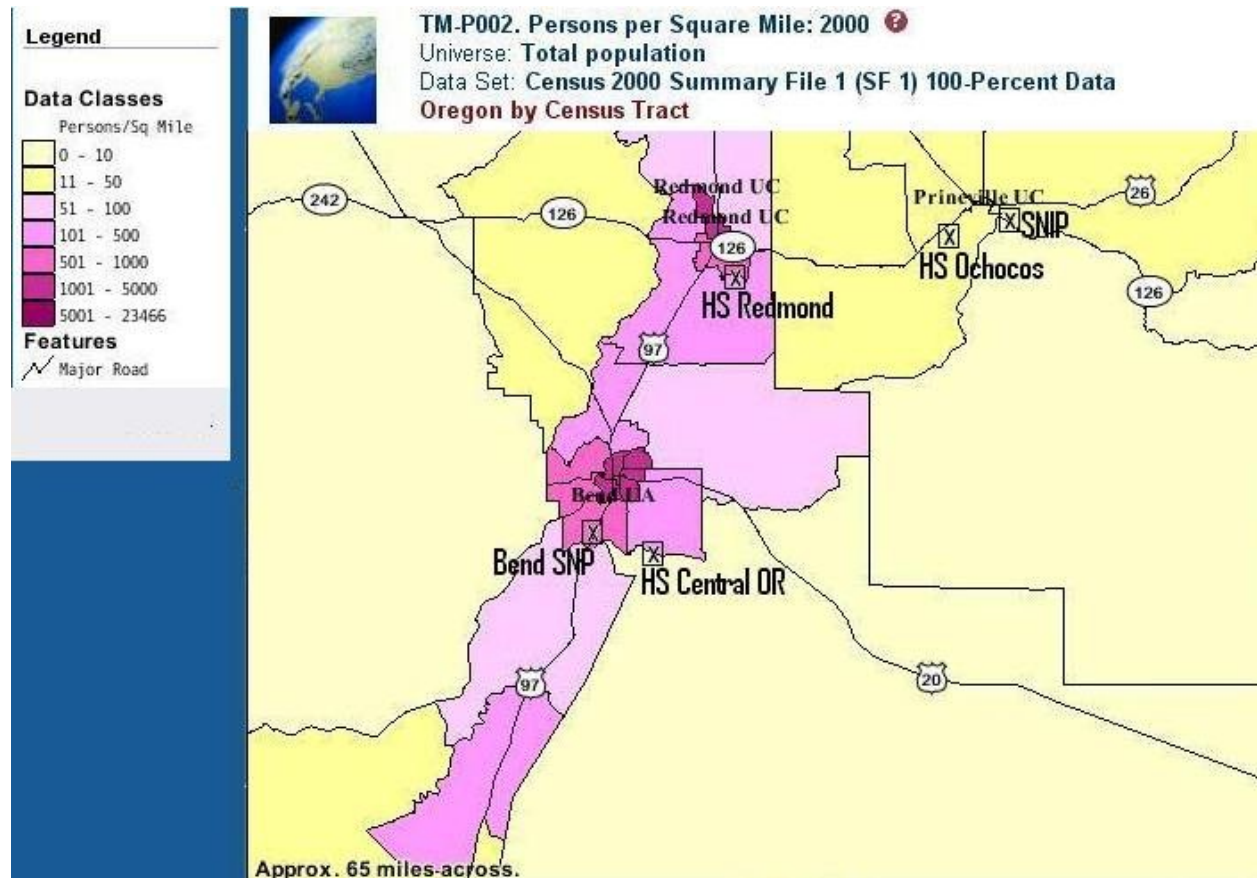


Deschutes Dog Intake and s/n



Background

Deschutes County in Central Oregon has a population of about 150,000, most in the city of Bend (64,000) and Redmond (14,000). It has two animal shelters, the Humane Society of Redmond and the Humane Society of Central Oregon in Bend. It abuts Crook County, population 20,000.



In June of 2004, SNIP House Spay/Neuter clinic opened. They operated 2 or 3 days per week, although were closed off and on due to vet unavailability. They acquired a mobile unit and when to Redmond weekly for a brief time, before deciding to concentrate on the fixed clinic. See “The effect of a High-Volume Spay/Neuter Clinic on shelter intake and euthanasia in Crook County, Oregon” for an analysis of SNIP’s effect on Crook County. Bend SNP opened in 2005.

Data

Data from SNIP House comes from a comprehensive database of all surgeries, allowing for breakdowns by species, gender and county. In the charts and tables, only surgeries done for animals from Deschutes County are included here.

¹ Map generated through <http://factfinder.census.gov>, shelter locations added

Financial

Bend SNP

	2005	2006	2007
Total Income	\$77,696	\$199,653	\$220,287
Program Income	\$40,506	\$148,719	\$131,466
Total Expenses	\$38,138	\$205,397	\$205,121
Program Expenses	\$36,851	\$202,832	\$200,027
s/n	2709	4466	3672
\$ income/surgery	\$14.95	\$33.30	\$35.80
\$ expense/surgery	\$13.60	\$45.42	\$54.47

Theoretical Progression

Central Oregon is rapidly growing in population and pet ownership figures are usually based on human population. Taking the estimates in PetSmart's new application, owned cats = pop/3.3, dogs = pop/4, feral cats = pop/6 and the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPMA) 2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey figures that seventy-five percent of owned dogs are spayed or neutered and eighty-seven percent of owned cats are spayed or neutered. Plus a guess that only 5% of feral cats are fixed. Assume that the lifespan of owned pets is 10 years, and feral cats 5 and the proportion of those that die that are fixed is the same as those that live. Assume the the replacements of these are unfixed, but of the new pets that come with the increase in population, half are already fixed. Assume 80% of the cats fixed are owned.

	<u># based</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>		<u>#unfixed</u>	<u># fixed</u>	<u># unfixed</u>	<u># fixed</u>
<u>cats</u>	<u>on</u>	<u>start</u>	<u>fixed</u>	<u>unfixed</u>	<u>fixed</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>replaced</u>	<u>moved in</u>
	<u>population</u>								
2003	39184	39184	87.0%	5094	0	509	3409	4679	761
2004	40706	40706	87.0%	5292	303	529	3541	5125	1054
2005	42815	42815	77.6%	9584	2521	958	3323	5471	1190
2006	45194	45194	74.4%	11576	3170	1158	3362	5225	706
2007	46606	46606	73.2%	12474	2780	1247	3413	5366	706
2008	48017	48017	71.2%	13812	2730	1381	3421	5507	706
2009	48017	49428	69.2%	15208	2401	1521	3422	4943	

<u>feral</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>		<u>#unfixed</u>	<u># fixed</u>	<u># unfixed</u>	<u>% of</u>
<u>cats</u>	<u>start</u>	<u>fixed</u>	<u>unfixed</u>	<u>fixed</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>replaced</u>	<u>owned+feral</u>
								<u>fixed</u>
2004	22388	22388	5.0%	21269	76	4254	224	57.90%
2005	23548	21309	4.6%	20338	630	4068	194	53.34%
2006	24857	20487	6.9%	19080	793	3816	281	53.33%
2007	25633	19215	10.0%	17296	695	3459	384	54.77%
2008	26409	18069	12.3%	15840	683	3168	446	55.13%
2009	26409	17039	14.5%	14572	600	2914	493	55.20%

<u>dogs</u>	<u>start</u>	<u>% fixed</u>	<u># unfixed</u>	<u>fixed</u>	<u>#unfixed died</u>	<u># fixed died</u>	<u># unfixed replaced</u>	<u># fixed moved in</u>	
2004	33582	33582	75.0%	8396	211	840	2519	4228	870
2005	35322	35322	67.2%	11573	805	1157	2375	4514	982
2006	37285	37285	62.1%	14125	980	1412	2316	4311	582
2007	38450	38450	58.3%	16043	867	1604	2241	4427	582
2008	39614	39614	54.6%	17998	855	1800	2162	4544	
2009	39614	40196	50.5%	19887	867	1989	2031	4020	

This also assumes only these two clinics fix Deschutes County pets, obviously not true, but probably private vets are only a small factor for feral cats.

Conclusion

SNIP House s/n clinic produced a remarkable reduction in animal intake in a short period of time. However, this was possible only because the human, and therefore pet also, population is very low compared to most areas with s/n clinics, and required considerable financial and convenience incentives to bring in so many animals, which took a great deal of financial investment and volunteer time.

Even with recent s/n numbers for cats still above those of the shelter's intake, the cat intake has started increasing again. Considering the progression numbers, it seems that massive s/n efforts are not something that can be done for a few years only. Even if 100% of the animals in an area could be altered, about 10% would die each year and people would still find unaltered animals to adopt from outside of the area, including people unable or unwilling to afford to spay and neuter.

Since the dog s/n numbers are so low, and the effect on shelter intake uncertain, let's speculate only about the cat results. Also, although relatively few dog s/ns were done at SNIP, the initial flat fee of \$30 each, raised only slightly until recently, means that they required a relatively large cost in subsidy. Therefore, I'm estimating the cats were done with a subsidy of about \$15 per surgery. For SNIP's it appears to take a s/n rate of more than 40 cats per 1000 population each year to sustain a suppressed shelter intake. At a subsidy of about \$15 per surgery that's about 60 cents per year per person. Lane County Animal Services currently spends about \$5.74 per county resident.