

ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON



Helping animals since 1899.

Foster Care Program

Presented by Melissa Cox, ARL Boston

*Assistant Manager, Boston Branch &
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About Our Program in Boston



In 2006:

- 436 animals in program
 - Increase of 141 animals from 2005
- Breakdown of animals:
 - 95% cats/kittens
 - 4% dogs/puppies
 - 1% other animals
- 21% of 1,531 animals adopted out were at one time in foster care

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About Our Program in Boston



So far in 2007 (through 9/13):

- 357 animals in program
 - Increase of 51 animals from this time in 2006
- Breakdown of animals:
 - 95% cats/kittens
 - 5% dogs/puppies
 - 2 small animals
- 24% of 1,014 animals adopted out were at one time in foster care

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Most common foster care situations



Cats:

- Nursing moms with litters
- Orphan kittens (most not bottle-fed)
- Feral kittens
- Upper Respiratory Infection
- Behavior
- Injury

Dogs

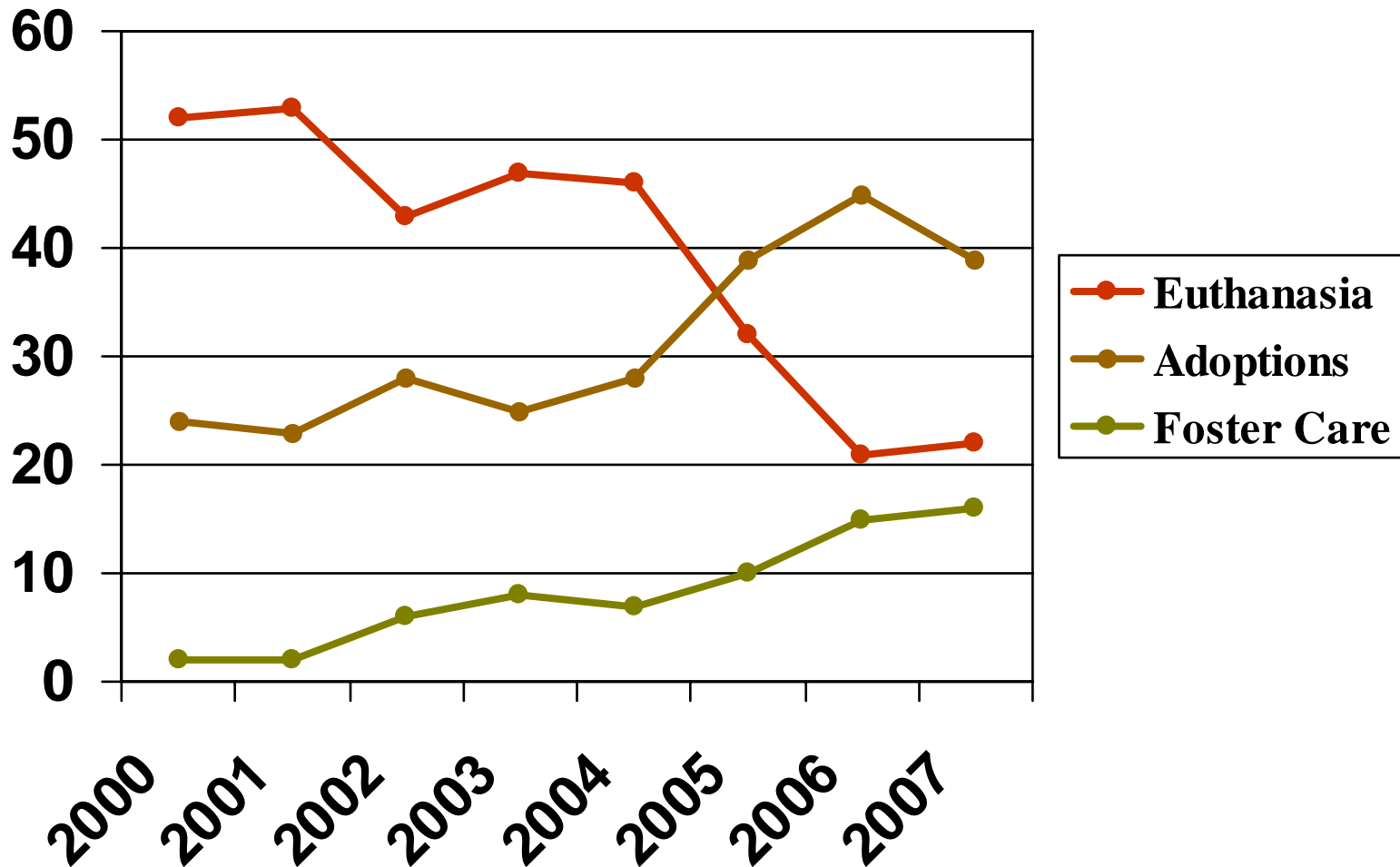
- Behavior
- Illness/Injury (i.e. heartworm, kennel cough, surgery)

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% of Outcomes Relative to Intake for Cats



Criteria for Placement



Necessary Criteria:

- Exam by a veterinarian
- Consult with behaviorist
- FELV/FIV negative
- Able to be handled

Other considerations:

- Intake information
- Overall adoptability
- Staff/Volunteer input

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Recruiting Foster Homes



What we do:

- Reach out to volunteers & staff members
 - Traditional foster homes vs. “office foster” homes
 - Referrals to friends/family members
- Online application
- A lot of “word-of-mouth” – works best!

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Selecting/Training Foster Homes



Review Applications:

- Usually can make most situations work
- Look at experience, can they transport, ability to isolate, etc...

Group Orientation:

- Overall intro to foster care program
- Heavy emphasis on what to do if problems arise (illness, fading kitten/puppy syndrome, family emergency, euthanasia, etc...)
- How we contact for foster care & what happens when they come back for adoption
- Opportunity to meet potential candidates
- Question/answer session

Home visit – if necessary

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Retaining Foster Homes



Rose Hendrick

- *Five-year foster parent*
- *Fostered 107 cats to date!*

- Need to be clear on what is expected of them
- Feel involved in placement of animals
- Have the option of adopting the animal
- Showing appreciation for the work that they do
- Good support network
- Be flexible

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Problems that Arise



Emergency Situations

- Accidents in home vs. shelter-related illness
- What is the plan?
- Who pays for this?

How to you handle animals that become “unadoptable” while in foster care?’

- For Medical or Behavior Reasons

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Questions?

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