I ♥ my dog

Reducing Surrenders

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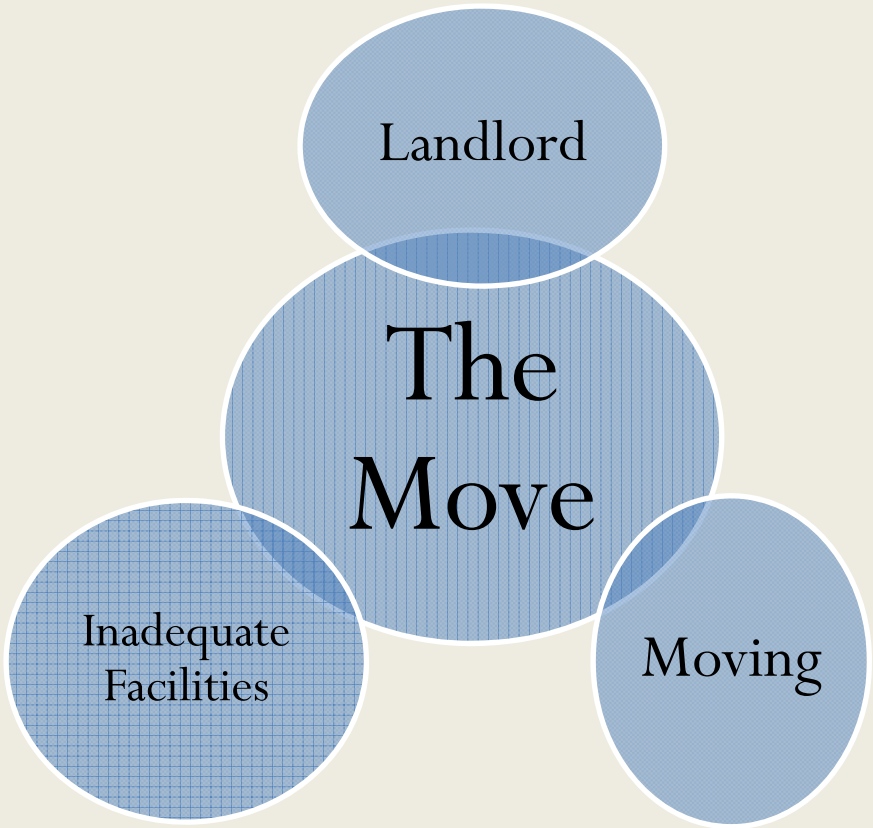
Excuses, Excuses, Excuses....

Top Ten Excuses (NCPPSP)

Dogs	Cats
• Moving	• Too Many Pets
• Landlord Issues	• Allergies
• Cost	• Moving
• No Time	• Cost
• Inadequate Facilities	• Landlord Issues
• Too Many Pets	• No Homes for Litter
• Pet Illness	• House Soiling
• Personal Problems	• Personal Problems
• Biting	• Pet Illness
• No Homes for Litter	• Inadequate Facilities

Excuse: Moving



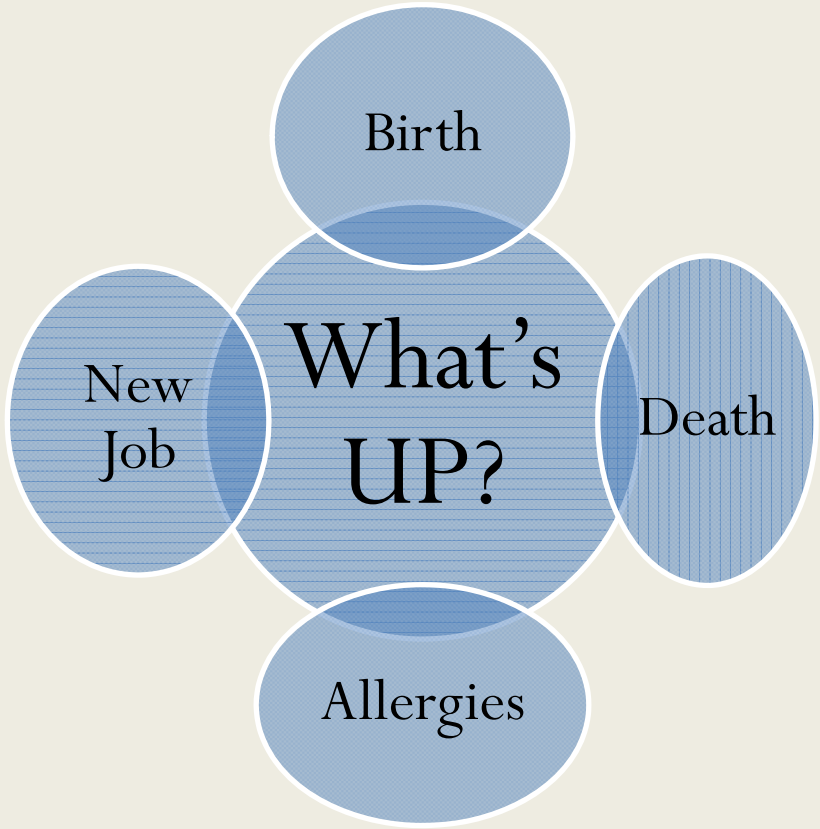
- More than ½ also reported behavior problems.
- Beware the "Young People".

Excuse: Behavior Issues

When grouped together they are the #1 reason for dogs & # 3 for cats

- Single pet households are less likely to give up for behavior.
- Length of Ownership
  - Dogs- owned less than 6mo
  - Owned between 1-2 yrs

Excuse: Personal Problems/Health



When grouped together they are the #1 reason for cats & # 3 for dogs

- 17% still had animals in the home
- 1/3 reported other problems.
  - Dogs- behavior problem
  - Cats- too many

Who will need a new home?

Dogs

- Intact
- Mixed breed
- Short period in the home
- Over 6 mo when obtained
- Obtained for little or no cost
- More work than expected

Cats

- Intact
- No prior vet care
- More work than expected

Dogs given as gift are less likely to be given up.

Price had no effect on cat relinquishment.

What Are the People Like?

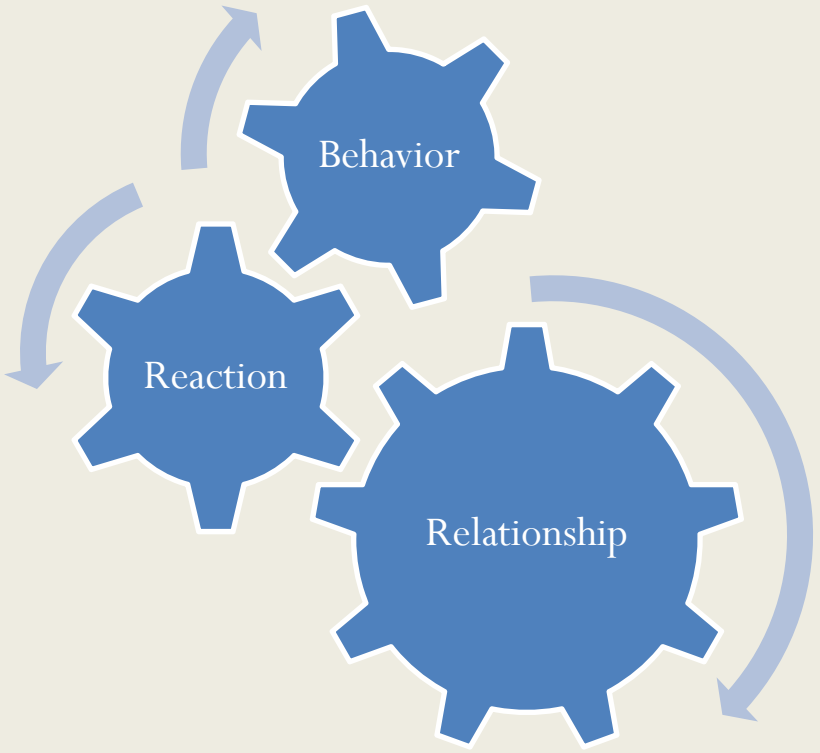
TABLE 5
Selected Characteristics of People Relinquishing Dogs and Cats to Shelters and Owners in Households (1995–1996)

	Dog					Cat				
	Relinquishers		Owners			Relinquishers		Owners		
Characteristic	n	%	n	%	Odds Ratio* (95% CL)	n	%	n	%	Odds Ratio* (95% CL)
Sex										
Male	993	50.5	848	24.9	3.1* (2.7–3.5)	490	38.9	705	20.4	2.5* (2.2–2.9)
Female	972	49.5	2,558	74.1	1.0 (N/A)	769	61.1	2,746	79.6	1.0 (N/A)
Age										
< 20	75	4.0	39	1.2	7.7* (4.6–13.0)	45	3.7	32	0.9	5.8* (3.2–10.5)
20–24	193	10.2	75	2.2	10.3* (6.9–15.8)	124	10.3	70	2.0	7.3* (4.7–11.5)
25–29	286	15.2	291	8.6	4.0* (2.8–5.6)	179	14.8	288	8.4	2.6* (1.8–3.8)
30–34	313	16.6	416	12.3	3.0* (2.1–4.3)	196	16.2	460	13.4	1.8* (1.2–2.6)
35–39	305	16.2	527	15.5	2.3* (1.7–3.3)	165	13.7	531	15.4	1.3 (0.9–1.9)
40–44	198	10.5	462	13.6	1.7* (1.2–2.5)	132	10.9	475	13.8	1.2 (0.8–1.7)
45–49	189	10.0	435	12.8	1.8* (1.2–2.5)	120	9.9	452	13.1	1.1 (0.8–1.6)
50–54	110	5.8	346	10.2	1.3 (0.9–1.9)	79	6.6	340	9.9	1.0 (0.6–1.5)
55–59	75	4.0	249	7.3	1.2 (0.8–1.8)	39	3.2	232	6.7	0.7 (0.4–1.1)
60–64	48	2.6	176	5.2	1.1 (0.7–1.7)	38	3.2	169	4.9	0.9 (0.6–1.5)
65–69	39	2.1	158	4.7	1.0 (0.6–1.6)	41	3.4	193	5.6	0.9 (0.5–1.4)
70 +	54	2.9	217	6.4	1.0 (N/A)	49	4.1	203	5.9	1.0 (N/A)
Education: Males										
High school or less	469	49.5	1,007	36.7	1.7* (1.5–2.0)	204	43.3	808	31.4	1.7* (1.4–2.1)
More than high school	478	50.5	1,738	63.3	1.0 (N/A)	267	56.7	1,767	68.6	1.0 (N/A)
Education: Females										
High school or less	410	44.7	1,153	37.1	1.4* (1.2–1.6)	324	44.5	938	30.2	1.9* (1.6–2.2)
More than high school	507	55.3	1,955	62.9	1.0 (N/A)	404	55.5	2,172	69.8	1.0 (N/A)

Note. CL = confidence limit.
*Odds ratio of a person with this characteristic (Cornfield 95% CL).
*Statistically significant, $p < .05$.

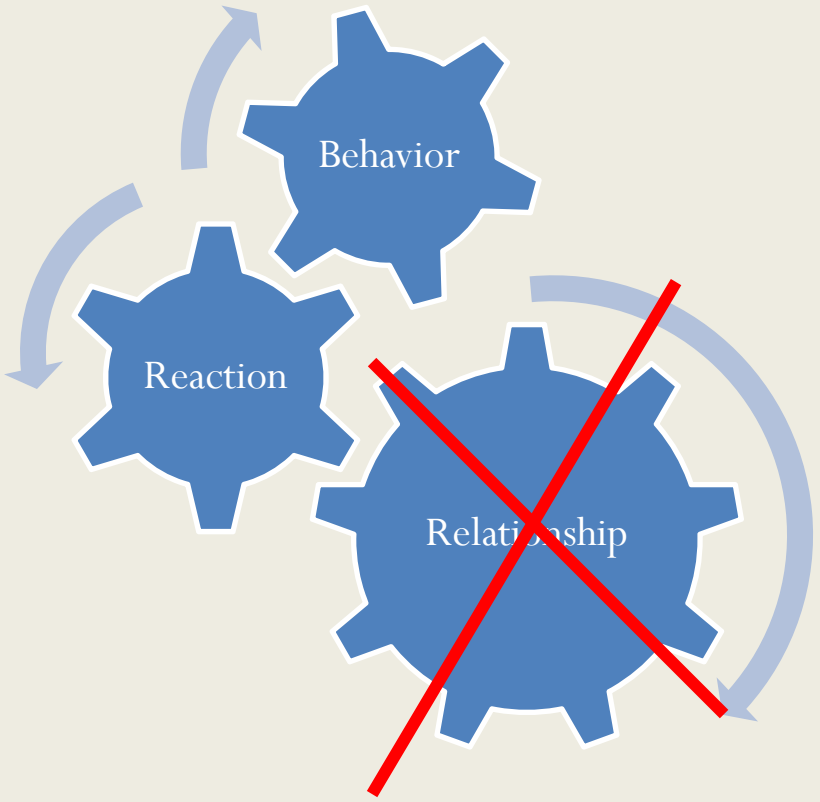
Human/Animal Bond

- The human-animal bond is mutually beneficial. Influenced by behaviors that are essential to the well-being of BOTH.
- Not just a single problem to blame.
  - reaction and the outcome

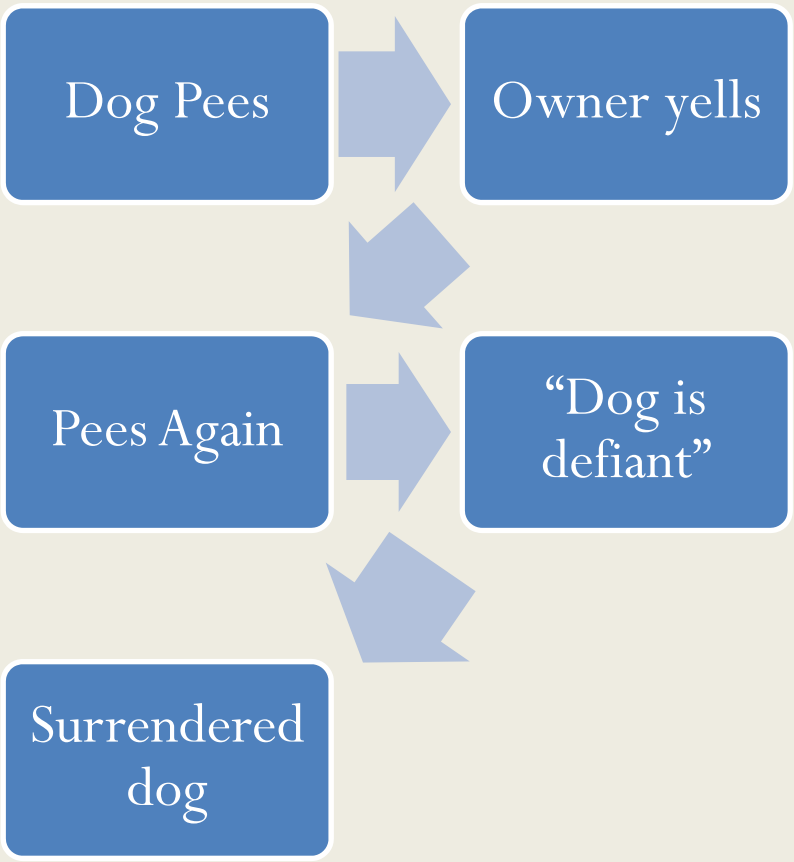


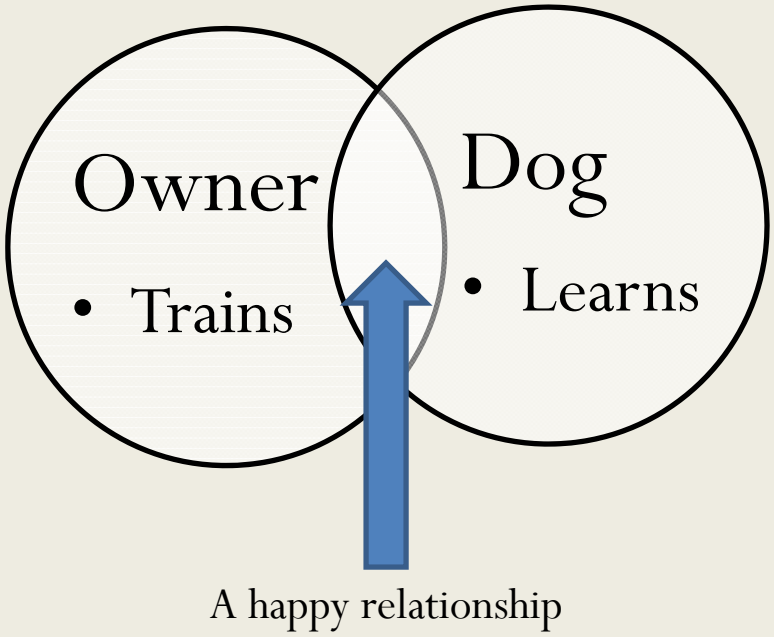
Human/Animal Bond

- Prior to relinquishment, the bond is strained or weak.
- Weak bond= admit
- The remaining pet
  - Has been around longer
  - Older
  - Well-behaved
  - Easy to care for
- Most people do struggle with the decision.



The Mutual Relationship





Reaching People and Helping Pets

- Find ways to prevent the problems.
- Find ways to salvage the relationship.
- Intervention is the key to reducing surrenders!!!!

Brainstorm ideas to reach people early

- Their mind is usually made up when they call.
- Or they're calling because they found a stray.
- What can you do once you have their attention?

Brainstorm ideas to help people needing to surrender

“Outside the Box” Programs

Proposal describes:

- Need/Background
- Goal
- Plan of Action
- Budget
- Possible Problems
- Conclusion

Why do one?

- Ensure program is in line with general policy.
- Ensure potential problems are identified with plans on how to deal.
- Clarify your thoughts and save time in the long run.

Make it Work!

Plan

- An atmosphere that encourages people to reach out to you.
- A "can do" attitude (staff, board, volunteers, etc).
- A good plan to implement new programs and services.

Outcome

- Reach people early.
- You "teach" them for next time.
- They come to you for help.

If All Else Fails

- Evaluate the animal and get started on behavior modification.
- Find the animal a new home…the right home.
- Be realistically upbeat about the needs of the animal.
- You are the expert, give them the tools to be successful.
- Offer to be there for support.

You have just reached someone early!

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