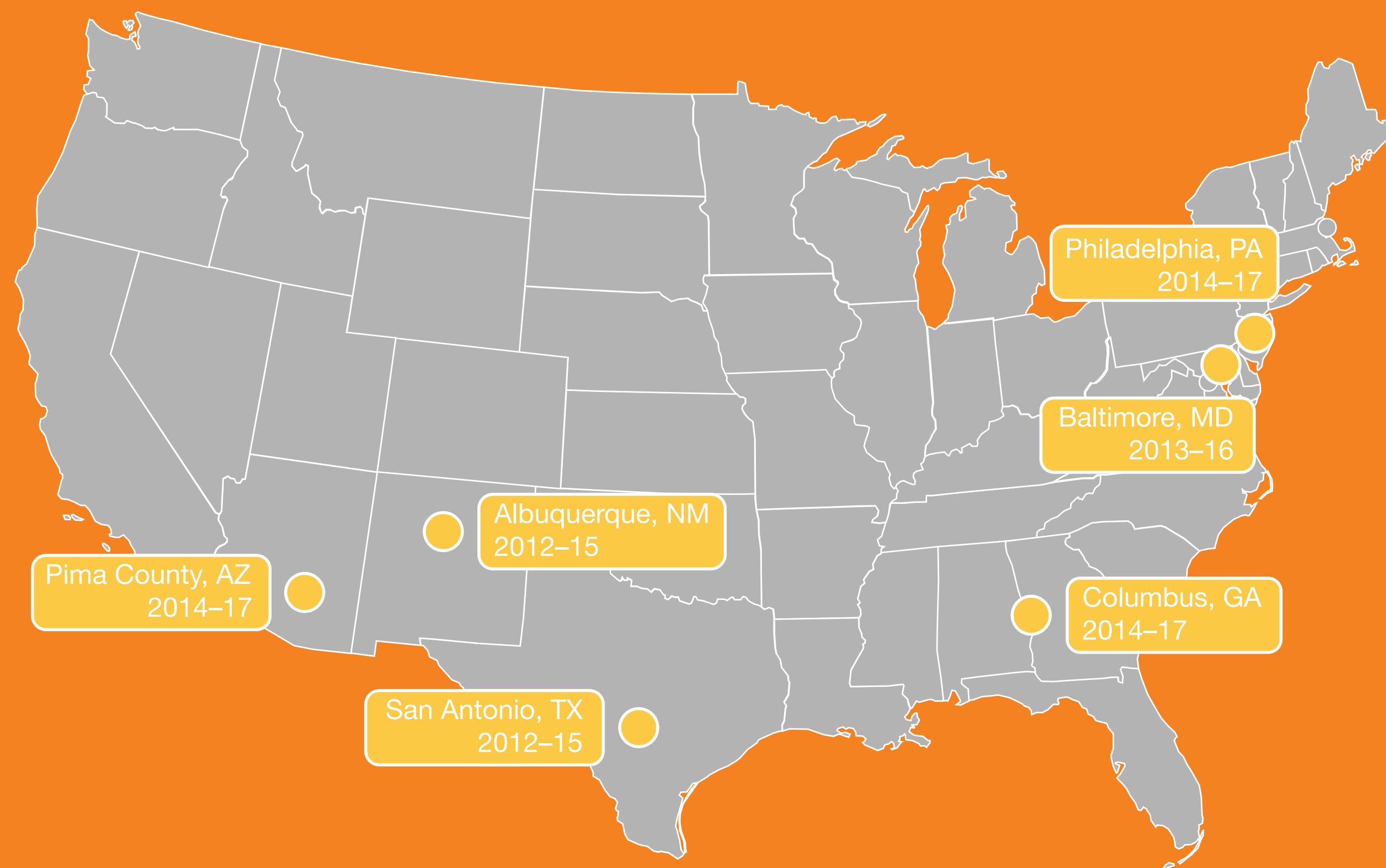


# Integrated RTF and Targeted TNVR Programs Result in Reductions of Feline Intake and Euthanasia at Six Municipal Animal Shelters

Daniel D. Spehar (Independent Researcher, Cleveland, OH) and Peter J. Wolf (Best Friends Animal Society, Kanab, UT)



## CCP = RTF + TNVR



## CCP location and period

The community cat programs (CCPs) shown here were three-year collaborative efforts between Best Friends Animal Society and the local municipal shelter in each of the six communities, with funding support from PetSmart Charities, Inc. Each program combined return-to-field (RTF) and targeted trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) efforts.

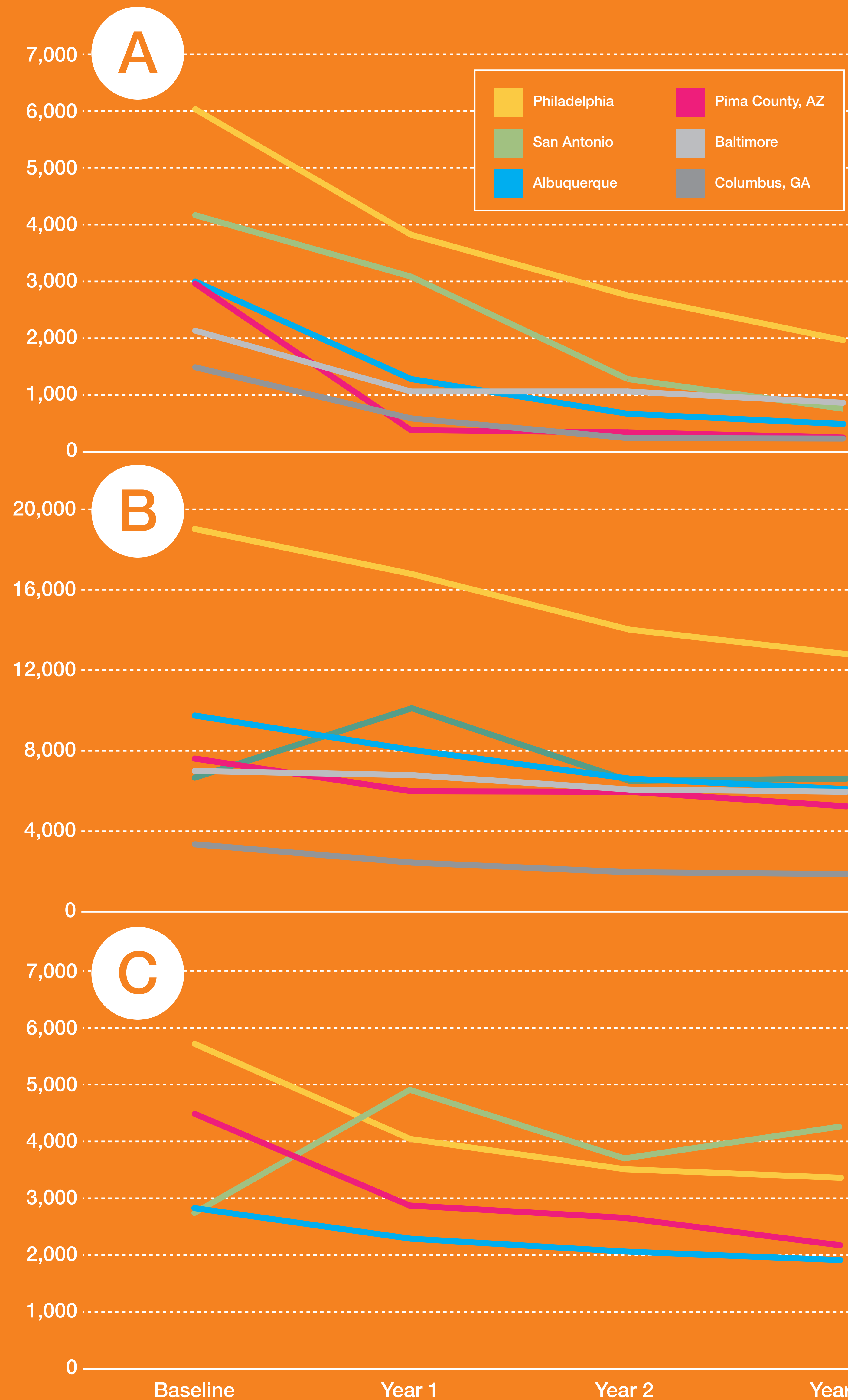
Impounded cats returned to field by program year (%)

	PY1	PY2	PY3
Albuquerque	26 (964/3,723)	19 (759/3,981)	14 (464/3,334)
San Antonio	17 (877/5,142)	5 (238/4,527)	7 (245/3,530)
Baltimore	21 (724/3,527)	9 (332/3,631)	10 (305/3,109)
Philadelphia	31 (1,474/4,773)	34 (1,428/4,230)	24 (1,152/4,787)
Pima County	33 (1,084/3,248)	27 (1,642/5,999)	15 (736/4,870)
Columbus	33 (758/2,311)	30 (734/2,486)	28 (523/1,883)

## Integrating RTF and TNVR

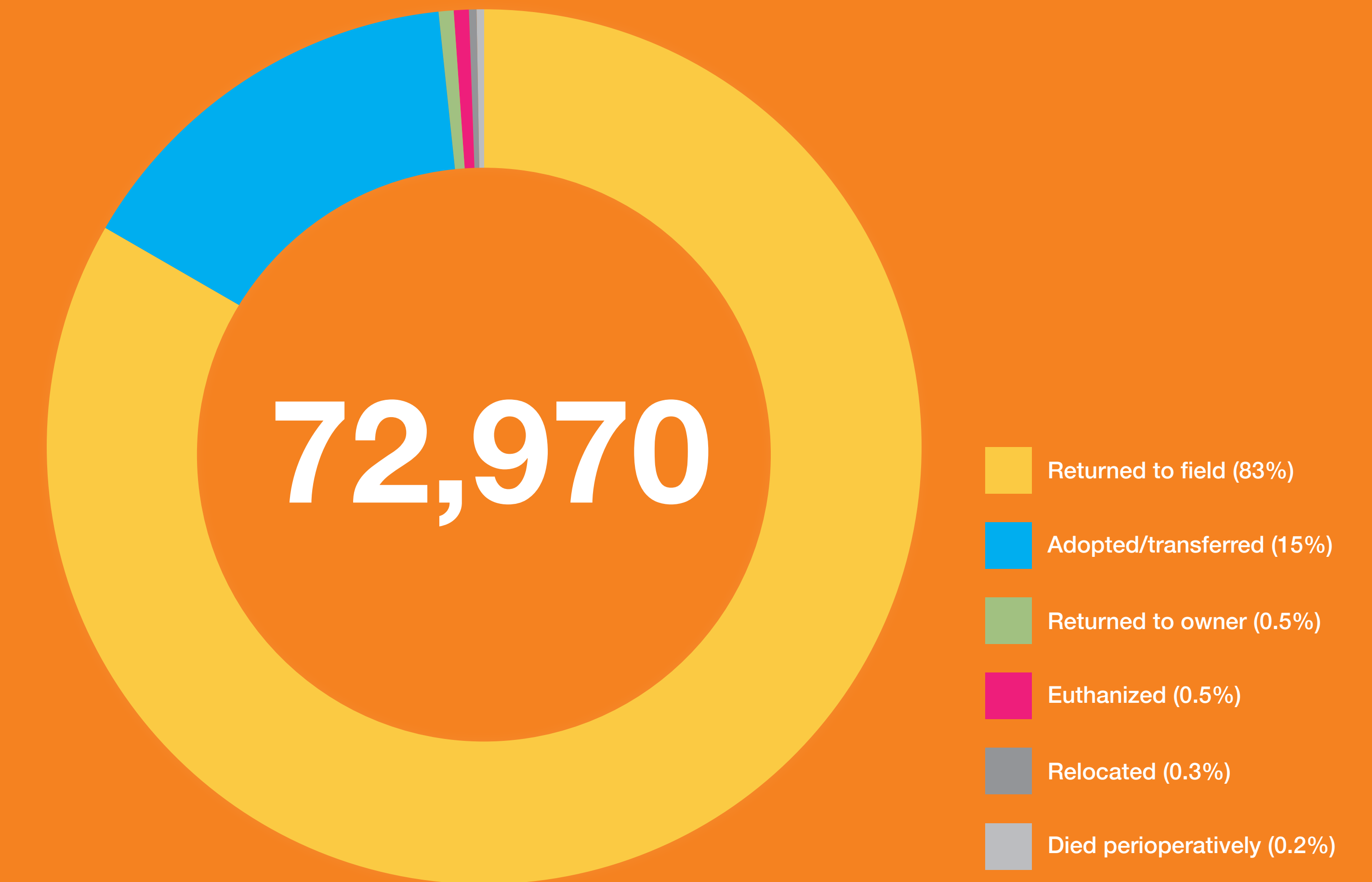
Initial CCP efforts were focused on RTF since impounded cats were considered most at-risk. Over time (as intake dropped) RTF efforts could be relaxed somewhat and targeted TNVR efforts increased.

## Our key findings



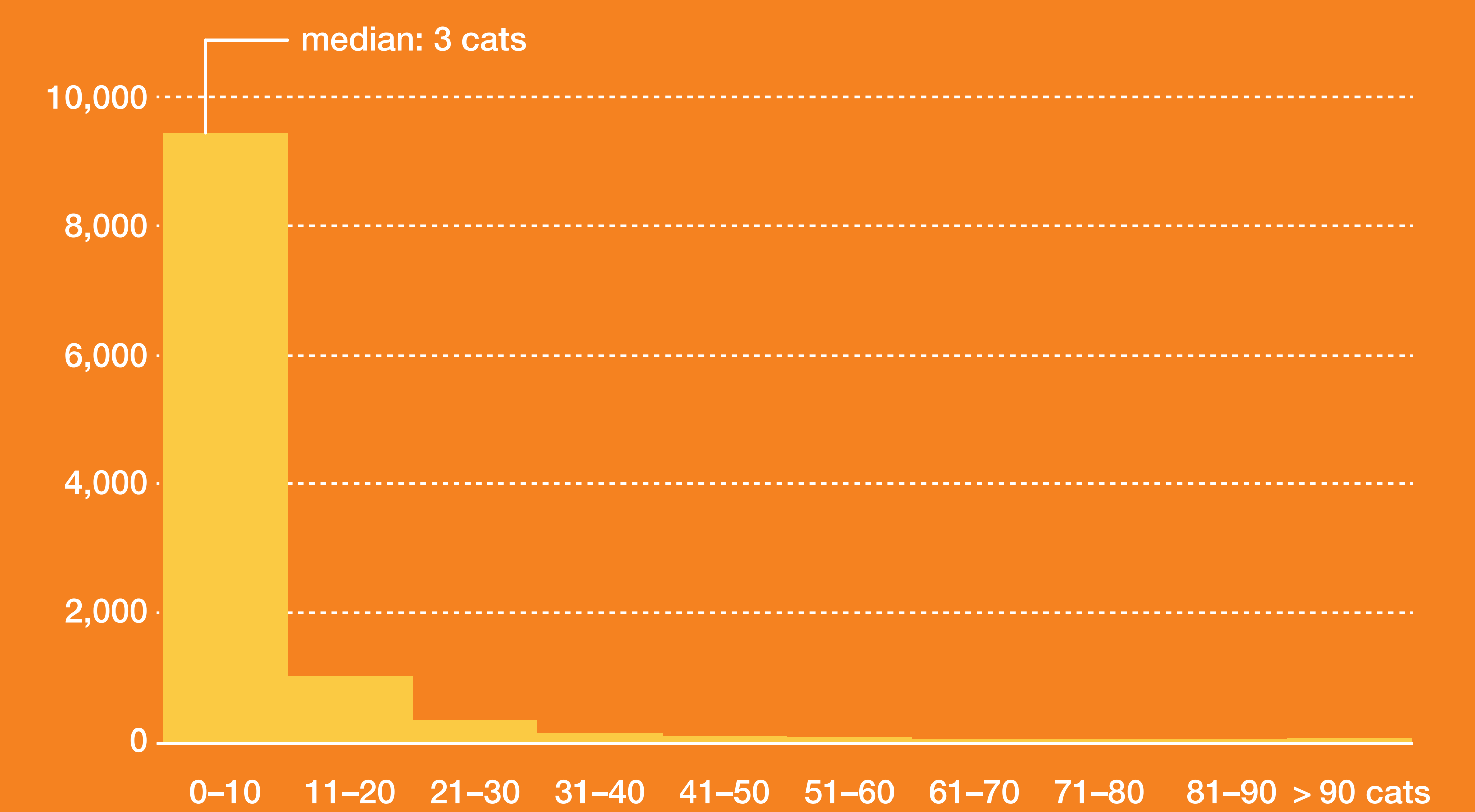
## Reduced intake and euthanasia

We observed median reductions of 83% in feline euthanasia (A) and 32% in feline intake (B). Intake of “newborn” kittens ( $\leq$  2 months of age) fell by a median of 41% at the four shelters where such data were tracked (C), suggesting a significant impact on reproductive capacity in the CCP service areas.



## Outcomes across six CCPs

The data reported here are consistent with what has been observed at other locations where RTF and targeted TNVR programs have been implemented—specifically, the cats enrolled in these six CCPs were generally in good health, as demonstrated by the low incidence of cats requiring euthanasia due to serious health concerns (0.5%) or dying in care (0.2%).



## Observed “colony” size

Cats originated from a total of 12,912 unique sites across the six CCPs, with median values for individual CCPs ranging from 2 to 5 cats per return site. These results challenge the common assumption that colonies are typically made up of dozens of cats.