The Future of Animal Welfare

Celebrating the bond between people and pets

Roger Haston, PhD
PetSmart Charities
A Cattle Dog’s Dilemma
A Brief History of Animal Welfare

Really brief but super-relevant
1869: Cruelty Abuse Suffering
1965: The Five Freedoms

- Hunger & Thirst
- Discomfort
- Pain, Injury & Disease
- Normal Behavior
- Fear & Distress
The 1970s: Era of the Pound
1990s: Focus on Outcomes

First appearance of the “No Kill” movement

Large well-funded shelters developed

Growth of low-cost spay/neuter begins to impact intake

Public awareness of the value of adoption grows
2005: Hurricane Katrina
Changing Attitudes Towards Pets

1940 - Backyard
1980
2010 - Bedroom
Tremendous Progress

In 1970
23,000,000 Euthanasias

In 1986
Just 4 States with Felony Provisions

In 2017
All 50 States
1,500,000 Euthanasias
Current Trends

- Animal supply & demand
- Transfers and transport
- Where people adopt
- The underserved
- Economics of sheltering
- Attitude polarization
A Growing Inventory Problem

We are running out of dogs people want.... but not everywhere
Blocky-Headed Whatevers
You ain’t from around here, are you?
Adoptions

How people are adopting is changing
1,000,000 Retail Adoptions
We are very successful with the people that we are very successful with...

Animal Welfare Deserts
The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.

Helen Keller
Pets-For-Life Data

Percent of People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Vet Experience</th>
<th>No Shelter or AC Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Why Free is Too Expensive

Jerry has a cat

Free = $100 or more

I need time off work for my cat

4 hrs * $15/hr = $60

How do I catch this thing?

Cat carrier $20
Band-Aids $10

Can I borrow your car?

Gas $20

Free S/N
Skyrocketing Cost of Sheltering

Average from 200 shelters

Percent Increase in Cost From Year 2000 (Inflation adjusted)
Attitude Polarization

The Growing Divide
Are We in An Echo Chamber?

Jonny opened the door to the one place he always heard the truth.
A Loss Of Perspective

Memphis—Director receives death threats

Bomb, death threats beset Lindon Animal Shelter

Clarksville crying dog video, petition spur death threats

Death threats against San Bernardino animal shelter workers

“When you start to threaten my family, you have gone too far”

Death threats at animal shelter land man in jail

Augusta animal director receives death threats over euthanasia
Pets, people, professionalization, preserving the bond, and a whole new set of metrics
Professionalization & Diversification

• Professional certifications and qualifications
• Human service training

*We risk marginalizing ourselves in society*

• Passion is not enough
• We serve people and pets, not just pets
Difficult Road Ahead

Many of the messages and beliefs that have made us successful are starting to get in our way.

- Animals should only be adopted
- Adoptable
- Save them all
- No Kill
- Donate to save this poor sad creature locked away in a dirty, dank, stinky shelter where no one cares
- Public safety
Where We Can Be

Preserving and building the relationship between all pets and people

Eliminating cruelty, suffering and abuse

Maintaining public trust and safety

Community  Access  Health
The Mutual Power

71%

Of pet-owning women in domestic violence situations had pets abused or killed by their partner

48%

Of domestic violence victims delay leaving their abuser due to fear for their animal

Recovery

“I don’t know how I would have lived through and left a quite abusive husband, even now if I cry or feel like I can’t go on... what is the point of existing?... she will walk up and make me smile she gives me a reason to get up... to come home... to breathe”
A Cattle Dog’s Dilemma
Thank You for Listening