



Be The Solution's Return on Investment in our community

PRESENTED BY:
BE THE SOLUTION
A High-Impact Community Partner



BE THE SOLUTION

works passionately to end pet overpopulation and euthanasia in our community by promoting and facilitating affordable spay and neuter surgeries.

Since 2007, Be the Solution has helped fix more than 33,000 animals which has reduced the number of stray and surrendered animals that have ended up in the shelter by almost half and decreased the number of animals euthanized to a quarter of what it was since 2009.



33,000+

number of spay and neuter surgeries completed since BTS began in 2007

6,000

vouchers provided by BTS for spay and neuter surgeries in 2019

**\$3.75
MILLION**

saved by Leon County Taxpayers since 2007

75,000

unwanted animals prevented thanks to proactive spay and neuter surgeries

37,500

dogs and cats did not enter the animal shelter thanks to spay and neuter

Community Need

Thousands of dogs and cats in the Tallahassee-area are euthanized annually. There are simply not enough homes for unwanted animals and their litters.

The Solution

Spaying and neutering pets is vital to ending pet overpopulation in our community. Unwanted pets often end up in the shelter and face the possibility of euthanization or live a dangerous life on the streets where disease and early death is common. While spay and neuter is the obvious solution, for many the expense is an obstacle.

Here’s Where We Come In

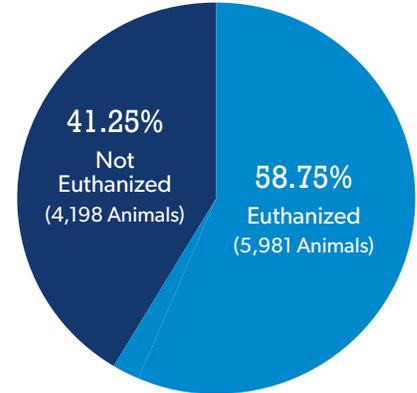
Established in 2007, Be the Solution is dedicated to preventing the cycle of suffering for unwanted pets living in shelters and on the street by offering financial assistance to Tallahassee-area residents for spay and neuter surgeries.

Seeing the Impact

Thanks to the help of volunteers, veterinarians and donors and grants, Be The Solution had a record-breaking year in 2019 with over 6,000 spay and neuter surgeries completed. This resulted in our total number of animals fixed to more than 33,000. **More importantly, Animal Shelter intakes decreased dramatically over the past several years. In 2018, the shelter’s pet intake number was 5,225 — nearly half the amount of the shelter’s intakes in 2009.** Euthanasia rates have decreased as well. In 2009, the percentage of euthanizations was nearly 59% of shelter intakes. In 2018, that number dropped to 24%.

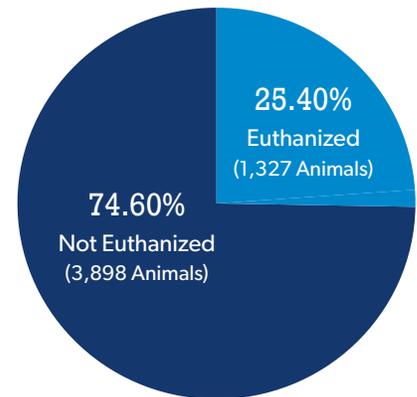
2009 Shelter Intakes

10,179 Cats & Dogs



2018 Shelter Intakes

5,225 Cats & Dogs



CONSIDER THESE SOBERING STATISTICS:



420,000

One female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats in seven years.



67,000

One female dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs in six years.



\$1,000+

The average cost of spaying or neutering a pet is less than the cost of raising a litter of puppies or kittens.



\$100

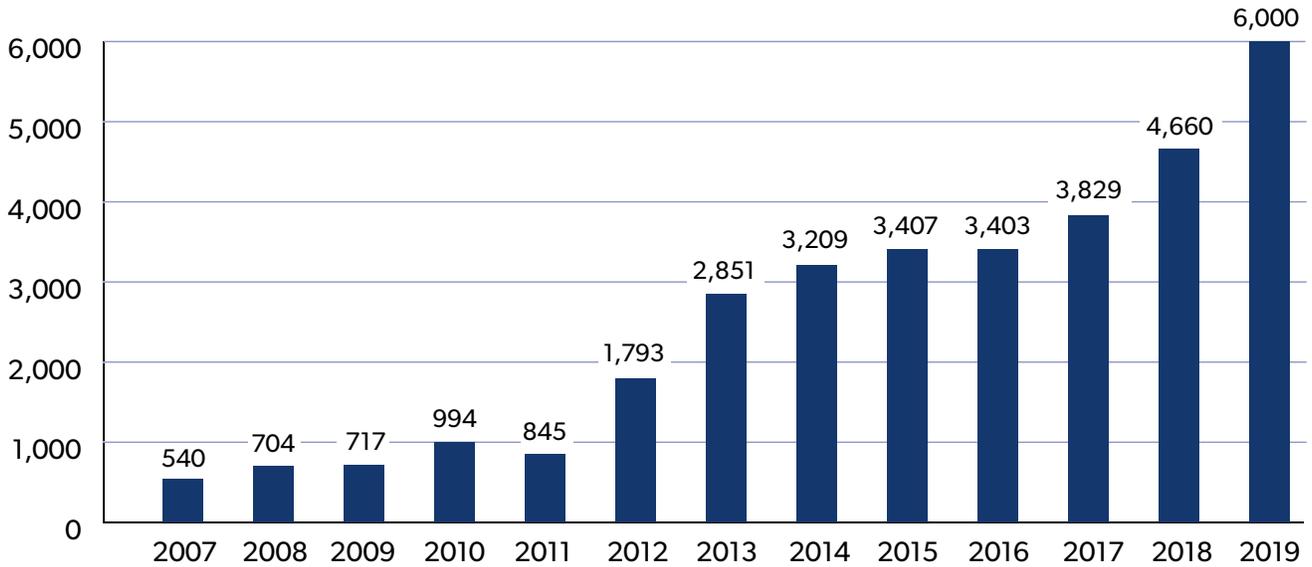
On average, taxpayers spend approximately \$100 to capture, house, feed, and eventually euthanize homeless animals.

* The statistics above were reported by SnapUS.org & moneyunder30.com

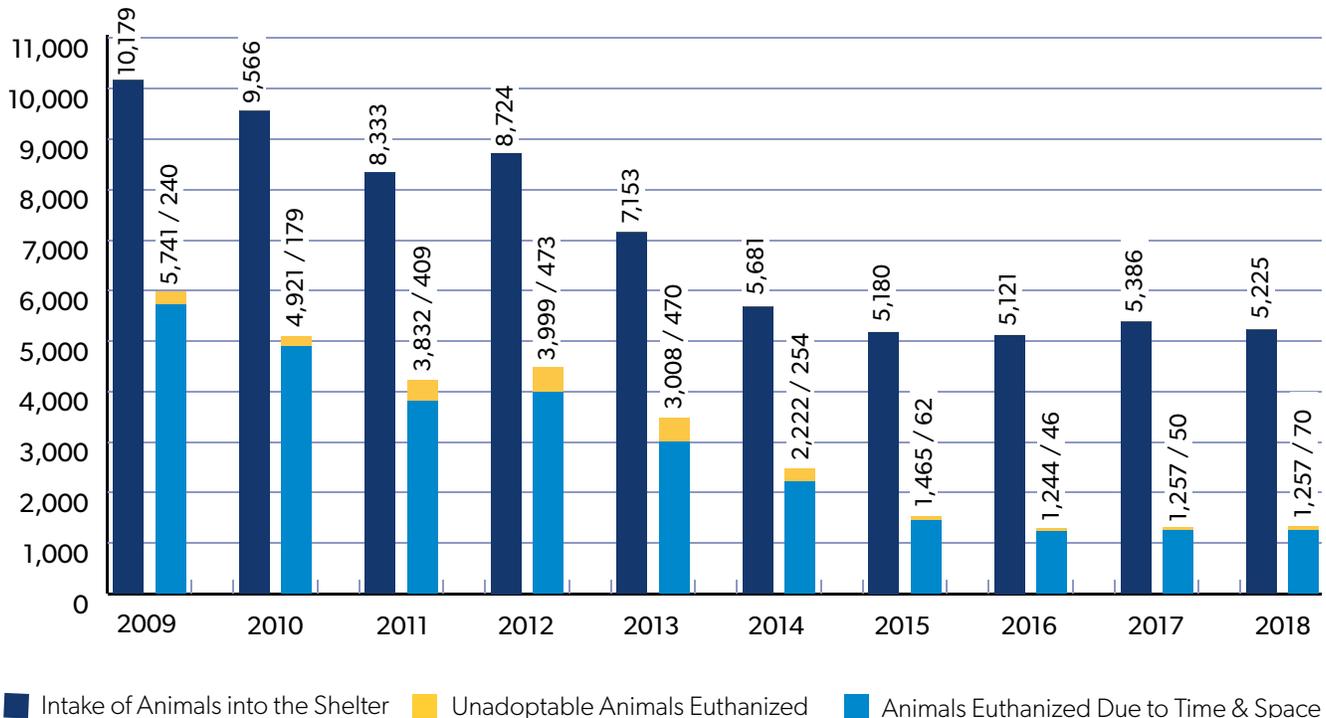
Together, We're Making a Difference

Since 2009, our combined efforts have resulted in seeing more than 33,000 animals fixed, keeping countless more out of our shelter and off the streets.

BTS Spay and Neuter Vouchers PROVIDED FROM 2007-2019



Tallahassee Animal Shelter Intakes & Euthanizations FROM 2009-2018



FACT: Cats can breed and produce a litter four times a year and dogs can breed and produce a litter twice a year.

How Many Shelter Intakes Prevented?

Of the 33,000+ dogs and cats that have been spayed/neutered through Be The Solution — if you conservatively calculate that only half of these animals would have had only one litter in their lifetime, more than 75,000 offspring would have been produced (average of 5 kittens/puppies per litter) had these animals gone unaltered.

And again, conservatively speaking: If only half of the 75,000+ offspring had ended up at our shelter, Be The Solution has proactively prevented more than 37,500 animals from entering our Animal Services Center.

“Be The Solution is an invaluable asset to the animals and people of Tallahassee and the surrounding area. Its unique spay and neuter voucher program has been instrumental in significantly reducing the number of homeless animals, which in turn reduces needless animal suffering and the number of euthanasias.”



- Ralph A. DeMeo
Pets Ad Litem, Co-Founder & CEO
Florida Bar Animal Law Section, Co-Founder & Chair Emeritus
Animal Shelter Foundation Co-Founder & Lifetime Member

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from entering our Animal Services Center.



How Much Money Does Be The Solution Save Taxpayers?

You can also calculate how the BTS spay/neuter program has saved money for Tallahassee/Leon County taxpayers by preventing these 37,500 animals from entering the animal shelter. On average Animal Services Center intakes costs taxpayers approximately \$100/animal for basic care*

Therefore, 37,500 animals × \$100/animal =

\$3.75 Million

saved by preventing unwanted litters of puppies and kittens.

(* \$100/cost per animal entering the shelter, covers - basic vet care, shelter, food, euthanasia, and disposal.)

“Be The Solution (BTS) was the first organization of it’s kind with the sole mission to end pet overpopulation in Tallahassee and the surrounding area by getting pets fixed. In fact, their efforts have created a spay and neuter and movement! Thanks to BTS, intake numbers at the Tallahassee Animal Shelter have not only dropped, but stayed that way. Tallahassee and it’s pets are fortunate to have BTS!”



- Kate MacFall
Florida State Director
Humane Society of the United States

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Providing low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter vouchers takes a community-wide effort. Through a growing network of volunteers, veterinarians and donors across our community, we are able to fund this vital service.

Who Funds the Surgeries?



Local Veterinarians

The Tallahassee community is fortunate to have a number of talented and caring veterinarians. Be the Solution has partnered with several of these generous individuals who donate the bulk of the surgery cost. Each month, they spend their time, staff time and resources to provide spay and neuter surgeries for a fraction of what they normally charge because they, too, are committed to ending pet overpopulation. Without their help, our program would not be possible.



Be The Solution

The next largest portion of the cost is paid by Be the Solution. As a 501(c)3, we rely on a number of fundraising efforts and volunteers in order to cover the costs and keep the program going. We raise the bulk of our funds with proceeds from The Fix Thrift Shop. Since its inception in 2014, it has become a beloved community destination that has captured the heart and support of Tallahassee. Our other funding avenues include our Tally Top Pet photo contest, local and national grants and community donors.



Our Clients

Each time we issue a voucher, Be the Solution takes the time to explain the costs that are shared to provide this valuable service. For those clients who receive public assistance such as Food Stamps, Medicaid or Disability, they have a \$5.00 copay as their contribution towards the cost of the surgery for their pet. For clients who are not on any form of public assistance, their co-pay is \$25.00 per cat and \$35.00 per dog. Not surprisingly some of our clients have turned into donors once they are on their feet again.

“Be The Solution (BTS) has been an invaluable resource to the community and an invaluable partner with the Animal Shelter Foundation. Intakes at the animal shelter have remained significantly down over the past seven years and it’s in large part due to the BTS Spay/Neuter Voucher program in partnership with other community animal welfare groups. **Pet overpopulation will one day be a thing of the past with continued offering of free and low cost spay/neuter of pets in our community.**”



- Lauren Perlman
President
Tallahassee Animal Shelter Foundation

What the community is saying about the impact of **BE THE SOLUTION**

“Be The Solution has impacted the lives of many animals and people in our community. Besides reducing the pet population, which saves the lives of many animals every year and making sure these animals all have a rabies vaccination, having the ability to tell people that we can give them something for nothing by way of a voucher is invaluable. **It allows us to build relationships and offer other resources to pets and their owners who would not be able to help their pets otherwise.**”



- Cara Aldridge
Director
Leon County Animal Control

“Be the Solution is an integral part of our animal welfare community in Tallahassee. Their work in providing spay/neuter vouchers to needy pet owners has directly contributed to the decreasing number of animals arriving at the animal shelter. **Without their extensive efforts, more unwanted puppies and kittens would be coming into the shelter further stretching the limited resources to save animals.**”



- Erika Leckington
Director of Animal Services
City of Tallahassee

“In the last 12 years at the Wakulla Shelter, we have seen many changes. Our live release rate has soared from a low of 12% to approaching 90% today. **THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE has been the ability to offer financial help to some of our citizens to offset the cost of altering their pets. Many pet owners want to spay/neuter their pets but simply cannot afford the surgeries without help.** Because of these vouchers, thousands of unwanted litters were never born. The BTS program has saved Wakulla precious funds by reducing the intake of unwanted pets, thus reducing the pressure on the staff and the shelter. BTS staff keeps us updated on the number of vouchers issued monthly and ensure we have an ample supply of vouchers on-hand so that we can help as many citizens and pets as possible.

That moment when a pet owner learns that they can get help is priceless, and we are so happy to be a small part of the solution. Thank you BTS for helping us help them.”



- Ivanhoe Carroll
Director
Wakulla County Animal Control

“Be The Solution (BTS) is a huge asset to pet owners in Tallahassee and the surrounding areas. **For many, a voucher from Be The Solutions means the difference between the ability to enjoy the company of family pet or not. The BTS voucher program also offers the ability for individuals to play their part in curbing pet overpopulation which is still a serious problem in north Florida.** The Leon County Humane Society (LCHS) assists with the distribution of BTS vouchers and we are always met with grateful faces from those receiving the assistance.”



- Lisa Glunt
Executive Director
Leon County Humane Society

WE'RE PART OF A TEAM

Be The Solution, along with dedicated Animal Control Officers and Rescues like the Animal Shelter Foundation, It's Meow or Never and the Leon County Humane Society, IS PART OF A TEAM. Working together our outreach is multiplied which means more people who need help spaying and neutering their pets receive it. This boots-on-the-ground approach of providing vouchers to the Rescue groups and Animal Control Officers who are meeting with area residents day in and day out is making a difference and together we are getting the job done!

"Daily we receive requests from individuals that need assistance with spaying and neutering. Some of the requests are from good Samaritans that have been feeding a single feral cat in their neighborhood or sometimes it is an individual that does not have the resources to sterilize their pet. Other individuals are desperate, they began feeding a single cat and the population has exploded and they now have a seemingly overwhelming problem they need assistance with.

With the support of Be The Solution, we can help these individuals and diminish the suffering of animals in our community by reducing the number of unwanted pets. We have helped a wide variety of people from senior citizens that are not physically able to trap a cat and transport to the vet, individuals that do not have transportation to take a cat to the vet or even a carrier or some just do not have the financial resources.

This year alone, we have spayed and neutered over 1,500 cats. If we did not have the support of Be The Solution we would not be able to have done this. We truly appreciate their support that enables us to do what we do. Be The Solution fills an important void that would not be met in our community.

We are eternally grateful to Be The Solution."



- Jo Ann Alford
President
It's Meow Or Never for Ferals, Inc.



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