



2024 Return on Investment Report

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



A High-Impact Community Partner

“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 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

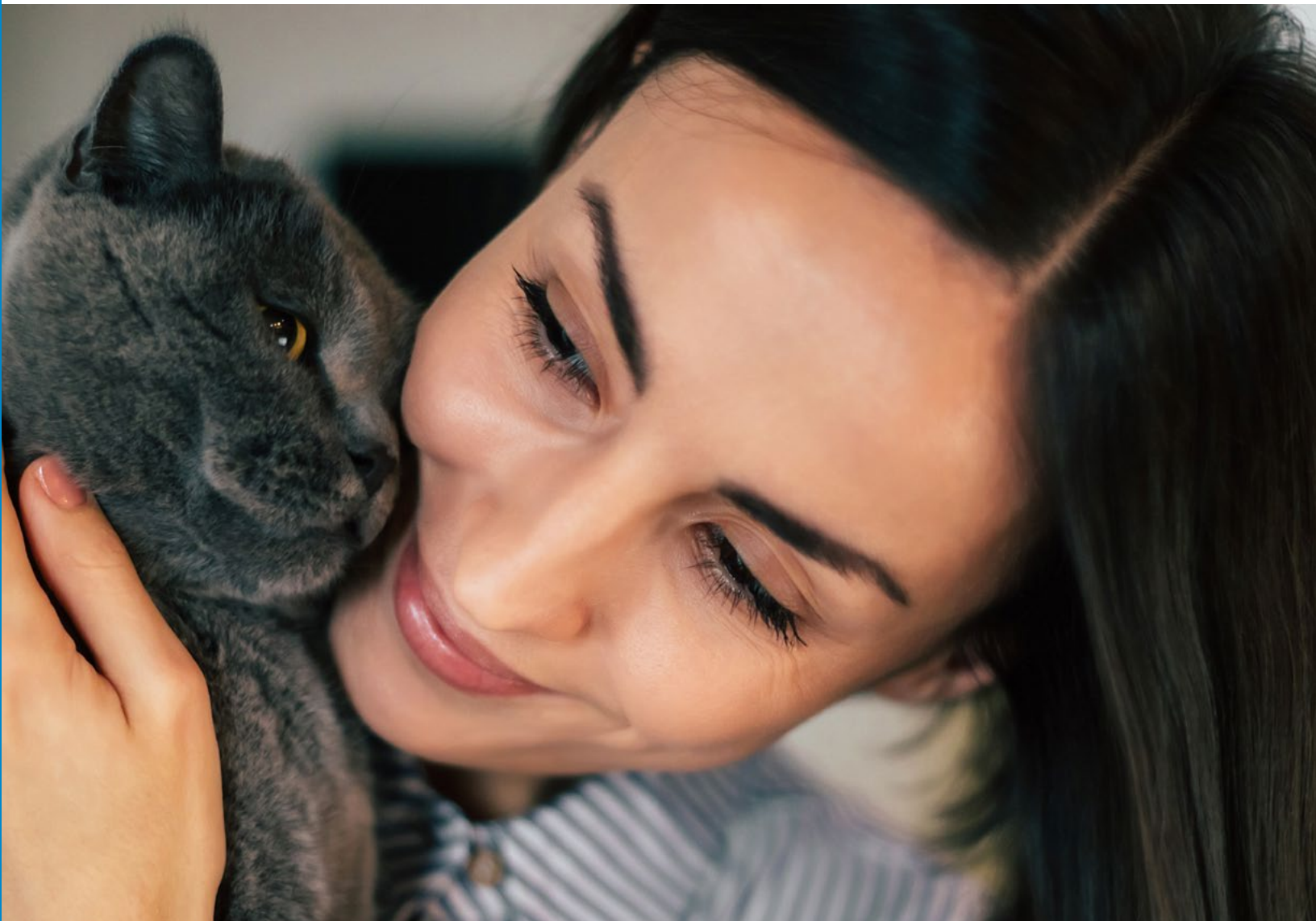


THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

BE THE SOLUTION

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

Since 2009, Be The Solution has helped fix over 70,000 animals which has contributed to the 55% reduction in the number of stray and surrendered animals and helped to decrease the number of animals euthanized by 84%.



70,000+

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

7,863

vouchers provided by BTS for spay and neuter surgeries in 2024

**\$7
MILLION**

saved by Leon County Taxpayers since 2007

350,000

unwanted animals prevented thanks to proactive spay and neuter surgeries

39,315

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

“An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.”

- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Community Need

In 2009, thousands of dogs and cats in the Tallahassee-area were euthanized annually. There were 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 euthanasia or live a dangerous life on the streets where disease and early death are 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.

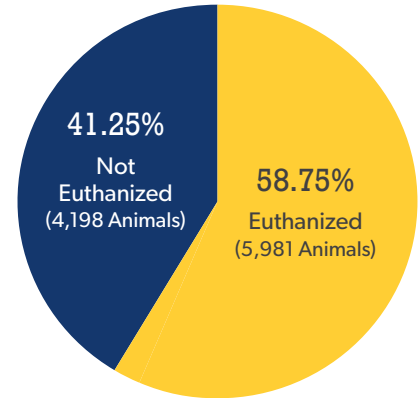
Seeing the Impact

Thanks to the help of our local Veterinarians, Donors and Grants, **Be The Solution had a record breaking year in 2024 with 7,863 spay and neuter surgeries completed.** This resulted in our total number of animals fixed to 70,111.

More importantly, in 2024, Animal Shelter Intakes totaled 4,585, a 55% reduction in intakes as compared to 2009. Euthanasia rates have decreased as well. In 2009 the percentage of euthanasia was nearly 59% of shelter intakes. In 2024, that number dropped to 21%.

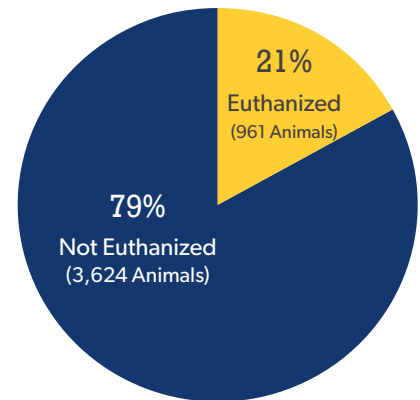
2009 Shelter Intakes

10,179 Cats & Dogs



2024 Shelter Intakes

4,585 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

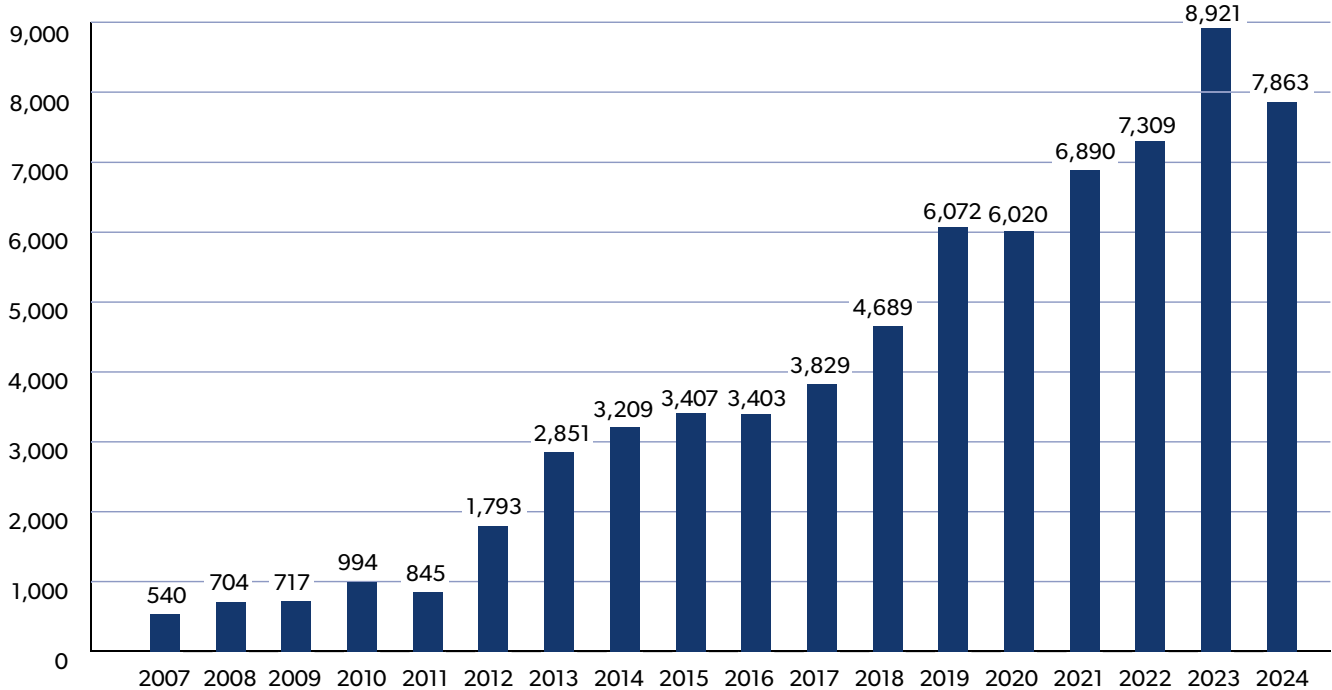
On average, taxpayers spend approximately \$100 to capture, house, feed, and eventually euthanize homeless animals.

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

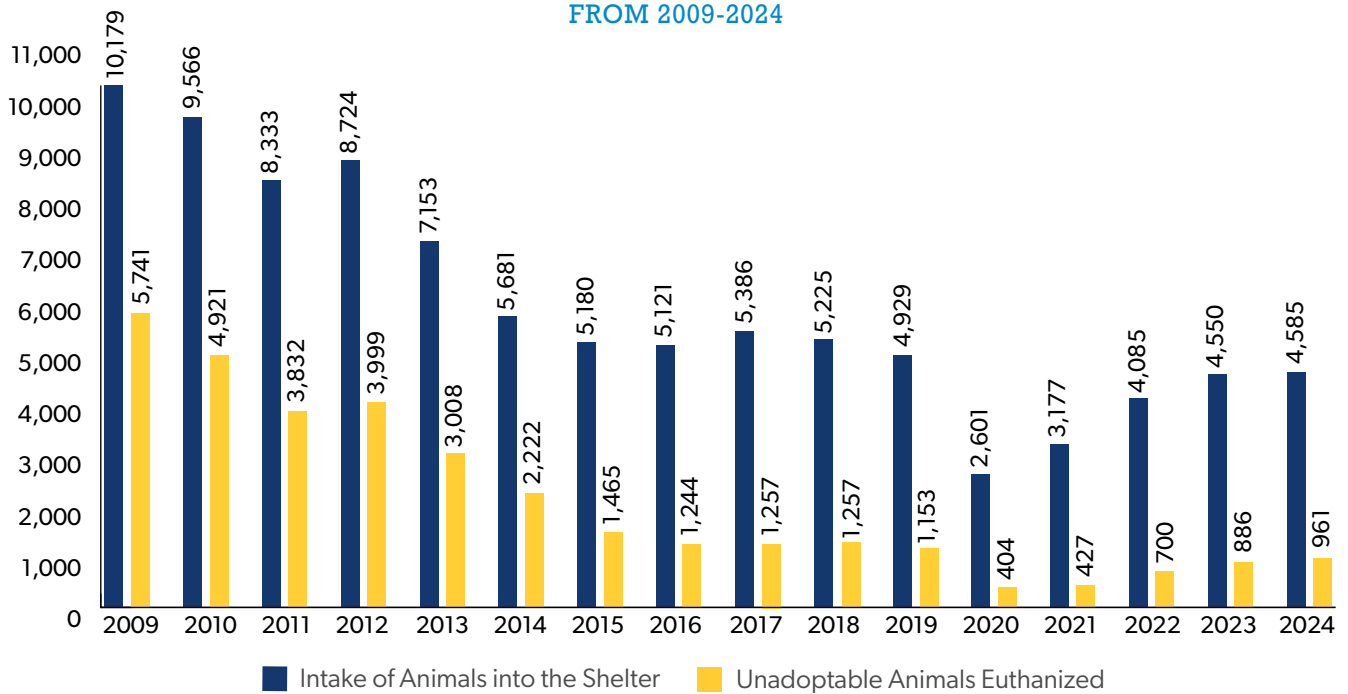
Together, We're Making a Difference

Since 2009, Be The Solution has helped fix over 70,000 animals which has helped to reduce the number of stray and surrendered animals that have ended up in the shelter by 55% and helped to decrease the number of animals euthanized by 89%.

BTS Spay and Neuter Surgeries Financed PROVIDED FROM 2007-2024



Tallahassee Animal Shelter Intakes and Euthanasias FROM 2009-2024



Intakes and Euthanasias decrease dramatically in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID 19 circumstances. The Animal Shelter operating hours were significantly reduced during this time period therefore the stray intake numbers are not accurately reflected.

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 70,000 dogs and cats that have been spayed/neutered through Be The Solution—if you conservatively calculate that these animals would have created only one litter in their lifetime, more than 350,000 offspring would have been produced (average of 5 kittens/puppies per litter) had these animals gone unaltered. In reality, Unaltered dogs and cats can produce multiple litters in one year, for many years of their lifetime.

“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

How Much Money Does Be The Solution Save Taxpayers?

On average Animal Services Center intakes costs taxpayers approximately \$100/animal for basic care. Be The Solution has facilitated the spay and neutering of over 70,000 animals since 2009, therefore saving taxpayers \$7.1 million.



“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

“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

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, business sponsors and individual donors across our community, we are able to fund this vital service.

How Are Surgeries Funded



Local Veterinarians

The Tallahassee community is fortunate to have many talented and caring Veterinarians. Be the Solution has partnered with 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 it's 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 \$30.00 per cat and \$40.00 per dog. Clients also cover the cost for their pets rabies vaccinations and pain medication.

“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

Thank You!

So many thanks to our Sponsors and Pet Rescue Partners who have made the prevention work possible by donating their time and resources to Be The Solution.

Be The Solution Celebrates

70,011

Spay and Neuter Surgeries Financed and the Prevention of Over 350,000 Unwanted/Unplanned Puppy and Kitten Births, Reducing Animal Shelter Intakes and Euthanasia.



A Proud Sponsor of Tally Top Pet