



Unity for a Solution

WORKING TO IMPROVE THE
HEALTH, SAFETY AND QUALITY
OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITIES



What is Unity for a Solution?

We are a collaboration of animal welfare groups, civic associations and businesses with over 40 partners.

We were established in 2013 to:

- (1) **Raise awareness** of animal overpopulation in Houston, and
- (2) **Advocate** for more free/low cost spay neuter options for pets in underserved communities.

Our partners include:

ADORE Houston

Animal Justice League

Barrio Dogs, Inc.

East Lawndale Civic Assn

Emancipet

Fonde Civic Club

Laminack, Pirtle & Martines

Progressive 5th Ward Community

Assn

Texas Humane Legislation Network

PetSet Houston

Meadowcreek Civic Assn

North Hobby Civic Assn

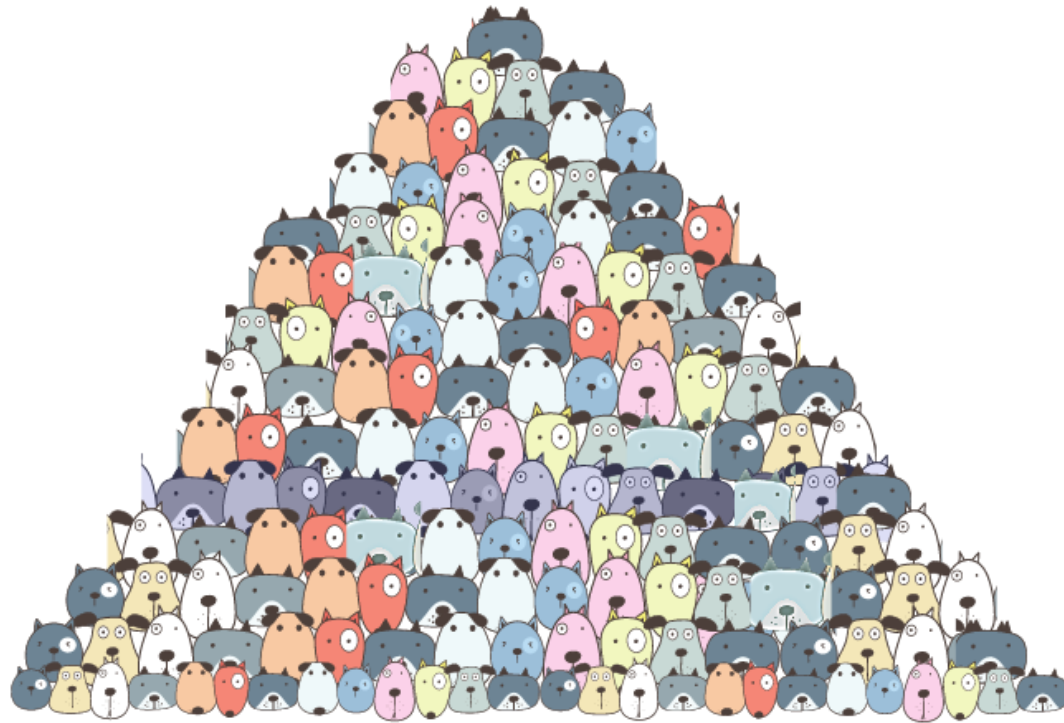
Rescued Pet Movement

SPCA

The Madeksho Law Firm



Background

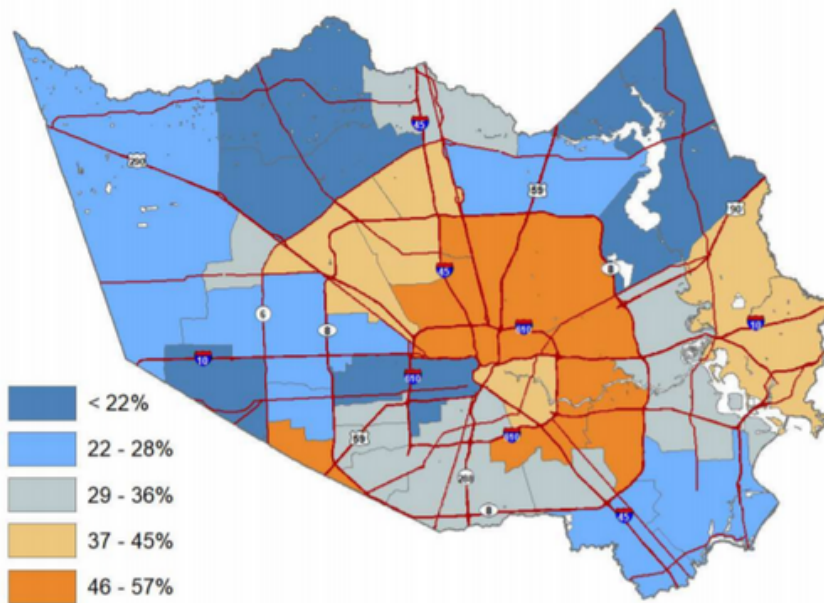


An unspayed female dog, her mate and all of their offspring, plus the offspring's puppies, if none are spayed or neutered, can add up to:

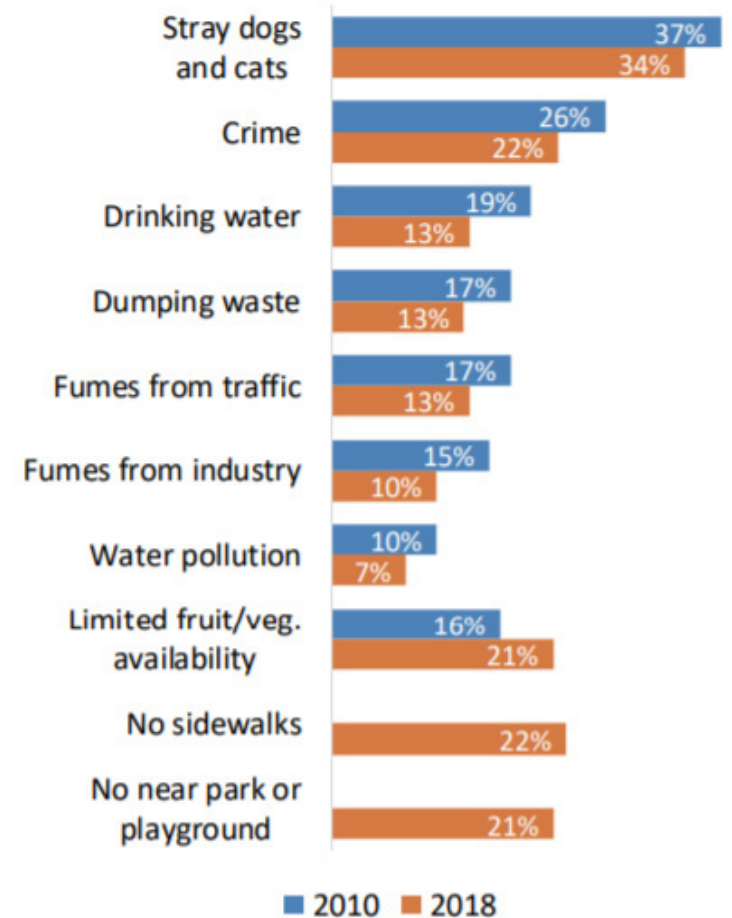
- 1 year - 16**
- 2 years - 128**
- 3 years - 512**
- 4 years - 2,048**
- 5 years - 12,288**
- 6 years - 67,000**

The University of Texas School of Public Health's "Health of Houston Survey" has consistently found that stray dogs and cats are the biggest concern in many Houston neighborhoods.

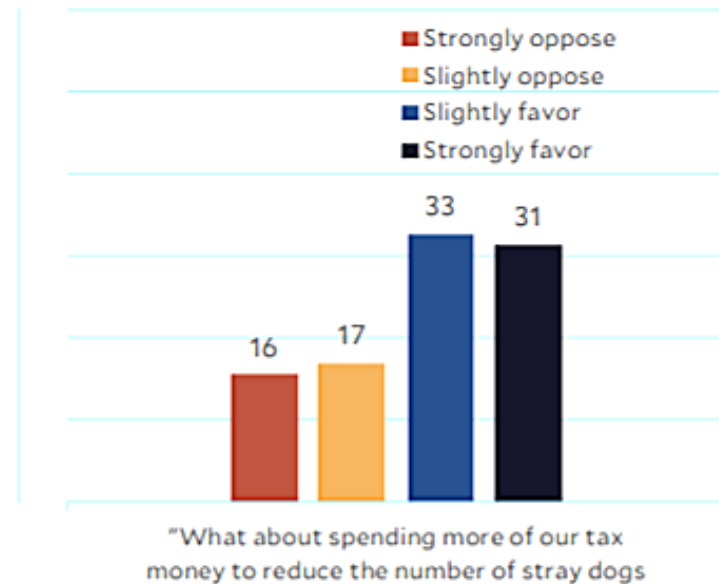
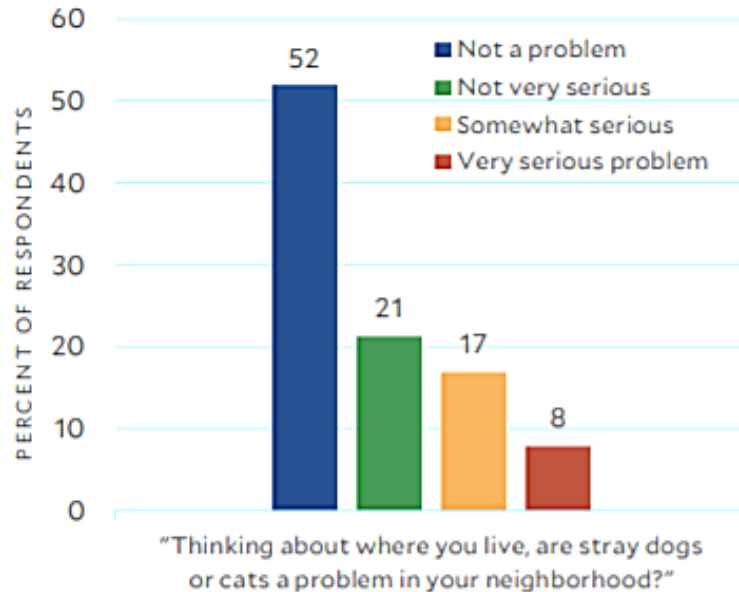
Percent adults reporting stray animals as a problem in their neighborhood



Percent of adults reporting concerns over neighborhood conditions



THE PROBLEM OF STRAY DOGS AND CATS IN HARRIS COUNTY NEIGHBORHOODS (2020)



Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2020)

The Rice | Kinder Institute for Urban Research 2020 Houston Area Survey found that:

- One-fourth of those surveyed (25%) think stray dogs or cats are a somewhat serious or very serious problem in their neighborhood.
- Only half of all area residents (52%) said that strays were not a problem in their communities.
- Stray animals make it more difficult and dangerous to walk to school, play in neighborhood parks or use the city's hike and bike trails.
- Area animal shelters are overwhelmed.
- Existing spay-and-neutering programs are inadequate.
- **Almost two-thirds of the those surveyed (64 percent) say they favor spending more tax money to reduce the number of strays in Houston neighborhoods.**

Our Solution

- 1 Provide free spay, neuter, vaccinations, and microchips** for pets in underserved areas. Since 2013, we've helped over 3,000 pets.
- 2 Raise awareness** about animal overpopulation, the importance of fixing pets and proper pet care in general.
- 3 Work with elected officials** to create more free and low cost spay neuter options.



Big Fix Houston

Since 2017, Unity has conducted an annual, citywide event to sign up pets for free spay or neuter, vaccinations and microchips.

- Surgeries are done later at vet clinics.

The average cost per pet is \$150.

- Costs are paid for with private funds raised by Unity.
- We have also received support from city council members Karla Cisneros, Robert Gallegos and Jerry Davis.

Our service providers include:

Texas Litter Control

Echo Lane Animal Clinic

Gulfgate Animal Hospital

Long Drive Dog & Cat Hospital

Emancipet

Mercy Pet Clinic

TARGETED NEIGHBORHOODS

Sunnyside

South Park

Acres Homes

Fifth Ward

Third Ward

Northside

North Hobby

East End

Independence Heights

Manchester

Denver Harbor

West Houston



Big Fix Houston - Results

2017 - 2020

Total spayed or neutered: 2,175
Average completion rate: 53.75%

Factors affecting completion rate

- Lack of vetting resources creates delays in scheduling services resulting in:
 - Owners changing their minds or losing interest,
 - Owner's contact information changing,
 - Owners giving away or losing the animal.
- Other factors:
 - Lack of transportation,
 - Work conflicts.



Big Fix Houston 2020 - Results

By Council District:

District	Council Member	Signed Up	Serviced	Not Serviced	Completion Rate
A	Peck	21	13	8	62%
B	Davis	26	14	12	54%
C	Kamin	15	11	4	73%
D	Evans-Shabazz	39	29	10	74%
E	Martin	39	25	14	64%
F	Thomas	10	4	6	40%
G	Travis	16	8	8	50%
H	Cisneros	83	55	28	66%
I	Gallegos	101	66	35	63%
J	Pollard	48	30	18	62%
K	Castex-Tatum	52	32	20	62%
County	Outside City	462	254	208	55%
	TOTAL	912	541	371	59%

Next steps

1) In 2021, we are planning a year-round virtual sign-up for services.

We are expanding the program because there is tremendous need, particularly in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2) We will reach out to pet owners who aren't online but need assistance by working with civic associations and doing local outreach in the community.

3) We hope to continue working with elected officials to better enforce existing animal welfare ordinances and pass new ones to better protect animals.

