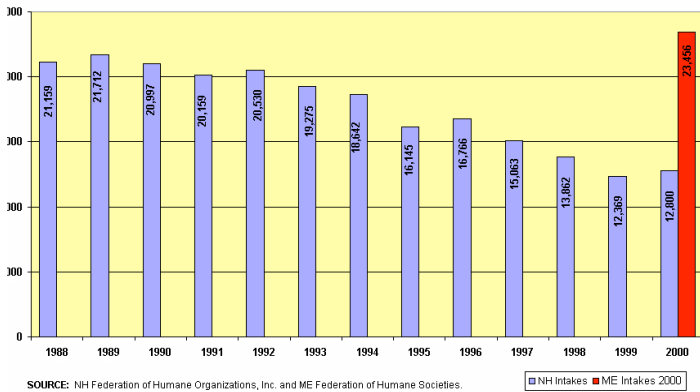


SPAY MAINE FACT SHEET

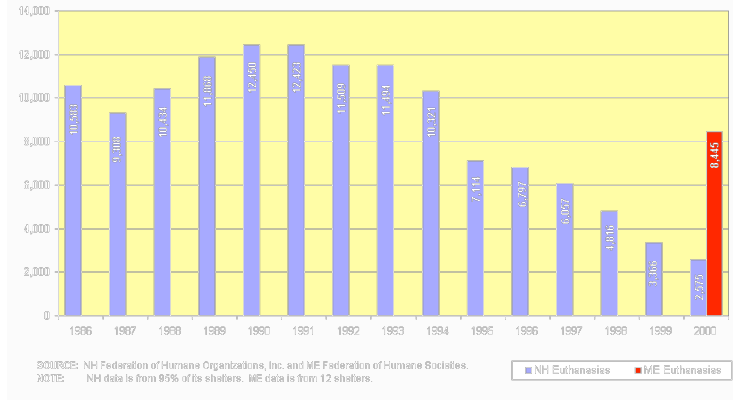
What is Spay Maine? Spay Maine is a consortium of Maine's animal shelters, rescue groups, animal control officers and animal welfare advocates who are working together to decrease animal shelter intakes and euthanasias by working to implement a state-wide program designed to assist low-income pet owners with spaying/neutering their pets.

Why will this work in Maine? It will work in Maine because it was a resounding success in New Hampshire--Maine and New Hampshire are very similar in culture and population. As result of its state funded low-income spay/neuter program, New Hampshire shelters have seen a dramatic decrease in shelter intakes and euthanasias. Between 1994 and 2000 New Hampshire has experienced a 34% decrease in intakes and a 75% decrease in euthanasias. Although the populations of Maine and New Hampshire are almost the same, Maine's shelter intakes are far greater than New Hampshire's. See below:

New Hampshire Intakes - 1988 through 2000 and Maine Intakes - 2000



New Hampshire Euthanasias - 1988 through 2000 and Maine Euthanasias - 2000



In 2000, Maine's shelter intakes were 83% higher and Maine's euthanasias were 228% higher than New Hampshire's. New Hampshire credits it's low-income spay/neuter program with drastically reducing its shelter intakes and euthanasias.

Why is this program for low-income households?

Studies have shown that low-income households relinquish a disproportionate number of pets to shelters.* However, from the response to it's program, the administrators of the New Hampshire program are convinced that low-income people do indeed want to do what is best for their animals by having them spayed and neutered--they simply cannot afford the cost of the surgeries. Studies have shown that the cost of spaying and neutering is less than the cost of caring for animals in a shelter.** Paying to have the animals of low-income households spayed and neutered is a cost-effective program.

Other than the obvious effect of reducing the no. of unwanted births, how will this program help the citizens of Maine?

Neutering reduces dogs' aggressive tendencies and other dog and cat behavior problems. Pets with fewer behavior problems are less likely to be relinquished to shelters. Altered animals roam less and are therefore less likely to be picked up by animal control officers thus saving Mainer's money spent on animal control and disposal of unwanted pets. This program also has a public health benefit because each animal spayed or neutered under this program will received a rabies vaccine.

How much will this program cost? New Hampshire's program costs \$130,000 per year. Because of Maine's higher poverty rate, we expect Maine's program to cost approximately \$200,000 per year.

How can you help? Voice your support to your legislators when legislation to fund spaying and neutering is submitted. If you send your email address to the address below, you will be alerted when legislation is being discussed. Every call, letter, and e-mail will make a huge difference. If you would like to do more, you can e-mail Susan Hall at shall1@maine.rr.com or call her at (207) 781-9940.

* Patronek GJ, Lawrence TG, Glickman T, Beck AM, McCabeGP, Ecker C. Risk factors for relinquishment of dogs to an animal shelter. J Am Vet Med Assoc 1996;209:572-581.

** Johnson, Karen. A Survey of Changes in HSSCV Shelter Population from 1994 to 1996: Do free spay/neuter vouchers work? National Pet Alliance, 1997.

** State of New Jersey Dept. of Health and Senior Services. Letter from Robert N. Monyeer, Coordinator Health Projects, Animal Population Control. January, 2002.