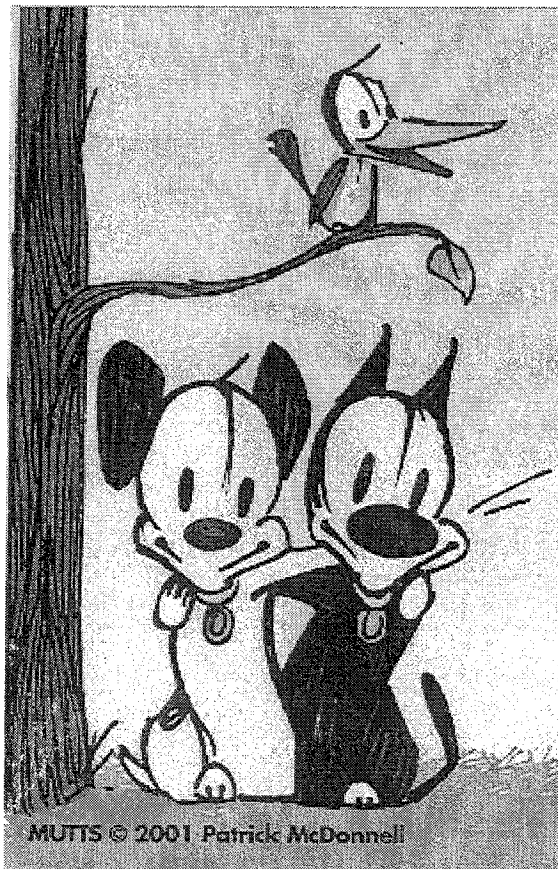


**Governor's Domestic  
Companion Animal Council  
*Annual Report*  
**2004-2005****



Domestic Companion Animal Council  
270 Route 206  
Flanders, NJ 07836  
973-927-5611

The Domestic Companion Animal Council respectfully submits the following report as mandated by New Jersey Statute 4:19A-17. The statute charges the Council to monitor, study, and review the activities of the Animal Population Control (APC) Program, pilot clinics, funds established for the control of rabies and other programs related to animals that the Council deems relevant to its work and to report to the Governor and Legislature annually, and at other times as it may deem in the public interest, with respect to its findings and conclusions.

The Domestic Companion Animal Council consists of 12 members appointed by the Governor:

<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Organization Represented</u></b>
Nina Austenberg, Chair	The Humane Society of the United States
Dr. Arthur Baeder, Vice Chair	New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association
Thomas H. Dent	The Cat Fanciers' Association
Anne DuHaime	County Animal Shelter
Janet Lyons-Fairbanks	Animal Rescue and Welfare Organization
Albert Greco	New Jersey Health Officers Association
Gary P. Hill	New Jersey Certified Animal Control Officers Association
Dr. Clifford Muddell	New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association
Roseann Trezza	Associated Humane Societies, Inc.
Barbara Wicklund	New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs, Inc.
Vacant	New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Vacant	The Humane Society of the United States

The Council has meetings each month. The Council also has three committees, Legislative, Advertising, and Finance.

Most of the expenses incurred by the Council since its inception have been paid by the organizations represented on the Council. Costs for meeting rooms, mailings, copying of materials, secretarial support, and even legal advice have been provided at no cost to New Jersey taxpayers or the APC or Rabies Control Programs.

## **Status of Companion Animals in New Jersey**

The number of dogs and cats impounded and euthanized has decreased substantially, despite the overall increase in New Jersey's human population. Since 1984, results of the New Jersey Stray Animal Intake and Disposition Survey (Figure 1) show that the number of dogs and cats impounded has decreased by 29%. The percentage of impounded animals that were euthanized has fallen from 51% in 1984 to 43% in 2004. The number of impounded animals that were adopted has increased from 19% in 1984 to 33% in 2004.

**Figure 1**

### **New Jersey Stray Animal Intake and Disposition Survey**

	<b>Impounded</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Redeemed</b>	<b>Euthanized</b>
1984	161,146	31,311	16,414	82,566
1990	145,711	49,442	14,042	75,197
1995	113,928	38,312	13,771	48,239
2000	122,200	43,633	15,802	48,551
2001	117,855	46,339	14,953	45,540
2002	110,288	43,978	14,595	41,210
2003	116,522	41,547	14,696	47,979
2004	114,942	38,111	14,742	49,975

Department of Health and Senior Services

## **Functioning of the Animal Population Control Program**

The Animal Population Control Program, a statewide low cost spay/neuter program administered by the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services (DOHSS), has funded the spaying/neutering of more than 169,000 dogs and cats since its inception in 1984. Animals are eligible for the APC Program if they are owned by a person receiving certain forms of public assistance or if they were adopted from a licensed animal shelter, pound, holding/impoundment facility or animal adoption referral service. A \$10 or \$20 co-payment fee is charged to the owner. There are 190 veterinary hospitals participating in the program. Veterinarians participating in the program make their services available at substantially reduced rates. The program is funded through a \$3 surcharge on licenses of unneutered dogs, the \$10 or \$20 co-payments, and sales and renewal fees from Animal Friendly license plates.

Annual allocations of \$575,000 were made to the APC Program for spay/neuter surgeries in both SFY 2004 and 2005, a portion of which was released each quarter by the DOHSS. Quarterly allocations ranged from \$100,000 to \$175,000. For the first quarter of SFY 2004, the program closed after only one day, leaving pet owners unable to have their pets spayed or neutered under the program until the beginning of the next quarter. On average, the program was able to remain open 36 days per quarter in SFY 2004 and 32 days per quarter in SFY 2005.

## **Accomplishments of the Domestic Companion Animal Council**

### **Advertising**

The Advertising Committee's primary mission is to promote the sale of the Animal Friendly license plate designed by Patrick McDonnell as well as the original Animal Friendly plate. This endeavor is most important as the sales and renewals of these license plates provide an important source of revenue for the Animal Population Control Program's spay and neuter fund.

A secondary mission is to promote the spaying and neutering of companion animals in New Jersey to reduce the burden of the pet overpopulation problem. Our main focus is to publicize the need for the surgical alteration of these companion animals along with the availability of the APC Program. We have utilized celebrity spokespersons in the past to get this message out to the public through the media and at gatherings of various animal friendly groups in New Jersey. Kelly Bishop is currently our celebrity spokesperson. She is an actress in the television show, The Gilmore Girls. Ms. Bishop lives in New Jersey, is a genuine animal lover, and is very much aware of the need for spay/neuter programs to combat the surplus of unwanted pets.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Committee has arranged to have display ads of the Animal Friendly license plate in the toll lane sign holders on the New Jersey Turnpike for a thirty-day period. The display dates for 2005 were from May 15 through June 14.

The Committee again worked with the New Jersey Certified Animal Control Officers Association and the New Jersey Health Officers Association who distributed information about the Animal Friendly license plate at the New Jersey League of Municipalities annual conference.

Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (15th District) graciously sponsored an Assembly Resolution praising the accomplishments of the APC Program. A copy of the resolution is attached. The resolution, passed by the New Jersey General Assembly on May 16, 2005, was read aloud on the Assembly floor. Dr. Arthur Baeder, Vice Chair, accepted the resolution on behalf of the Domestic Companion Animal Council. Several Council members were part of the ceremony which recognized the role which the APC Program has played in helping to contain pet overpopulation in New Jersey.

The Advertising Committee was involved in negotiations with an advertising firm which brings ads to movie theater screens. An advertisement featuring New Jersey's animal friendly license plate will be shown at movie theaters across New Jersey for six months.

The Committee will continue in these efforts and will at the same time seek the means to expand our advertising efforts for the Animal Population Control Program and the Animal Friendly license plate.

## Finance

The Animal Population Control Fund receives revenue from three main sources: the surcharge on dog licenses for unneutered dogs, registration and license fees from the Animal Friendly license plates, and the co-payment fees charged for spay/neuter surgeries done under the program. Revenue from these three sources amounted to \$703,030 in SFY 2004 and \$679,692 in SFY 2005. The Department of Health and Senior Services released \$575,000 to the surgery fund both years. These allocations remain the same as that for SFY 2003, but represent a decline of \$225,000 from most previous years.

The total number of surgeries performed under the program in SFY 2004 was 5,600 (5,972 in SFY 2003) at an average cost of \$90 per surgery. Of these, 1,694 were performed on dogs and 3,906 on cats. Individuals on public assistance accounted for 1,676 cases and those adopting from shelters for 3,924.

The total number of surgeries performed under the program in SFY 2005 was 5,379 at an average cost of \$91 per surgery. Of these, 1,607 were performed on dogs and 3,772 on cats. Individuals on public assistance accounted for 1,630 cases and those adopting from shelters for 3,749.

From the statistics presented in Figure 2, it is clear that this number of surgeries does not come close to reaching the demand. Although the program operates all year, the program only had funds available to authorize surgeries for a total of 143 days during SFY 2004 and 127 days during SFY 2005.

The new Mutts Animal Friendly license plate, designed by artist Patrick McDonnell, has increased revenue to the APC Fund. McDonnell is well known for his comic strip, *Mutts*. The plates became available at DMV offices in June 2002.

The financial report for fiscal years 1993 to 2005 (Figure 3) reveals a decline in revenues from the dog license surcharge. While this portends less available funds for surgeries, it is, hopefully, a sign that pet owners understand the benefits of altering their pets. The decrease in the number of dogs licensed may also be a result of a change in statute in 1996 when the requirement for municipalities to conduct a dog census was changed from annually to biennially.

Figure 2

**ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM**

**SFY 2004 QUARTERLY SURGERIES**

Quarter	Dogs	Cats	Public Assistance	Adoption	Total Surgeries	Total Reimbursement	Per Surgery	Total Surgeries Authorized	Total Authorized Amount	Per Surgery	Total Allocation Amount	Final Authorization Issued
<b>1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER</b> (Jul 1, 2003-Sep 30, 2003)	407	527	238	696	934	\$89,465	\$96	1,052	\$100,000	\$95	\$100,000	7/1/2003 (1 DAY)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER</b> (Oct 1, 2003-Dec 31, 2003)	386	1,109	385	1,110	1,495	\$132,148	\$88	1,680	\$150,000	\$89	\$150,000	11/7/2003 (38 DAYS)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER</b> (Jan 1, 2004-Mar 31, 2004)	366	1,168	449	1,085	1,534	\$133,462	\$87	1,715	\$150,000	\$87	\$150,000	1/29/2004 (28 DAYS)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER</b> (Apr 1, 2004-Jun 30, 2004)	535	1,102	604	1,033	1,637	\$147,785	\$90	1,889	\$175,000	\$93	\$175,000	6/15/2004 (76 DAYS)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,694</b>	<b>3,906</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>3,924</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>\$502,860</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>6,336</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>	<b>\$91</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>	

UPDATED 3/10/05

**SFY 2005 QUARTERLY SURGERIES**

Quarter	Dogs	Cats	Public Assistance	Adoption	Total Surgeries	Total Reimbursement	Per Surgery	Total Surgeries Authorized	Total Authorized Amount	Per Surgery	Total Allocation Amount	Final Authorization Issued
<b>1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER</b> (Jul 1, 2004-Sep 30, 2004)	347	555	295	607	902	\$85,910	\$95	1,041	\$100,000	\$96	\$100,000	7/13/2004 (13 DAYS)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER</b> (Oct 1, 2004-Dec 31, 2004)	411	1,150	407	1,154	1,561	\$140,851	\$90	1,803	\$165,000	\$92	\$165,000	10/26/2004 (26 DAYS)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER</b> (Jan 1, 2005-Mar 31, 2005)	404	1,215	495	1,124	1,619	\$144,456	\$89	1,835	\$165,000	\$90	\$165,000	2/17/2005 (46 DAYS)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER</b> (Apr 1, 2005-Jun 30, 2005)	445	852	433	864	1,297	\$120,601	\$93	1,530	\$145,000	\$95	\$145,000	5/12/2005 (42 DAYS)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>3,772</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>3,749</b>	<b>5,379</b>	<b>\$491,818</b>	<b>\$91</b>	<b>6,209</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>	<b>\$93</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>	

UPDATED 11/15/05

Department of Health and Senior Services

**Figure 3**

**APC Program Revenues SFY 1993 – SFY 2005**

State Fiscal Year	Surcharge Dog Licenses	Animal Friendly License Plates	Co-Pay	State Appropriation	TOTAL REVENUES
1993	\$516,062	0	\$58,954		\$575,016
1994	\$470,094	\$62,200	\$26,564		\$558,858
1995	\$464,527	\$596,075	\$136,816		\$1,197,418
1996	\$445,527	\$328,362	\$142,750		\$916,639
1997	\$425,733	\$333,317	\$145,250		\$904,300
1998	\$430,603	\$310,779	\$163,140		\$904,522
1999	\$394,186	\$275,911	\$174,810		\$844,907
2000	\$368,284	\$276,082	\$173,520		\$817,886
2001	\$350,336	\$292,570	\$203,090	\$400,000	\$1,245,996
2002	\$314,538	\$248,761	\$153,250		\$716,549
2003	\$299,311	\$341,245	\$102,860		\$743,416
2004	\$287,703	\$323,427	\$91,900		\$703,030
2005	\$271,068	\$317,534	\$94,090		\$679,692

**Legislative Initiatives**

The Legislative Committee of the Domestic Companion Animal Council has been studying the problems facing animals in New Jersey over the past year and examining possible legislative solutions to these problems which would improve the welfare of animals in New Jersey.

The Council continues to look for ways to increase revenue to the Animal Population Control Program. A potential source of revenue would be a tax check-off on the New Jersey state income tax, proceeds of which would go to the APC Fund.

Council members also recommend increasing the co-payment fee, paid by owners of pets participating in the program, from \$10 to \$15 for pets whose owners are on public assistance, and from \$20 to \$35 for pets adopted from a licensed animal shelter, pound, holding/impoundment facility or animal adoption referral service. These fees have remained the same since 1983 and 1986 respectively. The Council is seeking sponsors for both of these proposed legislative changes.

In addition, the Council has looked at using a portion of the money collected from the tax on pet food and recommends to both the Governor and legislators an annual appropriation of \$2,000,000 to our model APC Fund from the revenue from the tax. This amount represents less than 10% of the revenue the state collects from taxes on pet food. The addition of this money will allow the program to remain open all year and could provide for other programs in the future, such as state approved pilot projects for sterilization and rabies vaccination of feral cats. The resulting decline in overpopulation will have a positive effect on animal control at the municipal level, and will help reduce health risks involved with problems of overpopulation and feral cats. The Council supports the concept of managed cat colonies utilizing Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR)

under certain conditions. Every effort needs to be made to exclude environmentally sensitive areas containing endangered wildlife, songbirds and ground-nesting birds. In order to increase the number of dogs that are licensed, the Council recommends requiring immediate licensing of dogs upon their adoption. This would result in an increase in revenue to the APC Fund. More dogs being licensed may also result in fewer dogs being euthanized since dogs would be more easily returned to their owners if lost.

The past two State of New Jersey Commission of Investigation (SCI) reports have indicated the state of New Jersey has to turn more attention toward methods designed to control our dog and cat populations. The report goes on to say, "The overpopulation of unwanted dogs and cats presents a serious concern to the health, safety and welfare of the public. . . . The proliferation of feral cats poses a serious problem in communities throughout the state. . . . Clearly, the sterilization of feral cats, in addition to companion cats, will eventually lead to the elimination of the feral cat problem. It also is evident that the spaying or neutering of companion dogs and cats will significantly reduce the number of stray and abandoned animals and, thereby, decrease the rate of euthanasia."<sup>1</sup> Based on this report and reports from our Council members, it is obvious that the State Legislature needs to play a stronger role in the solution to this problem.

The SCI report noted that "New Jersey has been innovative in its efforts through low-cost spaying and neutering under the Animal Population Control Program. However, the funds, which are released at the beginning of each quarter, are exhausted quickly."<sup>2</sup> With 191 veterinarians participating in one of the most innovative programs in the country, the Council feels the solution clearly lies in more state aid to the APC Program, which would provide a significant decline in our overpopulation problem, and would allow innovative programs to provide for sterilization of feral cats

### **Goals of the Domestic Companion Animal Council**

- Continue to monitor the Animal Population Control Program as mandated in the legislation that created the Council.
- Develop methods to evaluate the effectiveness of the APC Program.
- Work with the Department of Health and Senior Services to ensure that financial statements for the APC Program are delivered in a timely manner.
- Evaluate the use of the Rabies Trust Fund as mandated by the statute creating the Council.

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<sup>1</sup> State of New Jersey Commission of Investigation, Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 2000, pp. 158-159.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 158.

- Review and, if necessary, recommend revisions to the regulations and administrative policies for the Rabies Trust Fund.
- Have legislation reintroduced which would update fees for the licensing of pet shops and kennels, and fees charged by shelters and pounds when an animal is impounded so that these fees, originally set in 1941, more realistically reflect the actual costs incurred.
- Have legislation introduced that would increase the \$10 and \$20 co-payment fee charged to owners of animals spayed or neutered under the Animal Population Control Program.
- Investigate having an income tax check off for the APC Fund on the New Jersey state income tax form.
- Investigate ways to encourage increased sales of dog licenses.
- Encourage the State to look into cat licensing as a source of additional revenue for the APC Fund.
- Look into developing a premium, such as a shirt or poster, to increase sales of the Animal Friendly license plates.
- Publicize the Animal Friendly license plate at the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey Annual Conference and other events.
- Develop a PSA promoting the Animal Friendly license plate and spaying/neutering.
- Display an ad featuring the Animal Friendly license plate at the tollbooths on the New Jersey Turnpike in 2006.
- Work with the Department of Health and Senior Services to amend the regulations to require that the health department of the municipality where an adopted animal will reside be notified of the adoption.
- Recommend regulating rescue groups and foster homes that keep or maintain animals to ensure humane conditions.

The Domestic Companion Animal Council would like to express its thanks to the following for providing assistance to the Council:

Assemblyman Reed Gusciora  
Associated Humane Societies  
Kelly Bishop  
The Cat Fanciers' Association  
The Humane Society of the United States  
Patrick McDonnell  
Marcy Schrum, The Humane Society of the United States  
New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
New Jersey Turnpike Authority  
New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association

The Council appreciates the commitment demonstrated by Bob Monyer and Doctors Sorhage and Campbell of the Department of Health and Senior Services and would like to thank them for the assistance they provide to the Council.

# New Jersey General Assembly



STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

## ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION By Assemblyman GUSCIORA

**WHEREAS**, The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey is pleased to join the Domestic Companion Animal Council in recognizing the successful Animal Population Control Program in the Garden State; and,

**WHEREAS**, Created in 1983, the Animal Population Control Program has provided low-cost spay/neuter services for New Jersey pet owners and has played a major role in significantly reducing the number of impounded animals having to be euthanized each year in State shelters and pounds; and,

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's Animal Population Control Program has been copied by several other states and serves as a national model, and its Animal Friendly license plate concept as a means of funding the Animal Population Control Program has also been implemented in other states who have looked to our model; and,

**WHEREAS**, The strength and success of the State of New Jersey and the effectiveness of our American society depend, in great measure, upon outstanding projects such as the Animal Population Control Program; and,


**WHEREAS**, It is altogether proper and fitting for this House to recognize the Animal Population Control Program as a successful endeavor within the Garden State; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*


That this House hereby honors and salutes the Animal Population Control Program, pays tribute to its meritorious efforts in animal population control, and extends sincere best wishes for continued success in the years ahead; and,

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker and attested by the Clerk, be transmitted to the Domestic Companion Animal Council.



  
ALBIO SIRES  
Speaker of the General Assembly

Attest:

  
CHRISTINE RIEBE  
Clerk of the General Assembly