Cat Portals: A Tale of Two Shelters

Humane Society Silicon Valley
Milpitas, California

Kootenai Humane Society
Hayden, Idaho

Creating Lifetime Friends Through Adoption
Welcome to this MILLION CAT CHALLENGE WEBINAR

Thank you for stopping by, we are really looking forward to spending some time with you today!

If you have any questions throughout this presentation, please type them in the chat box as you think of them. Don't worry, you aren't interrupting. We'll gather them up and ask the speaker as soon as they are finished talking.

If at any time you have to run, or our Q & A session is unable to be contained by the time limits we silly humans have tried to impose, don't worry: We are recording this presentation and we'll send you a link after the show.

Want to connect with us outside of this webinar? Good—we want to talk to you too! Visit us at www.millioncatchallenge.org or drop us a line at info@millioncatchallenge
9 Lives + You = 1 Million Lives Saved

#EveryCatCounts #ThanksToMaddie
Your Presenters

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Chief of Shelter Medicine
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Kootenai Humane Society
Hayden, Idaho
Portalizing HSSV
Humane Society Silicon Valley

- 49,000 sq ft main location
- Gold LEED Animal Community Center
- 3 Neighborhood Adoption Centers
- Intake ~6,100/year
- ~3,000 kittens, ~900 adult cats
- Safety net for the community
Why portalize cages?

- Part of larger plan to increase feline life-saving capacity
- Length of Stay (LOS)
  - In discussion
- Inefficient processes
  - Cleaning
  - Animal flow
Challenges

- Staff believed they were doing a good job already.
- Feared euthanasia rates would increase.
- Did not understand how cutting holes saved lives.
- Change is hard!
Common Belief in Shelters:

“The more cages you have, the more lives you save.”

THIS IS FALSE!!!
Overcoming Challenges

• Played LOS Game
• Board meeting
• All-staff meeting
• Incorporated LOS into organizational goals and culture
• Promised we would NOT increase euthanasia rates
Process

• Alleviate fears through communication / education
• Develop trust - leap of faith on staffs’ part
• Picked the winter to try it out

• Portalized in phases: (several months)
  1. Long-term stay: URI and Ringworm Isolation
  2. Moved through other holding areas
  3. Prevent impact to normal operations
Process

- Purchased plasma cutter ~$2,500
- PVC handmade portals ~$100-200
- Door template (local plastics store) ~$5 each
- UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program
- One-day training session
  - Facilities staff and volunteers
- Summer Camp: kids made beds
Results

In five years:
• Increased feline intake by 38.6%
• Increased feline adoptions by 44.6%
• Continuing the upward trend in FY18

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<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>FY16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Intake</td>
<td>2,752</td>
<td>3,209</td>
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<td>Adoptions</td>
<td>2,122</td>
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<td>Save Rate</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td>88.10%</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>90.6%</td>
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Cat Cage Setup: Side-by-side open portal- LARGE cages

Ensure each cage has:
- Cat Kuranda bed with bedding draped over
- Food and water dishes
- Bedding under Kuranda bed
- Scratch pad
- Cage curtain on one side of one cage door
- Litterbox with towel underneath

Pro Tip: Make it easy for staff
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Thank you!

Cristie YJ Kamiya, DVM
Chief of Shelter Medicine
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Photo Credits: Humane Society Silicon Valley
Portalizing
Kootenai Humane Society

Creating Lifetime Friends Through Adoption
Kootenai Humane Society

• Hayden, Idaho: 90 miles south of the Canadian border
• Only animal shelter in Kootenai County, population: 150,000
• 39 years in same location

2017 intake: 2,835 (982 were kittens)
2017 adoptions: 2,189

KHS is a private, non-government, independent organization
May 2015 – Outbreak of canine distemper
Dr. Sandra Newbury
University of Wisconsin
Dr. Aziz looked at all aspect of the shelter and recommended portals for the cat kennels.
Bedding, food, water, litter pan, and mobile area all in a 24” x 24” kennel
$1,300 grant written through the ASPCA’s Northern Tier Shelter Initiative

Received funding with the assistance of Dr. Tami McReynolds, DVM, Senior Director, ASPCA Northern Tier Shelter Initiative
Cat waits on one side while you clean the other!
Twice as nice!
Twice the size!
Dr. Denae Wagner, DVM, MPVM, and Chief of Service is the inventor of the portal system. She and Dr. Aziz performed the installation for KHS.
Results

• Cleaning is easier and quicker
• Scared cats are less stressed
• More options
• Cats appear to be happier
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Creating Lifetime Friends Through Adoption
Win up to 30 portals and one template!

MillionCatChallenge.org/portal-it-forward