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 speakers 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
THE HOLE TRUTH:
Your thirty minute guide to portalizing your shelter

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Take two and call us in the morning
Why portals?

Reduce disease $\rightarrow$ lower costs, decrease length of stay

http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0190140
The number of cats in the isolation ward went from 12-16 (maximum allowable) at any given time to an estimated 10-15 for the entire year.

James Lawson, BC SPCA Vancouver
Why portals?

Reduce stress → reduce disease, decrease length of stay

From fearful to relaxed
“Everyone is less stressed...euthanasia is down 40%...we can now take in more surrenders and strays”
Why portals?

Reduce time for cleaning and lower disease transmission risk → lower costs, decrease length of stay

Human welfare also increased. For example, Animal Care Attendant hours changed from 6am-2pm to 8am-4pm due to a reduction in time necessary to prepare for adoption viewing. Importantly, with the change in scheduling, staff had more time to spend with volunteers and members of the public during peak hours to facilitate adoptions.

James Lawson, BC SPCA
Why portals?

Reduce length of “adoption line” →
decrease length of stay, reduce stress and disease
I don't know how to explain how this helped – except to add that there seems to be some magical thing that happens when you get your numbers right. When we had double or triple that, we had LOTS of long-term cats. When we dropped our capacity, it took some time, but our long-term number just... fell.

Karen Green, Cat Adoption Team, Portland, OR
Ready for the power tools???

Images for cat with a chainsaw

More images for cat with a chainsaw
Want to try this at home?

- **Order premade portals** at sheltermedicine@ucdavis.edu or call 530-752-3369
- **Make your own:**

**Other fun stuff:**

- **Curtains:**
- **Beds:**
- **Got your own great cat housing hacks?** Share in the MCC yahoo group! Email info@millioncatchallenge.org to join.
Coming soon to a Challenge near you!
Bonus questions

• How can we afford to portalize?

• We are in need of brand new housing. What kind do you recommend?

• What are some other ways to improve cat housing?
Dear Million Cat Challenge...

We’re a small shelter with a budget to match...how can we afford better housing?
You can keep it basic

We were able to keep our costs for implementing C4C to a minimum. Our biggest expense was the actual purchase of the portals which was roughly $700.00. We had wonderful volunteers install the portals; our only installation cost was the rental fee for the plasma cutter which was $100 over 2 weekends. Our “curtains” — curtains that curtail cat stress! — were made by a neighbor who works in a fabric store, so our only cost was for notions. We used bed sheets that we already had for the material. Total cost for curtails was $15. **In total it cost us less than $1,000 to implement C4C.**
Let the community step up to help

How cats find homes faster

Your support helps CAT make housing improvements

“This appeal made almost three times what the next two appeals made,” Green said. “It basically has outperformed almost every quarterly appeal that we have ever made.”

Can you afford NOT to portalize?

Our cats are happier and healthier in body, mind and spirit. Our isolation room is now being used more as extra space than for sick cats. Our costs for medications have decreased, also. Our chubbier cats use the portals as exercise equipment, getting in their daily workouts. - Guelph Humane Society

An 84% decrease in URI meant the savings on medication were considerable. We have also saved almost $40,000 in labour costs due to the decrease in intake numbers. – Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society

http://cfhs.ca/athome/capacity_for_care/
Dear Million Cat Challenge...

We don’t need to portalize so much as to get all new housing. What would you suggest?
In need of housing?

- Condos/cages with 30” compartments with up/down, side/side portals for maximum flexibility
  - Kittens per 30” compartment at peak
  - Cat per double or quadruple at trough
- Open-ish fronts for interaction and ventilation
Need non-cage housing?

• Break large group rooms into smaller groups
  – 3-5 cats ideal
  – Periodically adopt down to zero
• Create some large single units, e.g. repurposed dog runs
• Use a good disinfectant and feel free to use coated wire, wood, other cost effective, lightweight material
How about outdoor housing for outdoor cats?
Dear Million Cat Challenge...

We’re portalizing for sure, but wondering what else we can do to make our cat housing the best it can be?
LOW STRESS CAT HOUSING

RAISED BED
- soft resting place
- conserves floor space
- provides elevation

PORTAL
- separation of resting/eating area from litterbox area

TOYS

LITTER BOX
- normal size
- allows normal posturing (no shelf above)

STRETCH & SCRATCH
- allows expression of normal behavior

DRAPE TOWEL
- provides hiding place

BARRED CAGE FRONTS
- good ventilation
- allows adapter/cat interaction

DOOR MOUNTED
- conserves floor space
- helps keep cage tidy

QUIET HINGES & LATCHES
- low noise opening & closing of cage doors

PARTIAL CAGE COVER
- provides visual retreat
- allows staff to easily monitor
Mark Your Calendar

**Cat Portals: A Tale of Two Shelters**
Thursday, February 22, 3-3:30 pm ET

Debbie Jeffrey, Kootenai Humane Society, ID
Cristie Kamiya, Humane Society of Silicon Valley, CA

[www.ASPCApro.org/webinars](http://www.ASPCApro.org/webinars)