

**PERSONAL COMMUNICATION REGARDING CURRENT EUTHANASIA STATS FROM
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Regarding current euthanasia statistics in the United States, the best available numbers should be:

1970 - 23.4 million Then people began fixing pet dogs.
1985 - 17.8 million Then people began fixing pet cats.
1993 - 5.7 million Then people began fixing feral cats.
1997 - 4.9 million but the pit bull population explosion was underway.
2000 - 4.2 million Then 9/11 whacked s/n funding.
2004 - 4.9 million Pit bull intake is rising toward 33% of all dog intake, and is over 50% in many big cities, with a 93% euthanasia rate.

There won't be any further reductions if the humane community doesn't start suppressing pit bull proliferation. You could fix every feral cat left in the U.S. and not prevent enough shelter killing of cats to offset the rising pit bull intake. Fixing feral cats is still worthwhile, but at this point is mostly a mop-up operation. Fixing pit bulls hasn't even begun yet in a systematic, effective manner.

Since we published our 2004 numbers, last July, New York City reported a huge drop in the total of animals killed there, but all other figures from statistically significant cities, counties, and states show increases of from 1,000 to 3,000 in total killing. Pit bulls and Rottweilers account for almost all of it. Cats are still going down and all other dogs are going down.

Overbreeding most dogs, e.g. Dalmatians and Chihuahuas is self-corrected by market factors. When all the homes are filled, the price drops, so the breeders stop turning them out.

Overbreeding pit bulls is not corrected by market factors, because the dogfighting market exists to profitably dispose of any who flunk out of homes or never find homes, but do not find their way to shelters.

The secondary market in fighting dogs and bait dogs for training fighting dogs has kept overbreeding pit bulls lucrative. The existence of the secondary market makes breeding pit bulls much more like breeding pigs and chickens than like breeding animals who are not considered short-cycle disposable commodities.

Some of the dogfighting breeders have also adapted an old gimmick from the exotic pet trade.

The deal used to be, "Buy a tiger kitten, and if you can't handle him, I'll take him back later, no questions asked."

The idiot customer would raise the tiger to age 1-2, then return him. The breeder would then sell a full-grown tiger to a canned hunt, while the customer had all the expense and hassle of raising him.

Now the deal is, "Buy a pit bull, and if you can't handle him..."

Cheers

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