Partners in Surrender Prevention

ARF Pet Safety Net Program
Contra Costa County, California
SAWA OnPoint
Contra Costa County, CA

California’s affordable housing crisis spreads to the middle class

By Christopher Thornber | January 25, 2016

Bay Area Animal Shelters See More Owner Surrenders Due to Housing Crisis

By Susan Cohen
AUGUST 12, 2015
The Cost of Pet Health Care Could Be Rising Faster Than the Cost of Human Health Care

By Helaine Olen

Many pet owners are struggling to pay for vet care

The Rising Costs of Health Care—for Cats and Dogs

As medical treatments for pets get more sophisticated, pet health insurance is becoming more common

By Ariana Weisraub
February 17, 2016, 10:46 AM PST
Two Shelters

Contra Costa Animal Services

Tony La Russa’s ARF

Municipal
10k intake

Nonprofit
2600 intake
What We Learned

Want to Keep Pet
- Yes
- No

Surrender Reasons
- Housing
- Veterinary
- Financial - Not specified
- Behavior
- Personal Circumstances
- Too Many Pets

Want to Keep Pet: Yes

Surrender Reasons: Housing (largest category)
Safety Net Process

1. Surrender Request to CCAS
2. Referral and Application
3. Counseling
4. Reporting
5. Follow Up
6. Safety Net Assistance
7. Reimbursement
Safety Net Assistance
Safety Net Criteria

- Moderate-high likelihood of retention after support
- Poor $ outlook, personal circumstances, or crisis
- Retention is a humane option
- Unlikely to have a positive shelter outcome
Success Stories

Peilo

Mango
Partnership Wins

- Community awareness
- Spay/neuter
- Surrender rate
- Data
- Cost reduction
Keys to Success

• Empower clients
• Consider barriers
• Hold compassion
• Collaborate