

**Demographic trends for animal care and control agencies in Ohio from 1996 to 2004.** Lord, L.<sup>1</sup>, Wittum, T<sup>1</sup>., Ferketich, A.<sup>2</sup>, Rajala-Schultz, P.<sup>1</sup>, Funk, J.<sup>1</sup>, and Kauffman, R.<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; <sup>2</sup>School of Public Health, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

A mail survey of 223 animal care and control agencies in Ohio was conducted to assess demographic trends for animal care and control agencies for 2004. Similar data were previously collected for years from 1996 through 2000. Of 223 agencies contacted for 2004, 165 (74%) responded. In 2004, approximately 315,519 animals were accepted which is a 7% decline from 1996. Total canine intake has declined 17% while total cat intake has increased 20%. Between 1996 and 2004 the euthanasia rate has declined from 65% to 57% and the adoption rate has increased from 25% to 34%. Absolute numbers of dogs euthanatized has declined 39% while the numbers of cats euthanatized has increased 14%. Agencies with spay/neuter policies have increased from 56% to 71% from 1996 to 2004 and an association with a veterinarian has gone from 39% to 80%. Of those 101 agencies with a spay/neuter policy, 42% alter all animals prior to leaving the facility. The odds of euthanasia of a dog by dog wardens in 2004 were approximately half those in 1996 ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and the odds of euthanasia by a dog warden without a spay/neuter policy were 36% higher than those for a dog warden with a spay/neuter policy ( $p = 0.022$ ). The status of dogs in Ohio has improved dramatically but the status of cats has deteriorated between 2004 and 1996.

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