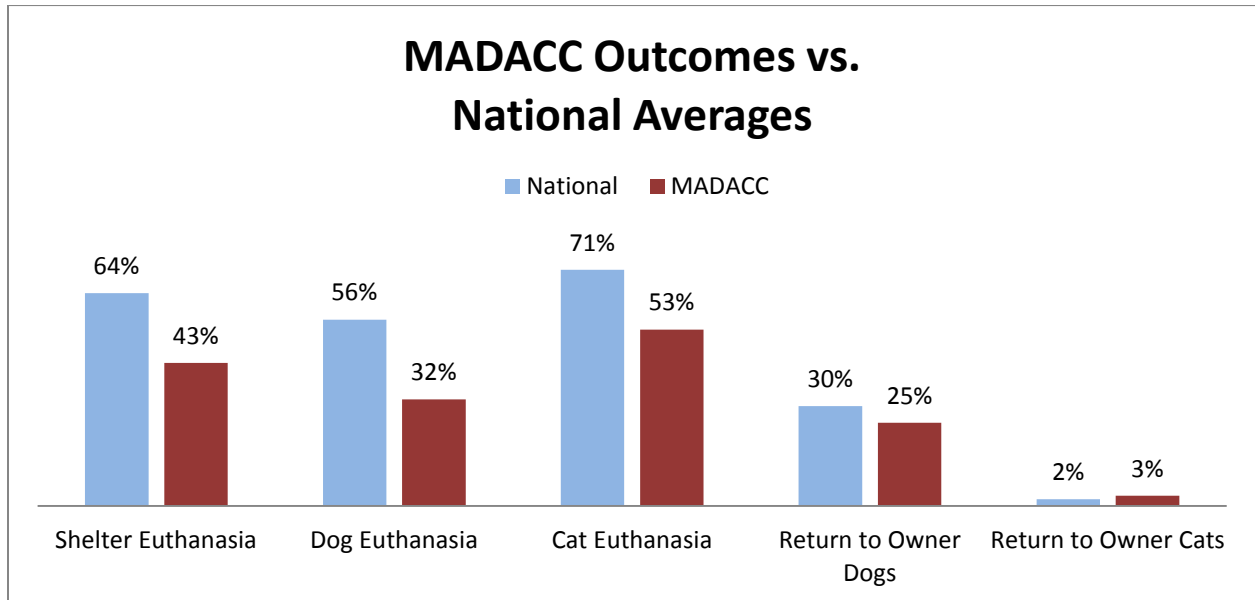
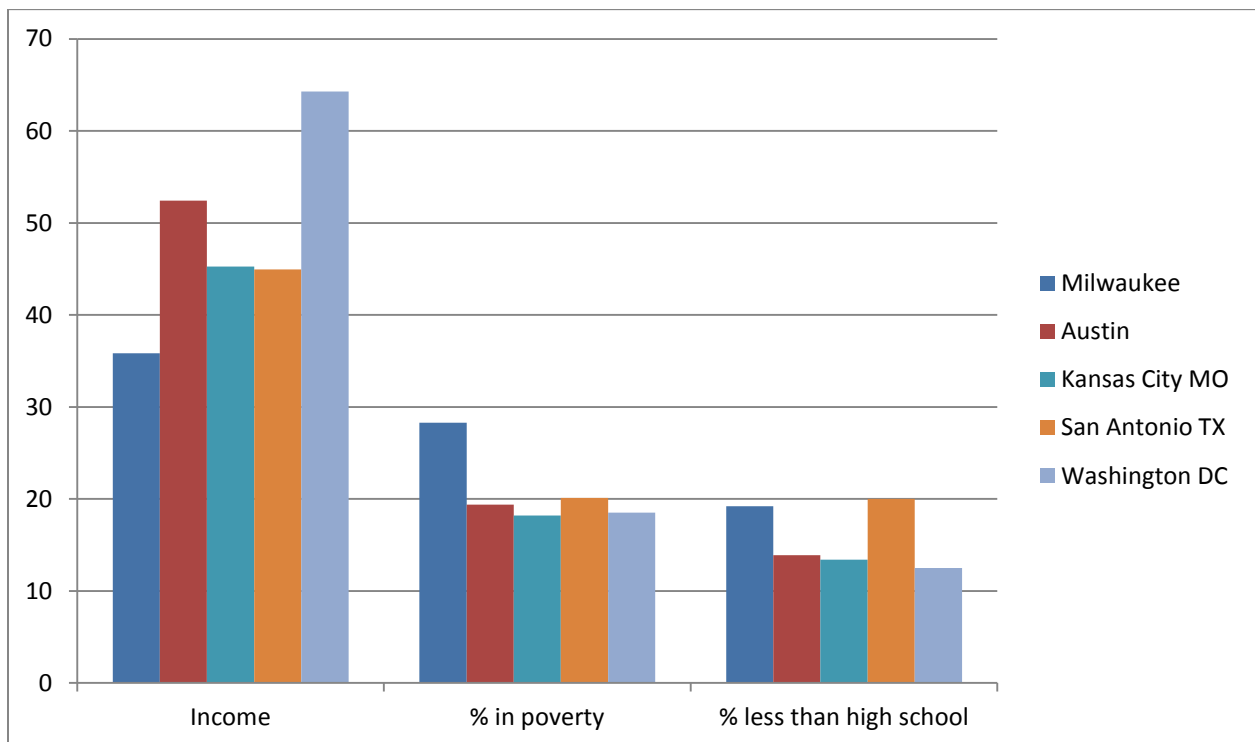


Milwaukee Animal Alliance (MAA) chose to compare Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) to communities with two strong, established, **GOVERNMENT MANDATED AND FUNDED** No-Kill programs in place, a community with a private contractor hired by the municipality, and a private, well funded not-for-profit organization. MAA did not compare MADACC to municipal facilities that had the same mission and scope of services. Therefore any comparison to these cities and organizations would be considered to be invalid, or in layman’s terms, not “apples to apples”. Historically, MADACC has had euthanasia rates well BELOW the national average for all humane societies and animal control facilities across the country, these figures are from 2013.



A look at the demographics of these “model” communities will also shed some light on some of the differences in our respective populations and the focus of social programming:



You will easily note that Milwaukee has the lowest median income of any of these communities, the highest number of residents living below the poverty line, and the second highest number of adults 25 and older with less than a high school education. In 2011, according to an article by Daniel Denvir at www.salon.org, John Paul Dewitt of censuscope.org and the University of Michigan's Social Science Data Analysis Network looked at census data and found Milwaukee to be the most segregated urban area in the US. There are reasons that these other communities have the governmental resources to put toward large investments in their animal control/welfare budgets.

Despite the rhetoric, "No-Kill" is not more cost effective, and often requires massive financial governmental and/or private investments into infrastructure, personnel and resources. Additionally, many communities that have adopted "No-Kill" plans have experienced severe challenges including housing and space issues, and are often being compared to hoarding situations, are being forced by critics and animal advocates into placing unsuitable animals into communities through adoption or abandonment (under the term "T-N-R") in order to have "better numbers" and are being forced to reduce services by either turning animals away, not picking certain animals up at all, in the case of cats in particular, or by closing intake operations one or more days a week.

Milwaukee is already becoming a more humane community for our animals and a safer community for our residents.

Without having to adopt a formal "No-Kill" plan MADACC has significantly reduced euthanasia through several efforts. We have decreased intake by becoming more proactive in reuniting animals with their owners and having owner surrenders routed to Wisconsin Humane Society when appropriate. We have increased transfers to private shelters and rescues.

We have increased our adoption program and have more than doubled our adoption rates from 2012 to 2013 and are on track to do the same in 2014.

We have also expanded services to the communities we serve (including the Free Ride Home program with licensing, free spay/neuter for reclaimed cats and pit bull type dogs, offering accessible low cost vaccine clinics and the most affordable spay/neuter clinic in the area that does not exclusively serve low income individuals). All of this has been done with NO EXTRA COST to our municipalities.

MADACC is in the process of a building renovation project which will provide a better quality of life for the animals in our care.

Additionally, we have worked hard to develop a strong partnership with Wisconsin Humane Society which has enabled this organization to save more animals with our joint, progressive programming which continues to expand in scope. It is through this partnership that we can eventually hope to achieve the lowest possible euthanasia rate in our community, and service all residents and animals as needed. Let's look at how these cities compare to MADACC.

Comparison Cities:

San Antonio, TX:

1. San Antonio population is 1.3 million people and took in 29,000 animals from community. In 2013 the City of San Antonio decided not to provide animal control and surrender services to

their unincorporated communities, which were mostly rural, and which affected about 20,000 residents.

2. San Antonio Animal Services is an open admission facility, however they require surrender appointments and as seen below in #7, will turn away animals if they are full. This is not how an “open admission” shelter should operate. It is a limited intake shelter if not taking in all animals that need shelter, including owner surrender animals, at the time the animal is brought into the facility.
3. Shorter stray hold – currently 3 days – Wisconsin has a 7-day stray hold, which in actuality turns into 8 days as the first day in custody cannot be counted per statute. This means MADACC has to hold onto stray animals until they have had the animal in custody for 9 days. Statistically, animals not reclaimed in the first three days have very small chances of going home. San Antonio has pending legislation to shorten the stray hold time to only 72 hours.
4. San Antonio has TNR approved and funded in their community. Trap-Neuter-Return (and vaccinate) is a program where “unadoptable” cats (those considered feral or those with aggressive behavior) that are brought into an animal control or humane society are sterilized and have their ear “tipped” and are vaccinated once for rabies and who are then either placed in managed colonies or returned to the community in the place they were trapped or caught. The thought is that by vaccinating and sterilizing these animals that the populations will be reduced, though the only studies verifying these results are those paid for and run by animal welfare organizations who are promoting TNR. There is a new push by “No-Kill” advocates to return ALL cats that are found in the community after the stray hold is complete after they have been sterilized and ear-tipped. There is no regard for the wildlife in that area, or the residents who originally brought the animal in, or for the common sense that returning thousands of sterilized cats into a community increases public health concerns and increases the risk for rabies.
5. Impounded animals must be sterilized after 30 days after second offense, law is changing to require this after first offense.
6. Animals under 4 months become property of animal control at intake.
7. Surrenders can be turned away based on space, and this organizations requires residents to have written proof from two other animal shelters that they attempted to surrender their animal at another facility before going to the animal control before animal will be considered. This is the wording on their website:

Please note, that owner surrenders are accepted on a space-available basis ONLY. If the shelter has reached capacity or is unable to provide humane housing for your pet, you will be asked to seek alternate arrangements.

Animal Care Services will make every effort to find a new home for your pet, please be advised owner surrendered pets become the property of the City of San Antonio immediately upon impoundment. As such, owner surrendered animals may be dispositioned appropriately up to and including adoption, transfer to rescue group, or humane euthanasia.

8. 20-acre campus with several buildings including an adoption center
9. \$50 license fee for intact dogs. No license fee for cats.
10. City committed to over \$3M in funding for spay neuter programming, and building the adoption facility.

11. In July of 2013 this article appeared in the San Antonio Express, <http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/City-s-massive-stray-problem-despite-no-kill-goal-4676873.php#/> , here is an excerpt:

According to Animal Care Services, an estimated 150,000 dogs and 187,000 cats roam the city's streets. And each day, an untold number of pets are dumped in and around San Antonio. Cases of cruelty to animals are all too familiar.

While ACS has been touting that it has averaged a live release rate of 79 percent since January — surpassing its no-kill goal of 70 percent by 2015 — the number reflects only the animals that make it to a shelter. Hundreds of thousands remain on the streets, including many that have owners but are allowed to roam wild.

Austin, TX:

1. Provides services to Austin and Travis County, with a population of over 1.2 million people and takes in 20,000 animals per year – the Austin population was incorrect on the presentation.
2. Austin Animal Services IS an open admission facility for Austin and Travis County residents, though requires appointments for surrenders – see below for more info.
3. Shorter stray hold – currently 3 days.
4. Austin has TNR approved and funded in their community – see San Antonio #3 for TNR explanation – cost \$78K for 2011
5. Provides spay/neuter surgery 7 days per week (Saturday and Sunday surgeries were added at the annual cost of \$65K each year, adding an additional veterinarian cost \$95K per year)
6. Have Austin Pets Alive! which is an independent, high volume adoption agency, that privately fundraises and does all the adoptions both onsite and offsite for this facility (not sure if adoption fees go back to municipality or are divided between the two, or are kept by Austin Pets Alive). However, this was budgeted to cost \$226K for 2011.
7. No longer accepts surrenders without an appointment. Looking to add behavior personnel adding \$113K to budget for two paid positions.
8. Has large campus with 6 buildings for animal housing
9. June 2014 City Council examining ways to deal with overcrowding and the recommendation was for the city to contribute \$4M to build another 120 kennels (another \$1M in grant money would also be used toward this). When these kennels are filled, then what?
10. In March of 2014, KXAN.com [reported](#) that the city's "no-kill" animal shelter, the Austin Animal Center, was again overcapacity, leaving at least 60 animals at the facility without kennels. The contracting adoption shelter was also at capacity and was unable to take in more animals. The Austin Animal Center is routinely unable to accept animals because it's full.
11. In July 2013, KVUE.com [reported](#) that all three Austin-area "no-kill" shelters, including the city-operated taxpayer-funded facility, were "at capacity" with 2,000 homeless cats and kittens and had stopped accepting any felines. Just one month earlier, the city [reported](#) that "for the first time in its history," the Austin Animal Center would not accept animals for whom citizens could not or would not care for, because of overcrowding at the "no-kill" shelter, which had "more than 1,000 [animals] available for adoption."
12. July 2012, the city's Animal Services Department announced reaching "no-kill" status in January 2012. On July 27, 2012, *The Austin Chronicle* [reported](#) that the department was seeking a \$1 million increase in funding because the Austin Animal Center (AAC) "is way past full. Hundreds

of animals are in foster homes, and shelter staff have had to be creative in order to house the overabundance of animals sleeping under AAC's quonset hut roofs. As of last week, wire crates filled with kittens could be found on tables in the shelter's main conference room. For months, staff has been finding room for dogs in cages in the stray- and surgery-holding areas." A City Council member "referenced anonymous statements from shelter volunteers claiming that the staff is overburdened, that health and safety issues are being overlooked, [and] that they'd seen one dog receive chemical burns on the pads of its paws after being returned too quickly to a recently cleaned cage."

Washington D.C.

1. Animal Care & Control Division of the Washington Humane Society in Washington DC takes in 4,000 animals per year (MADACC takes in 12,000). The organization has 4 locations and the animal control facility is separate from the adoption facility. This is an extremely large not for profit organization. The population of Washington DC is 632K people. In 2013, their revenues (through donations, services, investment income, etc.) were in excess of \$8M. Washington Humane Society is an open admission shelter, though it requires surrender appointments, details below.
2. Animal Care & Control Division contracts with the Washington DC Department of Health for these services.
3. Shorter stray hold – currently 5 days.
4. Surrenders accepted only by application and appointment, per the website: *Your appointment will take approximately 30-45 minutes and will include a health exam and behavior evaluation of your pet. Your pet's placement in our adoption centers is based on a variety of factors, including the results of the exam and evaluation. Washington Humane Society is an open-admission organization that accepts all animals from District of Columbia. Not all animals are able to be placed for adoption and humane euthanasia may be considered in some cases.*
5. CATnipp Program – TNR for feral and community cats – See San Antonio #3 for TNR Explanation.
6. Here is their euthanasia policy: *The Washington Humane Society supports an objective of ending euthanasia of adoptable animals both locally and nationally. However, the overwhelming number of unwanted animals entering our facility exceeds the numbers of available homes. Washington Humane Society acknowledges that due to behavioral, health or resource availability euthanasia of some animals may be necessary. Washington Humane Society will therefore strive to promote aggressive adoption, behavior modification, sterilization and cruelty prevention programs in hopes of reducing the overall numbers of homeless animals in the District of Columbia. Washington Humane Society recognizes that the pet overpopulation crisis is a nation-wide concern and will actively engage in partnerships with other humane organizations to transfer animals into their care for permanent placement into new homes.* This policy is in accordance with MADACC operations and current euthanasia policy.

Kansas City, MO

1. The animal control was outsourced to a private organization, KC Pet Project, in 2012.
2. Took in 8,200 animals in 2013 with a population of 466K. Prior to that Kansas City Animal Control saw a steady decline from 10,949 animals in 2007 to only 6,087 in 2011, the last year animal control was run by the municipality. After KC Pet Project took over, there was an increase in 2012 and a large jump in 2013 which was likely due to the "No-Kill" status where residents feel better about surrendering or calling their own animal a stray and bringing them into the facility when they cannot or will no longer care for their companion.

3. KC Pet Project is an open admission facility, though requires appointments for surrender, see below.
4. Shorter Stray hold – currently 5 days for dogs and only 2 days for cats.
5. Kansas City animal control does NOT pick up stray cats, but will allow the public to bring in trapped or otherwise contained cats **for a fee**. Per their website:

Q. I have a problem with stray cats in my neighborhood. Why doesn't the City pick them up?

A. There is no leash law for cats in Kansas City, Mo., so animal health officers are not able to impound cats found running loose. The shelter will accept stray cats if they are humanely caught and brought in during public hours; there is a fee for this service.

6. Mandatory Spay/Neuter for pit bulls, several communities in the Kansas City Metro Area ban pit bulls.
7. Requires appointments for animals surrenders that are made within 72 hours of processing the request, new policy change in August 2014:

“Scheduling appointments for owner-surrendered animals outside regular adoption hours is the best way to handle the increased traffic in our lobby,” said Brent Toellner, president of the board for KC Pet Project. “Managing intake through appointments will help us lower wait times and avoid potential public safety issues in a way that the current system does not.”

8. Satellite Adoption Center – adoption fees \$75 - \$200
9. Barn Cat program that adopts out “feral or severely unsocialized” to the public.
10. As with many other “no-kill” facilities, space is an issue. See story below:

From www.kansascity.com in June 2014:

Kansas City’s municipal animal shelter has taken in so many animals this month that it is using bathrooms, closets, locker rooms, the basement and even the employee break room to have enough space for them all. KC Pet Project takes in the third most animals of all the no-kill, open-admissions municipal shelters in the nation, according to the No Kill Advocacy Center. The shelter needs to be three times the size it is currently to accommodate the number of pets it holds, Johnson (the Executive Director) said.

“We simply can’t keep on ignoring this problem and hope it will go away,” said Councilman John Sharp. Sharp has proposed including \$10 million for a new shelter in the next bond issue the city puts before voters.

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article635616.html#storylink=cpy>

Milwaukee, WI

1. MADACC was created in 1999, when Wisconsin Humane Society no longer wanted to perform animal control services in their current model as it was deemed non-compliant with their mission of “Saving Lives”.
2. MADACC serves all 19 municipalities in Milwaukee County, serving a population of 956,023, taking in over 12,000 animals per year.
3. MADACC is an open admission facility, accepting every animal brought into our facility, with no appointment required. MADACC believes that turning people and animals away who are in crisis leads to incidents of animal abandonment and abuse, and is contrary to our mission.

4. MADACC operates under a State mandated stray hold of 7-days, plus one day for the day of intake, essentially requiring animals to be in our custody for 9 days at the minimum. This is one of, if not the longest, stray hold in the United States.
5. MADACC's mission is: *To provide animal regulation and care services which protect the health, public safety and welfare of people and animals in Milwaukee County.* Every single day, we go above and beyond this with compassionate services outside of our contracted scope to help the animals and residents in our community. Animal advocates interested in a "no-kill" agenda are asking MADACC to take on unrealistic responsibilities, for instance:
 - Behavior modification for animals who show signs of aggression. This is a task that MADACC has neither the space, expertise, or resources for the commitment necessary to take on the responsibility to long term house and retrain animals to become potential adoption candidates. Animals that require this level of behavior modification need months of retraining and the aggression will never be "cured". Aggression can only be managed for the life of the animal. This is a function best handled by private shelters, like Wisconsin Humane Society, who have an established Behavior Department, resources, space and funding for a program of this nature.
 - Playgroups are a new concept that are not currently embraced by all shelters, nor are they considered to be a standard of care necessary for the animals in a shelter. Again, these new concepts are best taken on by private organizations as they have the staffing, resources, expertise and funding to have programming that is still in its infancy and not a regular service or expectation.
 - Performing TNR in our communities, which would currently be in violation of the leash laws in all 19 municipalities, violate animal cruelty laws for abandonment, and be costly to taxpayers as we perform spay/neuter surgeries on cats that are not adoptable as they are either feral or aggressive and release them back into the community.
6. MADACC is a fiscally responsible organization, who has in the past few years been able to increase revenues and decrease expenses each budget year while being called on to provide more and more to a needy community. MADACC helps the community in the following ways:
 - MADACC offers low cost spay/neuter and primary vaccines 4 days per week.
 - MADACC regularly waives or lowers fees for financially challenged residents in order for them to reclaim animals.
 - MADACC has the lowest adoption fees in the area. Our adoption program is revenue neutral, and negative in the case of adult cats. It is done to save lives only.
 - MADACC has instituted programming to return dogs and cats home in the field so that they do not come into the facility, we build good will, and animals are not abandoned at MADACC for lack of reclaim funds.
 - MADACC provides many residents with free collars, leashes, food and other items in order to improve the quality of life for the animals, help educate the public and improve the human-animal bond.
7. We are committed to increasing live outcomes and decreasing intakes and euthanasia, and our statistics show this. We explore every new program possible to provide the best outcomes for our animals and community, and will continue to do so. There is much to be done in our community, and through our stronger partnerships with other local and national organizations, we are on the right path for our community.