



# Animal Care and Protection in the City of Baltimore: 2006



## GOALS:

- Protect animals from neglect, abuse and exploitation.
- Find new, safe homes for unwanted animals.
- Save animals' lives and prevent euthanasia.

## BALTIMORE ANIMAL RESCUE & CARE SHELTER AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROMOTE ANIMAL WELFARE

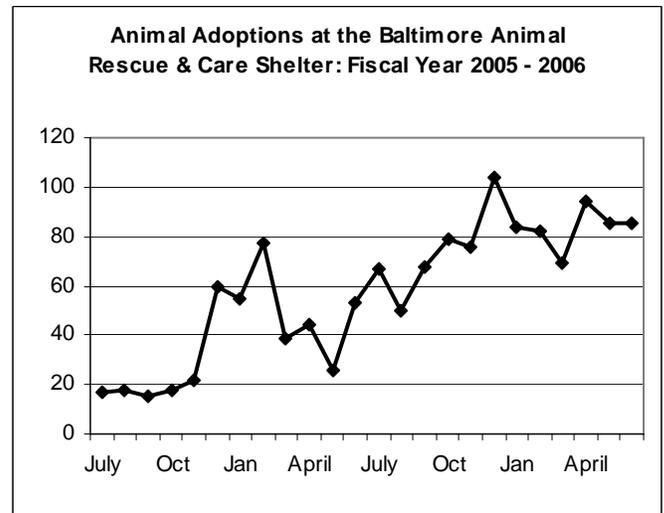
The Baltimore Animal Rescue Shelter (BARCS) accepts all lost, abandoned, dangerous, or injured animals brought by the community or impounded by the Baltimore City Health Department Bureau of Animal Control. By accepting lost, abandoned and dangerous animals, BARCS protects public safety and prevents animal neglect.

BARCS finds new homes for unwanted animals through community rescue organizations and low-cost adoption services. In addition to adoption and rescue, BARCS reunites lost animals with their owners. Unfortunately, some animals must be euthanized due to space constraints or health and safety concerns. Saving animals, rather than euthanizing them, is BARCS' mission.

## ANIMAL ADOPTIONS INCREASE 10-FOLD IN BALTIMORE

The Baltimore City Health Department and the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter have expanded their animal adoption program significantly. During the last three years, adoptions increased tenfold, rising from 90 in fiscal year 2004 to 943 in fiscal year 2006. In the last year, animal adoptions have increased 112%, from 444 in fiscal year 2005 to 943 in fiscal year 2006 (See Figure 1).

Figure 1.



Significant improvements in adoption services are responsible for the tenfold increase in adoptions. During the past two years, BARCS sped processing and approval of adoptions. Today, most adoption requests for spayed animals are processed within one day. BARCS increased adoption classes and services from one day per week to five days per week, including Saturdays.

BARCS also enhanced adoption services by permitting the adoption of younger animals. Previously, animals under the age of six months were not offered for adoption, due to the lack of resources for early age spay and neutering. To permit adoptions of young animals, BARCS required spaying and neutering in a more detailed adoption contract, and followed up to ensure that the operation took place. If it did not take place, BARCS fined the owner and impounded the animal. This new procedure permitted the adoption of younger animals.

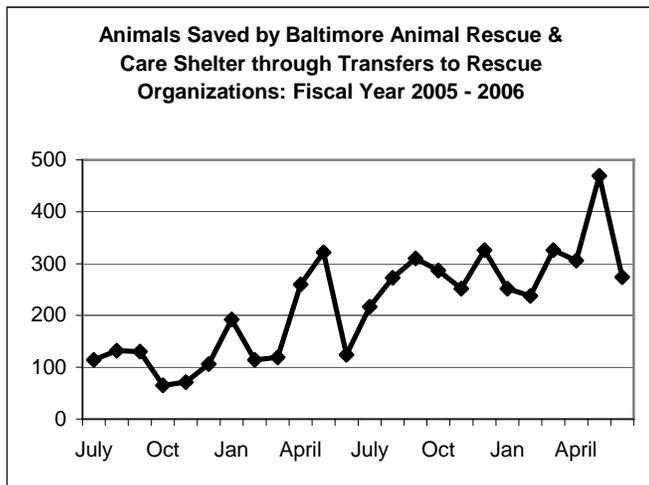
In addition, BARCS has successfully placed pets by attending more outreach events, including weekly events at two local pet accessory stores. The Annual BARCStoberfest, a community fund-raiser, has also raised the profile of Baltimore's adoption services.

## MAJOR INCREASE IN TRANSFERS OF ANIMALS TO RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

During the past two years, the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter have built relationships with over fifty new rescue organizations. These rescue organizations shelter the animals, establish foster care, and locate new homes.

Transfers to rescue organizations more than doubled between fiscal years 2005 and 2006, rising from 1,749 in 2005 to 3,530 in 2006 (See Figure 2).

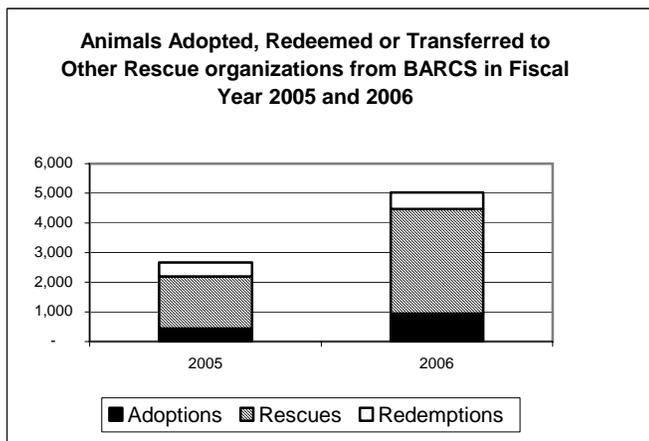
Figure 2.



## SIGNIFICANT RISE IN NUMBER OF ANIMALS SAVED IN 2006

BARCS saved 5,021 animals in fiscal year 2006 through adoptions, rescue organizations and reunions with previous owners, up from 2,672 in fiscal year 2005. 88% more animals were saved in fiscal year 2006 than in fiscal year 2005. (See Figure 3.)

Figure 3.



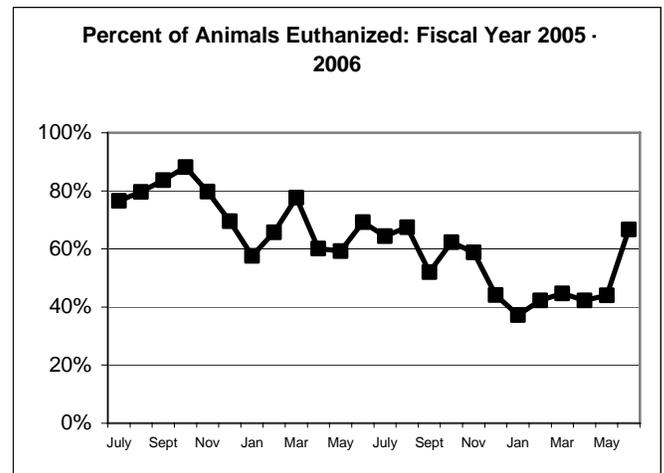
## SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN EUTHANASIA

Improvements in pet adoption and enhanced collaboration with rescue organizations translates into lives saved.

The Animal Shelter has limited space, and accepts impounded animals from the Baltimore City Health Department Animal Control and the community. Like all Animal Control agencies, the shelter must euthanize animals, due to illness, dangerousness, and space constraints.

During the past fiscal year, the rate of euthanasia has dropped from 71% to 51% -- a drop of 28%. (See Figure 4.)

Figure 4.



## NEXT STEPS

In fiscal year 2007, BARCS and the Baltimore City Health Department plan to increase the accessibility, quality and awareness of their adoption service. BARCS will expand evening and weekend hours to make its services more accessible to working adults.

In addition, BARCS will begin offering medical and behavioral tests to adoptable animals, including tests for heartworm in dogs and leukemia and AIDS in cats. Medical testing will make the animals more attractive both to potential adopters and to rescue organizations.

In order to monitor the success of these changes, the City of Baltimore will track the number of adoptions and euthanasia rate in their "CitiStat" performance measurement system.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jennifer Mead. Sarah Norman. Sujay Pathak.

Special thanks to the staff of the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter and Baltimore City Health Department Animal Control for making these improvements possible.