



# Promoting Animal Welfare in the Bay Area

M5 - Foothill Symposium

Slidedeck by Lilia Alishahian & Violet Hayes



# Introduction

Social Justice Pathway at  
Gunn High School

Partnered with Berkeley  
Humane

# Overpopulation in Shelters

The infographic features a central horizontal red line with three vertical red lines extending downwards to three colored circles. The circles are light pink, red, and teal. The background is white with various colorful abstract shapes: a red circle with white concentric arcs in the top left, a light blue shape in the top center, a yellow shape in the top right, a green shape on the left, and a large pink shape in the bottom right. A small yellow logo of six teardrop shapes is in the bottom left.

## **Breeder > Adoption**

Stigma around pets being “aggressive”

Desire for a specific breed

## **Spay and Neuter**

Lack of resources in low income areas

Misconceptions about pet “mistreatment”

## **Housing Crisis**

People giving up their pets

COVID

# The Process



## Vision

1. Spread Awareness on overcrowding crisis in animals shelters
2. Impact of spaying and neuter
3. Responsible Pet ownership
4. Do it through a engaging, fun, and educational activity

## Allies

### **Kristin Robson**

@/Berkeley Humane

### **Laurel Howard**

@/PAUSD SELF  
Coordinator, Teacher, &  
Activity Facilitator

### **Danielle Whichard**

@/PAUSD Teacher &  
Activity Facilitator

## Challenges

1. Finding a shelter/organization to partner with  
Received no response despite initial outreach.  
Solved: Persistence by reaching out through multiple channels: calls, emails, and in-person visits to ensure follow-through.
2. Getting individuals to precipitate  
Solved: Engaging in a casual conversation to build rapport

# Victories

APRIL 18, 2025: Held first workshop for Whichard SELF. Presented to 18 10th graders.

APRIL 18, 2025: Brought leftover donuts and unfinished blankets to 7th period AAR class to finish up, gave our presentation to 10 11th graders.

APRIL 25, 2025: Held second workshop for Howard SELF. Presented 16 12th graders.

MAY 3, 2025: Dropped off the blankets to Pets In Need for the pets to enjoy.

MAY 7, 2025: Put up flyers we made.

MAY 16, 2025: Held a third workshop for SELF.

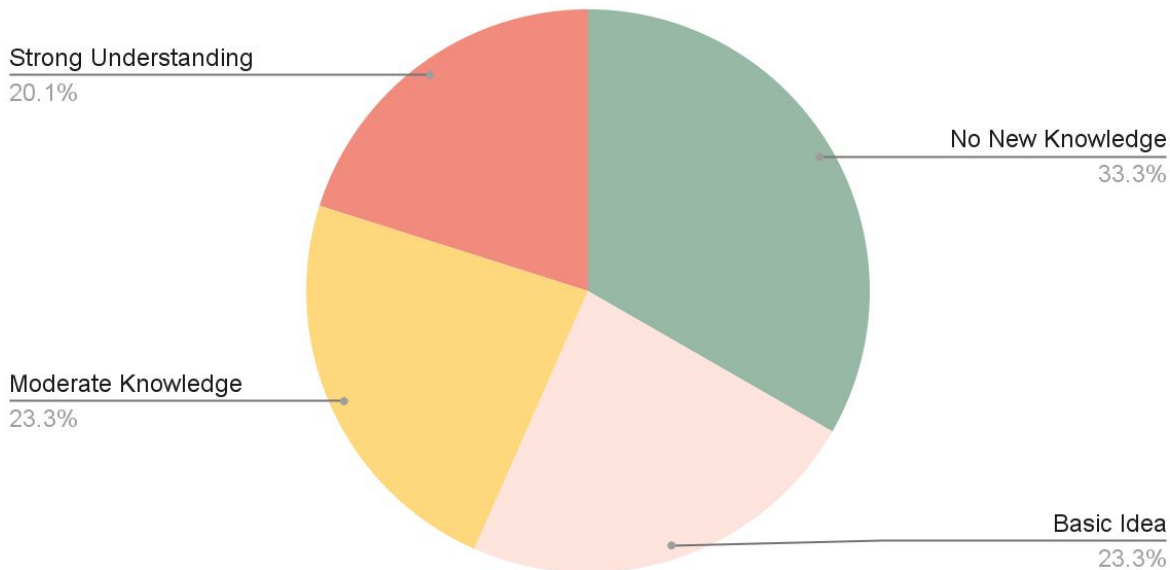
MAY 20, 2025: Dropped off the blankets to Berkeley Humane for the pets to enjoy!

# Pre Survey

## What do you know about the importance of spaying and neutering pets?

### Pre Activity Knowledge Levels

What do you know about the importance of spaying and neutering pets?

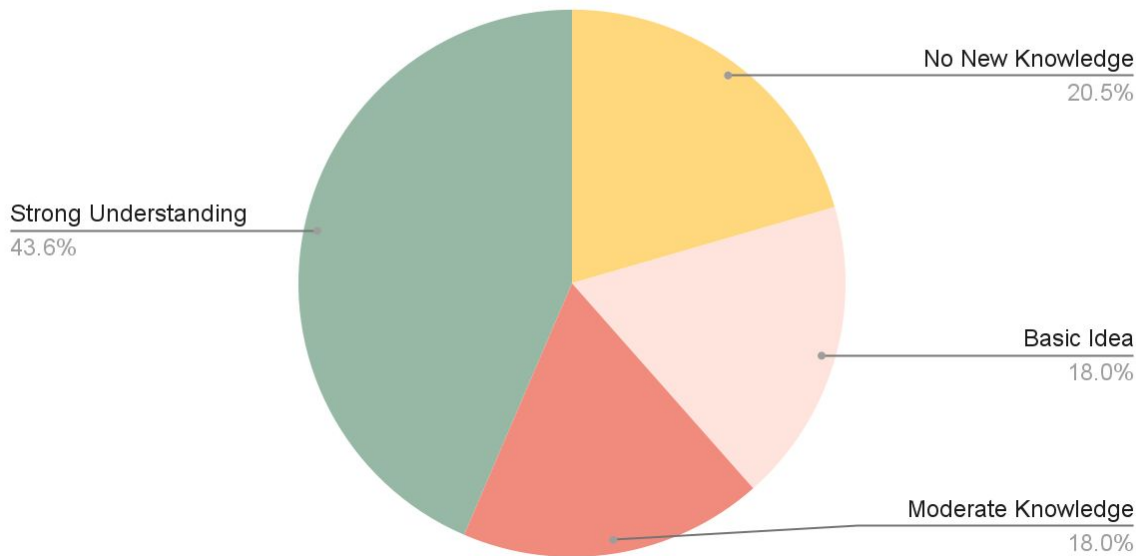


# Post Survey

## What new information did you learn about spaying and neutering?

### Post Activity Knowledge Levels

What new information did you learn about spaying and neutering?



"I've learned that spaying and neutering not only prevent unwanted litters but also significantly reduce the risk of certain cancers and infections, like uterine infections and testicular cancer, and may even help lower aggressive or roaming behaviors in pets."



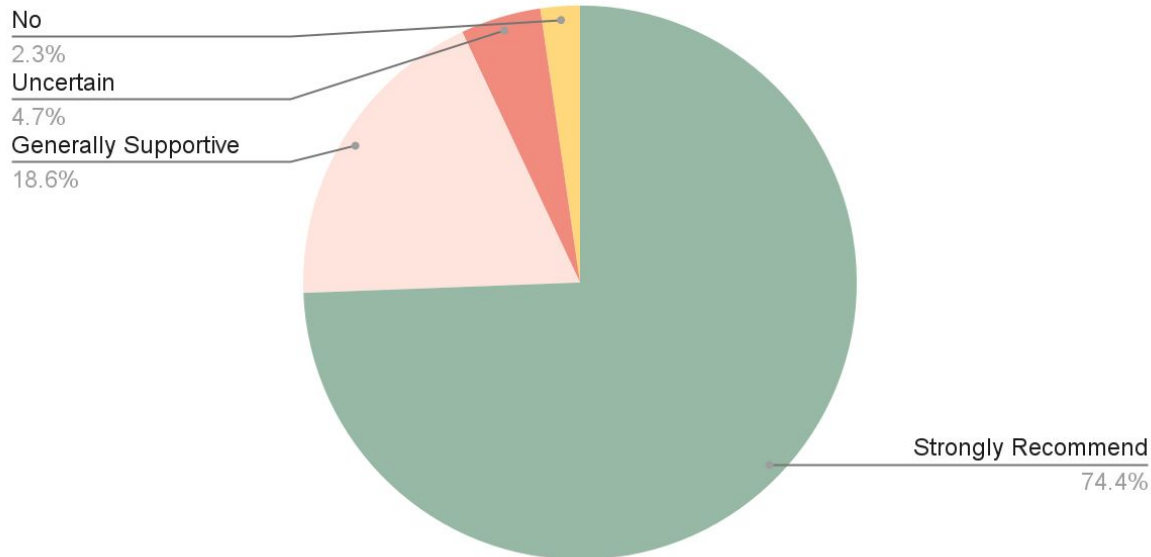
# Post Survey

**Would you now recommend spaying and neutering to others? Why or why not?**

"I would recommend it because it would prevent overpopulation in shelters and improve living conditions for these animals. It would make the conditions for the animals living there safer and make them feel more comfortable and cared for in a smaller population."

## Post Activity Knowledge Levels

Would you now recommend spaying and neutering to others? Why or why not?





# Results!

## SAAR

### Did You Know?

Every year, 6.5 million animals in the United States alone end up in shelters, and many never find a home. Spaying and neutering help prevent unwanted litters, reducing the number of homeless animals.



## SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS!

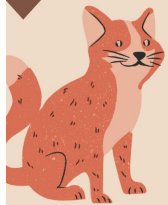
ADOPT FROM SHELTERS!

### Why spay and neuter?

It prevents overpopulation, meaning fewer stray and abandoned animals. It also reduces shelter overcrowding, leading to more resources for animals in need.

### Berkely Humane

2700 Ninth St. Berkeley CA 94710  
(510) 845-7735



# Takeaway & Next Steps

## What we learned

1. Be persistent with the things you want
2. Holding individuals accountable and addressing issues directly when expectations are not met
3. Delivering messages with clarity and impact to effectively engage diverse audiences


## Next Steps

Possibly hosting additional workshops



# THANK YOU!

Thank you to Foothill Symposium and PAUSD SJ AAR program for giving us this opportunity, YCS, Kristin Robson at Berkeley Humane, Ms Howard, Ms Firenzi, Ms Whichard, and to everyone listening!



## Work Cited

"Alarming Trends in California's Municipal Shelter Euthanasia Rates – Animal Rescuers for Change." *Animalrescuesforchange.org*, 3

Apr. 2024, [animalrescuesforchange.org/blog-post-title-4/](https://animalrescuesforchange.org/blog-post-title-4/).

Costa, Starlynn. Personal interview. 23 October, 2024.

"Home." *Humane Society Silicon Valley*, 7 Nov. 2024, [www.hssv.org/](https://www.hssv.org/).

"Home." *SF SPCA*, [www.sfspca.org/](https://www.sfspca.org/).

Matthews, Lisa. Personal interview. 14 October, 2024.

"Los Angeles County Animal Care & Control." *LA County Animal Care & Control*, Animal Care and Control, 2017,  
[animalcare.lacounty.gov/animal-statistics/](https://animalcare.lacounty.gov/animal-statistics/).

Parker, Nineveh. Personal interview. 9 October, 2024.

"Pet Statistics." *ASPCA*, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 2022,  
[www.aspca.org/helping-people-pets/shelter-intake-and-surrender/pet-statistics](https://www.aspca.org/helping-people-pets/shelter-intake-and-surrender/pet-statistics).

Scotty. Personal interview. 11 October, 2024.

Shelter Animals Count. "2023 Statistics." *Shelter Animals Count*, 2023, [www.shelteranimalscount.org/stats](https://www.shelteranimalscount.org/stats).

"Shelter Statistics | OC Animal Care." *Ocpetinfo.com*, 2024, [ocpetinfo.com/about-us/shelter-statistics](https://ocpetinfo.com/about-us/shelter-statistics). Accessed 20 Nov. 2024.