
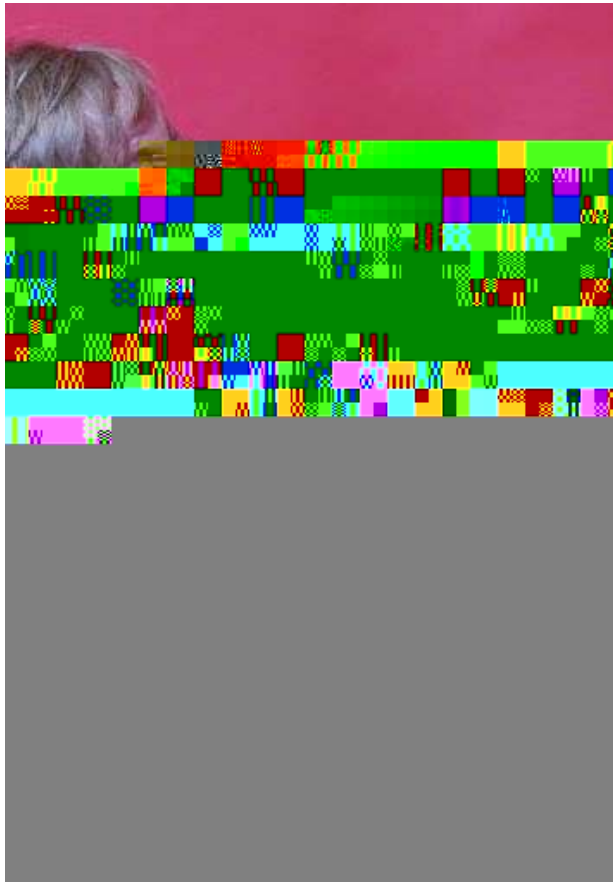


# Adopting Cats on the Road: The Traveling Fosters Program

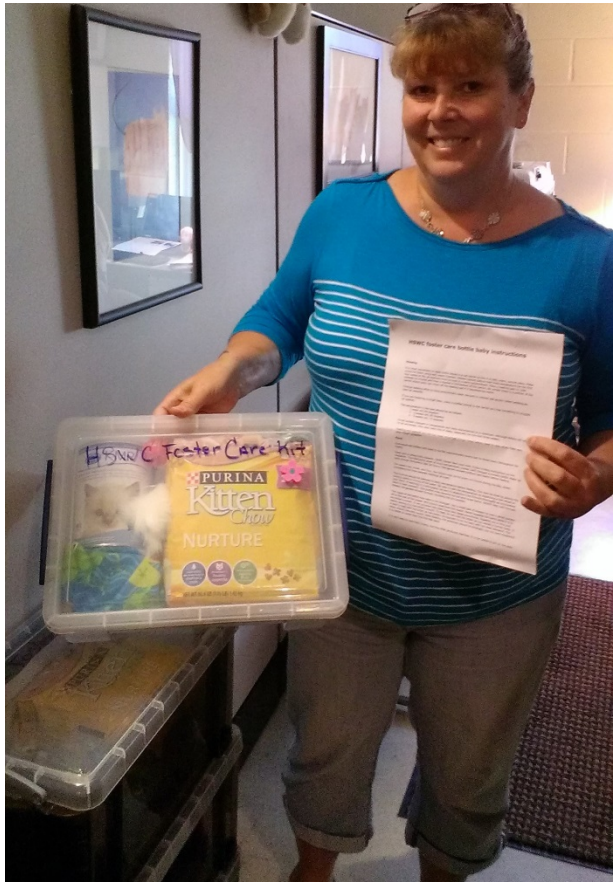
**The Humane Society of Washington County**  
**Presents**  
*The Traveling Fosters*  
**Friday Night Adoption event**



**HERE THIS FRIDAY STARTING AT 6PM**  
**HSWC DOGS AND CATS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION**



Ellen Taylor,  
CPDT-KA, CDEP, CAWA  
Vice President of Operations  
a.k.a. “Band Agent”



Sonia Nicholson  
Foster Care Manager  
a.k.a. "Band Manager"



# This “Jam Session” will include

- Who we are
- How we increased lives saved while maintaining humane holding capacity
- Engaged animal advocates who became known as the “Traveling Fosters”
- Let go of “What ifs”
- Created “Road Kits” to make hitting the road easier

# The Humane Society of Washington County, MD



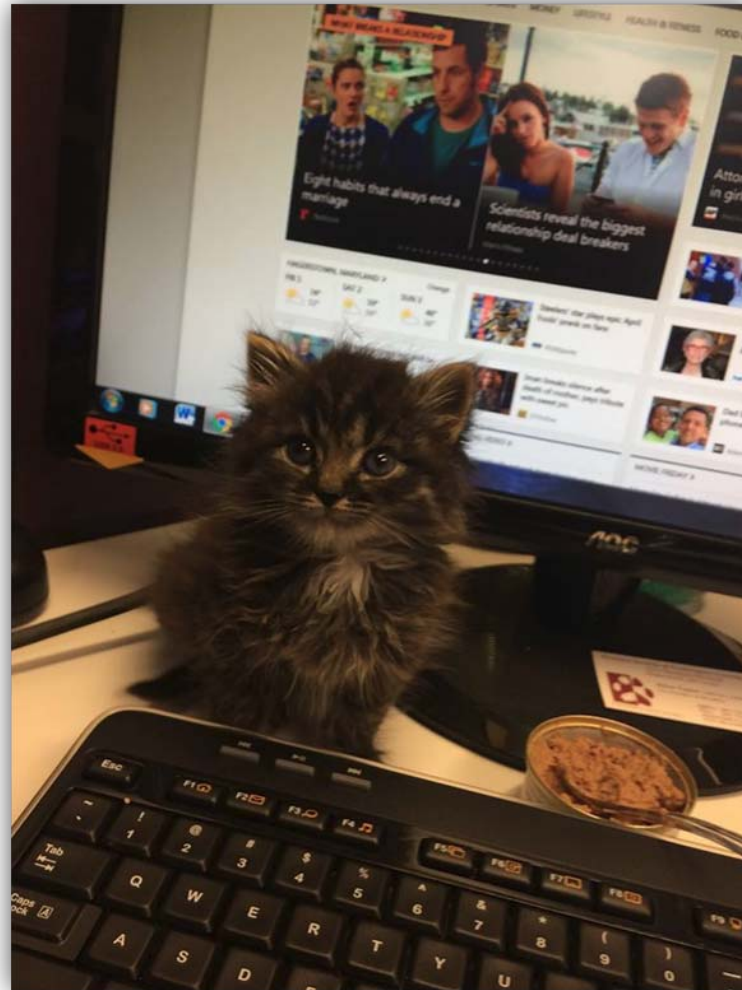
# Most Demanding “Star” Poll



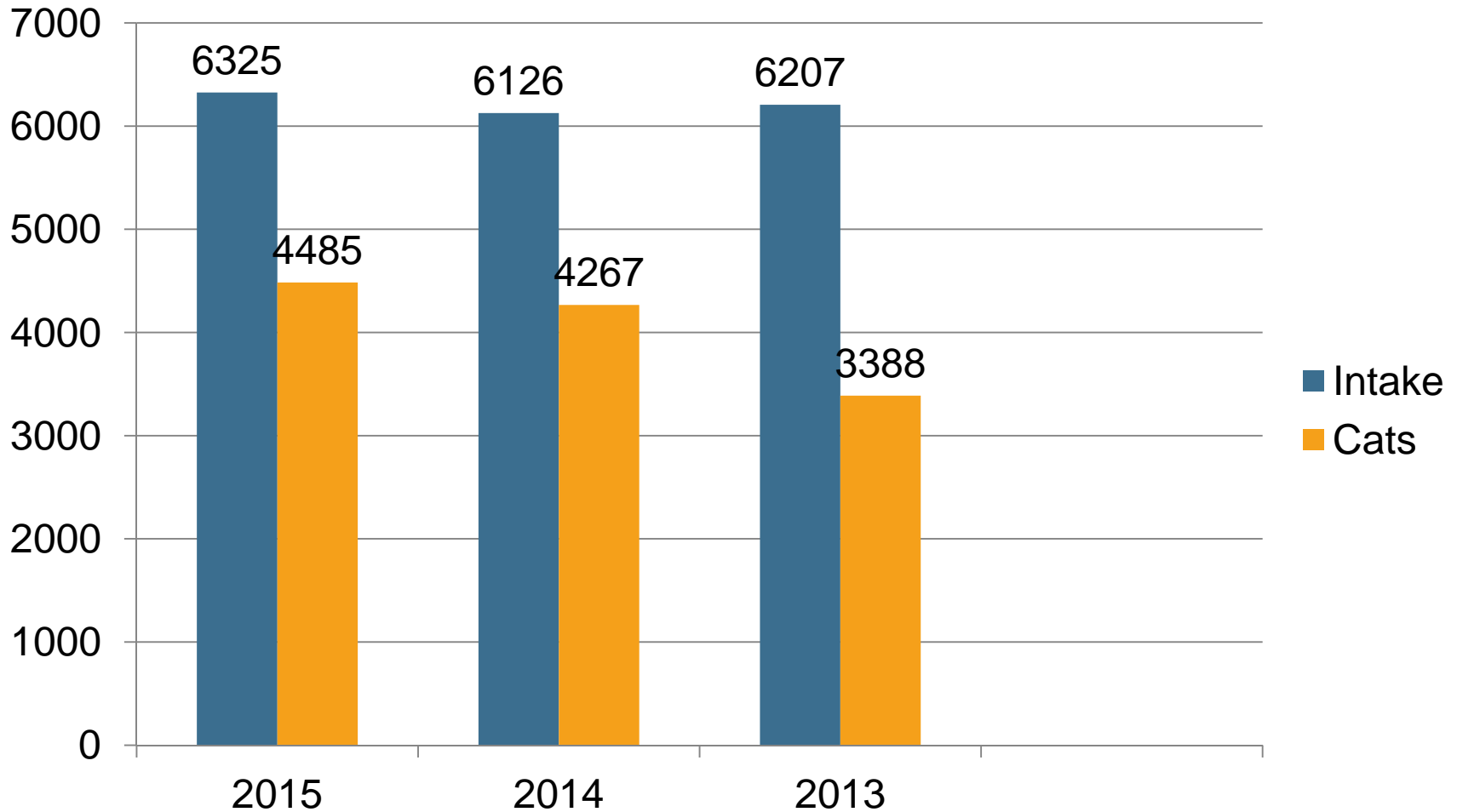
HUMANE SOCIETY  
of Washington County



# The Kitten!



# Total Intake and Cat Intake Comparison





# It didn't "Jive"



# We Needed to Change our Tune

Needed to reevaluate traditional foster program practices because:

- Shelter is always at capacity
- Stressful for animals to adjust to shelter life vs. foster home life
- Increased exposure to disease
- Limited adoption audience

***A good agent identifies talent, then gets out of the way of their creativity***

# Let go of the “What ifs”



# Held Auditions

- Volunteer Staff
- Current Foster Volunteers
- Community Cat Advocates



# Formed the Band

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# Humble Beginnings

- Paper contracts and receipts
- Cash drawer of \$100
- Donation Box
- Volunteer Training – Adoption Counseling, software, fee handling, donation asks, safe animal handling

# Played “Weddings and Bar Mitvahs”

- Don't be afraid to take small gigs
- Don't think you're too good to play the Mall
- Don't think you need to commit to a huge, all day event
- Don't be afraid to relax and have fun!



# Our First Big Break!

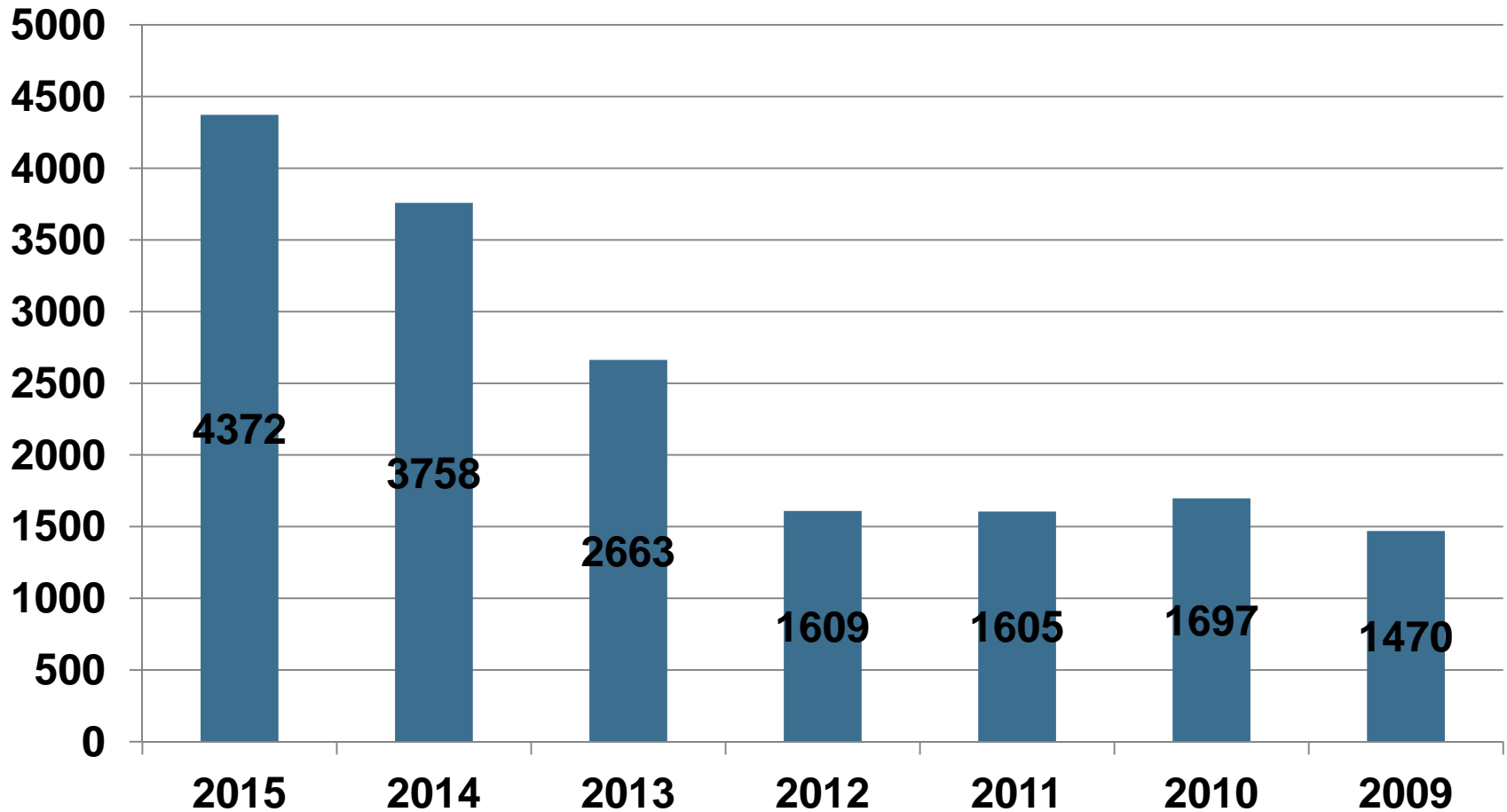
Identified need for better equipment and the “road kit” was born

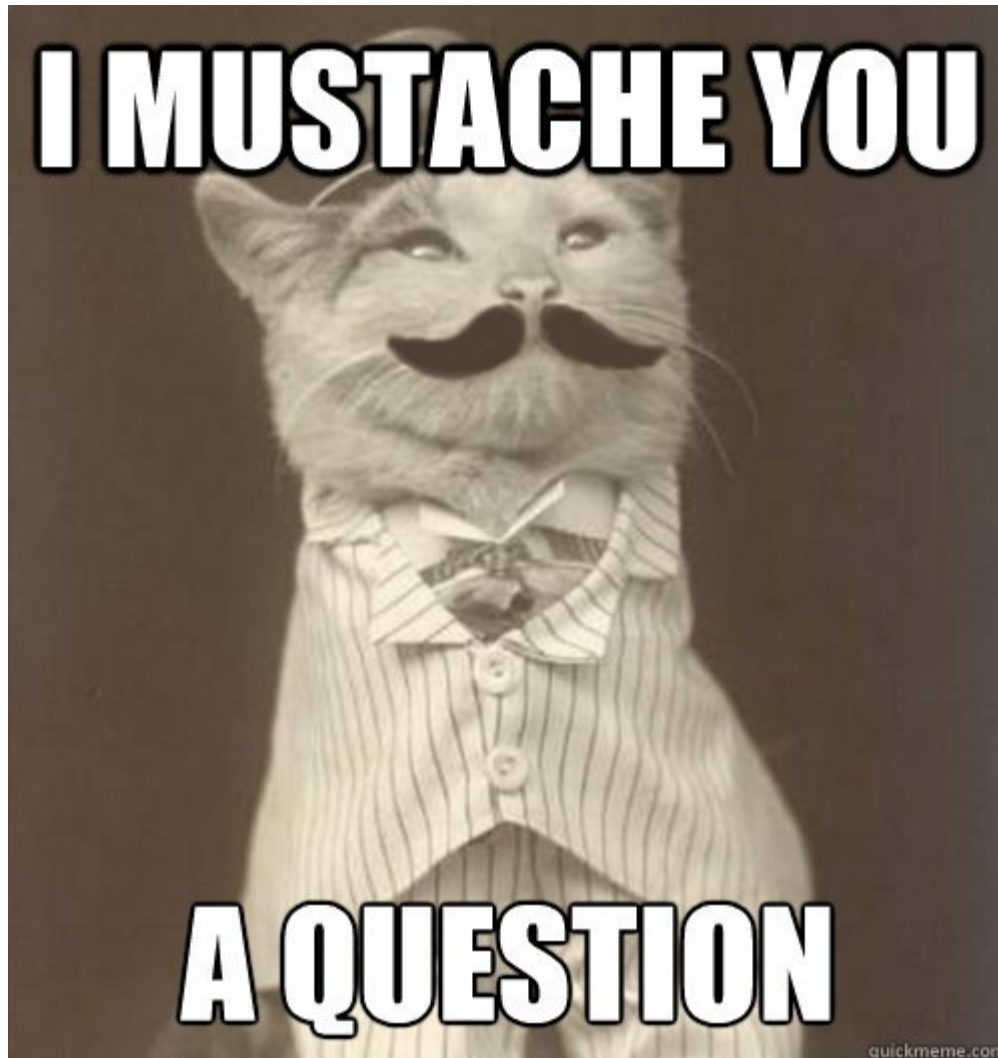
- Road Kits funded by the ASPCA
  - Made touring easier
  - Professional image
  - Safer for cats and visitors
  - Better record-keeping
- Program promotion and fundraising





# Gold Record Success





# Jam with Us

Sonia Nicholson, [snicholson@hswcmd.org](mailto:snicholson@hswcmd.org)

Ellen Taylor, [etaylor@hswcmd.org](mailto:etaylor@hswcmd.org)

Like us on Facebook: [HSWC Foster Care](#)

Bonus! For more of our music check out “That Barn Cat Song” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Od4AoIO1VxY>