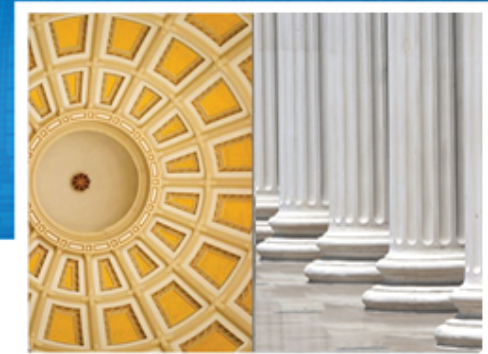




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# Stray Dogs and Homeless Pets

*November 15, 2016*

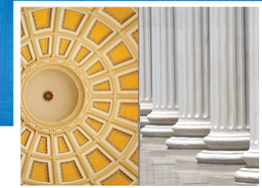
**Jonathan Griffin**

**Center on Legislative Strengthening**



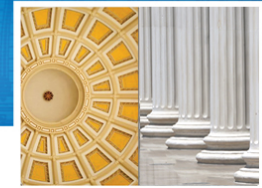
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# Denver's Solution to Stray Animals





# State Solutions

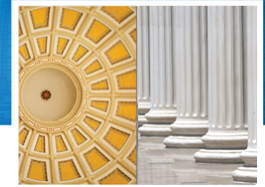
- **Preventing Cruelty**
- **Animals in Shelters**
- **Transporting Animals To Shelters**





# State Responses to Animal Cruelty

- **All 50 States Penalize Animal Cruelty**
- **Penalties range from a fine up to a felony**
- **Majority of states increase penalties for multiple violations**
- **Two most relevant cruelty issues:**
  - **Abandonment**
  - **Improper Shelter**



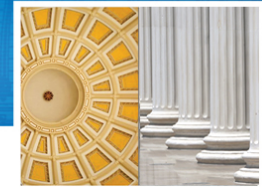
# Animal Abandonment

- **Abandoning an Animal is a Crime**
  - Usually considered general “animal cruelty”
  - Sometimes specifically enumerated
- **Why Do People Abandon?**
- **Some Shelters Charge Fees For Putting an Animal Up For Adoption**



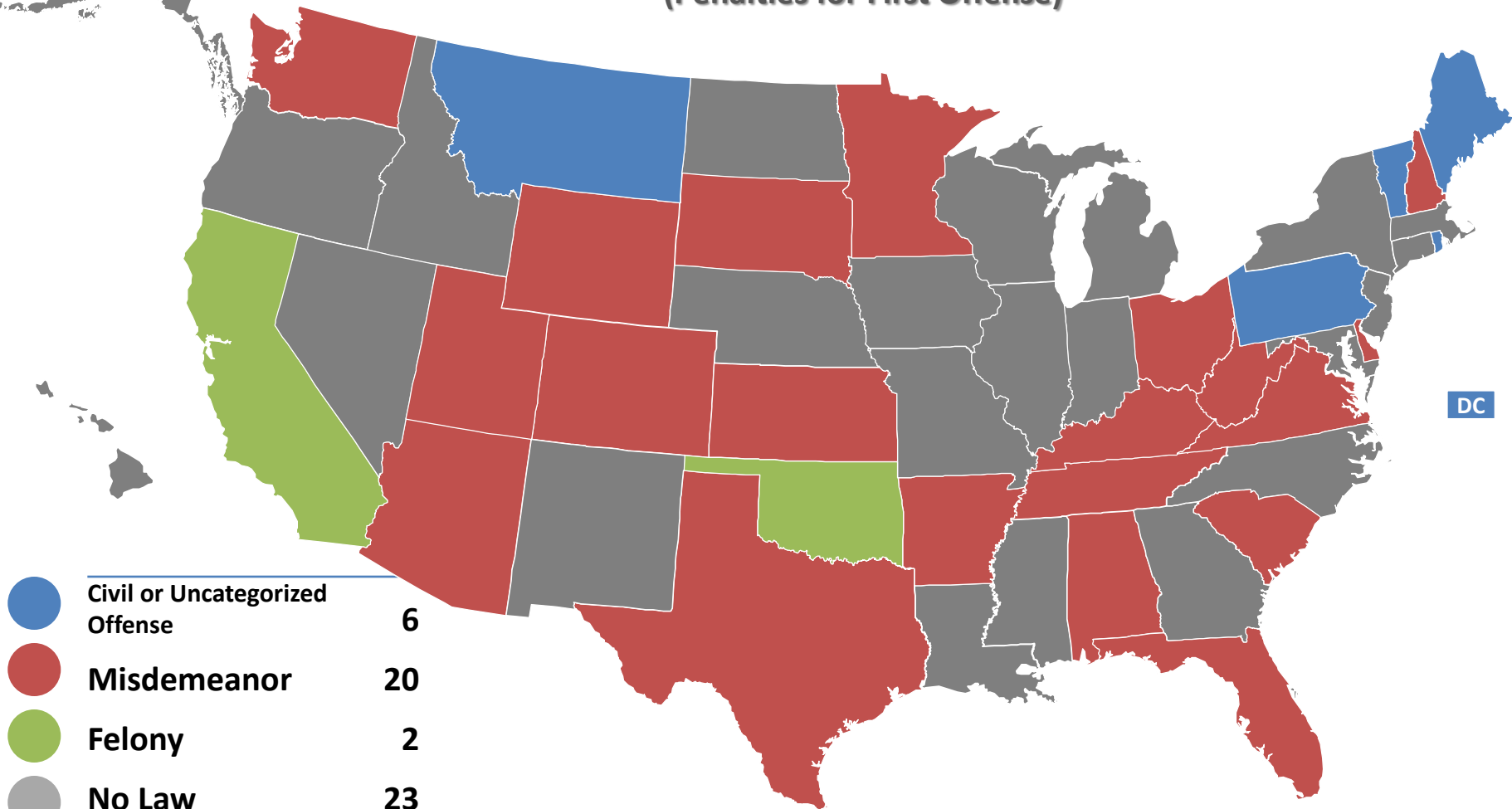
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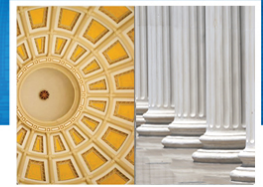
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# Improper Shelter

(Penalties for First Offense)





# Shelters By The Numbers

- **Over 150 Million Households With Pets**
- **Impossible to State the Number of Stray Animals (Cats alone are estimated at 70 Million)**
- **7.6 Million Animals Enter Shelters Yearly**
- **2.7 Million Are Adopted (35%)**

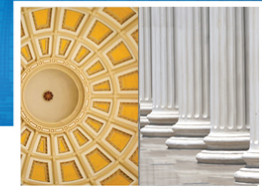


# Shelter Types



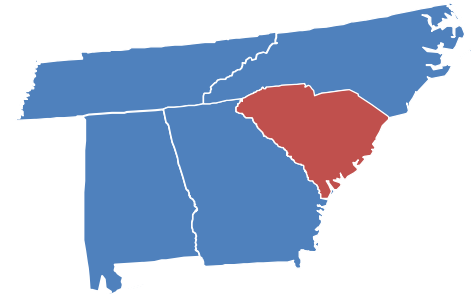
- **Municipal Shelters**
  - **Funded By Cities and Counties**
- **Private Shelters**
  - **501(c)(3) Organizations**
- **Rescues**
  - **Private organizations that usually focus on a specific breed/type of animal**
- **Foster Programs**
  - **Temporary Housing By Private Citizens**





# Shelter Estimates

- **52,000 dogs in shelters in the region, of which over 23,000 are strays**
    - 5,900 in Georgia
    - 5,700 in Alabama
    - **4,200 in South Carolina**
    - 3,970 in Tennessee
    - 3,660 in North Carolina
- (all data provided by the Shelter Animals Count)

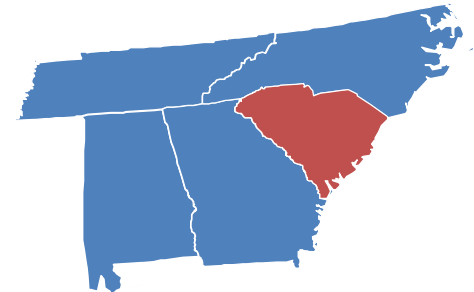


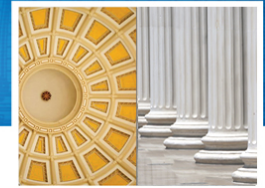


# Shelter Outcomes

- **Of the 52,000 total in the region**
  - 24,000 are adopted
  - 14,800 are transferred to another agency
  - 5,500 are euthanized
  - 450 died in shelter care

(all data provided by the Shelter Animals Count)





# More Statistics

- **151,000 stray dogs nationally**
- **California and Texas house largest populations**
- **Largest Stray Intake in South Carolina is in Greenville County**
- **Data Collection is still a struggle, but is improved by using the “Basic Data Matrix”**
  - **The matrix contains the minimum data points an organization should collect, including summary counts by species, age breaks, intake type and outcome type**



# Legislative Options to Reduce Stray Populations

- **Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws**
- **Improving Animal Transport**





# Spay/Neuter Laws



- **Controversial**
- **Effective**
- **No state laws require all animals to be sterilized**
- **30 states (including SC) make it a requirement for adoption**



# Improving Animal Transportation

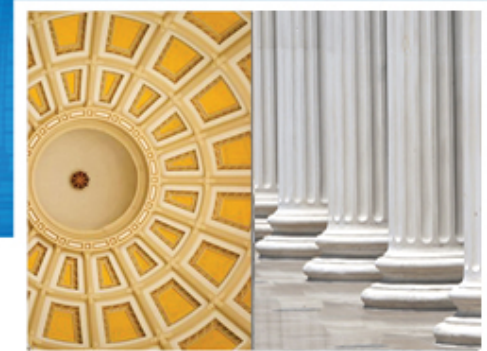
- **Transportation Can Improve Chances for Adoption**
- **Can Spread Disease**
- **Effective?**





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# Questions?

## **Contact Information**

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