



# *Executive Summary*

## *Cat Demographics Survey*

City of Windsor, Ontario, April - May 1998  
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### **Frequencies:**

#### **1. Cat Owners and Cat Ownership:**

- a. 26% of our respondents report themselves as cat owners
- b. Source of cats: *40% came from a friend or relative*  
*22% of owned cats were once strays*  
*14% came from a Humane Society*  
*7% were purchased in a pet store*  
*5% came from a shelter other than H.S.*  
*2% were born in the home.*
- c. Average number of cats owned = 1.34
- d. 54% of the owned cats are female; 46% male.
- e. 76% of owners report that their cats have been neutered  
*Of cats not neutered: reasons for not neutering:*  
*Expense: 33%*  
*Too young: 17%*  
*Indoors only: 17%*
- f. 86% of owners report that their cats have been vaccinated
- g. 67% of owners report that their cats stay indoors
- h. 26% of owners report that their cats have identification
- i. 8.6% of owners reported that they had to surrender a cat at one time in their lives. (Although not asked, respondents frequently volunteered here that this was due to their own illness).  
*40% of these cats were euthanised at a veterinary clinic*  
*20% were given to a friend*  
*20% were given to a stranger*  
*20% other.*

#### **2. General Population: Cat Owners and Non**

- a. 36% of respondents report stray cats in their neighbourhoods
- b. 10% of respondents feed stray cats
- c. 3% of respondents who feed strays report complaints from neighbour
- d. 93% believe that urban wildlife should be protected
- e. 83% believe that feral cats should be protected: 11% chose the “trap and kill” alternative.
- f. 88% of respondents are in support of a free spay/neuter clinic

### **Methodology:**

Survey Population: One thousands numbers were randomly chosen from the City of Windsor telephone book. Three attempts were made to reach each number. The majority of numbers was not reachable. Only private adult residents of the City of Windsor were interviewed (no businesses, agencies or institutions); subjects were asked to respond even if they did not own or enjoy any cats or other pets. In total, 224 interviews were completed.

Callers: All interviewers were non-paid volunteers of Jazzpurr Cat Care Society. To offset the clear problem of subjective bias, callers received several hours of training in non-leading interviewing technique. A pilot study was conducted to test both the instrument and techniques.

The Instrument: The questionnaire was developed from similar instruments used in surveys conducted in California (complete references are available). All results were entered into a PC-based SPSS program for analysis.

Research Leader: Dorit Girash, M.Sc. whose survey research experience includes nationwide Canadian studies for the University of Windsor, St. Clair College, and in the U.S.A., the National Center for Research to Improve Postsecondary Teaching and Learning (University of Michigan).