



MARGIN OF LICENSED DOG AND CAT POPULATIONS AND ADOPTIONS FROM ANIMAL SHELTERS IN UTAH COUNTIES IN 2013-2014

Marli Stevens (Tom Cova)
Department of Geography

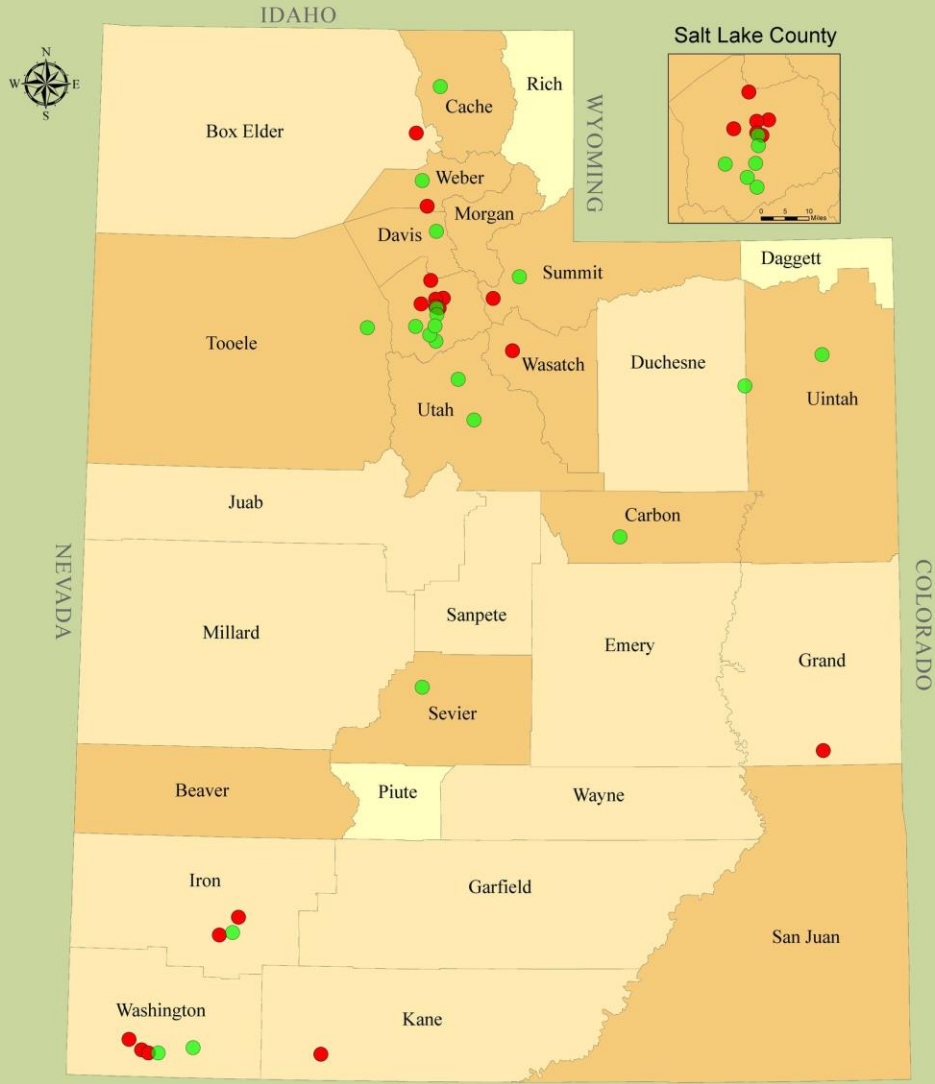
Different counties and cities in Utah require dog licensing and cat licensing. Out of the 29 counties, 3 do not require licensing at any level. The licensing requirements can help track dog and cat populations in Utah and keep a record of the levels of dog and cat population growth or decline overtime. If compared to animal shelter adoption numbers, these records can determine where these animals are coming from. If the population number is growing but the adoption numbers from shelters during the same time period do not meet that growth pattern, then it can be assumed that the majority of the animals are coming from pet stores, breeders, migration, or puppy/kitten mills. Especially in the rural areas and counties of Utah, these records can potentially determine whether there are puppy/kitten mills in business and investigations can be done to find whether these businesses are abiding by business and animal rights laws. Many pet owners do not license their pets even when required, but licensing is the only way to get an exact number of pet dogs and cats living in an area. Using GIS, a thematic map of Utah has been made to depict the different counties in Utah that require licensing at various levels. Since licensing requirements vary in Utah and many counties do not have the tools to access the licensing numbers, it is very difficult to track the population numbers per year for dogs and cats. This research can help improve our understanding of pet licensing in Utah. The subject of dogs and cats as pets, where they come from, and what their lives entail is also an educational outcome of this research.

Keywords: GIS, geography, population, dog, cat, Utah, puppy, kitten, mill, pets, shelter, adoption, map, education





Dog Shelters and Dog License Requirements in Utah Counties



Dog Shelters

This map includes only those animal shelters that have an intake and outcome (adoption) of dogs. Those dogs in the shelters represented by green dots that are not adopted in time (some shelters have a time limit of as little as 7 days) can be euthanized. Although, just because the green dots represent regular shelters, it actually does not mean they euthanize more than the "no kill" shelters. Some "no kill" shelters are considered "no kill" on the basis of euthanizing less than a certain percentage of animals a year. Others don't euthanize at all. There is no such thing as a "bad" shelter based on whether they are considered "no kill" or not. But keep in mind that unfortunately an overpopulation of dogs has caused many shelters to take in more dogs than can be adopted out. This means that for every dog that is brought from another source (breeders, pet stores, puppy mills, online, parking lots, etc), the more likely it is for a shelter dog to be euthanized.

Dog Licensing

Dog licensing is an important step for many dog owners each year. Licensing your pet dog has many benefits. For example, if a licensed dog is lost, the dog will be able to be returned to its owner quickly; a license ensures a current rabies vaccination (which is federal law to obtain); a license helps determine dog populations; a license helps crack down on animal hoarding and neglect, and many more. In Utah, some counties require dog licensing and many counties do not. Some counties that do not require dog licensing have cities within the county that do require licensing, but unincorporated areas of the county are not required. Native American land does not require dog licensing. Any county that does not require or enforce dog licensing, especially in unincorporated and/or rural areas, may have a higher chance of puppy mills and hoarding. This is a huge problem across the whole nation. This data is collected as of October 31, 2014.

ARIZONA

- Dog Shelter
 - "No Kill" Dog Shelter
- Utah County License Requirement**
- No Requirement on Any Level
 - City-Level Requirement
 - County-Level Requirement

Cartographer: Marli Stevens
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
 Section: 402
 Sources:
 Salt Lake County Animal Services, Rich County Clerk's Office, Morgan County Animal Services, Cache County Executive Office, Weber County Animal Services, Box Elder County Clerk's Office, Tooele County Sheriff's Office, Davis County Animal Control, Summit County Animal Control, Wasatch County Clerk's Office, South Utah Valley Animal Shelter, Roosevelt City Dog Shelter, Daguerre County Clerk's Office, Uintah Animal Control, Carbon County Clerk's Office, Sanpete County Government Offices, Juab County Clerk's Office, Mifflin County Government Offices, Sevier County Sheriff's Office, Emery County Auditor's Office, Grand County Clerk's Office, Wasatch County Sheriff's Office, Piute County Recorder's Office, Beaver County Animal Control, Iron County Animal Control, Garfield County Clerk's Office, San Juan County Sheriff's Office, Washington County Clerk's Office, Kane County Sheriff's Office, South Utah Valley Animal Shelter, Utah Animal Adoption Center (UAAC), Salt Lake County Animal Services, Humane Society of Utah, Second Chance for Humane Paws, West Valley Animal Shelter, Murray Animal Shelter, West Jordan Animal Shelter, South Jordan Animal Control Shelter, South Valley Animal Services, Draper Animal Control Shelter, Cache Humane Society, Walker County Animal Services Shelter, Brigham City Animal Control Shelter, Tooele City Animal Shelter, Davis County Animal Control Shelter, South Ogden City Offices, Summit County Animal Control, Friends of Animals Utah Furberia, Helper Animal Shelter, North Utah Valley Animal Shelter, South Utah Valley Animal Shelter, Roosevelt City Animal Shelter, Uintah Animal Shelter, Carbon County Animal Shelter, Sevier County Animal Shelter, Cedar City Animal Shelter, Iron County Draper, Washington Animal Shelter, St. George Animal Control Shelter, Hurricane City Animal Shelter, Kays City Animal Shelter, Google Maps, ESRI, ArcMap

