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In January 2014, a campaign was launched by UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program and the University of Florida Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program to save the lives of 1 million cats in North American shelters over 5 years.

More than 1000 shelters in North America embraced the challenge including the London Animal Care Centre. In line with London Animal Care Centre's (LACC's) efforts to promote and increase animal welfare in the City of London, LACC embraced this opportunity.

At the end of each year, shelters were required to submit their data to the challenge organizers so that the nation-wide progress of the program could be tracked. In just two years, the initiative saw over 500,000 cats saved from euthanasia. In fact, LACC was notified by the challenge organizers and was named as one of the 131 top performers in the challenge because the number of cats euthanized was reduced by over 50%. In May 2018 the London Animal Care Centre attended the Humane Society of the United States Animal Care Expo. A celebration was held to mark 1 million lives saved in only 4 years. The exact numbers are 1,148,129 cats according to challenge organizer, Dr. Julie Levy from UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program.

Since the end of 2015, the London Animal Care Centre has consistently maintained an average live release rate over 90%, both for cats and dogs. This was achieved primarily through the establishment of transfer partnerships with rescue organizations, promotions and adoption campaigns.

The London Animal Care Centre expects their live release rate to remain strong. Last fall they implemented a shelter-neuter-return program (SNR), whereby healthy feral cats entering the shelter were spayed/neutered, vaccinated and eartipped prior to be returned to the location they were found at. Through this program, healthy non-adoptable cats are no longer at risk of euthanasia.

In July 2017, the City of London opened the Catty Shack, a 25 cage adoption centre located at the corner of Adelaide and Windermere. The adoption centre accepts the overflow of adoption ready cats from London Animal Care Centre, freeing up shelter space and resources for incoming animals.

The London Animal Care Centre provides animal control, dog licensing, cat identification, by-law enforcement and shelter services for lost and stray animals. They also pick up sick and injured wildlife, where they are medically assessed by a veterinarian and either humanely euthanized or transferred to wildlife rehabilitation centres depending on their condition.

For more information on the London Animal Care Centre, to see the list of animals available for adoption, and volunteer opportunities, please visit www.accpets.ca.