



CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP  
RICE UNIVERSITY

## HOUSTON ACTION RESEARCH TEAM

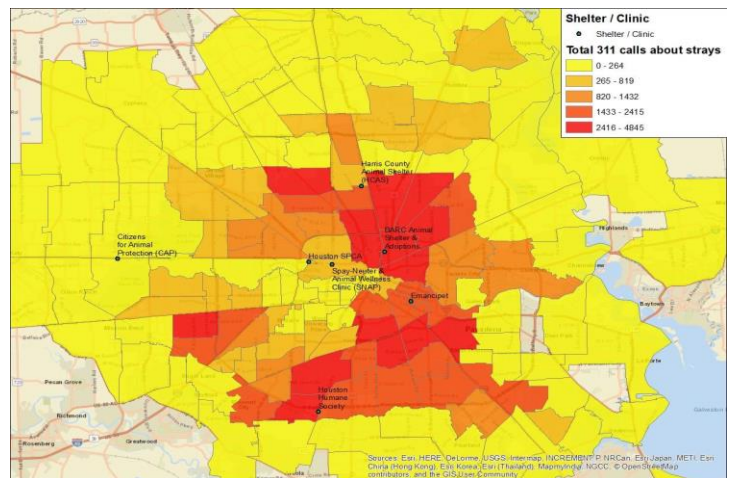


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### *Houston PetSet, Animal Welfare in Houston – Fall 2017*

This HART, made up of undergraduate students majoring in Sociology, Policy Studies, English, Biology, Statistics, and Computer Science, designed a study for Houston PetSet (HPS) to look at animal welfare practices in Houston and in peer cities across the country. The goal of this project was to study how community stakeholders contribute to animal welfare service provision in Houston.

The team used Houston 311 calls to identify “hot spots” for animal welfare issues, such as reported dog bites or stray animals. In order to develop a list of recommendations for Houston shelters, the team identified nine peer cities, and interviewed stakeholders



and experts in these cities. The team also looked at the relationship between budgets and live release rates for shelters in Houston and peer cities, and determined a positive correlation between the two. By examining current practices on service provision, budgets and outcomes, the team provided valuable insight to HPS on programs, policies, and partnerships, which will be used to inform its efforts to alleviate suffering and end homelessness for the animals in Houston.