



Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

2024 Individual Project Abstract Form

Please print 2 copies of the completed form. Sign both copies, keep 1 for your notebook and submit 1 copy to your Regional Fair Director with your other paperwork.

Title of Project: Cat's Out of the Bag: Exploring How Different Cat Characteristics Affect Adoptability

Finalist's Name: Theo Levinger

School and City: Compass Community Collaborative, Fort Collins, CO

Sponsor's Name: Dominique Montano

Category: Behavioral & Social Sciences (BEHA)

Division: Senior (9th - 12th grades)

Abstract (250 words or less):

The rate of euthanasia in cat shelters is rising, now at nearly 72% nationwide. One of the reasons they need to euthanize so many is due to overpopulation, caused by stray cats. Stray and feral cats are responsible for about 80% of the kittens brought into shelters each spring nationwide. The difference between stray and feral is that stray cats are not always hostile, but feral cats are. About 25,000 healthy cats die in shelters every day across America and 5.4 million cats get hit by cars. Additionally, there are different types that are more likely to be adopted or euthanized. About 75% of black cats in shelters get euthanized and about 33% of overall cats in shelters are black cats, which is also the most common cat color nationwide. Orange cats and gray cats also have pretty high euthanasia rates of about 71% and 72% respectively. Black cats have the highest average of days spent in a shelter before adoptions, around 200-400. Black smoke cats are the most frequently adopted cat at about 68% and white cats are the least with 33%. This is important because there is no recent research around adoption statistics in Fort Collins and if we understood it more, then maybe we could get the least adopted cats adopted more. My project is going to be focused around the different types of cats and how often they are adopted.

I hereby certify that the above statements are correct and the information provided in the Abstract is the result of one year's research. I also attest that the above properly reflects my own work.

Finalist's Signature:

Date:

In addition, all students must complete the ISEF Student Checklist (1A), Research Plan, Approval Form (1B), and Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), and any other ISEF forms required for this type of project. See the International Rules and Guidelines for form requirements. Return COPIES of all of these forms to your Regional Fair Director with you Finalist Verification/Permission Form. A signed copy of this form must be included in your notebook.