



Frank Hamilton, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of Management at Eckerd College in St Petersburg, FL. A retired military officer with 22 years of service; he is the co-founder and President of Animal Coalition of Tampa (ACT). Since it incorporated in 2001, ACT has sterilizing over 15,000 owned dogs, owned and free-roaming cats, by operating a high-volume, high-quality, low cost spay/neuter clinic.

Frank's project is a case study that traces the social change efforts for companion animals in this county. As noted in the forward of *Momentum* (Fine, 2006), "changing the way an organization works is challenging" (p viii). Changing the way a county with a population of over 1.2 million treats its companion animals is daunting, to say the least. It involves government agencies, non-profit organizations, professionals, volunteers, donors, and the public. The public is ultimately involved because people must make attitudinal and behavioral changes in how they perceive and treat companion animals. Partnerships and coalitions between government agencies and nonprofit organizations are the critical to addressing and overcoming the challenge.

The case study method was selected for three reasons. First, the author has been a participant-observer of the events that have happened in Hillsborough County, but has not had control over the actual behavioral events (Yin, 1994, p. 4). Second, the questions answered by this study are mainly "how" and "why," which mirror one of the topics of particular interest for the 2008 Fellowship Program on the community's role in companion animal overpopulation. Finally, the events are very contemporary and relevant to other communities, in both the United States and overseas, that are suffering from a companion animal overpopulation challenge.

The case study will end with a consideration of the question: Can the solutions that have been implemented in this county's journey work in other locations? The answer to this question is critical to the success in replicating a change for companion animals in other locations and finding community solutions to companion animal overpopulation.