St. Louis City Animal Calls

GIS Analysis of Citizen Service Bureau Requests

Nick Chapman
13 May 2019
SOC 4650
Dr. Chris Prener

Introduction

Saint Louis City is an urban city, which has many citizens living within a close knit area. Many citizens live with animal companions, which on occasion cause problems within the city. This project explored the Citizens' Service Bureau (CSB) data regarding all cases of: "Animal Abuse", "Dangerous Dog", and "Animal Bite" within the years of 2013-2018.

Data Methods

The data for this poster came from many different sources:

- CSB data was made available via GitHub, and was downloaded, cleaned, and transformed into shapefiles via `R`.
- Demographic data was obtained from the U.S. Census, using the `tidycensus` package within `R`, the data was then cleaned and transformed into shapefiles via `R`.
  - Both the Median Income and Population were Normalized by Square Mile.
- The spatial data for city boundaries, blocks, tracts, etc. were obtained through the `tigris` package within `R`. These were written as shapefiles within `R`.
- Lastly, the maps were made in `ArcGIS Pro`.

Discussion

There were two noticeably concentrated areas of "Animal Calls", one in the north/northwest of the city, and one in the southwest of the city.

The highest number of calls seems to be in the most populated and richest parts of the city, which isn't surprising, considering that would entail more people to own pets, more people to have a problem with pets, and more money within the populations living there to afford/maintain pets.

Overall, the number of calls since 2013 have decreased drastically. In 2013, there were a few areas with over 100 calls per mile squared, however by 2018, there were no areas at all that had that number of calls.

I would love to explore what possible reasons stand behind the drastic decrease of "Animal Calls". My only guess would be that with all of the CSB calls, people were forced to surrender their pets to animal control, and with less animals, obviously there would be less calls.