

Definition of Terms

Intake – Number of dogs and cats taken in by the shelter during the reporting period. Includes animals surrendered by owners and strays. Does not include owner requested euthanasia of a sick, injured, elderly dogs or cats.

Adoption – Number of dogs and cats adopted out to new families.

Return to Owner – Number of dogs and cats that were found, picked up, owner located due to microchip or other identification and returned to the owner.

Transfer Out – Number of animals sent to a partner organization for adoption from their facility.

Live Release Rate - Calculated by dividing the sum of all (adoptions + transfers + return to owner) by sum of (adoptions + transfers + return to owner + euthanasia). Does not include owner requested euthanasia of a sick or severely injured dog or that died or were lost in the shelter's care. This formula is consistent with the approach recommended by the asilomar accords, which is becoming an accepted standard for shelter animal statistics: http://www.asilomaraccords.org/statistics_and_formulas.html.

Euthanasia – Number of dogs and cats euthanized during the reported period. Our goal is to euthanize only when it is necessary to relieve an animal's suffering or for the safety of people and other animals. We seek to minimize to the extent practicable euthanasia due to lack of resources and/or appropriate available homes. These numbers do not include dogs or cats in which the owner requested euthanasia of a sick, injured, or elderly animal. Reasons for euthanasia include:

Medical - Untreatable: terminal illness or injury, severe chronic illness or other serious medical condition that will cause ongoing suffering for the animal.

Temperament: very aggressive, extremely timid, extremely high strung, or otherwise have a temperament problem that would make it impossible/highly unlikely for them to safely or humanely adjust to a new house.

Biter: due to an attack on another animal or person, a serious, aggression-related bite, a history of biting, or suspicion of rabies combined with a bite or serious scratch.

Feral: little apparent potential for socialization.

Court Order: animals euthanized at the direction of a judge or other public official with such authority.

All of the following categories imply a lack of resources and /or appropriate available homes. These are animals who, given the space, time, staff, money, or availability of an appropriate home could be "fixed" and live well in a new home:

Medical - Treatable: non-contagious, treatable medical condition such, skin problem, bad flea or mite infestation, broken limb, abscess, or problem that could be "fixed" with treatment and/or time. Euthanasia is a result of lack of resources, space or time to treat animal.

Medical - Contagious: medical problem such as URI, Kennel Cough, ringworm or less severe presentation of mange that are actually very treatable, but highly contagious, leading to euthanasia not only because of the illness, but also to prevent contamination of others.

Physical condition: animal is in general poor overall condition and/or health, often age related.

Unweaned: animals euthanized because they are unweaned or underage.

Behavior: animals euthanized because of a behavior problem such as barking, chewing, separation anxiety, inappropriate urination, jumping on people, etc. Includes minor aggression, timidity, lack of socialization and temperament problems that could be corrected with training or if the animal was placed in the appropriate environment.

Kennel Stress: animals euthanized because of deterioration in behavior due to an extended shelter stay.

Spay/Neuter – Number of dogs and cats that the vet staff spayed and neutered during the reporting period including animals adopted, pets brought in by their owners and feral cats that feral community caretakers brought in and will be returned back into their feral community.