

Update for Harrisonburg City

Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA



Recap



2017 Presentation

The RHSPCA is an open admission animal shelter that does not turn any local pet away for any reason.

As a result, intake volume varies throughout the year, generally spiking in spring and summer.

Since we do not turn animals away, some animals arrive at the RHSPCA gravely ill or are being surrendered for severe behavior and aggression problems, or both.

Without pre-screening admissions, we accept animals as they are. Many animals are perfectly healthy, rehabilitatable or treatable, but not all.

Achieving a 90% or higher “live release rate” would mean turning animals away if they are beyond our means to rehabilitate for adoption, or if they are being surrendered for the purpose of euthanasia.

The network of humane & lawful rescues has grown in the past decade, and we’re proud to work with them to find forever homes.

Defining Euthanasia & Its Role in Animal Welfare

Euthanasia comes from the Greek words meaning “good death.”

Euthanasia gently and humanely shuts an animal’s body down without any unnecessary trauma, pain, or distress.

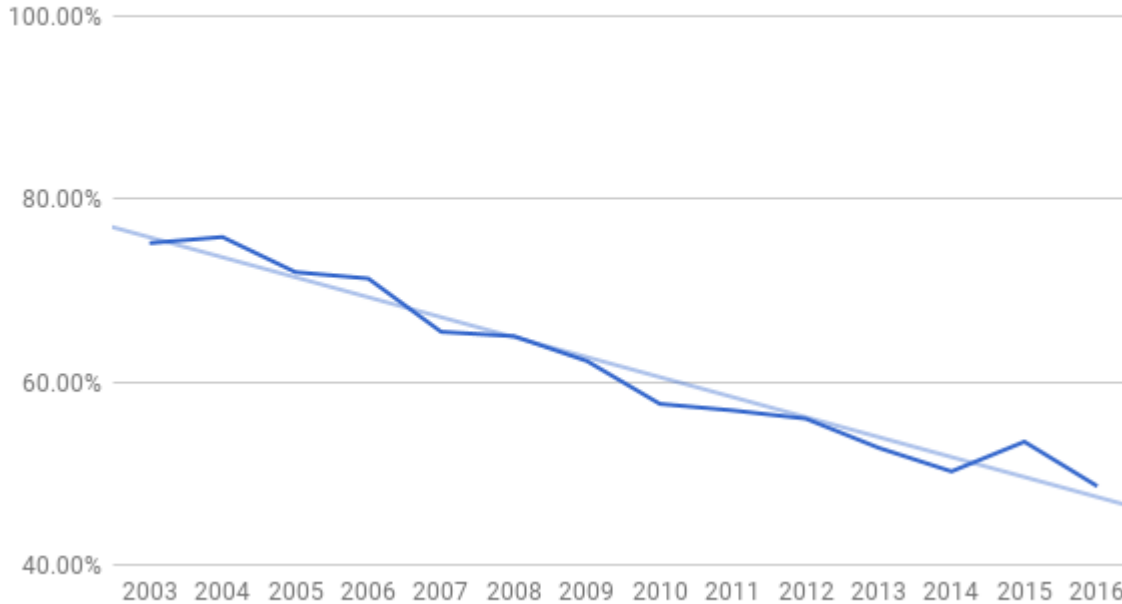
All companion animals are required to be anesthetized prior to euthanasia, rendering them unconscious and unaware.

A stronger anesthetic is administered via IV injection to bring metabolic processes to a complete stop.

As our community gains greater access to veterinary care, humane training, spay & neuter initiatives, and overall increased awareness and access to educational resources, such cases have and will continue to decrease over time.

Past Data

Euthanasia Rate Over Time



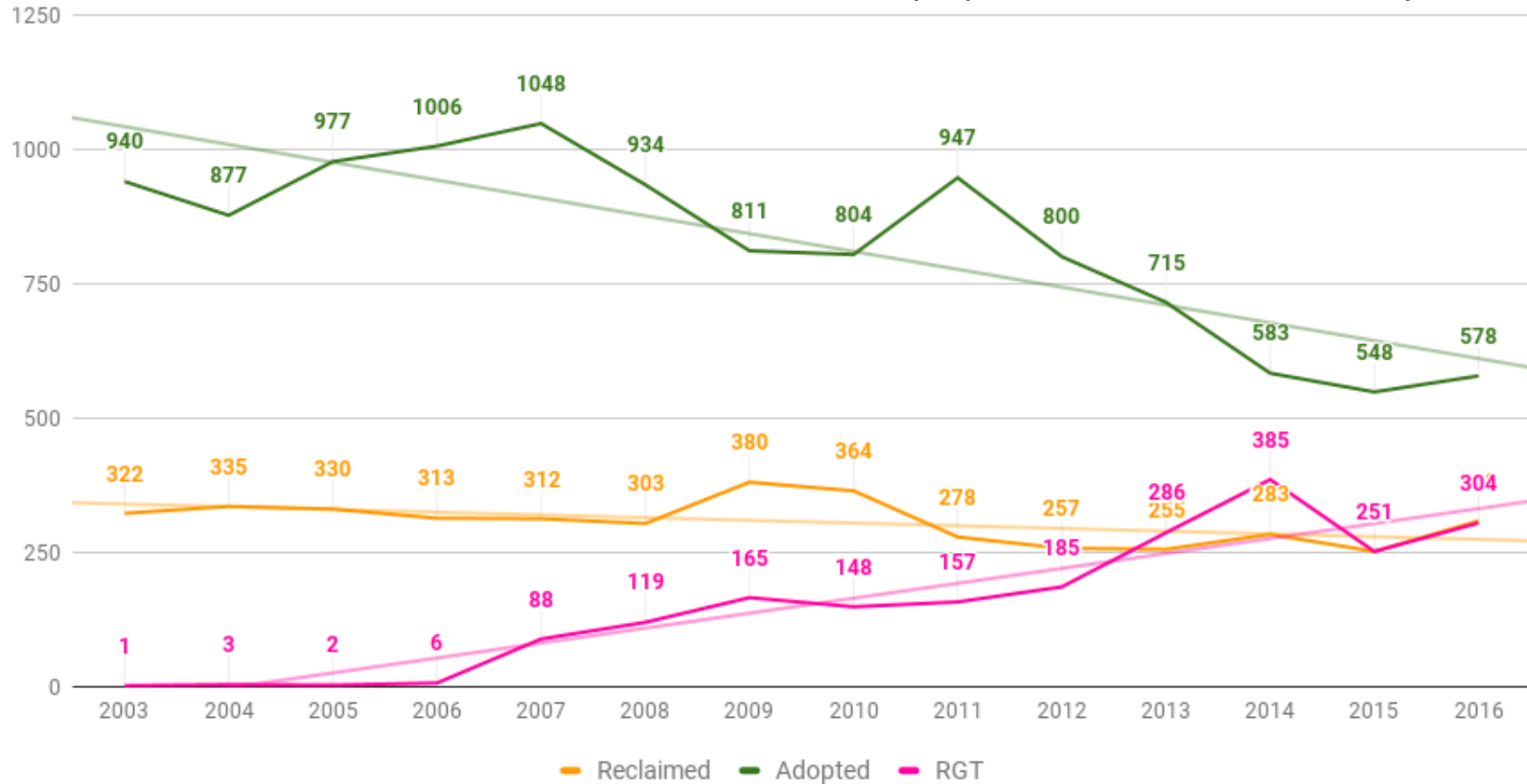
This graph was presented to the City Council in 2017.

Steady decrease in euthanasia of animals as a result of efforts to: increase stray reclaims; greater volunteer engagement; reduction in barriers to adoption and our ongoing work with rescue organizations.

Decrease in adoptions correlates with decrease in intakes. Proportionally, adoptions have increased over this period.

RHSPCA Outcomes 03-16

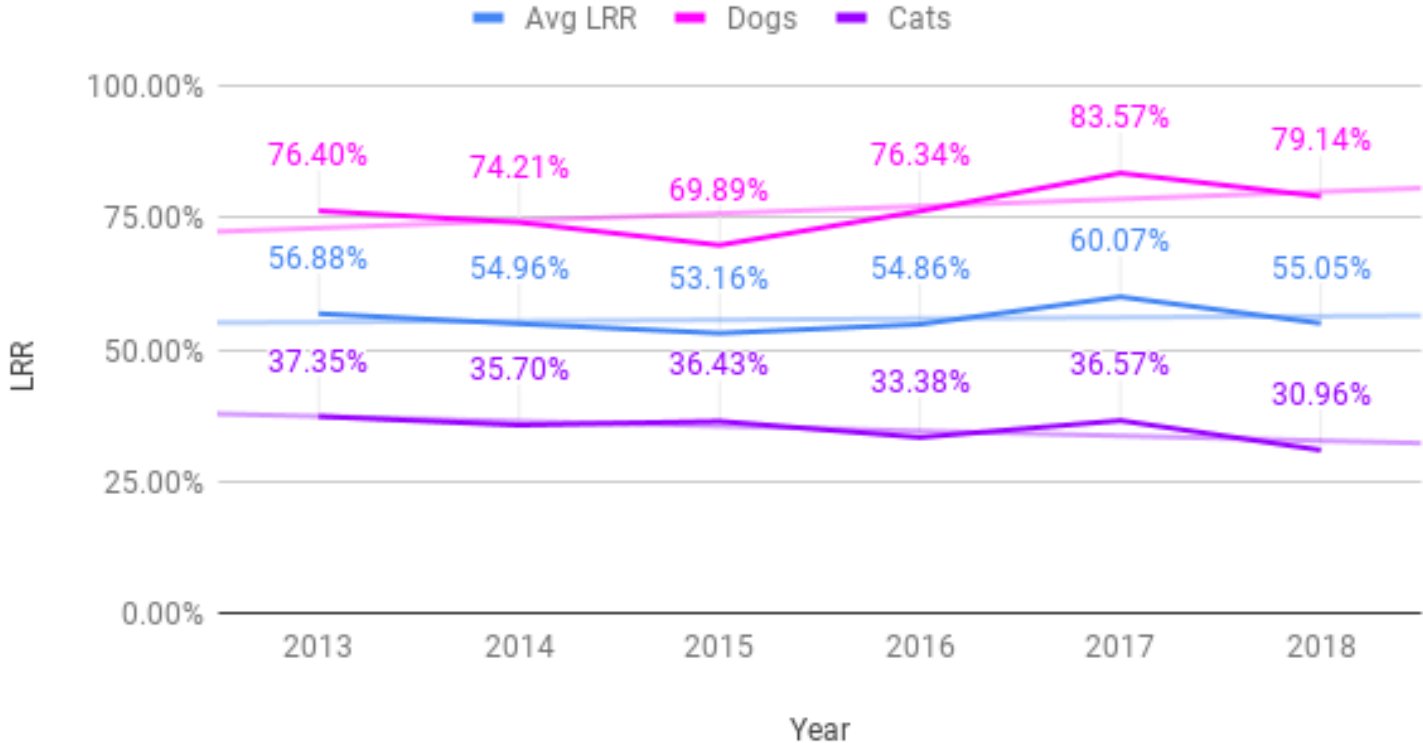
Fewer reclaims is proportionate to decrease in stray intakes overall.



New & Updated Data

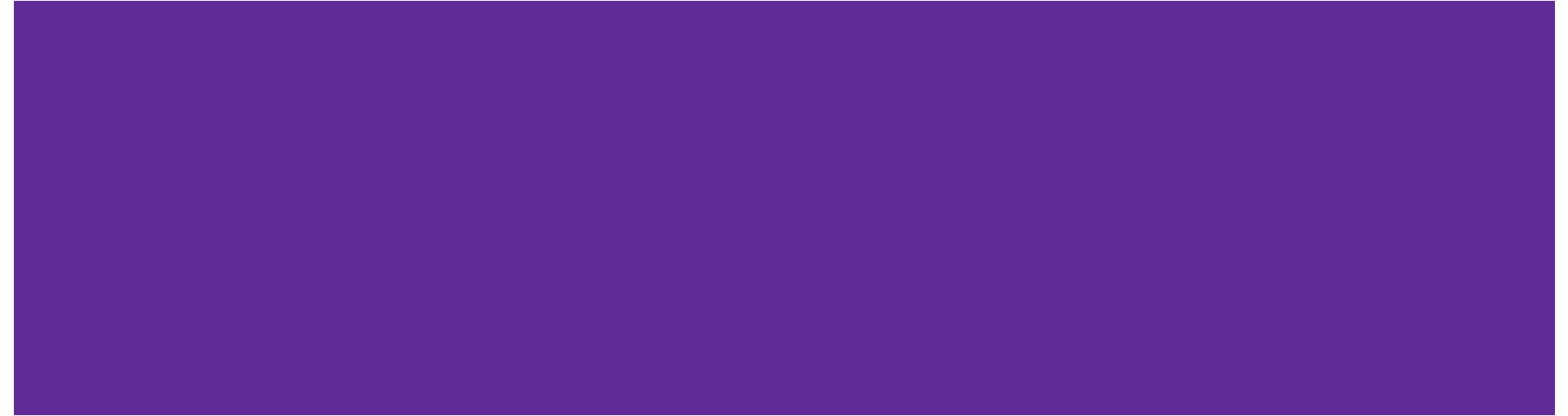


Harrisonburg City LRR vs. Year



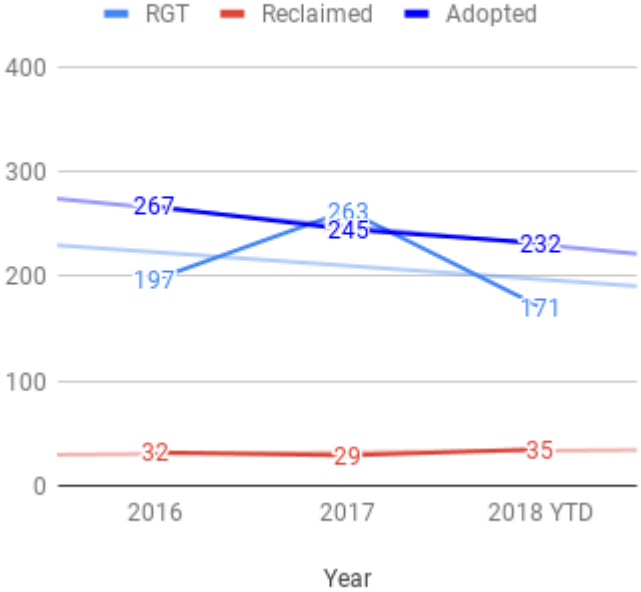
2018 does not include the entire month of December.

2017-2018

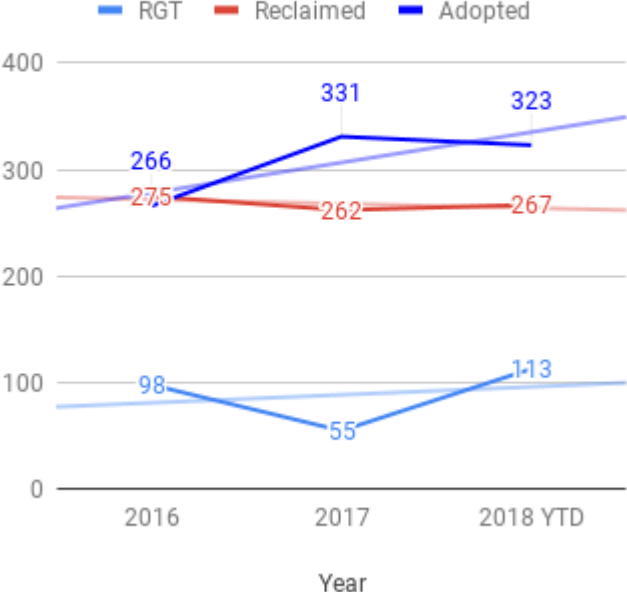


RGTs, RTOs, Adoptions (16-18 YTD)

Total Cats 2016-2018 YTD



Total Dogs 2016-2018 YTD



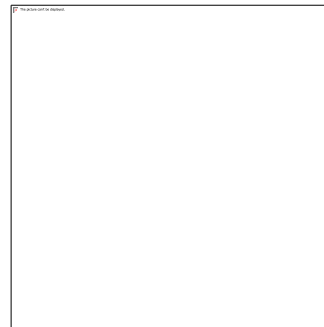
Challenges

We had 6 heartworm positive dogs up for adoption at once.

We implemented 4-Dx testing after several adopters reported back that the dogs they adopted carried tick-borne diseases like Lyme, ehrlichiosis, or anaplasmosis. Heartworms are preventable with testing and regular vet care.

We are happy to report that all 6 have found homes!

One of them, Wagtastic Beast, also required an amputation.



Left to right: Alex Trebark, Wayne Brady, Vanna White, Wagtastic Beast, Bob Barker & Drew Hairy



Special Needs & Special Care



Gilbert, before & after entropion surgery

We had many animals arrive with a condition called entropion, where their eyelids and lashes grow inwards towards their eyes instead of outward.

This painful, irritating condition can cause infections and seriously affect quality of life. Gilbert the tabby cat was one of our patients able to get surgery to correct the problem.

Funding for animals with special surgical needs like Gilbert and Wagtastic Beast comes from our Nova Medical Fund.

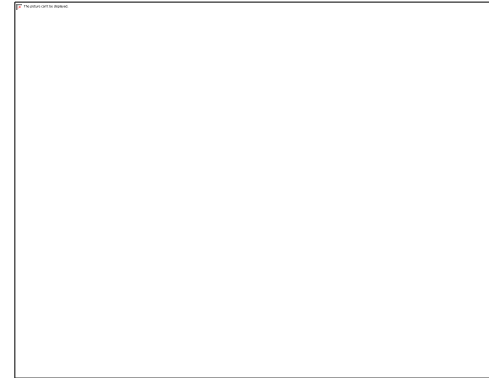
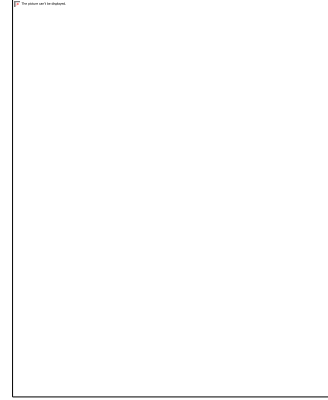
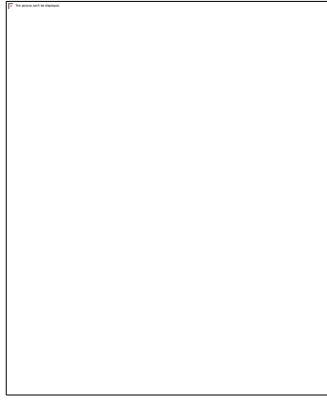
Crushed & Broken Bones



We have had several animals receive treatment for broken bones either via pins like Bee Bee above or amputation if the leg was crushed. Furdinand the Bull & Purdy have both found homes.

And those who need help standing out...

Sometimes it's difficult to help an animal's wonderful qualities shine with such a high volume of peers, or their good qualities are hard to see past scars, chronic untreated illness, obesity, or age.



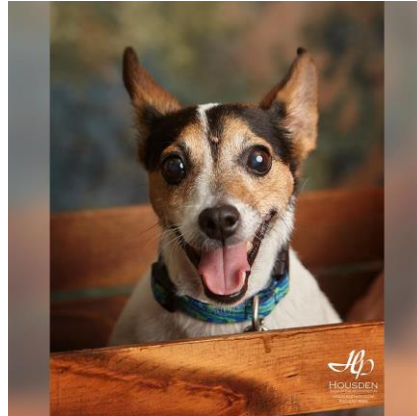
Getting regular updates is easy:

Our quarterly newsletter showcases our current projects and highlights special cases.



Petfinder™

rhspca.org



**Continued and
revamped support
encouraging
spay/neuter and
vaccination would be
great.**

Looking forward to 2019 & beyond

2019 is going to be a year of transition as we welcome our new Executive Director, Huck Nawaz. Huck Nawaz comes to the area from the Humane Society of Charlotte in Charlotte, NC, where he served as the Vice President of Operations. Nawaz's work experience includes Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League (West Palm Beach, FL) and Best Friends Animal Society (Kanab, UT).



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Rockingham/Harrisonburg

SPCA

respect • education • compassion

Thank you so much for this
opportunity to share our progress
with you all.
