

Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA: City Council Presentation



Anne Anderson
Executive Director

Jo Benjamin
Adoption & Rescue
Coordinator

Lauren Watson
Humane Educator &
Volunteer Coordinator

Who We Are



AND WHAT WE DO



Background



Founded in 1975, we've served the community for 42 years
New facility opened in November 2004
Three-way partnership between the City, County & RHSPCA



Our mission is to promote respect, compassion, education and advocacy resulting in a humane and sustainable environment for all animals.

Facility



24 adoptable feline cages
32 stray feline cages
12 isolation/quarantine cages
4 kitten/nursing mother cages
6 feline intake cages
78 total feline cages



8 puppy/small breed kennels
30 adoptable adult dog kennels
30 stray canine kennels
10 isolation/quarantine kennels
7 canine intake kennels

85 total canine kennels

6 “other” pet cages (small mammals)



We are an Open Admission Animal Shelter



We accept any and every animal from Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County regardless of temperament, health, age, breed, size, color, or the owner's ability to pay for their stay in our care.



We are an Open Admission Animal Shelter

Open admission model means **any** pet from Harrisonburg City or Rockingham County can be surrendered to the RHSPCA

- No mandatory surrender fee
- No pre-surrender temperament evaluation
- No appointment/phone call necessary
- No waiting list
- No restrictions if there is a bite history

Limited or managed admission models slow the influx of animals.

Some examples are:

- Requiring appointments
- Charging surrender fees
- Not accepting certain kinds of animals
- Pre-surrender temperament evaluation
- Waiting lists
- Only accepting pets from certain districts
- Only accepting owner surrenders, or “cherry pick” owner surrendered pets

What happens to pets that are denied admission?

Services Provided by the RHSPCA



1. Impoundment for stray & lost pets
 - 2016 Harrisonburg strays: 160 dogs, 271 cats, 4 other species
2. Owner surrender for unwanted pets
 - 2016 Harrisonburg OS: 111 dogs, 168 cats, 36 others
3. Lost & found pet reporting, and reuniting pets to families
4. Stray reclaim
 - 2016 Overall: 308 reclaims (275 dogs, 32 cats, 1 other pet)
5. Emergency quartering (i.e. house fires, auto accidents, etc)
 - 8 served in 2016 overall (the majority were from Harrisonburg)
6. Adoption opportunities, rescue group transfer pets in-state and out-of-state
 - 2016 Overall: 578 adopted, 100 transferred inside of VA, 204 outside of VA

Services Provided by the RHSPCA



1. Pet showcases, adoption events, and reduced adoption fee specials
 - 29 showcases/events, 4-6 major adopt-a-thons + pop-up adoption events
2. Volunteer opportunities for adults & children
 - 2016: 32 orientations, 344 new volunteers, donation of 4004 hours onsite and at events
3. Humane education programs & shelter tours
 - 2016: 39 programs reaching 1110 students and chaperones
 - 85% of programs provided for Harrisonburg-based groups
4. Participation with CART/SART for disaster preparedness
5. Pet cremation
6. Owner-requested euthanasia for pets for whom euthanasia is in their best interests
 - Included in annual VDACS reporting

Community Donations & Support



Donations from Ashby Animal Clinic.



Birthday party donations.



Kitten shower donations.



Donations from vacation bible school.

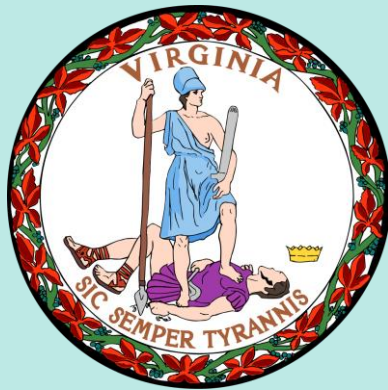
About Us



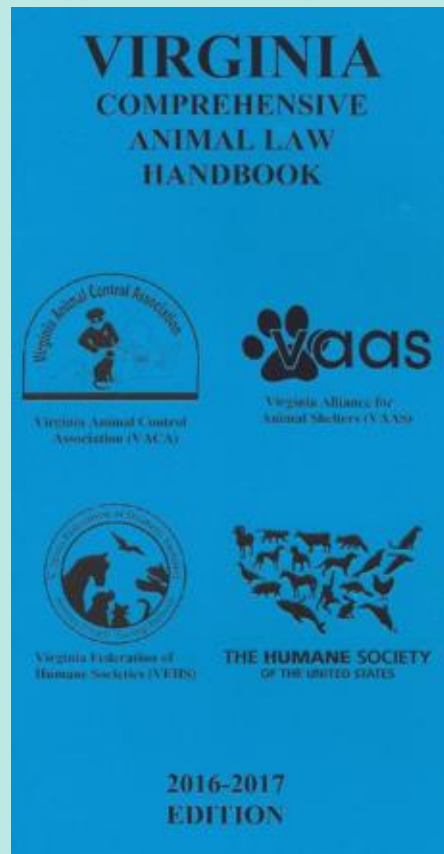
- Hours of Operation:
 - Mon-Saturday 10-4, Wed nights 5-7
- Staffed by 18 people & operate 365 days a year
- Oversight by a board of directors
- Subject to and passed inspections by the State Veterinarian, Virginia Dept. of Agricultural & Consumer Services (VDACS), Dept. of Health Professions & DEQ

Lawfully Operate

The RHSPCA complies with all local and state animal welfare laws.



**Code of Virginia
§ 3.2-5900 through
§ 3.2-6590
among others**



**Harrisonburg City Code
Animal Control Sections 15-
2-1 through 15-2-24**

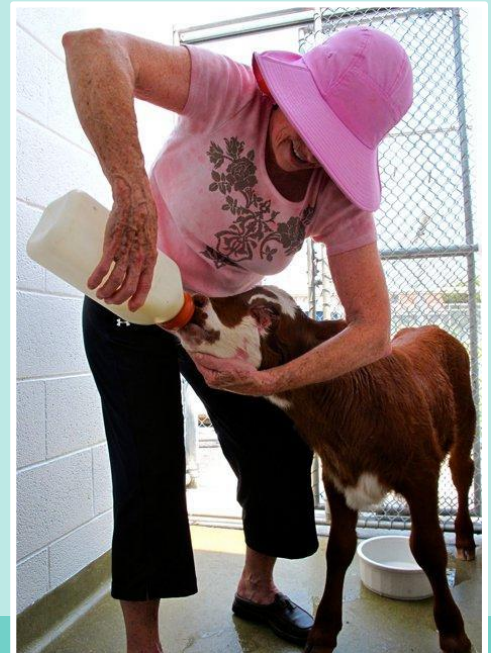
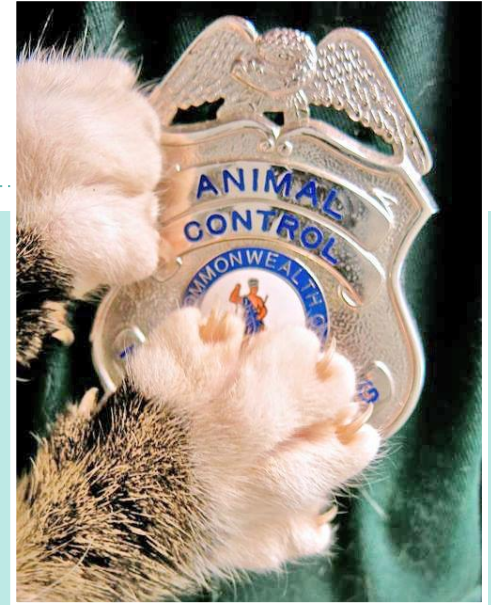
Staff Roles



- Executive Director
- Shelter Manager
- Assistant Shelter Managers
- Development & Fundraising Manager
- Humane Education & Volunteer Coordinator
- Adoption & Rescue Coordinator
- Animal Care Technicians
- Receptionist

Supportive Partner

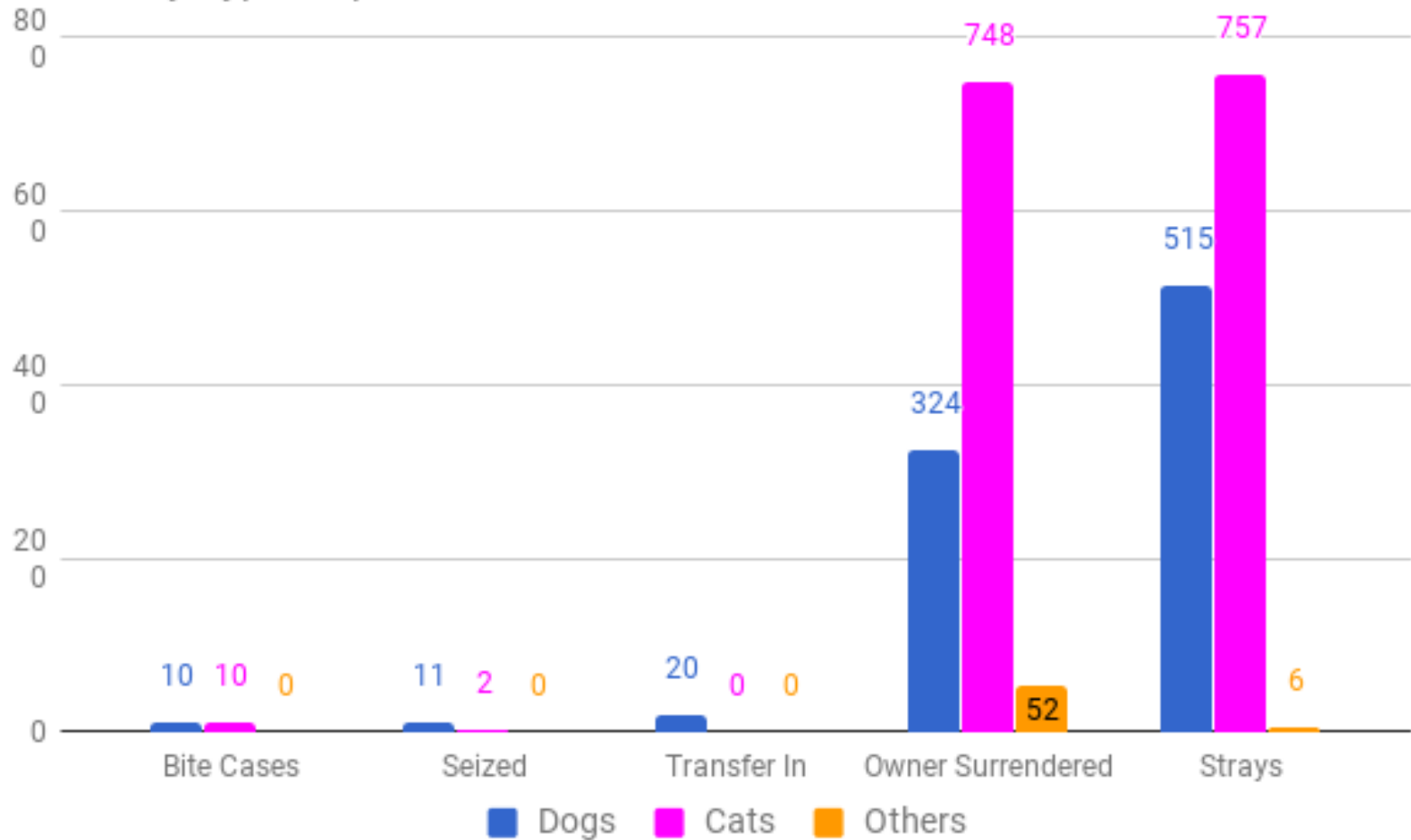
Assist Animal Care & Control



Intake Types

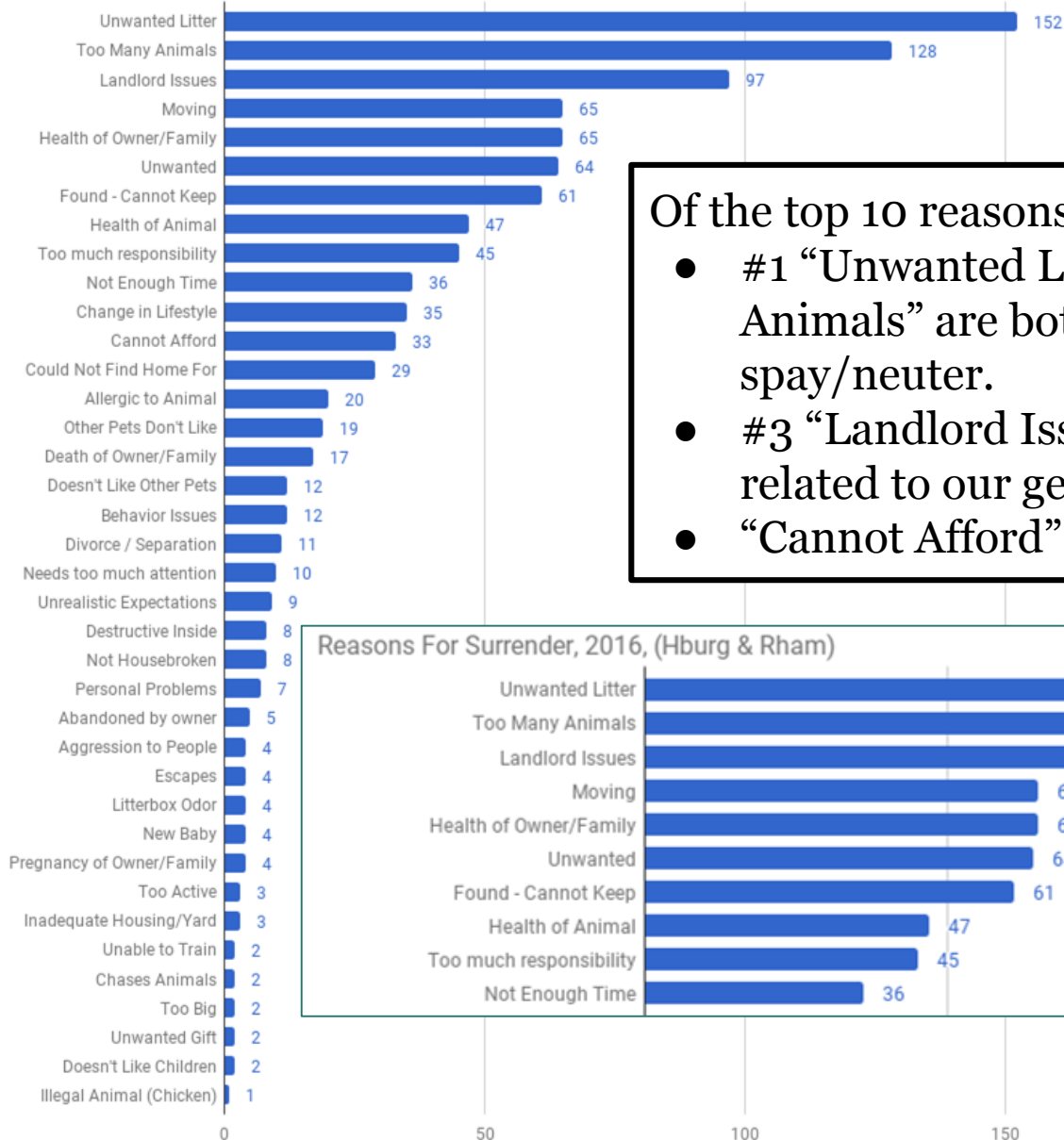


Intakes by Type & Species, 2016



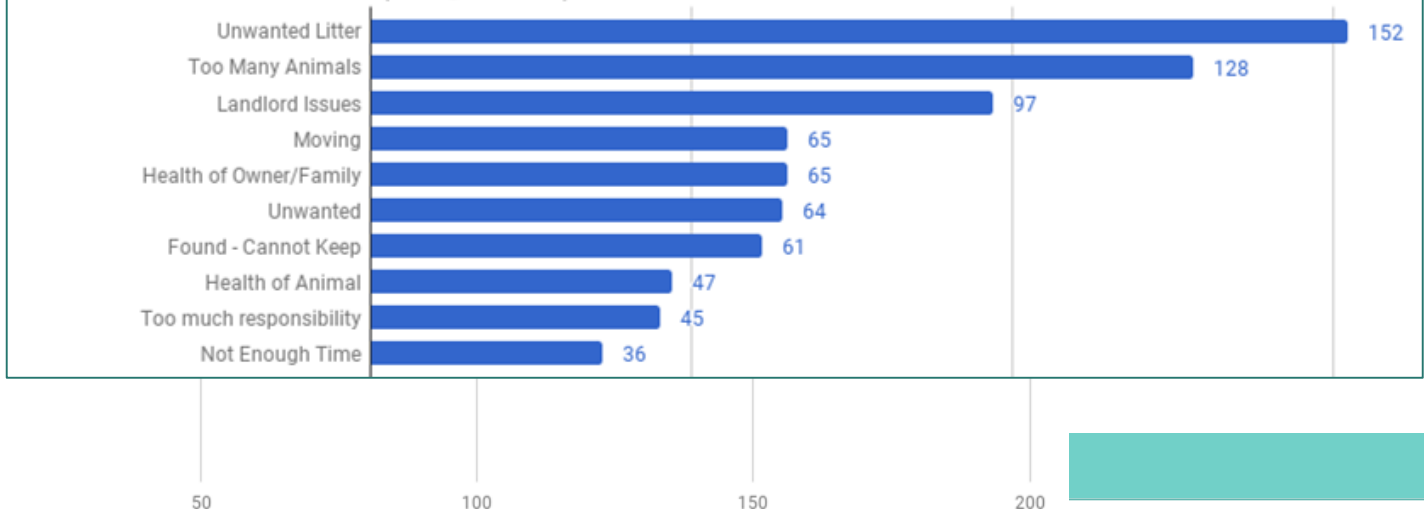
2016 Intake Reasons

Reasons For Surrender, 2016, (Hburg & Rham)



- Of the top 10 reasons for owner surrender
- #1 “Unwanted Litter” and #2 “Too Many Animals” are both related to lack of spay/neuter.
 - #3 “Landlord Issues” & #4 “Moving” are related to our geographic mobility.
 - “Cannot Afford” is #12

Reasons For Surrender, 2016, (Hburg & Rham)



Holding Periods



Stray	5 business days (7 calendar days) <u>without</u> identification 10 business days (12 calendar days) <u>with</u> identification <i>identification</i> = collar, tags, microchip, tipped ear, etc.
Owner Surrender	No required holding period
Bite Hold	10 days (to check for rabies)
Seized/Court Case	Held for the duration of court proceedings - case, appeals, verdict Unpredictable time period – usually months
Emergency Quartering	Not intended for adoption. Returned to owner at end of stay. Stay exceeds 14 days on occasion.

There is no time limit or maximum stay for animals up for adoption at the RHSPCA.
Animals remain up for adoption as long as they are happy and healthy.

Court Holds



Cases in 2016-17

Cain: Dangerous Dog
9/5/16 - 4/26/17 (235 days)

Sky: Dangerous Dog
3/6/17 - 7/7/17 (124 days)

Isis, Gio, Zeus, Diamond, & Money:
Inadequate Care
3/24/17 - 7/19/17 (118 days x 5 dogs)

Harley & Susie: Cruelty
4/5/17 - 6/21/17 (78 days x 2 dogs)



Isis (now Iris) is currently up for adoption.

What We Provide for the Animals

Upon Intake

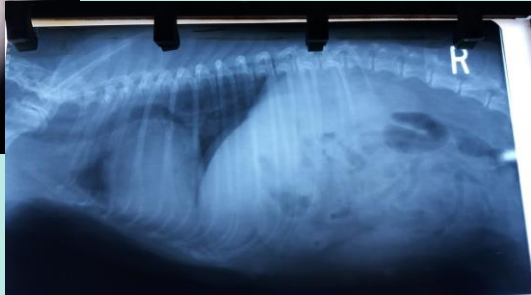
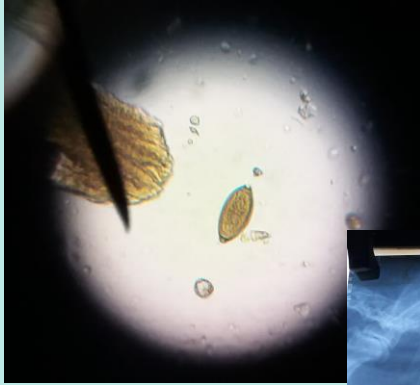
- Scan for microchip/other ID, attempt to locate owner via lost reports
- Flea/tick & deworming
- Temperature & weight
- Ear cleaning, nail trim
- Basic physical exam
- Age-appropriate vaccinations
- Medical treatment (if needed) as directed by our supervising veterinarians



Microchip Next to Grain of Rice



What We Provide for the Animals



During their stay

- Rabies & distemper vaccinations
- Ongoing medical care for chronic conditions
- Vet visits weekly or more often as needed
- Transport to vet for additional procedures or diagnostic testing
- FeLV/FIV or 4-Dx tests on all cats & dogs up for adoption
- Enrichment provided by trained staff and volunteers
- Stress reduction plans
- Dogs go off-leash in play yards
- Clean environment via SoP's
- Individual kennels

FeLV/FIV and 4-Dx Testing



- Over the years of service, we've responded to the growing number of pets carrying illness in our community by providing testing.
- Adopters are then fully informed on the findings.
- Dogs found to be heartworm negative are started on preventative.

Dogs: 4-Dx Test

- heartworms
- ehrlichiosis
- anaplasmosis
- lyme disease

Cats: Feline Triple Test

- heartworms
- FIV (feline immuno virus)
- FeLV (feline leukemia)

Behavioral Assessment



Sue Sternberg's Assess-A-Pet

- Sociability Sitting
- Sociability Standing
- Stroke/Pet
- Teeth – restraint
- Safe Vet Hug – restraint
- Toy/Tug – resource guarding
- Food/Rawhide – food guarding
- Dog-to-dog introduction



Adoption Events



- Home & Garden Show
- Shenandoah Valley Pride
- K9s for Warriors Adventure Race
- Kids for K9s - On the Road Collaborative Dog Walk Fundraiser
- Valley AIDS Network Dog Walk Fundraiser



Shenandoah Valley Pride Festival



Valley AIDS Network Dog Walk Fundraiser

Adoption Events

- Petco
- Petsmart
- Larkin Arts
- Golden Pony
- Valley Fitness
- Agora Downtown Market
- James Madison University
- Dog Days Swim at Westover Park
- Harrisonburg City Employee Health & Benefits Fair
- Rocking R Ace Hardware
- *And many, many more!*



Adoption Fee Specials

- Kitten Bowl
- Passion 4 Compassion
- Home for the Holidays
- “Pop-up” specials
 - Dog & Cat Days of Summer
 - Smooch a Pooch



Community Outreach

- WHSV TV3 Pet of the Week (monthly)
- Daily News & Record Pet of the Week
- 98 Rock Pet of the Week – Radio spot
- 104.3 KCY Country Pet of the Week – Facebook Live
- Kline May Realty Finding Forever Homes (monthly)
- Farmers and Merchants Bank Pet of the Month



KLINE MAY
Realty



WANTED:
A Loving Home!
Meet Riley!

Riley is a neutered, 10-year-old Beagle mix who is a spunky boy that loves food and attention. If you are willing to give endless belly rubs, this cutie is the one for you!
I can be found with many cats and dogs at the R'ham/H'burg SPCA.

Mon.-Sat. 10-4 & Wed. 5-7 p.m.

The Pet of the Week is sponsored by

PERMA TREAT
Pest and Termite Control
PROTECTORS OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT

540-432-3333



If you lost your animal, give the R'ham-H'burg SPCA Animal Shelter a call.
2170 Old Furnace Rd.
434-5270
See more on www.rhspca.org



Pet of the Week - July 12



 **Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA** shared 104-3 KCY Country's live video.

Have you met our adorable Pwecious yet? 🐾





698 Views


104-3 KCY Country was live. 21 hrs ·  Like Page


Meet Pwecious, our Pet of the Week. Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA

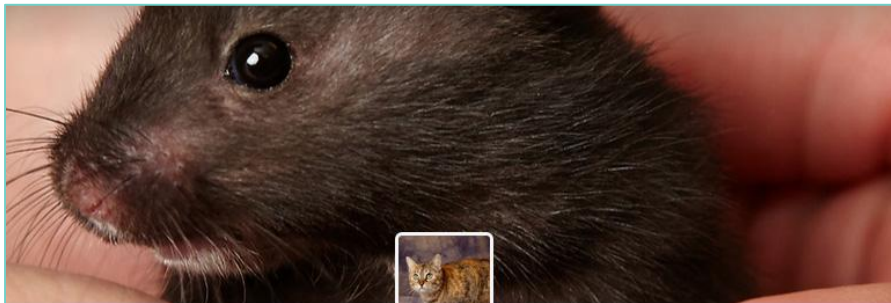
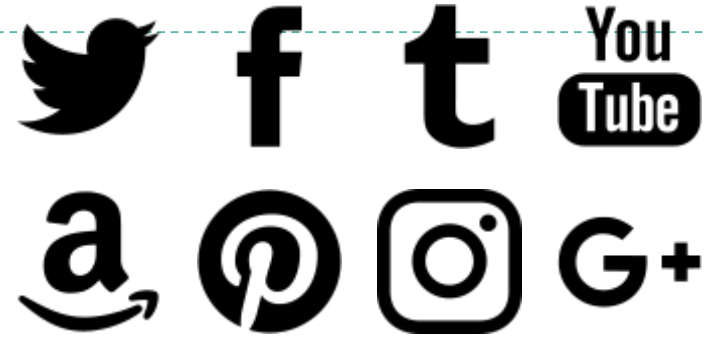
Social Media

 Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA uploaded and posted
IG: @rhspca

 **Sunny**
3 days ago • 1 view
Sunny is a sweet senior Maine Coon mix who'd love to meet you! More info about him at rhspca.org. People over 55 can adopt Sunny for the special fee of \$30!

 Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA uploaded and posted
Check out our Twitter @rocktown_SPCA!

 **Tuck Tuck**
3 days ago • 3 views
Tuck Tuck is a silly cat who loves people. Check out his video to find out more about him. Interested in our adoption process? Check out rhspca.org!



Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA

This blog is dedicated to the fine staff, animal control officers, volunteers, and of course the lovable animals looking for forever homes in Harrisonburg, VA. Submissions from "alumni" welcome!

[Archive](#) [Ask](#) [About Us](#) [Adopt](#) [Submit](#)

TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	FAVORITES
336	295	121	48

Foster Care



- **Medical**

- Recovery from illness or injury

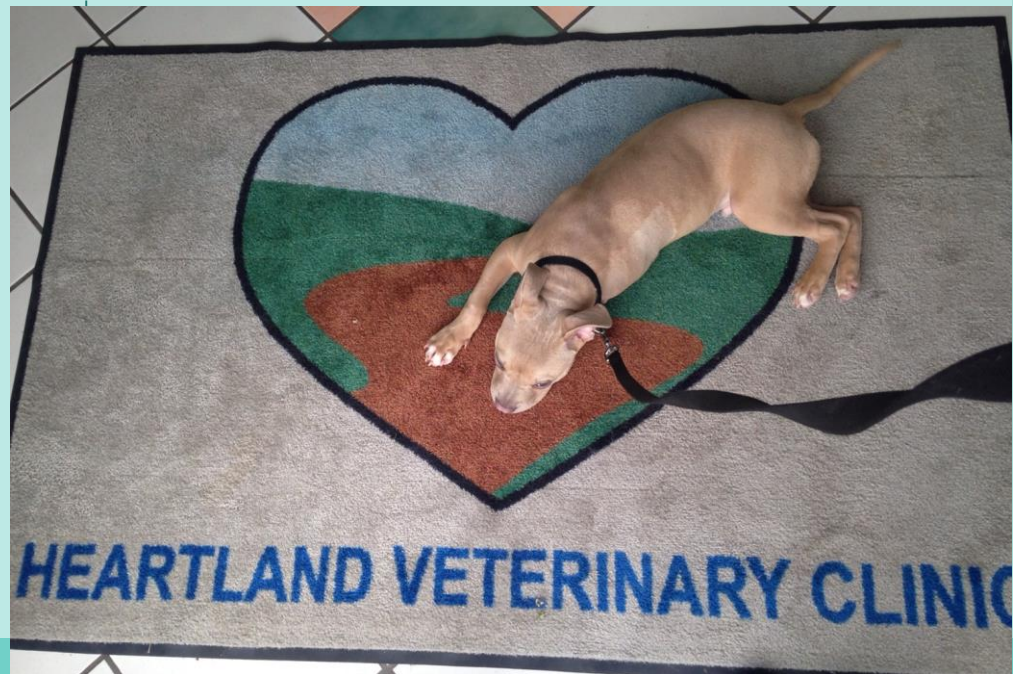
- **Behavioral**

- Additional training, socialization, stress relief, break from the kennel

- **Space**

- Animals awaiting transport
- When shelter is at capacity

- **In 2016:** 28 dogs, 44 cats stayed in foster care

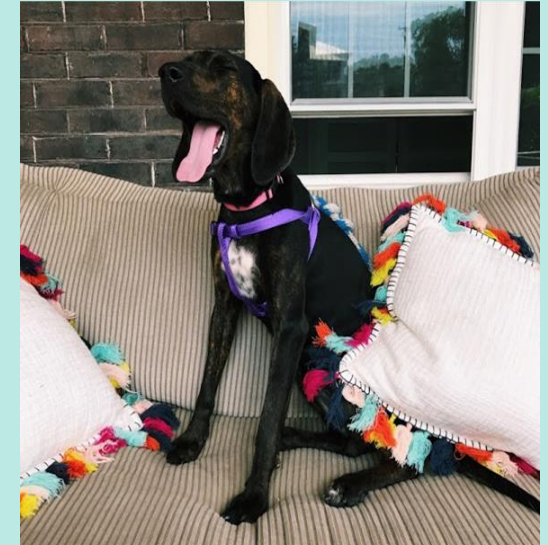


Foster Care



- **Foster Application**
- **Foster Home Visit**
- **Foster Contact List**

- Foster care is used as a **temporary** solution
- Fosters are encouraged to **promote** their pets to help them get adopted
- Fosters attend **adoption events** with their foster pets
- Primary focus is on the **animal's best interest**
- Most adopters meet the pet they choose to **adopt at the shelter**, not while in foster
- Currently over **40 foster care providers**
- More fosters are signing up all the time at monthly **Foster Information Sessions**

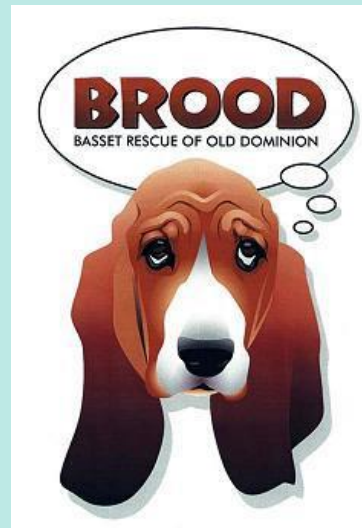


Rescue Partners



Thank you for choosing Rescue!

- The RHSPCA works with 70+ rescue partners
- Limited admission, selective, some are breed specific
- Rescues establish criteria for animals they will accept



AMERICAN BLACK & TAN COONHOUND RESCUE



Rescue Partner Application Requirements



- Proof of 501(c)3 non-profit status (state-mandated)
- Proof of incorporation (state-mandated)
- “Each releasing agency [...] shall obtain a signed statement from each of its directors, operators, staff, or animal caregivers specifying that each individual as never been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment [...]” (state-mandated §3.2-6546)
- Adoption application form, guidelines, policies, and contract
- Foster home application form, visit/inspection form
- References from two veterinarians & two partnering shelters
- If based in Virginia, a copy of most recent state vet report (VDACS)
- If based outside Virginia, a summary of previous year's animal numbers including: intakes, outcomes, adoption, carry over, euthanasia and die in facility



Rescue Partner Application Requirements



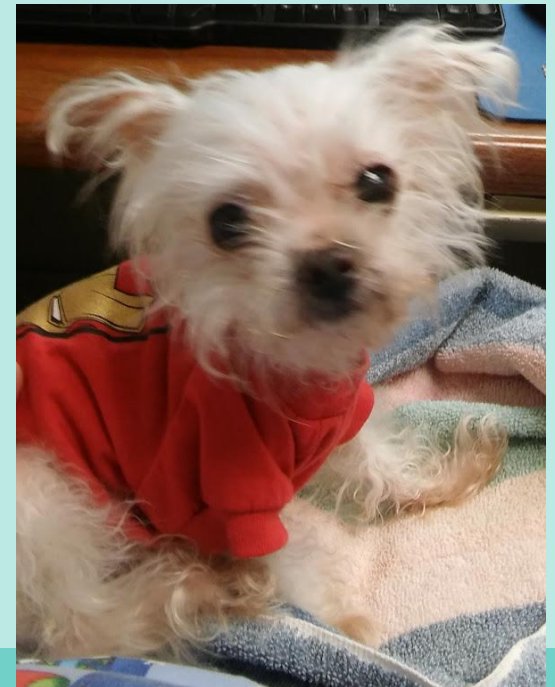
What is the RHSPCA looking for?

- Requirement to spay and neuter pets
- Due diligence to adoption applicants
- Policy & practice of accepting returned adoptions
- In-person visit to foster homes
- Positive references from vets and shelters
- Die in facility rate/at or below acceptable rate <1%
- Comply with state, local, federal animal welfare laws
- Perform euthanasia when medically & behaviorally necessary

Rescue Success Story: Abby



- 14 year old female Maltese
- Surrendered by owner: Moving
- Severe periodontal disease
- Intestinal parasites
- Anemic
- Severely emaciated: 2.3 lbs



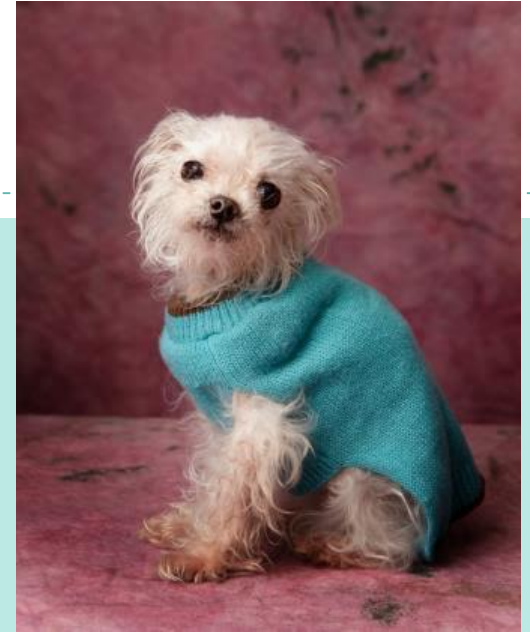
Rescue Success Story: Abby



RHSCPA Provided:

- Senior bloodwork
- Antibiotics in advance of dental procedure
- Treatment for intestinal parasites
- Special diet for weight increase
- Weight up to 3.6 lbs (+1.3 lbs)

Fostered by RHSPCA Staff for 2 weeks



Rescue Success Story: Abby



- Submitted & accepted to Mutts Matter Rescue
- “Christmas Miracle Dog”
- Co-sponsored dental surgery
- All teeth removed
- Foster for pre- & post-op recovery period
- Weight increased to 4.3 lbs (+2 lbs)
- Adopted and now lives with her 2 moms in MD



Monthly Cat Transports



We partner with the **ASPCA** to transport approximately **20-25 cats** to **Second Chance Animal Shelter** in Massachusetts on a **monthly** basis.



Since the beginning of our partnership in Nov 2016, we have transported.....



218 cats!

4 Lawful Outcomes



- Return to owner
- Adoption
- Transfer to another rescue or shelter
- Euthanasia

Euthanasia



Determining factors:

- Medical - severely ill, injured, untreatable, rehabilitatable
- Behavioral - aggression toward humans or other animals
- Safety of staff, volunteers, visitors, fosters, adopters
- Liability for the shelter if bite injury occurs
- Public perception and experiences with shelter pets (i.e. are they likely to adopt again?)

Apples & Oranges



**THE CHALLENGES OF COMPARING SHELTER INTAKE
MODELS AND THE COMMUNITIES ANIMAL SHELTERS
SERVE**

From the 2016 Assessment:

“Merely looking at counts and live out percentages can be misleading, as community demographics and the animal welfare community and capacity can often impact these numbers.”

- Karel Minor, p. 16 of
RHSPCA Evaluation

Harrisonburg: 51,388

Poverty rate: 32.5%

Mobility: 33%

Rockingham Co: 78,593

Poverty: 12.4%

Mobility: 13%

VA Overall: 8,382,993

Poverty: 11.2%

Mobility: 16.1%

Which Animal Shelters Compare?



- Open admission - Accepts strays AND owner surrendered pets without obstacles
- Partners with Animal Care & Control
- Public-contracted
- Accepts between 2000 and 4000 animals per year
- Serves a community with a high rate of poverty and geographic mobility
- Provides similar services (owner-requested euthanasia, veterinary care protocols, vaccinations, treatments)



Chesterfield County Police Department

Animal Services Unit

Intake Policy

The Chesterfield County Police Department's Animal Services' shelter is a public shelter that impounds stray dogs running at large as defined in the Virginia State code 3.2-6546. Owner surrender of dogs, cats or other domestic animals is determined on a case by case basis. These animals will be housed with confinement and final disposition being made pursuant to State code 3.2-6546.

This shelter doesn't take in every pet presented to them...

Dog Euthanasia Rates

59 Washington County Animal Shelter	9.94%
60 Chesterfield County Animal Shelter	10.07%
61 Culpeper County Animal Shelter	10.3%
62 Heritage Humane Society	10.3%
63 Hopewell City Animal Shelter	10.37%
64 Portsmouth Animal Control	10.45%
65 York County Animal Control	10.81%
66 Salem City Animal Shelter	11.04%
67 Charles City Animal Shelter	11.11%

Cat Euthanasia Rates

41 Shenandoah County Animal Shelter	27.83%
42 Prince Edward County Animal Shelter	29.87%
43 Prince William County Animal Shelter	31.57%
44 Alleghany Humane Society	34.86%
45 Chesterfield County Animal Shelter	33.64%
46 Franklin County Animal Shelter	36.97%
47 Roanoke City Animal Control	37.58%
48 Tazewell County Animal Shelter	37.65%
49 Regional Animal Shelter	37.69%
50 Henry County Animal Shelter	37.70%

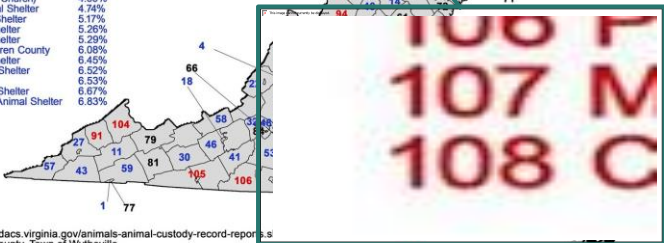
A Closer Look at Some Familiar Images...



2016 Dog Euthanasia Rates in Virginia's Public Shelters

1 Bristol Animal Control	0%	48 Regional Ctr. for Animal Care & Protec.	6.99%	82 Suffolk City Animal Shelter	17.96%
2 City of Fairfax Animal Control	0%	49 Shenandoah County Animal Shelter	18.46%	83 Pittsylvania County Animal Shelter	18.46%
3 City of Falls Church Animal Control	0%	50 Virginia Beach Animal Shelter	7.8%	84 Roanoke City Animal Control	19.15%
4 Clifton Forge Animal Control	0%	51 Fairfax County Animal Shelter	8.21%	85 Henrico County Animal Shelter	19.57%
5 Essex County Animal Shelter	0%	52 Hanover County Animal Shelter	8.67%	86 Stafford County Animal Shelter	19.79%
6 Greene County Animal Shelter	0%	53 Franklin County Animal Shelter	8.68%	87 Eastern Shore Regional Animal Shelter	21.83%
7 Greensville County Animal Shelter	0%	54 Orange County Animal Shelter	8.69%	88 James City Animal Control	22.73%
8 Highland County Animal Shelter	0%	55 Amherst County Animal Shelter	8.71%	89 Prince Edward Animal Shelter	22.88%
9 Southside SPCA (Lunenburg AS)	0%	56 Amelia County Animal Shelter	8.83%	90 Surry County Animal Shelter	23.08%
10 Winchester Animal Control	0%	57 Lee County Animal Shelter	9.03%	91 Dickenson County Animal Shelter	23.46%
11 Russell County Animal Shelter	0.25%	58 Giles County Animal Shelter	9.17%	92 Franklin City Animal Shelter	23.80%
12 Colonial Heights Animal Shelter	0.81%	59 Washington County Animal Shelter	9.84%	93 Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter	23.85%
13 Clarke County Animal Shelter	0.97%	60 Chesterfield County Animal Shelter	10.07%	94 Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA	24.97%
14 Rappahannock County Animal Shelter	1.49%	61 Culpeper County Animal Shelter	10.3%	95 Norfolk City Animal Shelter	25.15%
15 Powhatan County Animal Shelter	1.56%	62 Heritage Humane Society	10.3%	96 Bath County Animal Shelter	25.71%
16 Botetourt County Animal Control	1.75%	63 Hopewell City Animal Shelter	10.37%	97 Regional Animal Shelter (King County)	26.44%
17 Appomattox County Animal Shelter	1.81%	64 Portsmouth Animal Control	10.45%	98 Southampton County Animal Shelter	27.90%
18 Radford City Animal Shelter	1.85%	65 York County Animal Control	10.81%	99 Westmoreland County Animal Shelter	32.33%
19 Lynchburg Humane Society	2.09%	66 Salem City Animal Shelter	11.04%	100 Petersburg City Animal Shelter	33.79%
20 Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society	2.11%	67 Charles City Animal Shelter	11.11%	101 Dinwiddie County Animal Shelter	35.77%
21 SPCA of Winchester, Frederick & Clarke	2.14%	68 Richmond City Animal Shelter	11.48%	102 Buckingham County Animal Shelter	35.94%
22 Alleghany Humane Society	2.25%	69 Portsmouth Humane Society	11.76%	103 Danville City AS (Danville Humane Soc.)	37.97%
23 Cumberland County Animal Shelter	2.3%	70 Brunswick County Animal Shelter	12.58%	104 Buchanan County Animal Shelter	38.13%
24 Gloucester County Animal Shelter	2.45%	71 Animal Welfare League of Alexandria	12.84%	105 Galax-Carroll-Grayson Animal Shelter	41.01%
25 Shenandoah Valley Animal Services Ctr.	2.67%	72 Prince William County Animal Shelter	12.94%	106 Charlotte County Animal Shelter	50.00%
26 Hampton Animal Control	2.72%	73 Loudoun County Animal Shelter	13.47%	107 Patrick County Animal Shelter	42.69%
27 Wise County Animal Shelter	2.97%	74 Caroline County Animal Shelter	14.06%	108	
28 Isle of Wight Animal Shelter	3.13%	75 Campbell County Animal Shelter	15.08%		
29 Spotsylvania County Animal Shelter	3.34%	76 Animal Welfare League of Arlington	15.09%		
30 Wythe County Animal Shelter	3.55%	77 Jones Animal Hosp. (Bristol City)	16.51%		
31 Emporia County Animal Shelter	3.69%	78 Fauquier SPCA	16.53%		
32 Roanoke County Animal Control	3.7%	79 Tazewell County Animal Shelter	17.05%		
33 Fluvanna SPCA	3.79%	80 Chesapeake City Animal Shelter	17.05%		
34 Bedford County Animal Shelter	3.86%	81 Smyth County Animal Shelter	17.05%		
35 New Kent County Animal Shelter	4.06%				
36 Goochland County Animal Shelter	4.66%				
37 Towne & Country (Falls Church)	4.65%				
38 Frederick County Animal Shelter	4.74%				
39 Louisa County Animal Shelter	5.17%				
40 Page County Animal Shelter	5.26%				
41 Floyd County Animal Shelter	5.29%				
42 Humane Society of Warren County	6.08%				
43 Scott County Animal Shelter	6.45%				
44 Sussex County Animal Shelter	6.52%				
45 Rockbridge SPCA	6.53%				
46 Pulaski County Animal Shelter	6.67%				
47 Prince George County Animal Shelter	6.83%				

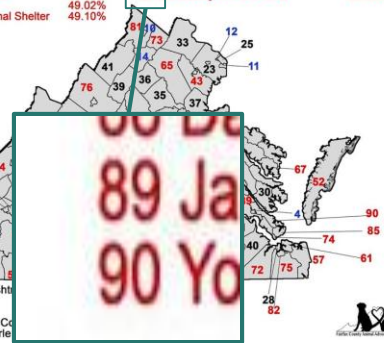
Data Source: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals-animal-custody-record-reports>
 0 Dogs Reported: Craig County, Town of Wytheville
 No Report Yet Posted at the Time of this Graphic's Creation: Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA, Halifax County



2016 Cat Euthanasia Rates in Virginia's Public Shelters

1 Greensville County Animal Shelter	1.15%	41 Shenandoah County Animal Shelter	27.83%	67 Gloucester County Animal Shelter	51.22%
2 Louisa County Animal Shelter	2.01%	42 Prince Edward County Animal Shelter	29.87%	68 Rockbridge SPCA	53.66%
3 Colonial Heights Animal Shelter	3.25%	43 Prince William County Animal Shelter	31.57%	69 Hanover County Animal Shelter	53.73%
4 Heritage Humane Society	3.85%	44 Alleghany Humane Society	31.86%	70 Amherst County Animal Shelter	55.39%
5 Lynchburg Humane Society	4.01%	45 Chesterfield County Animal Shelter	33.64%	71 Petersburg City Animal Shelter	57.31%
6 Shenandoah Valley Animal Service Center	4.04%	46 Franklin County Animal Shelter	36.97%	72 Suffolk City Animal Shelter	57.71%
7 Giles County Animal Shelter	4.11%	47 Roanoke City Animal Control	37.58%	73 Clarke County Animal Shelter	57.78%
8 Cumberland County Animal Shelter	4.48%	48 Tazewell County Animal Shelter	37.65%	74 Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter	58.56%
9 Emporia Animal Shelter	4.91%	49 Regional Animal Shelter	37.69%	75 Chesapeake City Animal Shelter	61.83%
10 SPCA of Winchester, Frederick & Clarke	5.59%	50 Henry County Animal Shelter	37.70%	76 Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA	63.83%
11 Animal Rescue League of Alexandria	5.99%	51 Caroline County Animal Shelter	38.24%	77 Dinwiddie County Animal Shelter	65.08%
12 Towne & Country (Falls Church)	6.17%	52 Eastern Shore Reg Animal Shelter	38.50%	78 Bath County Animal Shelter	73.12%
13 Richmond City Animal Shelter	7.49%	53 Regional Ctr. for Animal Care & Prot.	38.77%	79 Buchanan County Animal Shelter	73.86%
14 Humane Society of Warren County	7.69%	54 Salem City Animal Shelter	39.58%	80 Smyth County Animal Shelter	74.90%
15 New Kent County Animal Shelter	7.83%	55 Campbell County Animal Shelter	41.76%	81 Frederick County Animal Shelter	75.24%
16 Fluvanna SPCA	8.39%	56 Goochland County Animal Shelter	42.40%	82 Portsmouth Animal Control	80.00%
17 Powhatan County Animal Shelter	9.28%	57 Virginia Beach Animal Shelter	42.41%	83 Charlotte County Animal Shelter	81.82%
18 Amelia County Animal Shelter	10.11%	58 Pulaski County Animal Shelter	42.44%	84 Franklin City Animal Shelter	81.94%
19 Orange County Animal Shelter	10.79%	59 Jones An. Hosp. (Bristol City)	43.71%	85 Hampton Animal Control	83.33%
20 Botetourt County Animal Control	10.84%	60 Henrico County Animal Shelter	44.88%	86 Mecklenburg County Animal Shelter	87.80%
21 Appomattox County Animal Shelter	11.17%	61 Norfolk City Animal Shelter	45.90%	87 Galax-Carroll-Grayson Animal Shelter	92.21%
22 Radford City Animal Shelter	11.43%	62 Patrick County Animal Shelter	46.15%	88 Danville City Animal Shelter	92.30%
23 Fairfax County Animal Shelter	11.78%	63 Wytheville Animal Shelter	46.85%	89 James City Animal Control	92.86%
24 Bedford County Animal Shelter	11.85%	64 Charles City Animal Shelter	48.54%	90 York County Animal Shelter	100.00%
25 Animal Welfare League of Arlington	12.49%	65 Fauquier SPCA	48.02%		
26 Spotsylvania County Animal Shelter	12.50%	66 Washington County Animal Shelter	48.10%		
27 Prince George County Animal Shelter	13.90%				
28 Portsmouth Humane Society	15.09%				
29 Sussex County Animal Shelter	15.25%				
30 Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society	15.97%				
31 Surry County Animal Shelter	16.22%				
32 Hopewell City Animal Shelter	17.84%				
33 Loudoun County Animal Shelter	18.21%				
34 Buckingham County Animal Shelter	18.34%				
35 Culpeper County Animal Shelter	20.15%				
36 Rappahannock County Animal Shelter	20.00%				
37 Stafford County Animal Shelter	25.38%				
38 Wise County Animal Shelter	26.64%				
39 Page County Animal Shelter	26.82%				
40 Isle of Wight Animal Shelter	27.16%				

Data Source: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals-animal-custody-record-reports>
 0 Cats Reported: Bristol AC, City of Fairfax AC, Greene Co. AS, Highland Co. AS, Southside SPCA (Lunenburg), Winchester AC, Wythe Co. AS, Roanoke Co. AS, Floyd Co. AS, Scott Co. AS, Brunswick Co. AS, Southampton Co. AS, Westmoreland Co.
 No Report Yet Posted at the Time of this Graphic's Creation: Charlottesville-Albemarle



Not all public shelters even accept cats, or do so on a limited, case-by-case basis. Some only accept strays from Animal Control. What is the basis of intake?

A 100% euthanasia rate?
Does not tell the whole story...

87 Galax-Carron-Clayson Animal Shelter	92.21%
88 Danville City Animal Shelter	92.30%
89 James City Animal Control	92.86%
90 York County Animal Shelter	100.00%

Reason for Custody

Species	A On Hand January 1	B Stray	C Seize	O Euthanized
Dogs		0	37	0
Cats		0	15	0

Requesting an Animal Trap

Making a Request

Regarding requests for animal traps, all requests must be made telephone. Should you have a

Cats will not be retrieved and should be taken to the Peninsula SPCA.

Bureau will not trap wildlife that is simply passing through your yard. A nuisance animal is considered an animal that habitual destroys property. Some animals are exempt from being declared a nuisance, such as all birds of prey (ospreys, eagles, falcons, hawks, etc.) deer, and any animal or reptile protected by the state and/or federal government.

The person(s) requesting the trap shall be responsible for the care and safety of any animal while the trap is in their possession until a representative of the Animal Control Bureau can retrieve the animal. The Animal Control Bureau typically retrieves raccoons, opossums, ground hogs and skunks. **Cats will not be retrieved and should be taken to the Peninsula SPCA.**

What if I or someone I know are missing a pet?

Report loss pet to Animal Control at 757-890-3621. Search your immediate neighborhood. Call your local animal shelter to see if your pet was picked-up and to report the loss if your pet should happen to be brought in on a later date. You can call the Heritage Humane Society at 757-221-0150 (typically animals picked up in the Northern End of York County) and the Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter at 757-933-8900 (typically animals picked up in the Southern End of York County).

Pets without identification can look alike so, visit the animal shelter and look at the animals not only in the impound area but, also the animals in the injured, sick, and quarantine areas. If you find your pet, please advise the local shelter and Animal Control so the lost pet can be cleared off their list of lost animals.

York County Animal Control takes custody of animals in accordance with the Virginia Comprehensive Animal Laws Section [3.2-6557](#).

[§ 3.2-6557](#). Animal control officers and humane investigators; limitations; records; penalties.

A. No animal control officer, humane investigator, humane society, or custodian of any public or private animal shelter shall (i) obtain the release or transfer of an animal by the animal's owner to such animal control officer, humane investigator, humane society, or custodian for personal gain or (ii) give or sell or negotiate for the gift or sale to any individual, pet shop, dealer, or research facility of any animal that may come into his custody in the course of carrying out his official assignments. No animal control officer, humane investigator, or custodian of any public or private animal shelter shall be granted a dealer's license. Violation of this subsection is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Nothing in this section shall preclude any animal control officer or humane investigator from lawfully impounding any animal pursuant to [§ 3.2-6569](#).

[§ 3.2-6569](#). Seizure and impoundment of animals; notice and hearing; disposition of animal; disposition of proceeds upon sale.

A. Any humane investigator, law-enforcement officer or animal control officer may lawfully seize and impound any animal that has been abandoned, has been cruelly treated, or is suffering from an apparent violation of this chapter that has rendered the animal in such a condition as to constitute a direct and immediate threat to its life, safety or health. The seizure or impoundment of an equine resulting from a violation of clause (iii) of subsection A or clause (ii) of subsection B of [§ 3.2-6570](#) may be undertaken only by the State Veterinarian or State Veterinarian's representative who has received training in the examination and detection of sore horses as required by 9 C.F.R. Part 11.7.



District 1 of York County: 15,095
Poverty: 12.1%
Mobility: 14.3%

James City County: 73,147
Poverty: 7.2%
Mobility: 17.3%

Williamsburg: 14,754
Poverty: 22.4%
Mobility: 40.5%

In-Take Policy for Heritage Humane Society

Heritage Humane Society (HHS) accepts all domesticated animals from District 1 of York County, James City County, and City of Williamsburg; along with any animals that were previously adopted from our facility. Wildlife is not admitted from any municipality.

▼ SURRENDER PROCESS

▲ SURRENDER FEES

Heritage Humane Society charges a nominal fee associated with surrendering an animal, as follows:

- \$50 per animal surrendered
- Additional \$20 if no proof of rabies
- \$40 for litters of kittens/puppies

Heritage Humane Society
2016 Euthanasia Rate: 6.02%

▼ SURRENDER FEES

▲ EUTHANASIA

Heritage Humane Society does not euthanize owned animals. If your pet needs to be put to sleep, please contact your veterinarian. If you do not have a veterinarian, please refer to the phone book or contact Heritage Humane Society and we can offer a list of veterinarians in the area.

Peninsula Regional Humane Society



The Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter (PRAS) is a collaborative venture supported by four separate Hampton Roads communities: Newport News, Hampton, Poquoson, and York County. This 30,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility is managed and operated by the City of Newport News on behalf of the four jurisdictions. This "open-admission" shelter contains a full service veterinary clinic and has capacity for approximately 100 dogs and 180 cats, as well as pocket pets and other small companion animals. The shelter's primary responsibilities include holding stray animals until they can be reunited with their owners, rehoming owner-surrendered pets, and facilitating pet adoptions. The shelter also houses animal control offices for the participating jurisdictions.

**2016 Euthanasia
Rate: 40.88%**

Method of Disposition

Species	J Reclaimed by Owner	K Adopted	L Transferred to another VA Releasing Agency***	M Transferred to Out-of State Releasing Agency	N Died While in Custody	O Euthanized	P Other****	Q On Hand December 31	Total
Dogs	1,238	860	262	54	4	783	0	82	3,283
Cats	89	891	343	5	68	2,132	0	113	3,641
Other Companion Animals	6	169	50	0	6	32	0	15	278
Hybrid Canines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Poultry	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1,340	1,920	655	59	78	2,947	0	210	7,209

2,947

2,947

Why Look at This?



- Every jurisdiction has its own set of challenges, ordinances, and available resources.
- Even recalculating “Euthanasia rate per 1,000 citizens” doesn’t take into account disposable income to care for that pet, geographic mobility, or the number of strays already there.
- Low-income neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by free-roaming abandoned pets, and may not have the free time, resources, or access to resources to address them.

From HSUS's "Pets For Life" 2014 Report



Percent of Pets Unaltered When Met

[n=28,314]

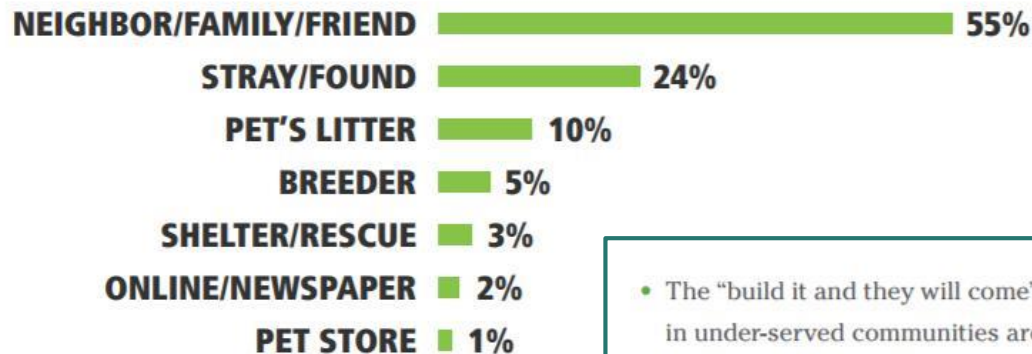
There are tens of millions of people living in poverty with their pets—and our research shows that 87 percent of pets in these communities haven't been spayed or neutered. To respond effectively to this, we must reach out to people who have the least access to animal wellness information and services. Pets for Life is creating transformational change for dogs and cats by going into these communities and staying there for the long haul, closing the service gap that exists for pets in under-served neighborhoods.



● unaltered pets 87%

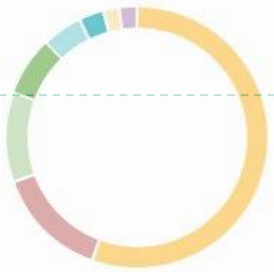
● altered pets 13%

PET ACQUISITION



- The “build it and they will come” approach will not reach this audience. Pet owners in under-served communities are not being reached by traditional and conventional marketing methods currently being used by most animal service providers.

- Using shelter and/or animal control statistics as the only measurement for a community's success on companion animal issues is limited and misses a large segment of pets and pet owners.



- family, friends, neighbors 55%
- free roaming/found 14%
- pet's litter 11%
- breeder 7%
- community/feral cat (unowned) 5%
- shelter/rescue 3%
- online/newspaper 2%
- pet store 2%

The lack of access has a profound impact on the well-being of a community, from public health and safety to taxpayer dollars that fund animal control and other initiatives set up to respond to community animal problems.

We hope the animal welfare field, the veterinary community, and other stakeholders will continue to find ways to work together to address these concerns and make use of new solutions that benefit all interests. To create long-term change, lessen suffering and reduce shelter intake, we must embrace a new perspective.

The lack of access has a profound impact on the well-being of a community, from public health and safety to taxpayer dollars that fund animal control and other initiatives set up to respond to community animal problems.

"We started off overwhelmed and overwhelmed by all the abandoned dogs and cats missing homes, and over our clients said they had no idea such good dogs and cats were waiting at the shelter. By providing our clients with transportation, application and interview process and covering the whole new world, that was never an option before the shelter." —RACHEL THOMPSON, PFL ATLANTA

A strong majority (80%) of pets met were born within the community or kept puppies and kittens from their own pet parents.

While PFL clients are more likely to have found their cats (38%) than their dogs (7%), dogs are more likely to come from family, friends, or a neighbor (62%) than cats (39%), and are also more likely to come from a breeder (dogs: 9%, cats: 1%).

While PFL clients are more likely to have found their cats (38%) than their dogs (7%), dogs are more likely to come from family, friends, or a neighbor (62%) than cats (39%), and are also more likely to come from a breeder (dogs: 9%, cats: 1%).

With the large and easily accessible number of available pets in the neighborhood, most people have not gone elsewhere to find one. Many of the people met are natural "rescuers" and are "adopting" their pets using informal methods. Coupling this with the fact that the majority of people have not had contact with their local shelter presents an obvious opportunity to address both the supply and demand of pet overpopulation.

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Why is the “Pets for Life” Data Relevant?



- While the HSUS’s PFL focuses on major urban centers such as Charlotte, Chicago, Los Angeles, they are addressing pets living in poverty and focusing on helping underserved demographics within communities.
- We can draw parallel conclusions for smaller communities like Harrisonburg until more data can be gathered.

RHSPCA Statistics & Progress

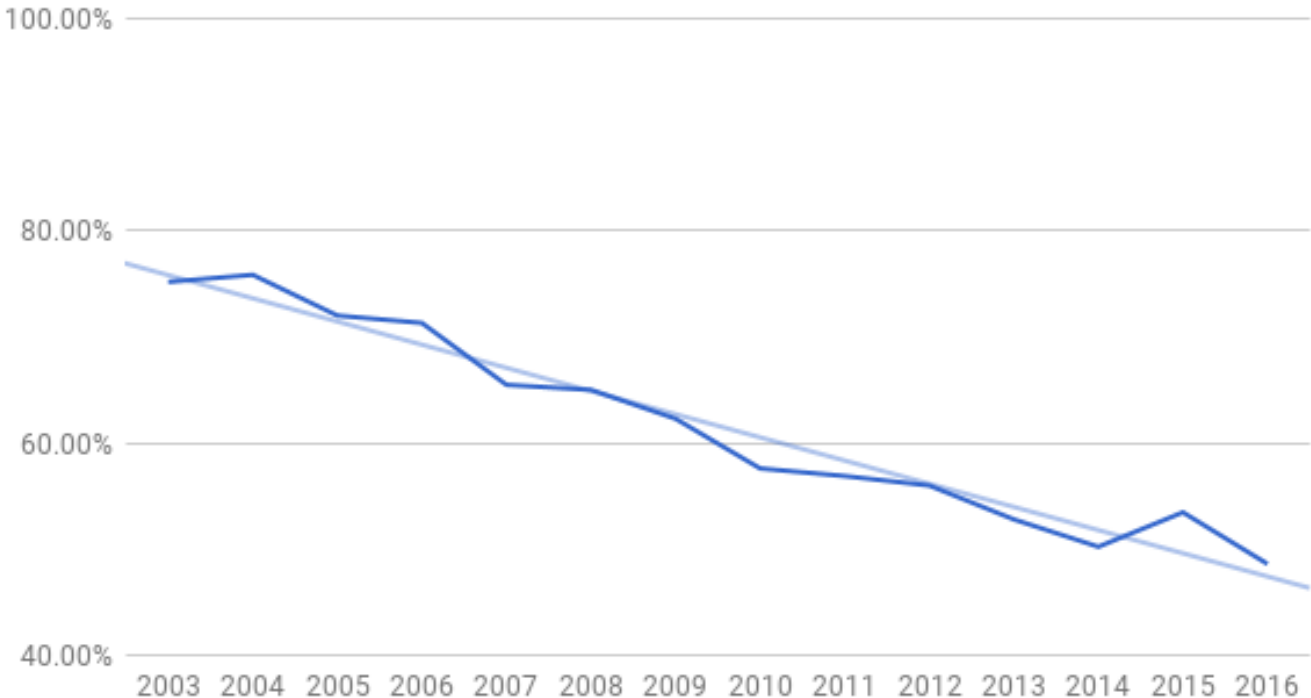


**UNDERSTANDING DEMOGRAPHICS, CENSUS TRENDS, &
LOOKING AT THE PAST TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE**

Progress: Decreasing Euthanasia Rate



Euthanasia Rate Over Time

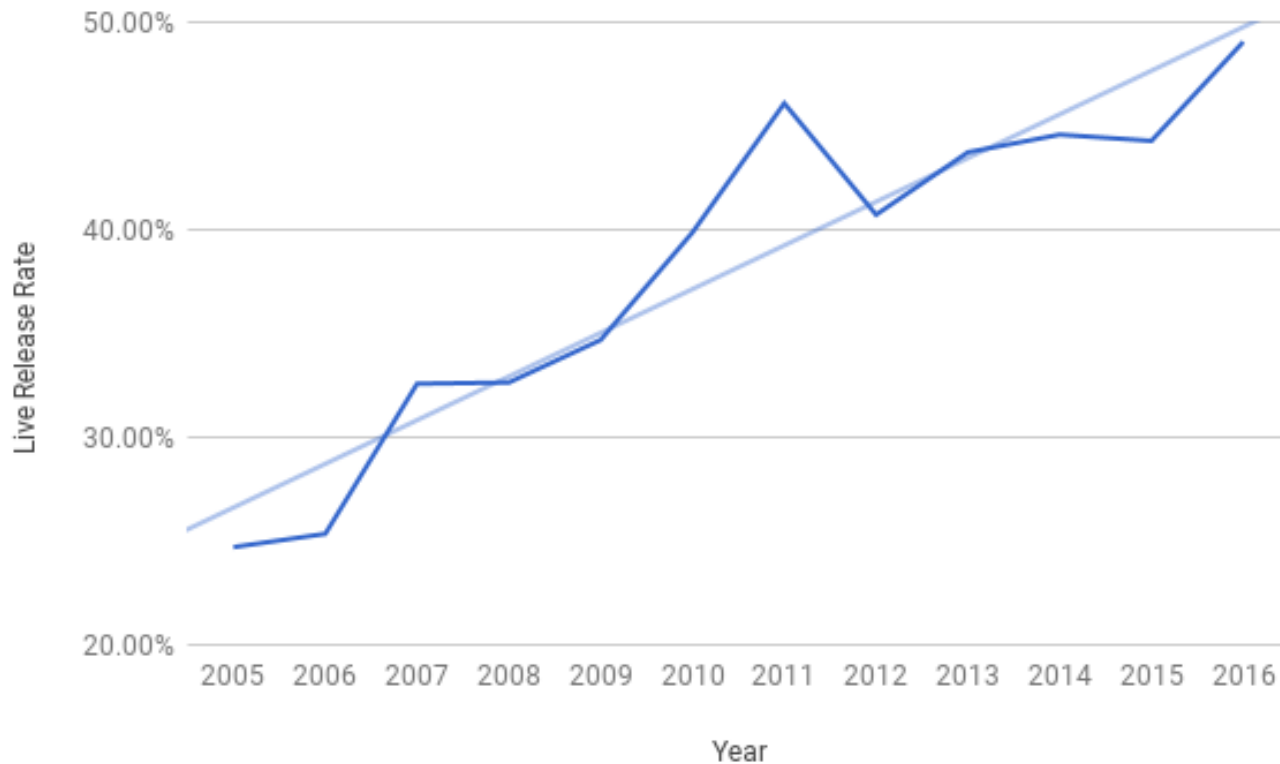


Progress: Increasing Live Release Rate



Live Release Rate* vs. Year

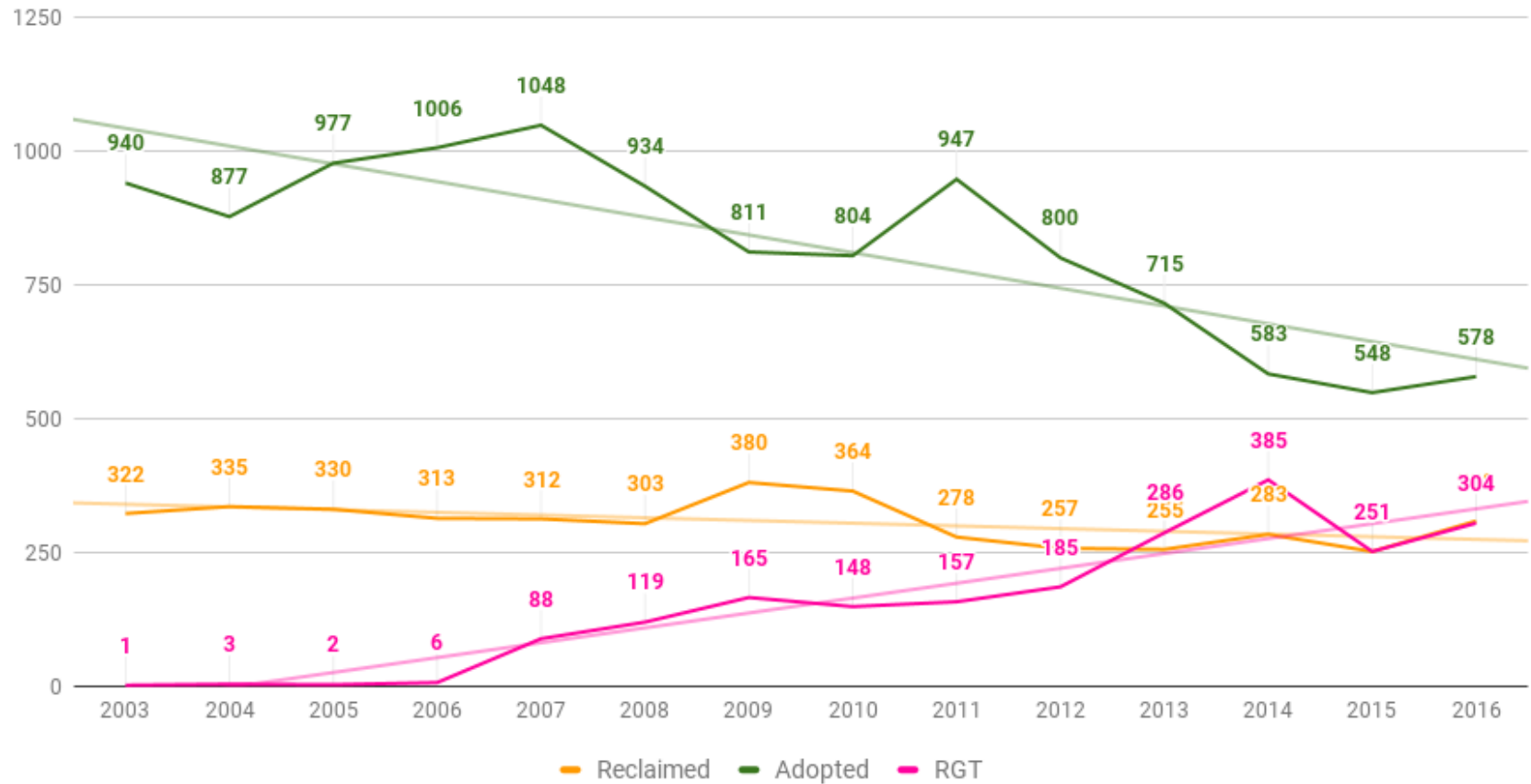
*Includes Adoptions, Rescue Group Transfers, and Reclaims



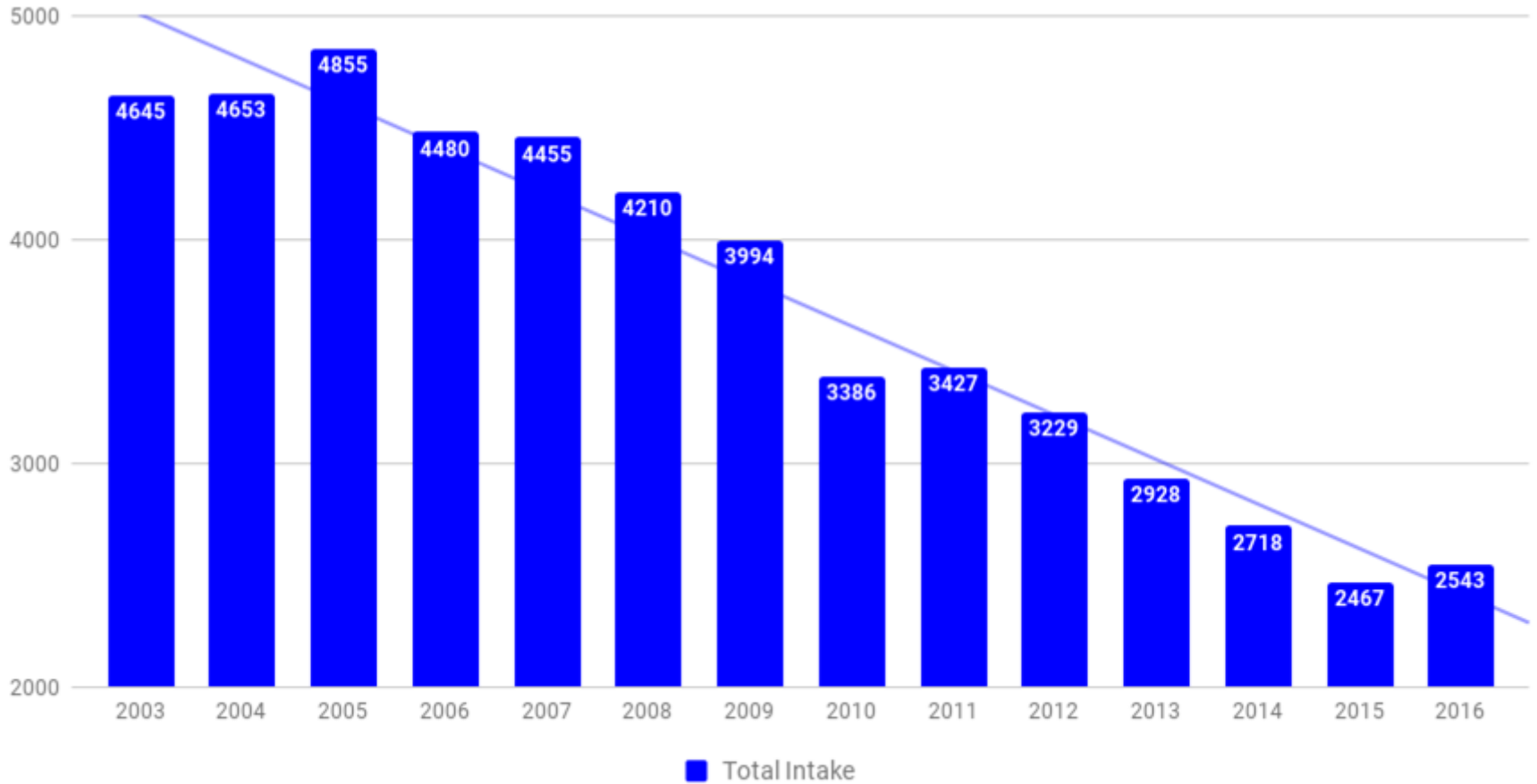
Progress: RTO, RGT, Adoptions



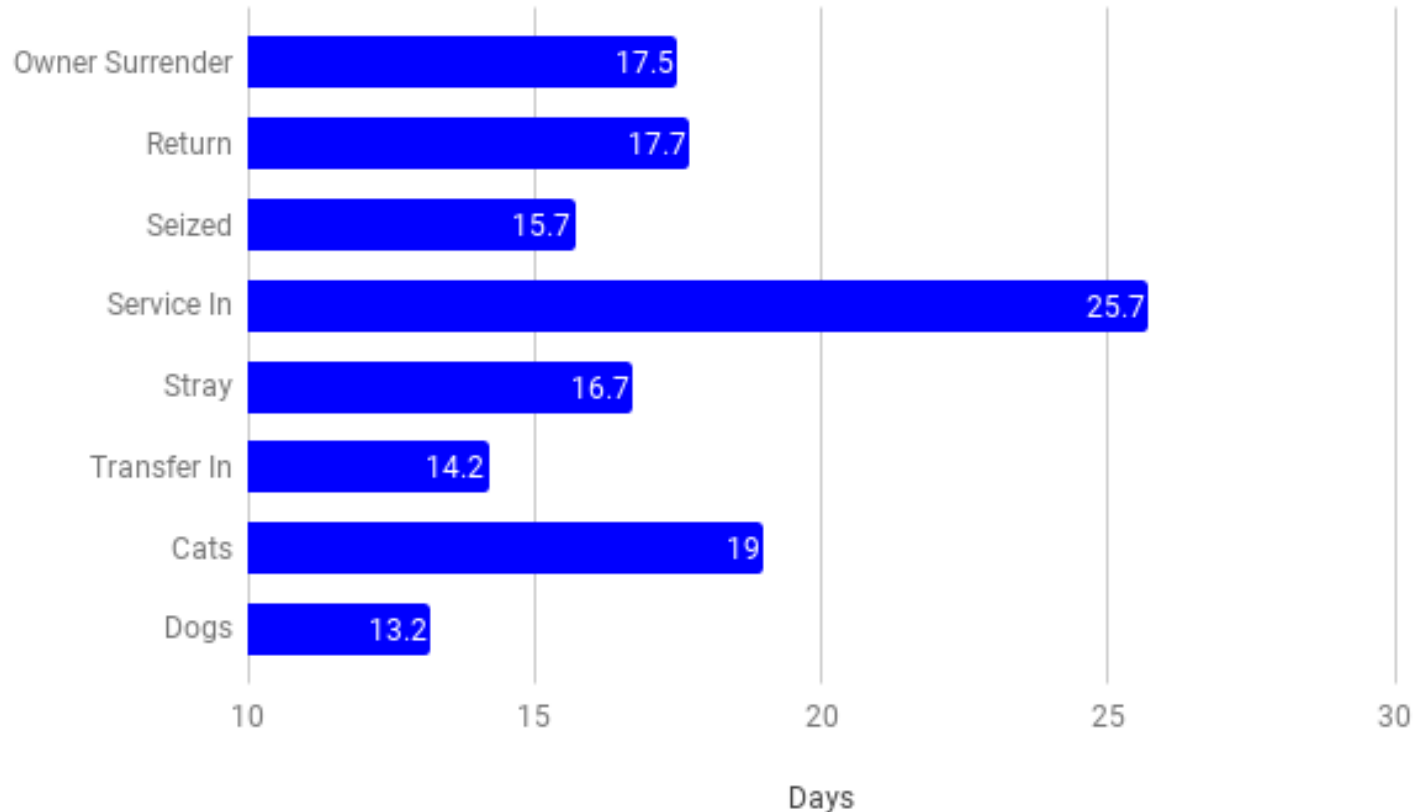
RHSPCA Outcomes 03-16



Intakes Over Time

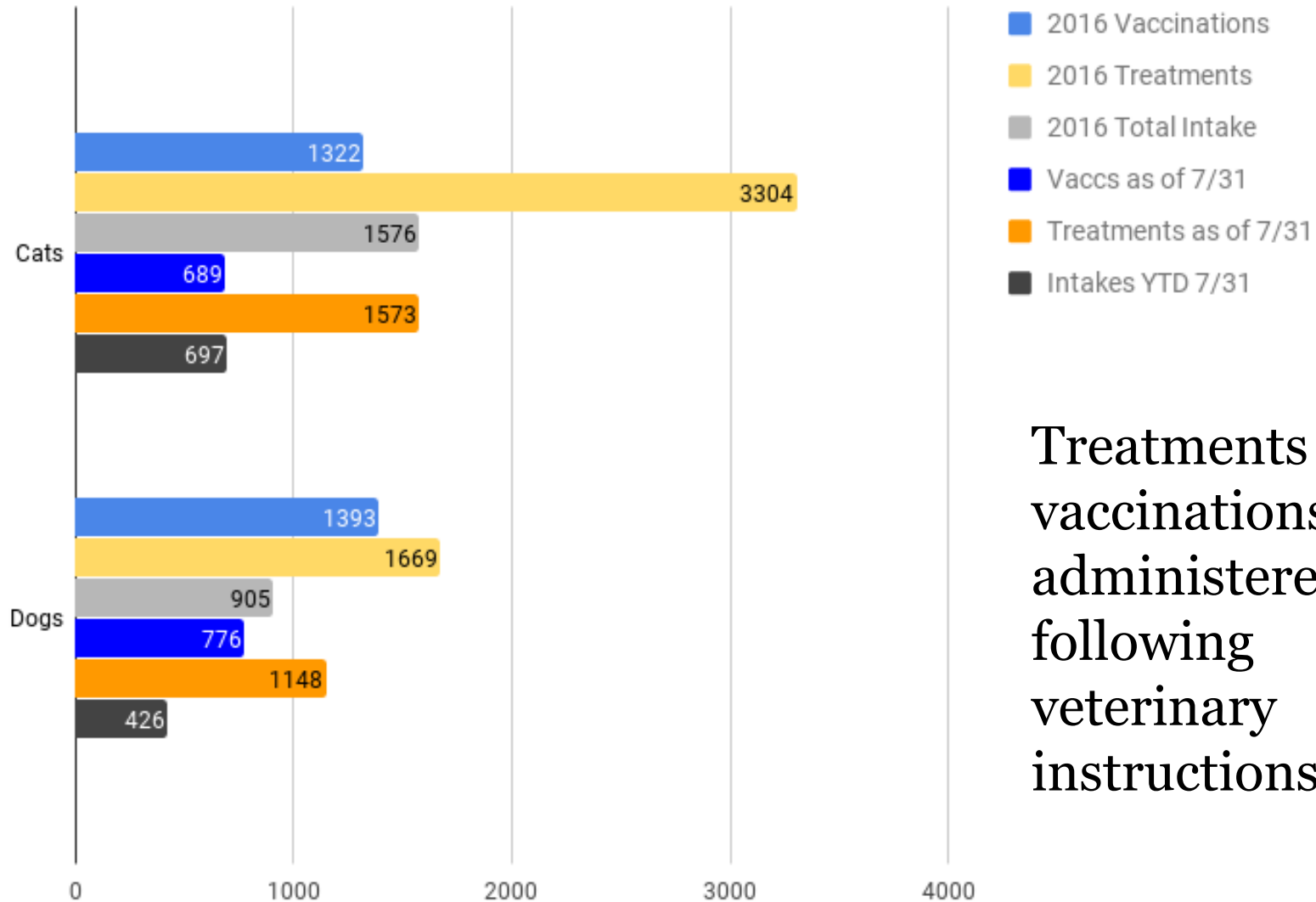


Average Length of Stay (Includes Owner-Requested Euthanasia)



We do NOT perform euthanasia on-demand. Not all owner-requested euthanasia is warranted. Sometimes we're able to resolve a health problem, etc. with resources in-house. However, most euthanasia requests are their owners making a decision that's best for their ailing, ill, and/or geriatric pet should they not be able to afford a veterinarian.

Treatments & Vaccinations for Dogs & Cats, 2016 & YTD 7/31/17



Treatments & vaccinations are administered following veterinary instructions

Lawful Outcomes



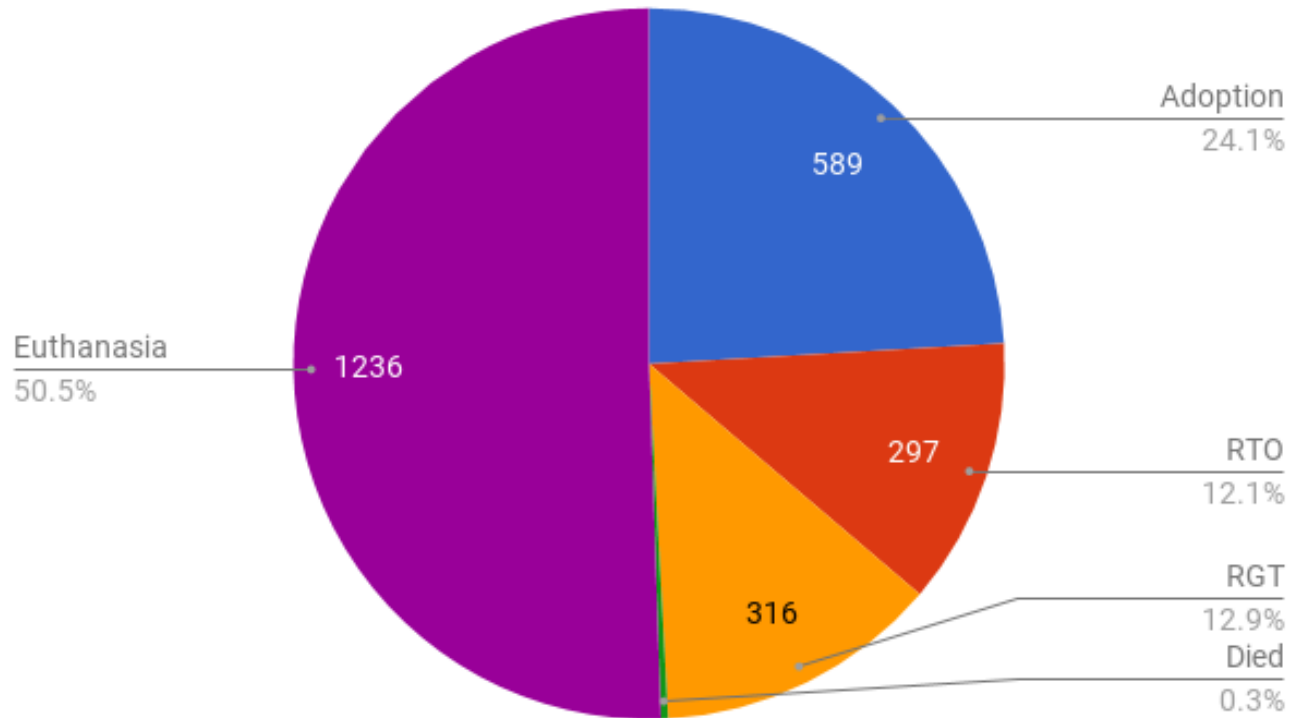
- Return the animal to its rightful owner, providing a legitimate claim of ownership can be made;
- Adopt the animal to an individual, provided that no individual can adopt more than two animals within a 30 day period;
- Transfer to another releasing agency for the purposes of adoption or euthanasia; or
- Euthanasia by a method approved by the State Veterinarian.

It is not permissible to return an animal to an at-large status regardless of the circumstances, and such an action would be subject to a civil penalty. Therefore, the SPCA cannot in and of itself conduct a TNR program in any capacity.

From Daniel Kovich, DVM, MPH
staff veterinarian for Animal Care and Health Policy
Virginia Dept of Agricultural and Consumer Services

Outcomes

Total Outcome Types



Four Lawful Outcomes: Return to Owner, Transfer Out, Adoption, Euthanasia, (Died Unassisted <1%)

Overall Reasons for Euthanasia



Euthanasia Reasons, 2016

*17 cats euthanized for space did not meet criteria for rescue group transfer due to coat color and/or age.

Other Medical

3.1%

Other Behavior

2.9%

FIV/FeLV

3.2%

Calicivirus

6.1%

Sick/URI/Other

9.2%

Neonatal/Failure to Thrive

7.5%

Medically Compromised

21.4%

Aggression

13.5%

Feral

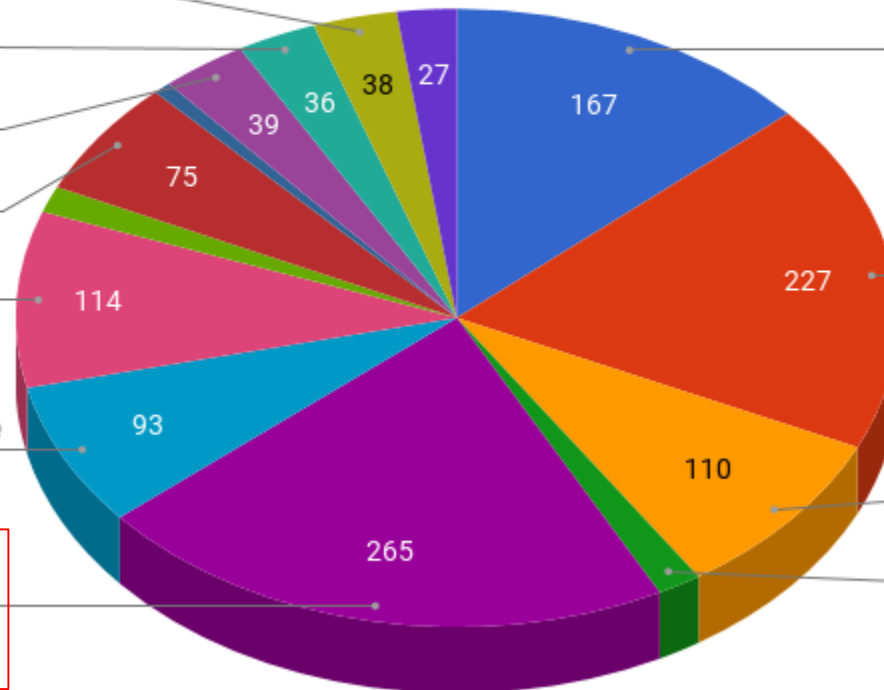
18.4%

Unsocialized

8.9%

Bite Hold

1.6%

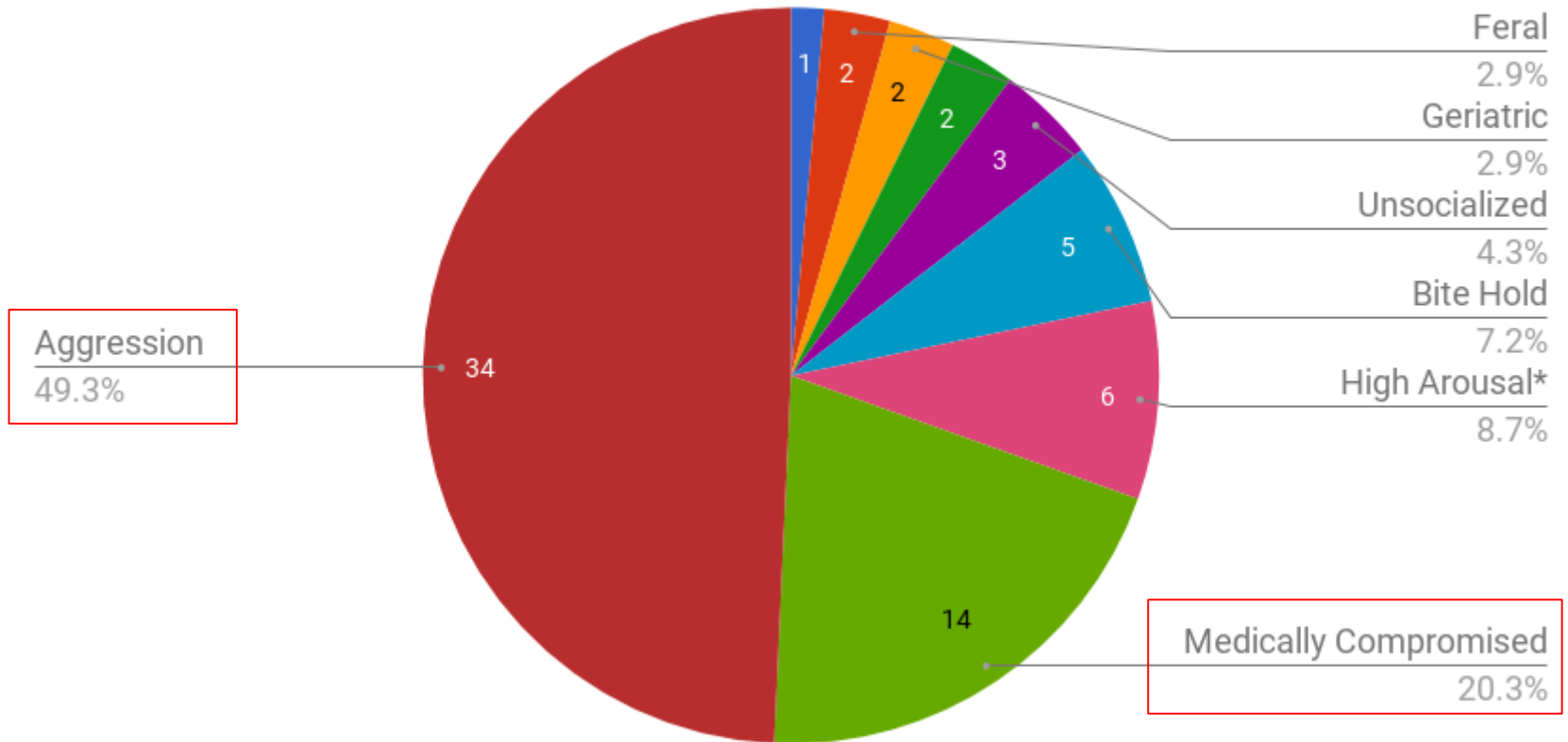


Harrisonburg Dog Euthanasia Reasons



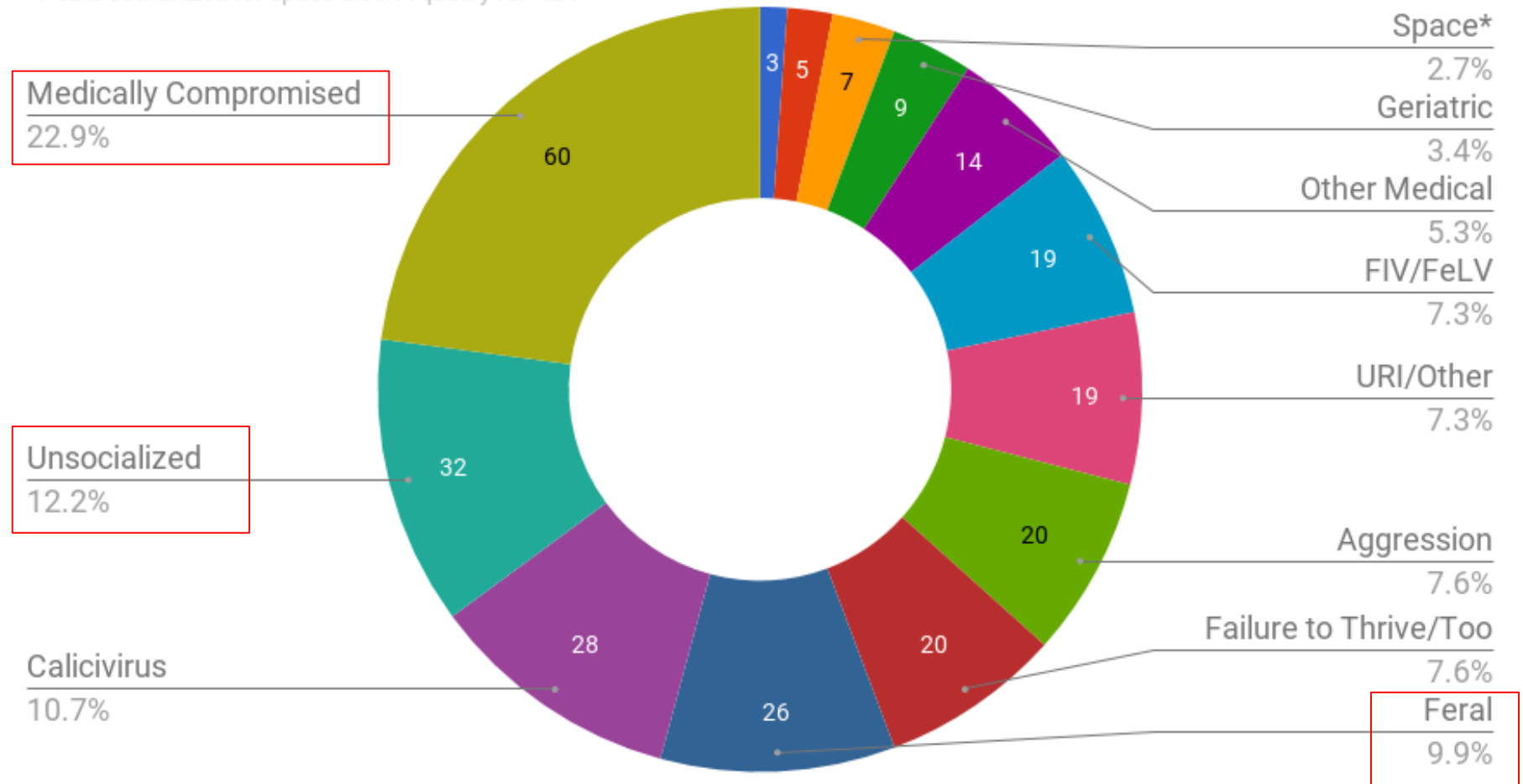
Harrisonburg Dog Euthanasia Reasons, 2016

*High Arousal is an umbrella term for low bite inhibition, hyper-vigilance, & dangerous low-social behaviors.



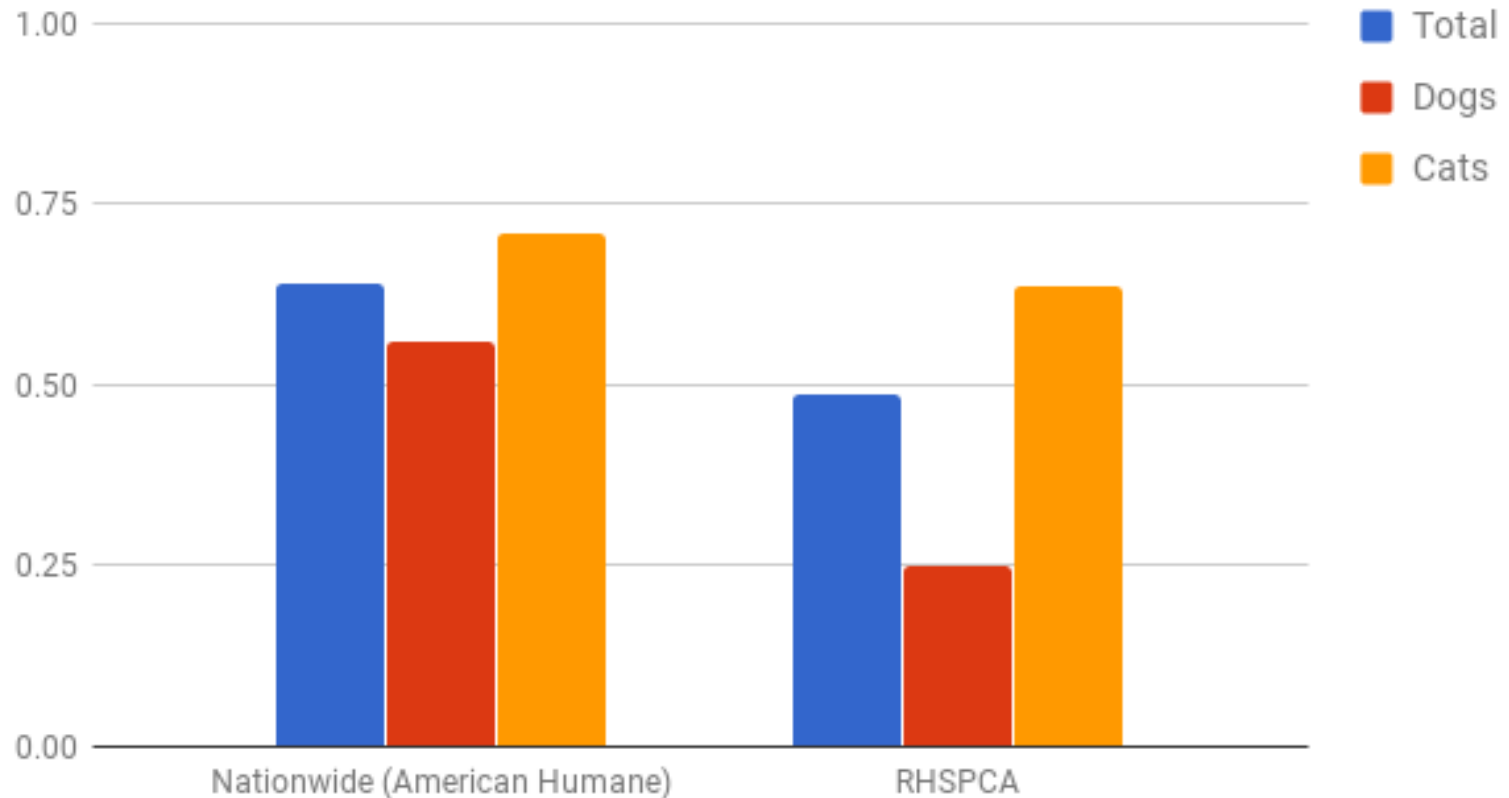
Harrisonburg Cat Euthanasia Reasons

Harrisonburg Cat Euthanasia Reasons, 2016
*7 cats euthanized for space did not qualify for RGT



How to Compare? Nationwide

Euthanasia Rates, Nationwide vs RHSPCA



We can't ignore the diversity of our clientele or that many shelters in VA refuse admission for certain kinds of pets. Looking at overall percentages nationwide helps narrow the influence of these variables.

Conclusions



We are doing better every year, and trends indicate a decreasing euthanasia rate.

As more rescue groups arise, there are more options for owners to place their pets with them. However, many if not all rescue groups manage admission to friendly, healthy pets. What about the others?

An open admission animal shelter must be available to serve those who have been rejected.

2016 Shelter Evaluation by Animal Welfare Management, LLC.



RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AND HOW THEY HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED



Shelter Facilities, Operations, and Management Assessment

Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA

Harrisonburg, Virginia

March 14, 2016



1801 N. 11th Street Pading PA 19604
215-271-PETS | www.shelter-services.org

Recommendations & Response



Facility

Our Response

Appearance

 Outside

 Inside

Food Source

Crematory

Cleaned up problematic landscaping, working towards a sustainable landscape plan
Dusted more thoroughly
Purina Dog/Puppy & Cat/Kitten Chow base for consistent nutrition (have been for years)
Run crematory as needed with consideration to daily operations

Recommendations & Response



Shelter Operations

Regular staff training regarding management, customer service, administering veterinary instructions, etc.

Regular policy review for rescues & adoption procedures

Review behavior assessment

Review client interactions regarding intake & adoptions

Our Response

Staff training days increased from annual to quarterly

Revised adoption application to make adoptions faster & simpler

Continue to conduct behavior assessments developed by animal behavior experts with the intention of preventing harm to the community and preventing euthanasia of a behaviorally sound animal

Increased placement of pets with special needs into foster care, increasing our rescue network

Recommendations & Response



Technology & Outreach

Our Response

E-newsletter
Website re-design
Media/press calendar
Increase partnership
outreach

E-newsletter & website redesign were already in the works. Both have been achieved.
Developed media/press calendar
Always have & always will be looking to increase partnerships

Recommendations & Response



Veterinary Options

Investigate staff vet options and pricing structure

Our Response

Currently two volunteer veterinarians visit weekly & are on-call as needed
Excellent support exists from area veterinarians
On-staff veterinarian/LVT and diagnostic equipment is part of the strategic plan

Karel Minor's Summation:



“Based on our review of RHSPCA data, its operations, and its contractual expectations with the County and the City, the assessment team can comfortably offer the assessment that it is operating in a lawful manner, that its operations are driven by established and adhered to policies and procedures, and that the expectations as defined by its contractual agreements are being met. **Animals were observed to be treated humanely and compassionately, and the staff takes their work seriously. It is a generally high functioning organization.** With these measures serving as a bar, RHSPCA certainly meets or exceeds the expectations of the assessment team in the area of general operations.”

Ideas for the Future



POINTS TO PONDER AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Possible Solutions



Reinvigorate spay/neuter data-sharing to target future spay/neuter initiatives

Microchip promotion

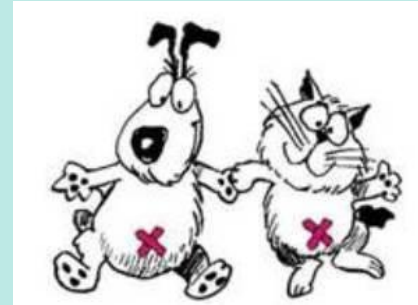
Encourage microchip initiative for community and TNR cats

Support indoor-only cats such as the American Bird Conservancy's "Cats Indoors" program

Elevate cats to the status of dogs

Continue and expand "Spay Your Mama" and "Pit Fix" programs initiated through Shenandoah Valley Spay/Neuter Clinic

Explore expanding access to low-cost/free spay/neuter services



*Photo by Zanna Holstova
for ABCbirds.org*



Next Steps



- In addition to our regular email updates, the RHSPCA offers to present updates on intakes, outcomes and notable milestones to Harrisonburg City Council as and when requested.
- Anicira or any animal rescue organization is welcome to apply to become an approved rescue partner to work with the RHSPCA.
- Anicira or any animal rescue organization is always welcome to talk to the RHSPCA. Our doors are open.
- Common ground exists. Let's find it and work together towards our shared goal of eliminating pet homelessness in our community.

