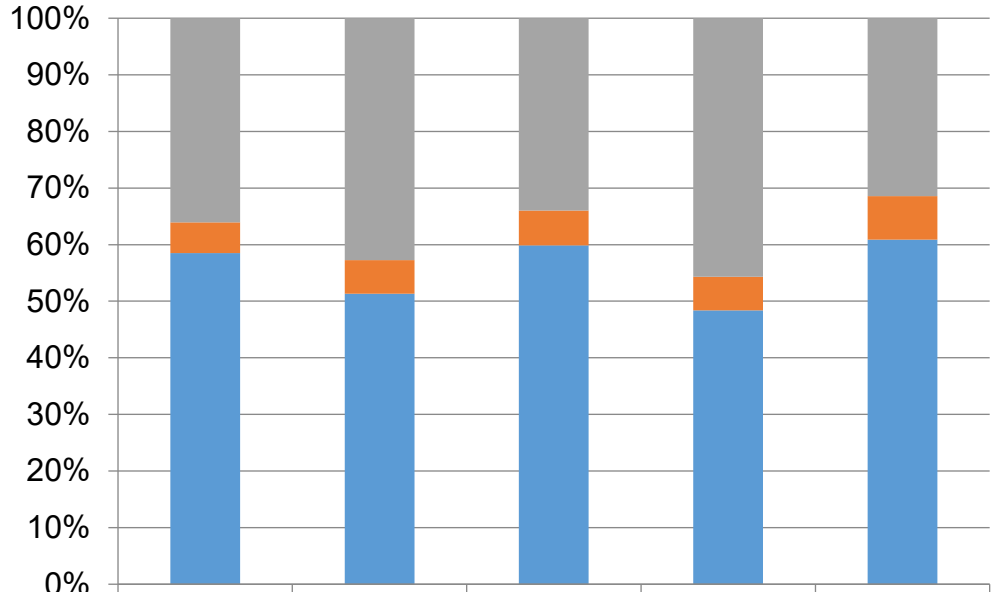
Dane County Humane Society
Rolling Release Rate
&
Save Rate
Overview

June 2026

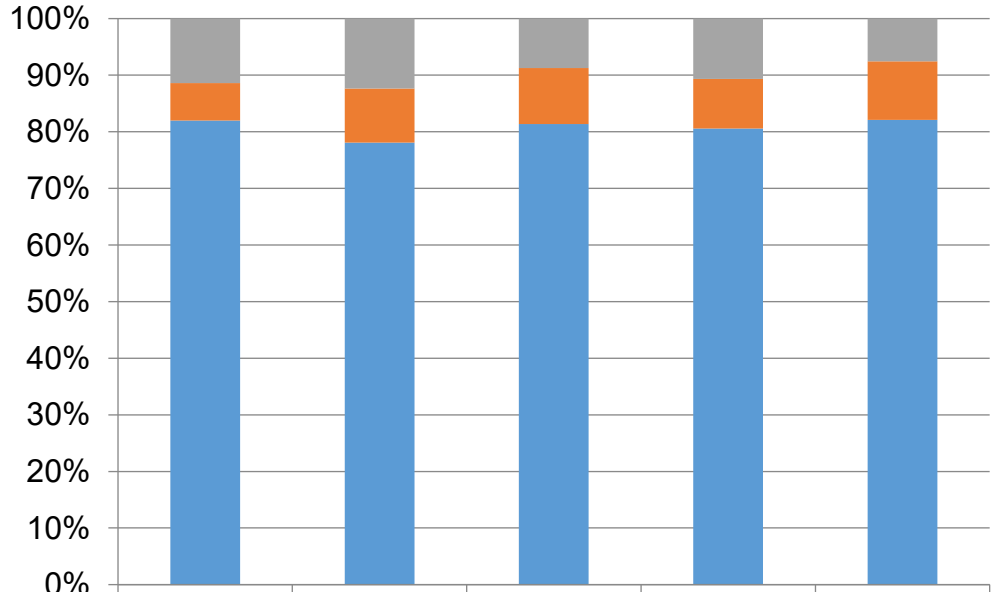
Report prepared by:
Doug Brown
Assistant Executive Director
Dane County Humane Society

Cat Rolling Release Rate
July



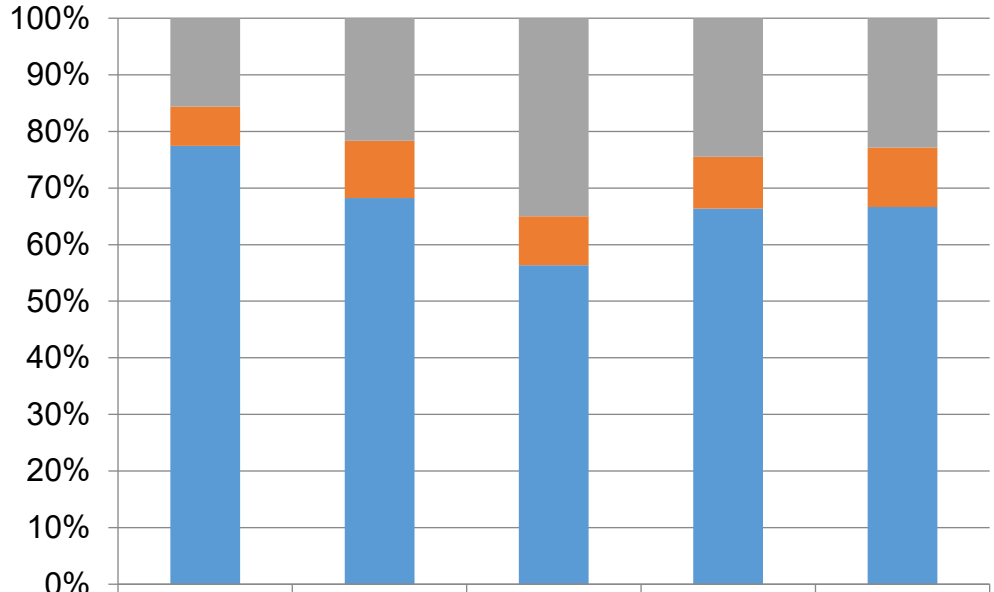
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Sanctuary Rate	36.06%	42.74%	33.95%	45.65%	31.40%
Euthanasia Rate	5.45%	5.91%	6.17%	5.98%	7.71%
Live Release Rate	58.48%	51.34%	59.88%	48.37%	60.88%

Cat Rolling Release Rate
Year to Date



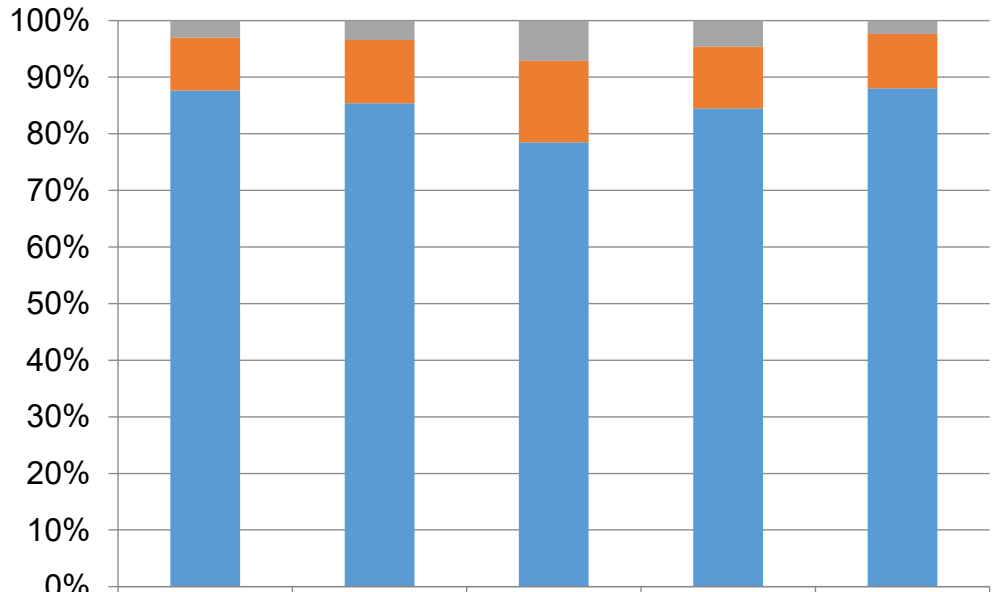
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Sanctuary Rate	11.38%	12.37%	8.76%	10.66%	7.53%
Euthanasia Rate	6.62%	9.55%	9.87%	8.73%	10.37%
Live Release Rate	82.00%	78.07%	81.37%	80.61%	82.10%

Dog Rolling Release Rate
July



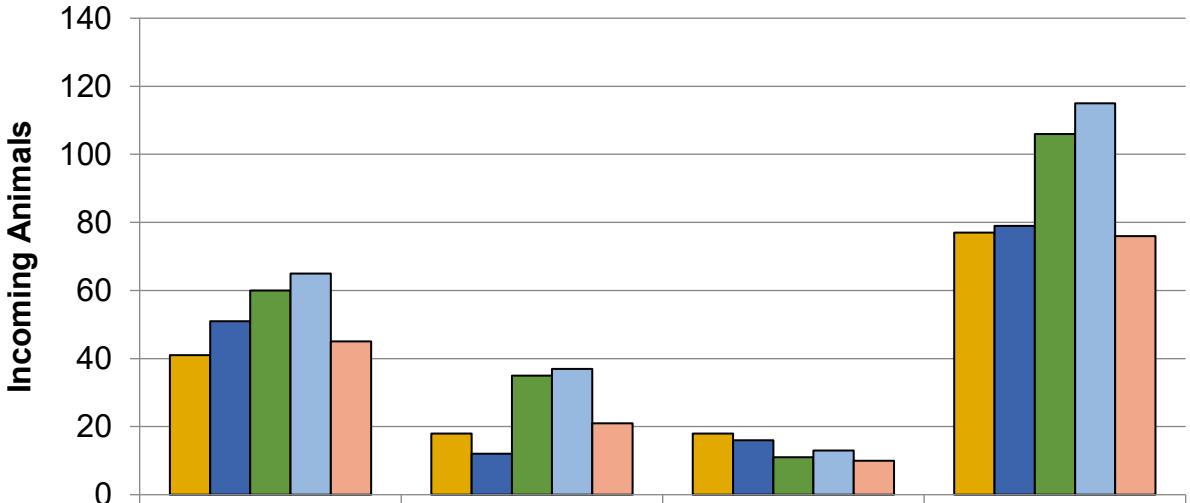
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Sanctuary Rate	15.61%	21.66%	35.00%	24.48%	22.86%
Euthanasia Rate	6.94%	10.14%	8.64%	9.13%	10.48%
Live Release Rate	77.46%	68.20%	56.36%	66.39%	66.67%

Dog Rolling Release Rate
Year to Date



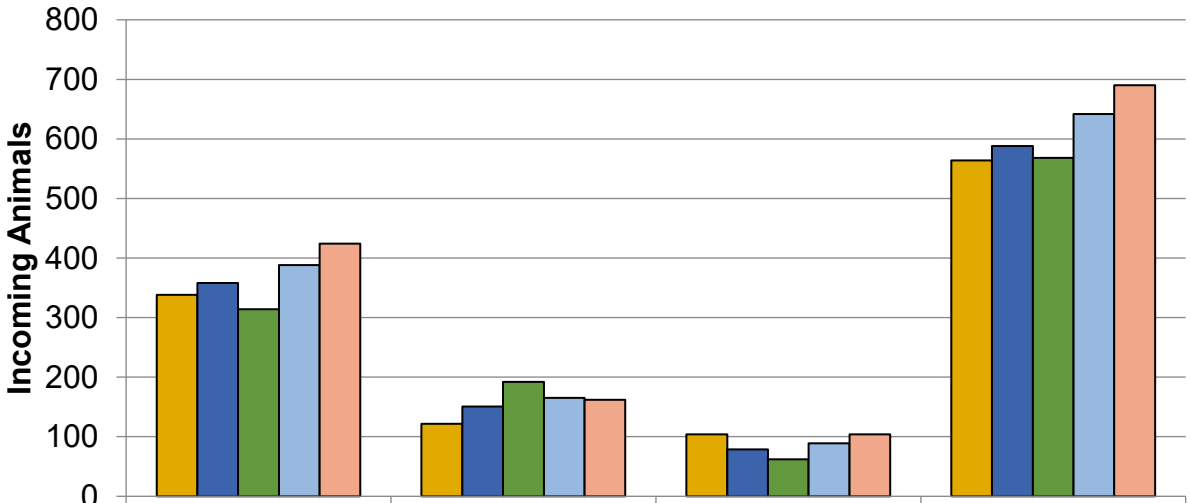
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Sanctuary Rate	3.02%	3.43%	7.12%	4.62%	2.32%
Euthanasia Rate	9.33%	11.16%	14.41%	10.90%	9.63%
Live Release Rate	87.65%	85.41%	78.48%	84.48%	88.05%

Surrenders
July

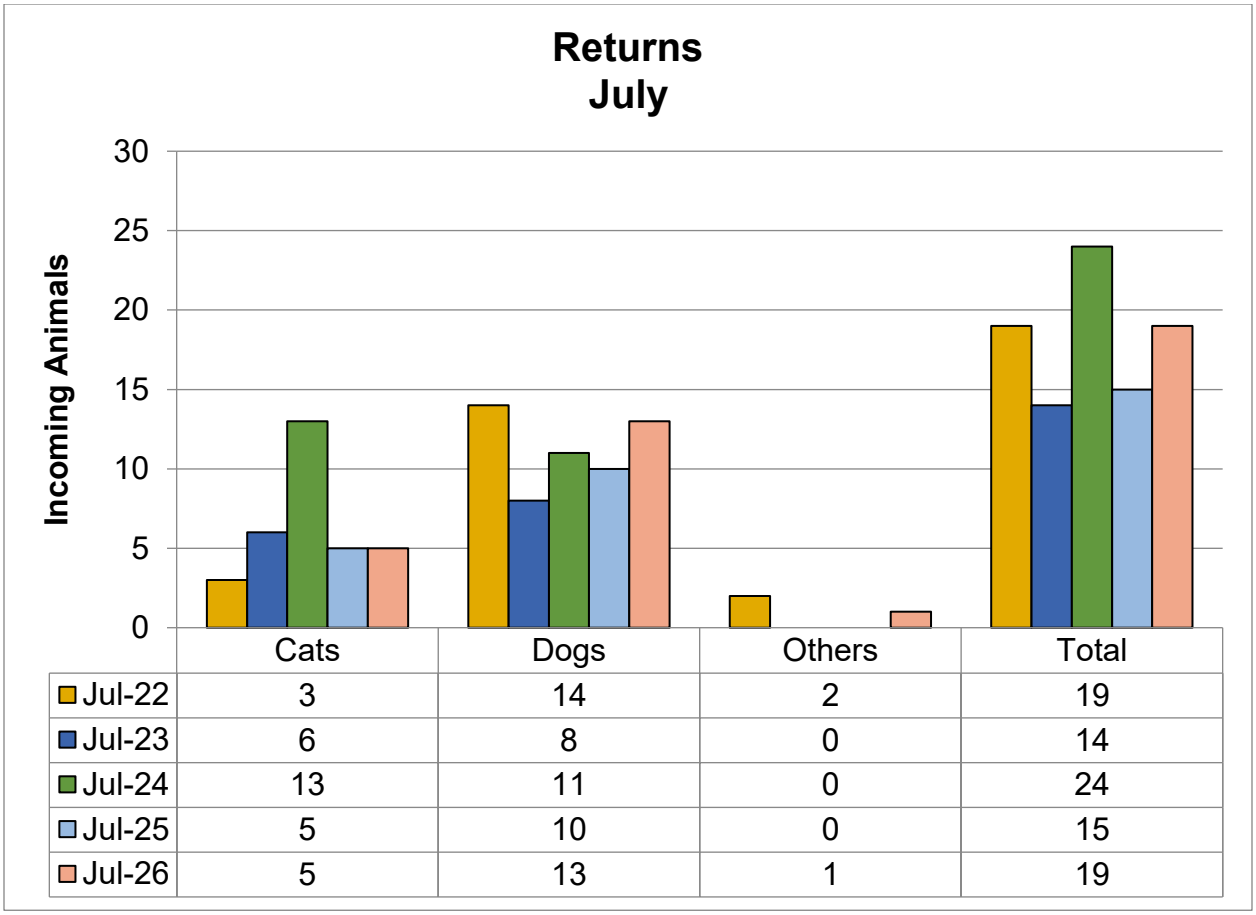


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	41	18	18	77
Jul-23	51	12	16	79
Jul-24	60	35	11	106
Jul-25	65	37	13	115
Jul-26	45	21	10	76

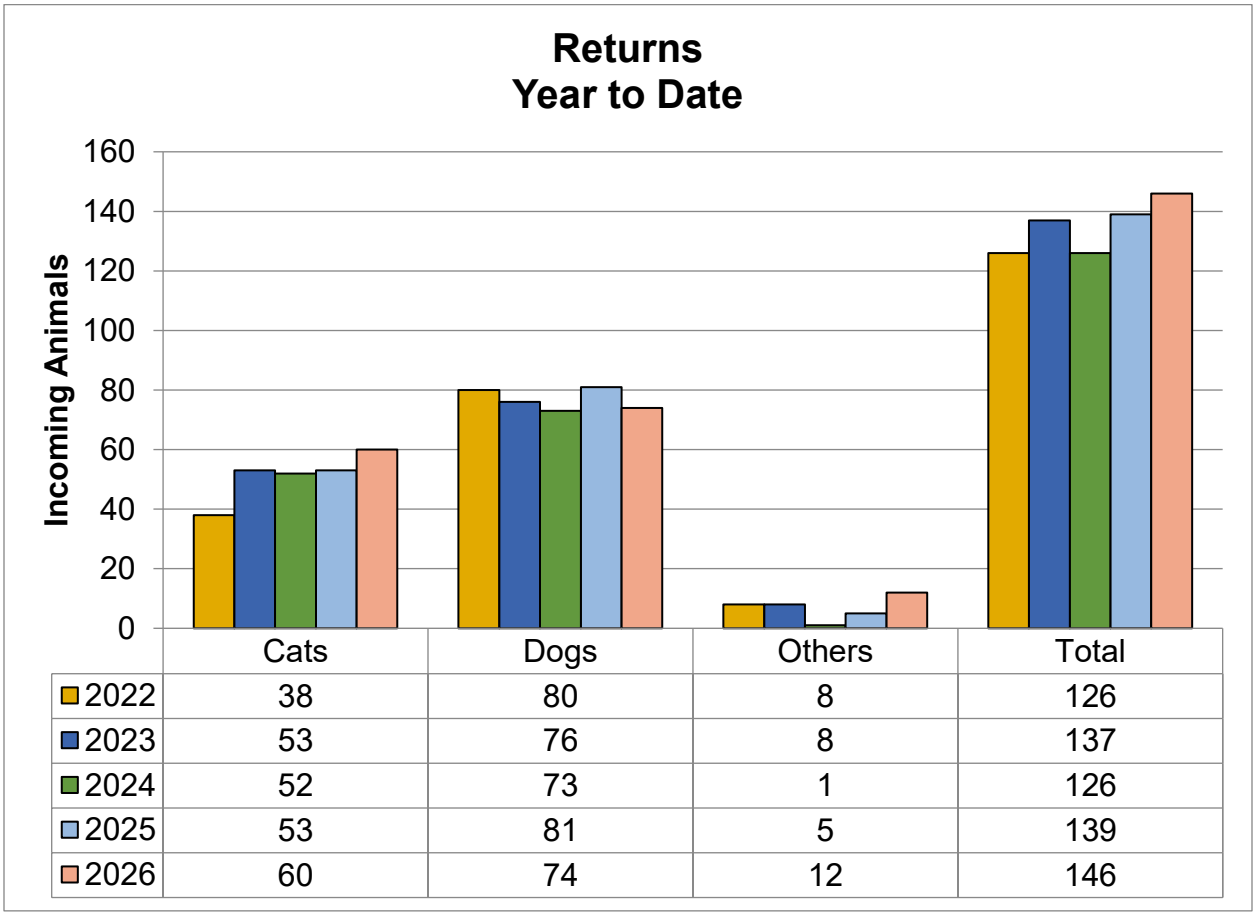
Surrenders
Year to Date



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	338	122	104	564
2023	358	151	79	588
2024	314	192	62	568
2025	388	165	89	642
2026	424	162	104	690

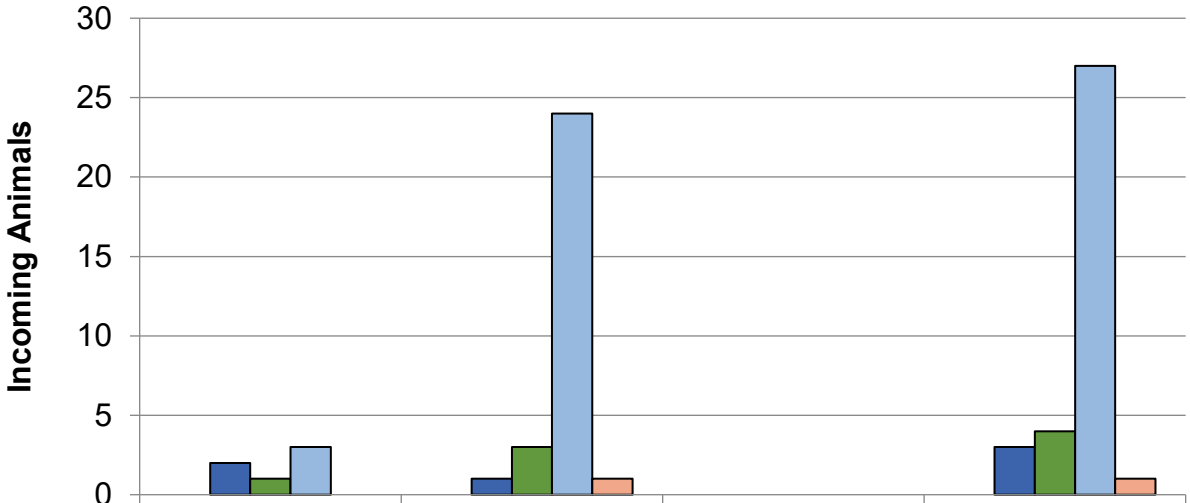


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	3	14	2	19
Jul-23	6	8	0	14
Jul-24	13	11	0	24
Jul-25	5	10	0	15
Jul-26	5	13	1	19



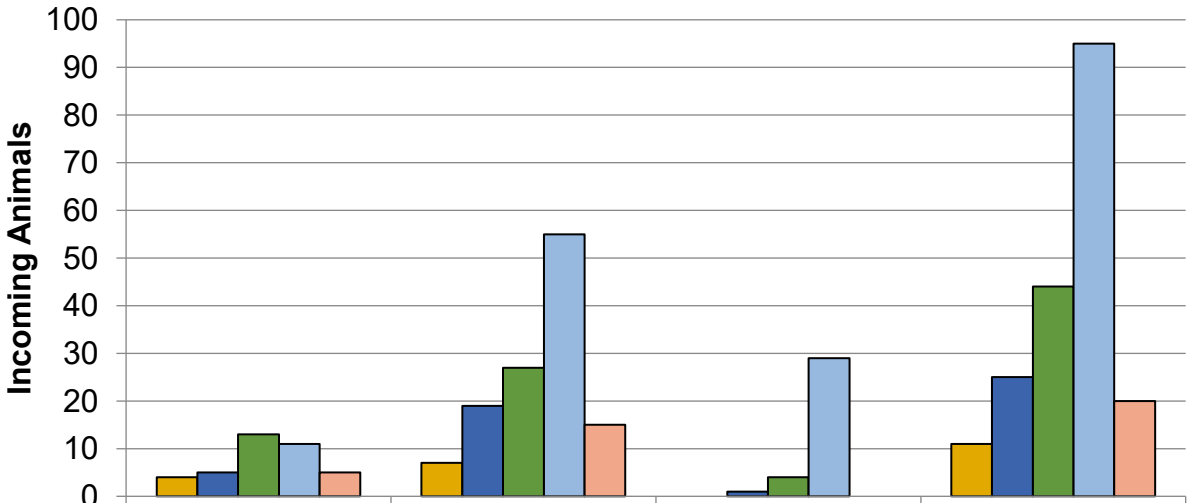
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	38	80	8	126
2023	53	76	8	137
2024	52	73	1	126
2025	53	81	5	139
2026	60	74	12	146

Seized / Custody
July

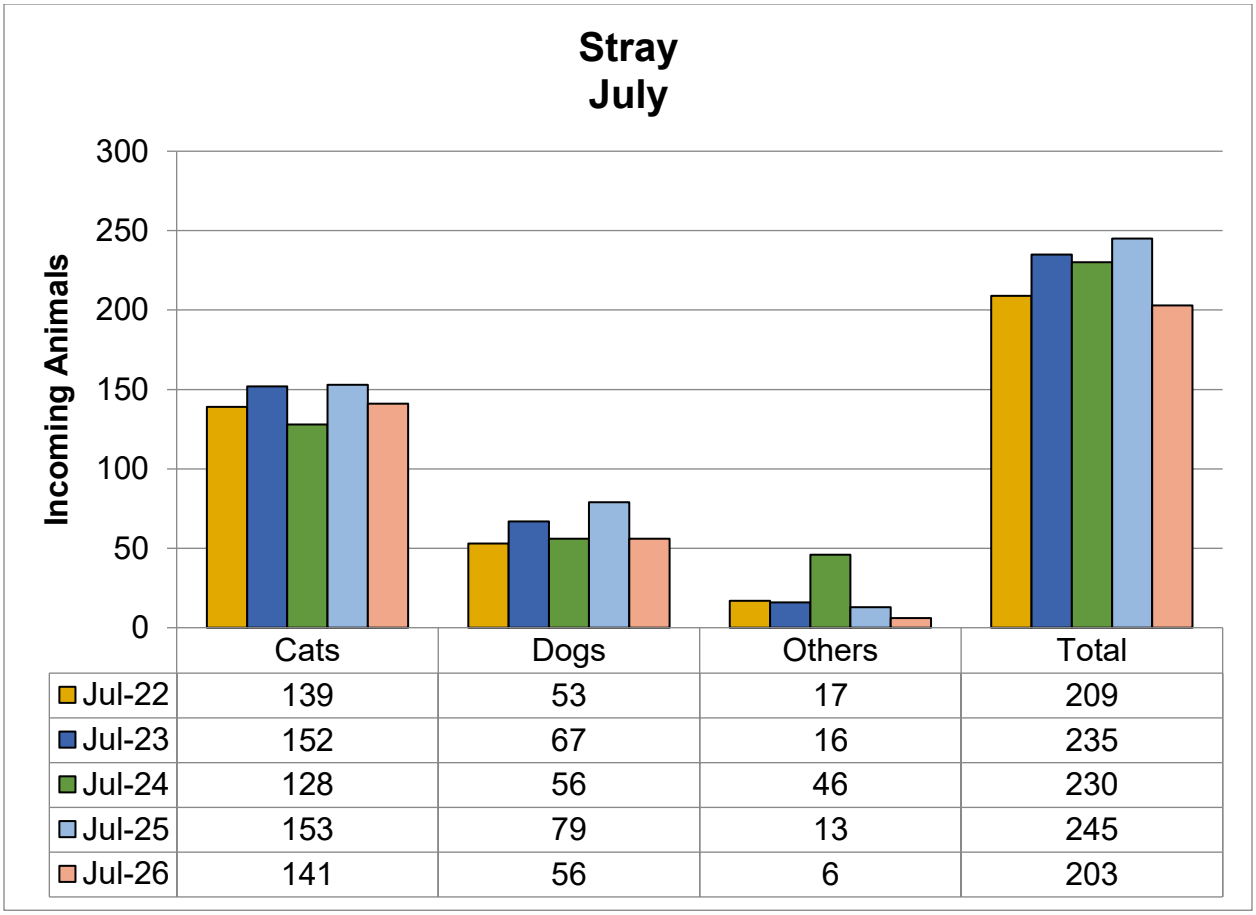


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	0	0	0	0
Jul-23	2	1	0	3
Jul-24	1	3	0	4
Jul-25	3	24	0	27
Jul-26	0	1	0	1

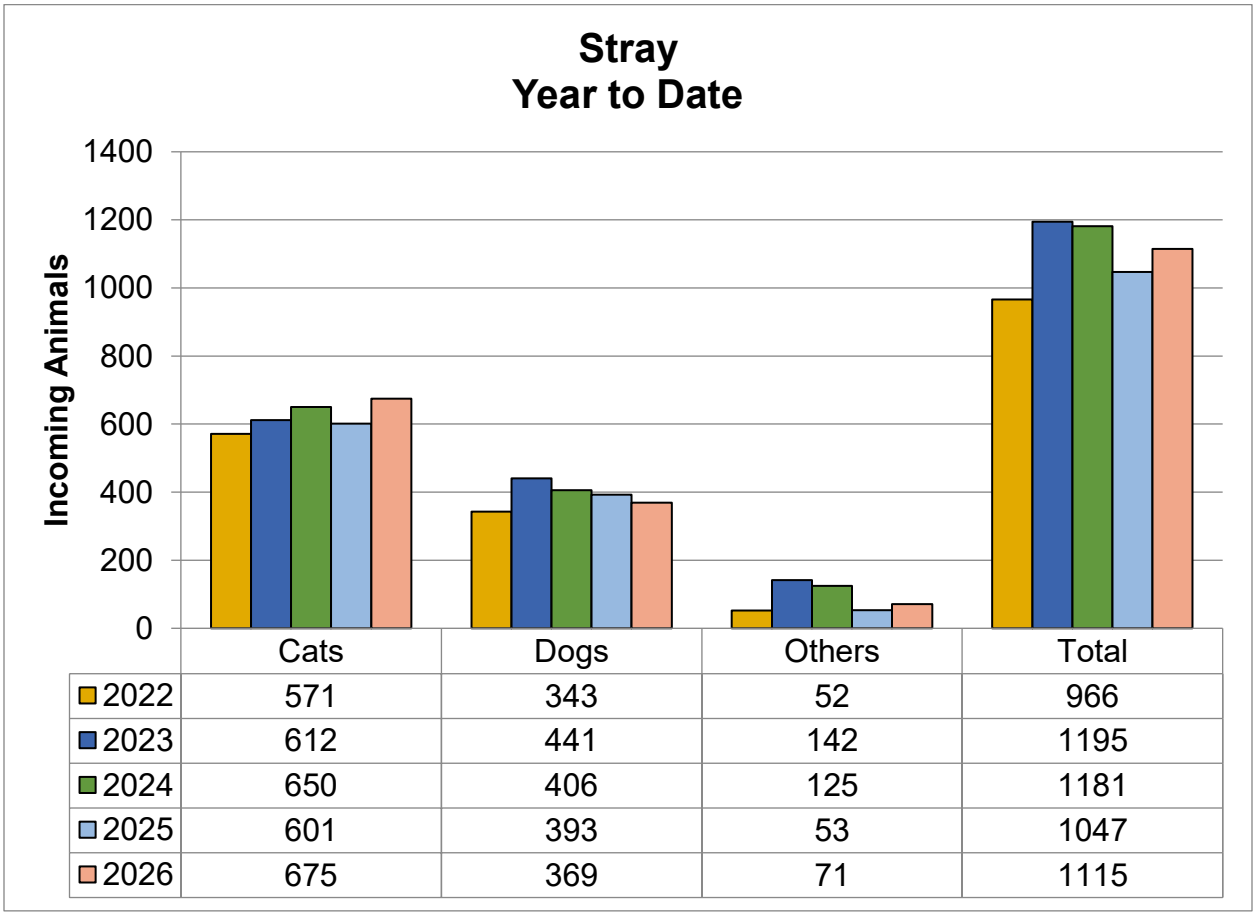
Seized / Custody
Year to Date



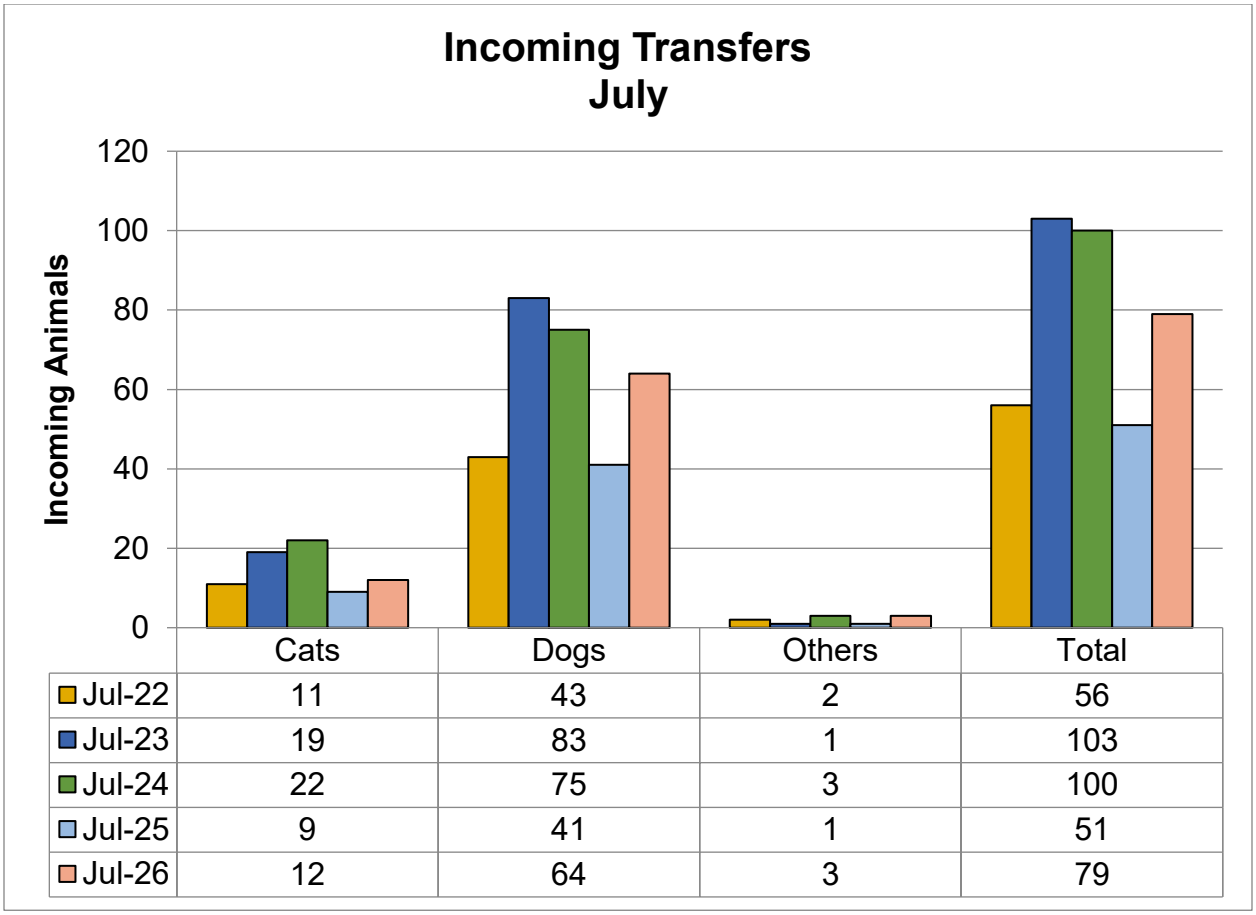
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	4	7	0	11
2023	5	19	1	25
2024	13	27	4	44
2025	11	55	29	95
2026	5	15	0	20



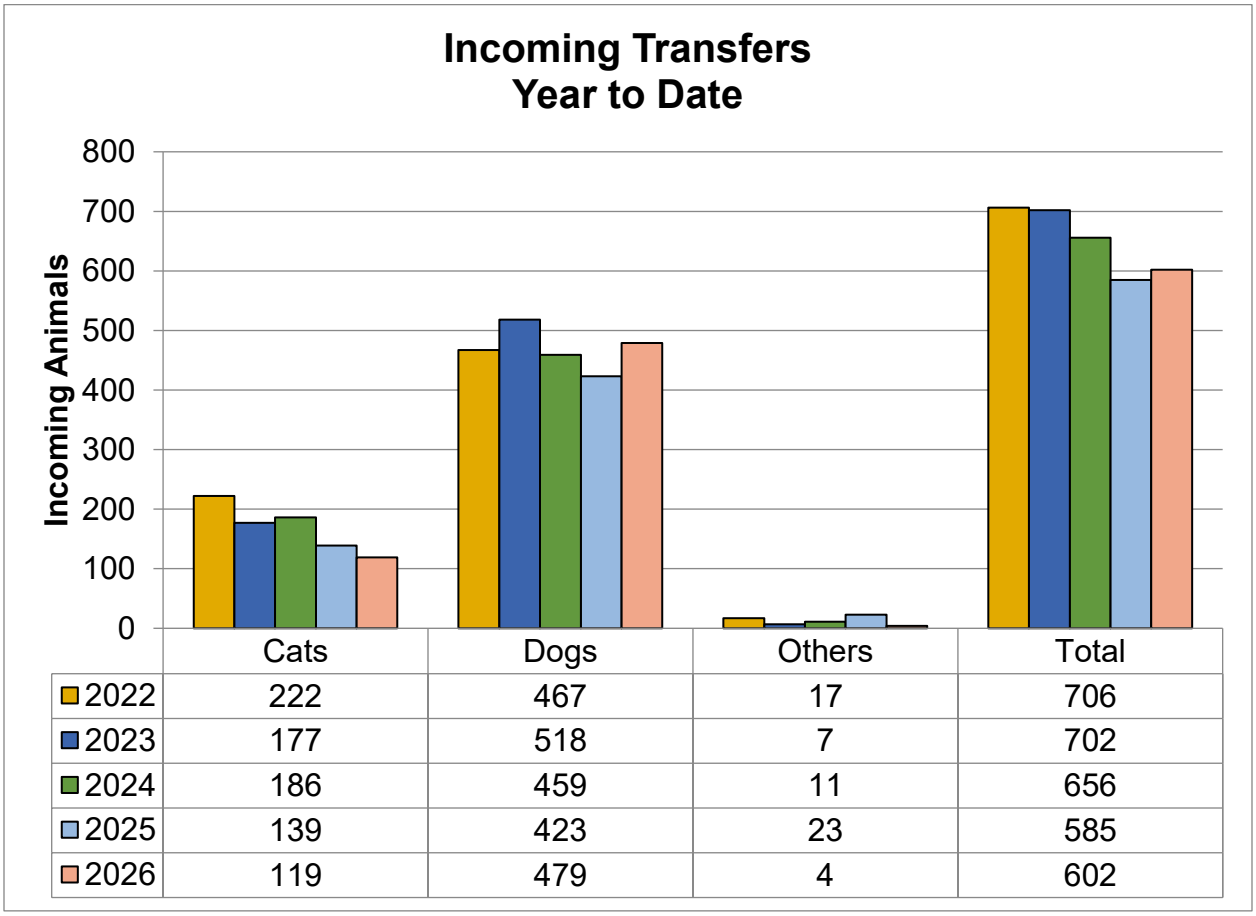
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	139	53	17	209
Jul-23	152	67	16	235
Jul-24	128	56	46	230
Jul-25	153	79	13	245
Jul-26	141	56	6	203



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	571	343	52	966
2023	612	441	142	1195
2024	650	406	125	1181
2025	601	393	53	1047
2026	675	369	71	1115

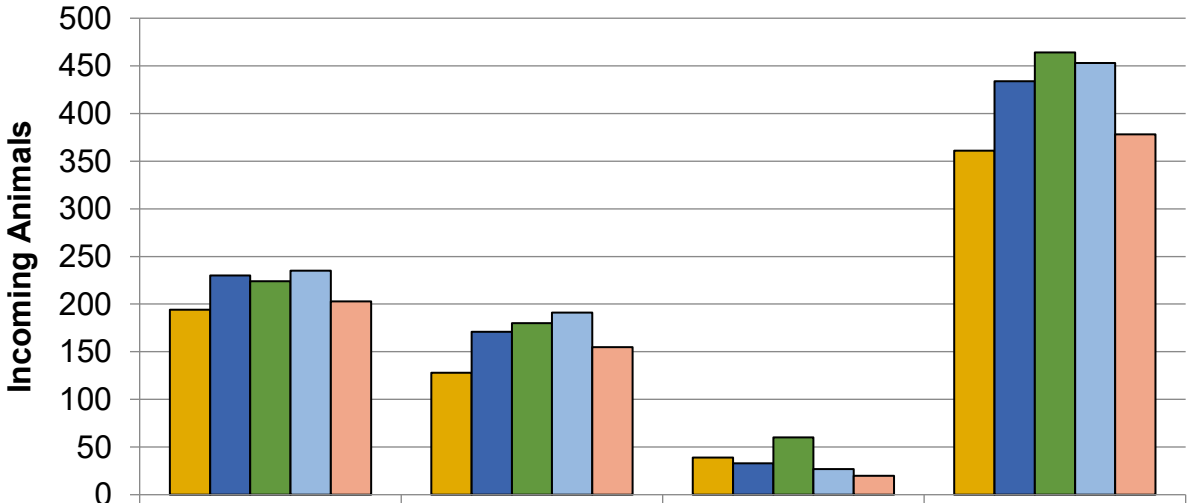


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	11	43	2	56
Jul-23	19	83	1	103
Jul-24	22	75	3	100
Jul-25	9	41	1	51
Jul-26	12	64	3	79



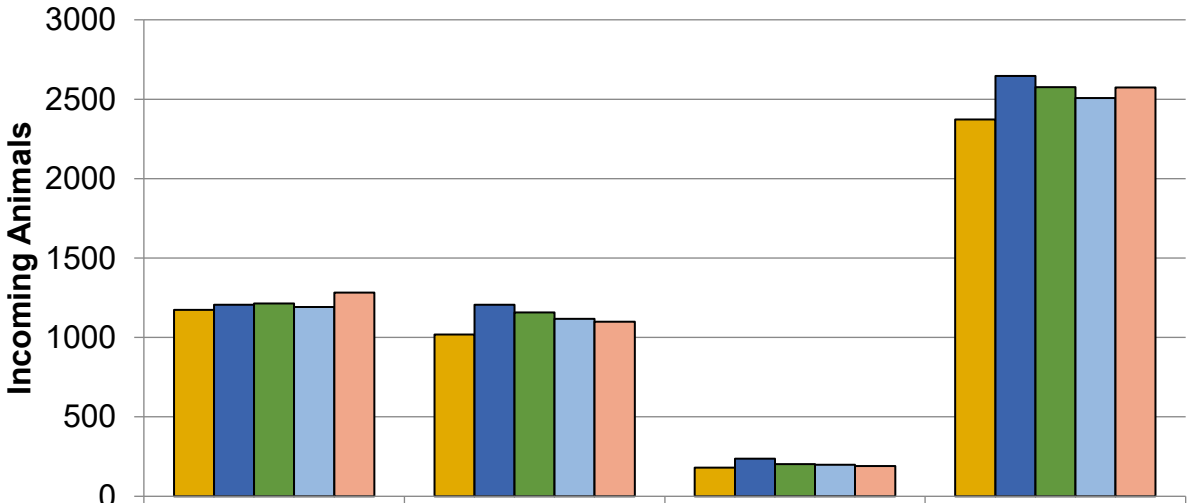
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	222	467	17	706
2023	177	518	7	702
2024	186	459	11	656
2025	139	423	23	585
2026	119	479	4	602

Intake
July



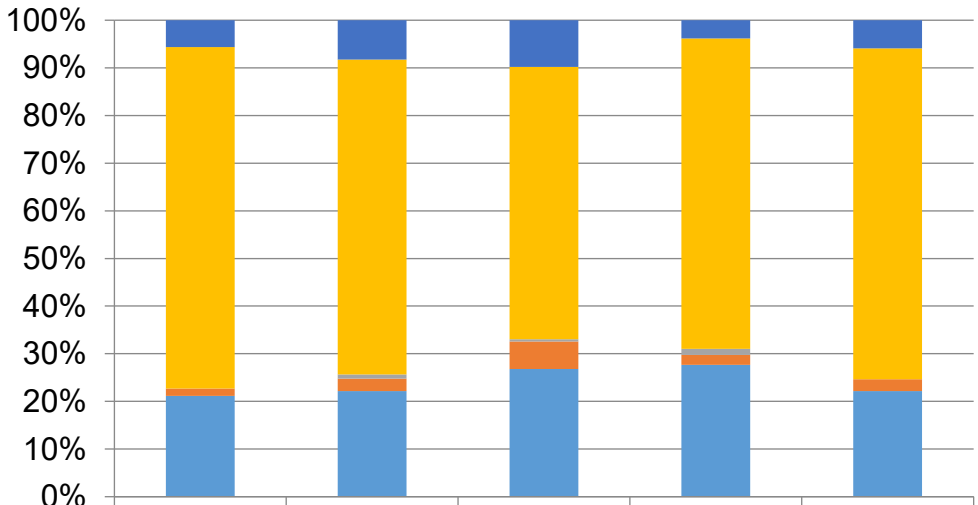
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	194	128	39	361
Jul-23	230	171	33	434
Jul-24	224	180	60	464
Jul-25	235	191	27	453
Jul-26	203	155	20	378

Intake
Year to Date



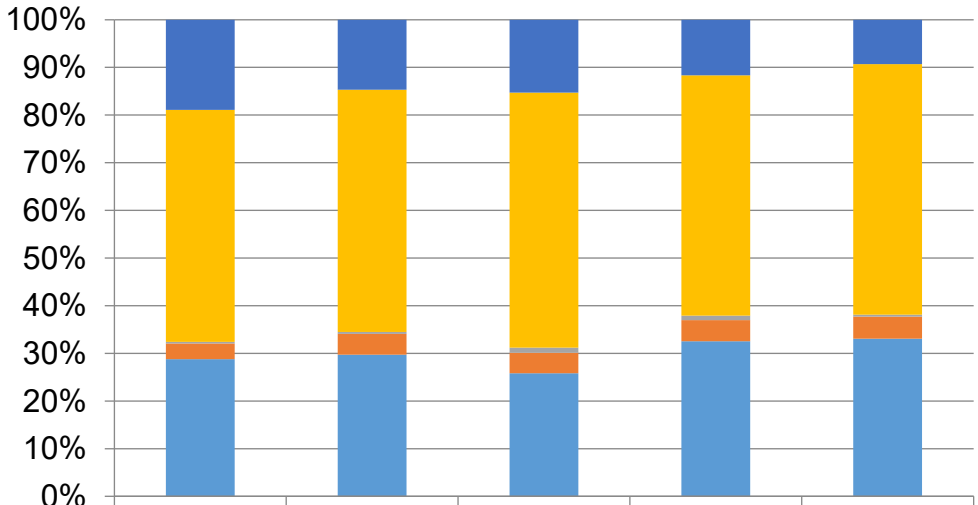
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	1173	1019	181	2373
2023	1205	1205	237	2647
2024	1215	1157	203	2575
2025	1192	1117	199	2508
2026	1283	1099	191	2573

Intakes by Percentage
Cats - July



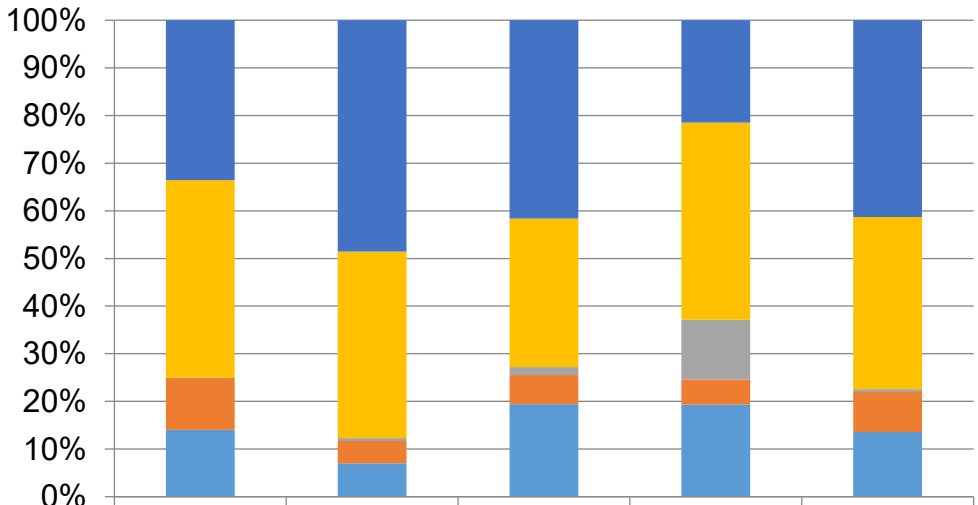
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Incoming Transfers	5.67%	8.26%	9.82%	3.83%	5.91%
Strays	71.65%	66.09%	57.14%	65.11%	69.46%
Seized / Custody	0.00%	0.87%	0.45%	1.28%	0.00%
Returns	1.55%	2.61%	5.80%	2.13%	2.46%
Owner Surrenders	21.13%	22.17%	26.79%	27.66%	22.17%

Intakes by Percentage
Cats - Year to Date



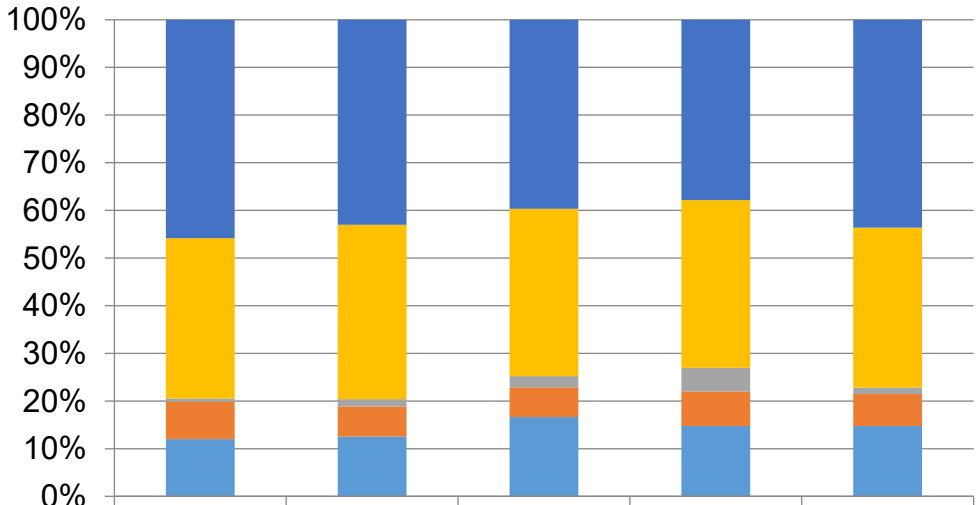
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Incoming Transfers	18.93%	14.69%	15.31%	11.66%	9.28%
Strays	48.68%	50.79%	53.50%	50.42%	52.61%
Seized / Custody	0.34%	0.41%	1.07%	0.92%	0.39%
Returns	3.24%	4.40%	4.28%	4.45%	4.68%
Owner Surrenders	28.82%	29.71%	25.84%	32.55%	33.05%

Intakes by Percentage
Dogs - July



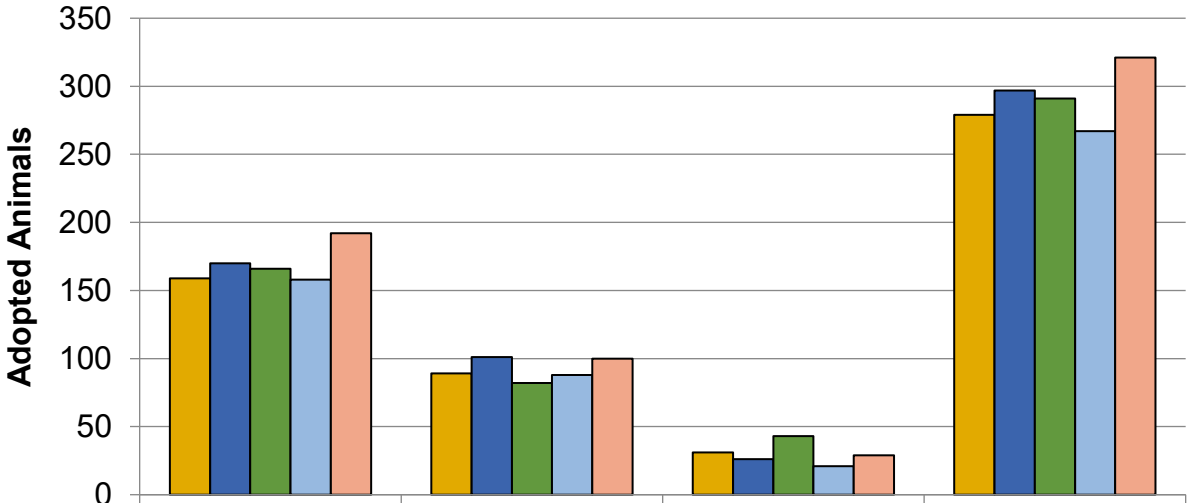
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Incoming Transfers	33.59%	48.54%	41.67%	21.47%	41.29%
Strays	41.41%	39.18%	31.11%	41.36%	36.13%
Seized / Custody	0.00%	0.58%	1.67%	12.57%	0.65%
Returns	10.94%	4.68%	6.11%	5.24%	8.39%
Owner Surrenders	14.06%	7.02%	19.44%	19.37%	13.55%

Intakes by Percentage
Dogs - Year to Date



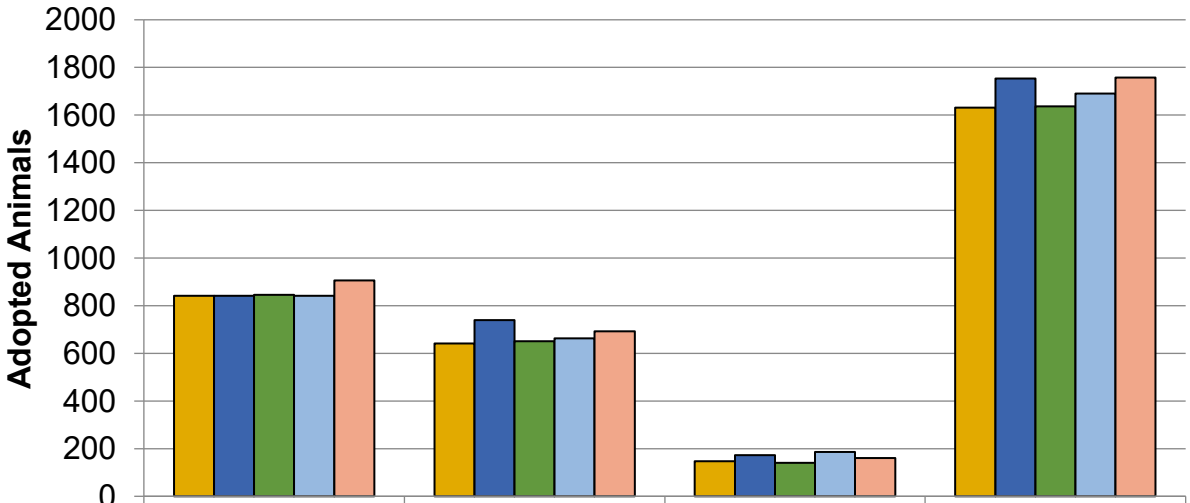
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Incoming Transfers	45.83%	42.99%	39.67%	37.87%	43.59%
Strays	33.66%	36.60%	35.09%	35.18%	33.58%
Seized / Custody	0.69%	1.58%	2.33%	4.92%	1.36%
Returns	7.85%	6.31%	6.31%	7.25%	6.73%
Owner Surrenders	11.97%	12.53%	16.59%	14.77%	14.74%

Adoptions
July



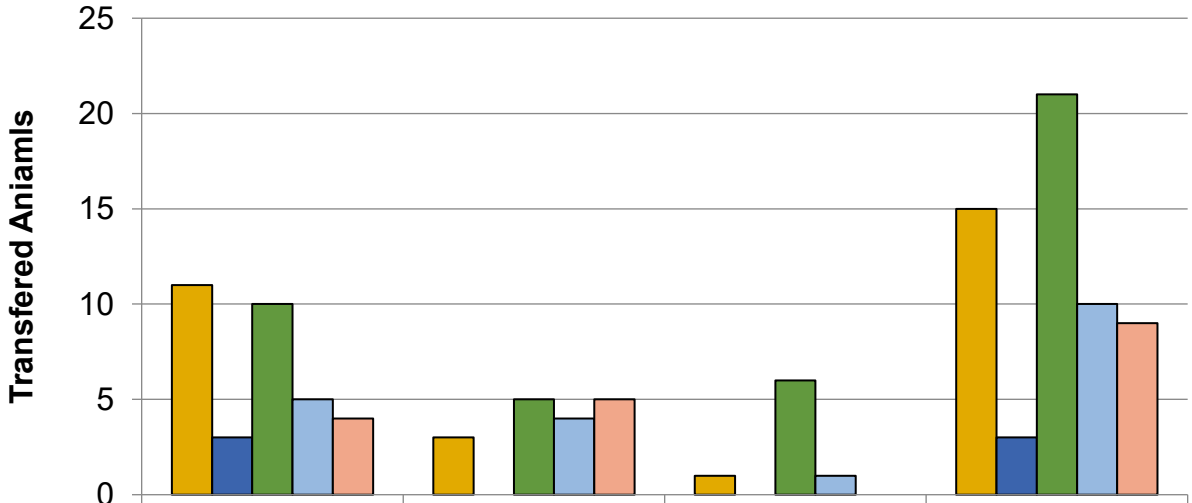
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	159	89	31	279
Jul-23	170	101	26	297
Jul-24	166	82	43	291
Jul-25	158	88	21	267
Jul-26	192	100	29	321

Adoptions
Year to Date



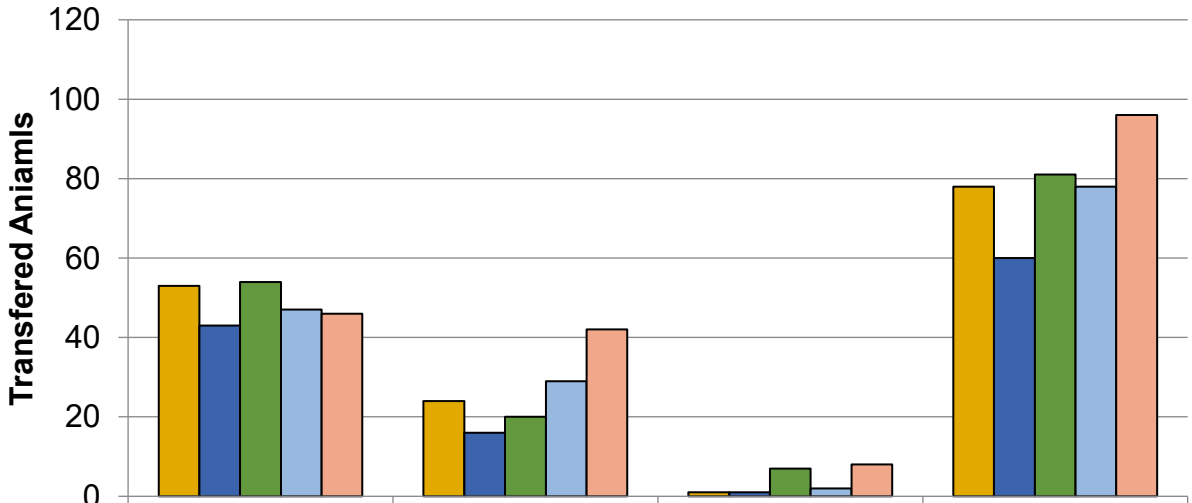
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	842	642	147	1631
2023	842	739	173	1754
2024	845	651	141	1637
2025	842	663	186	1691
2026	906	692	160	1758

Outgoing Transfers
July

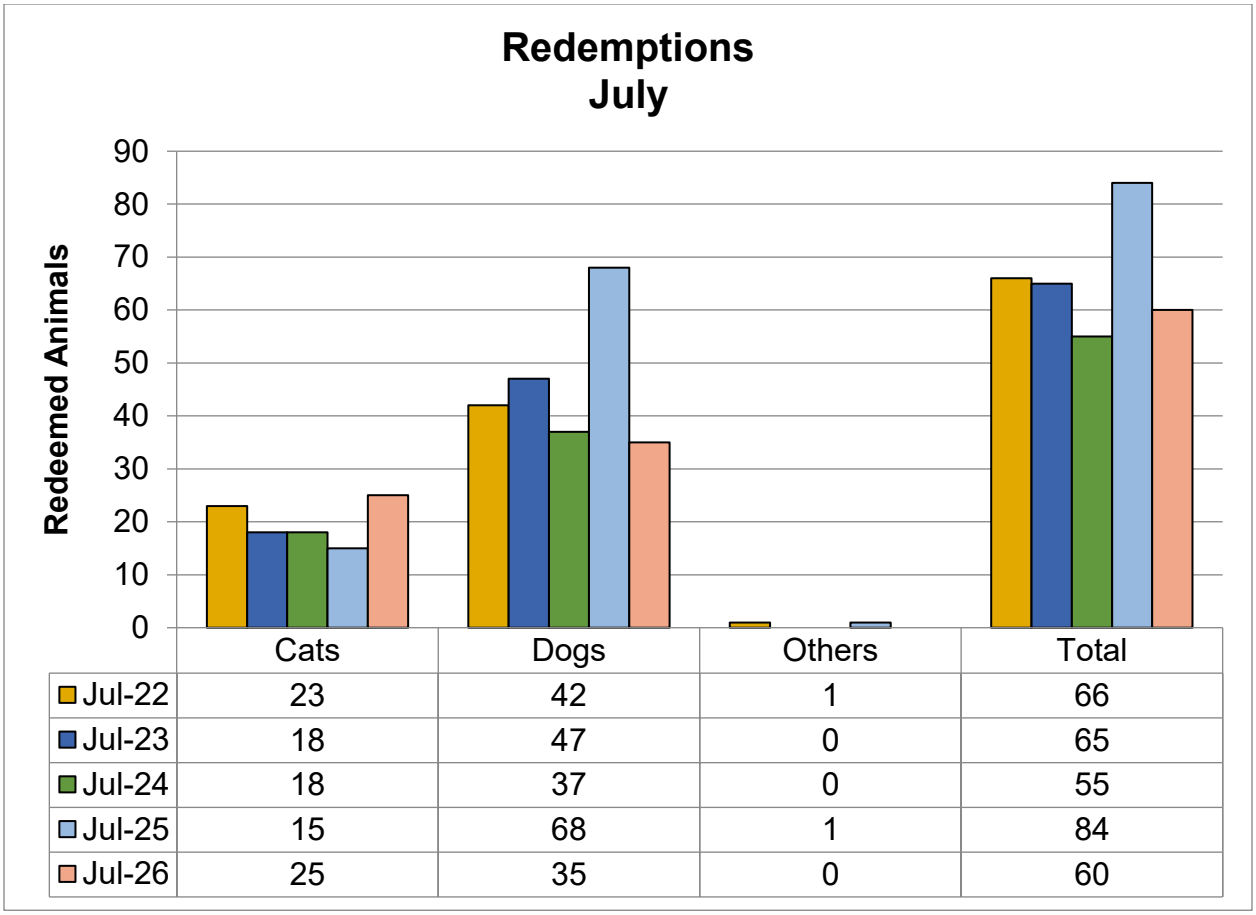


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	11	3	1	15
Jul-23	3	0	0	3
Jul-24	10	5	6	21
Jul-25	5	4	1	10
Jul-26	4	5	0	9

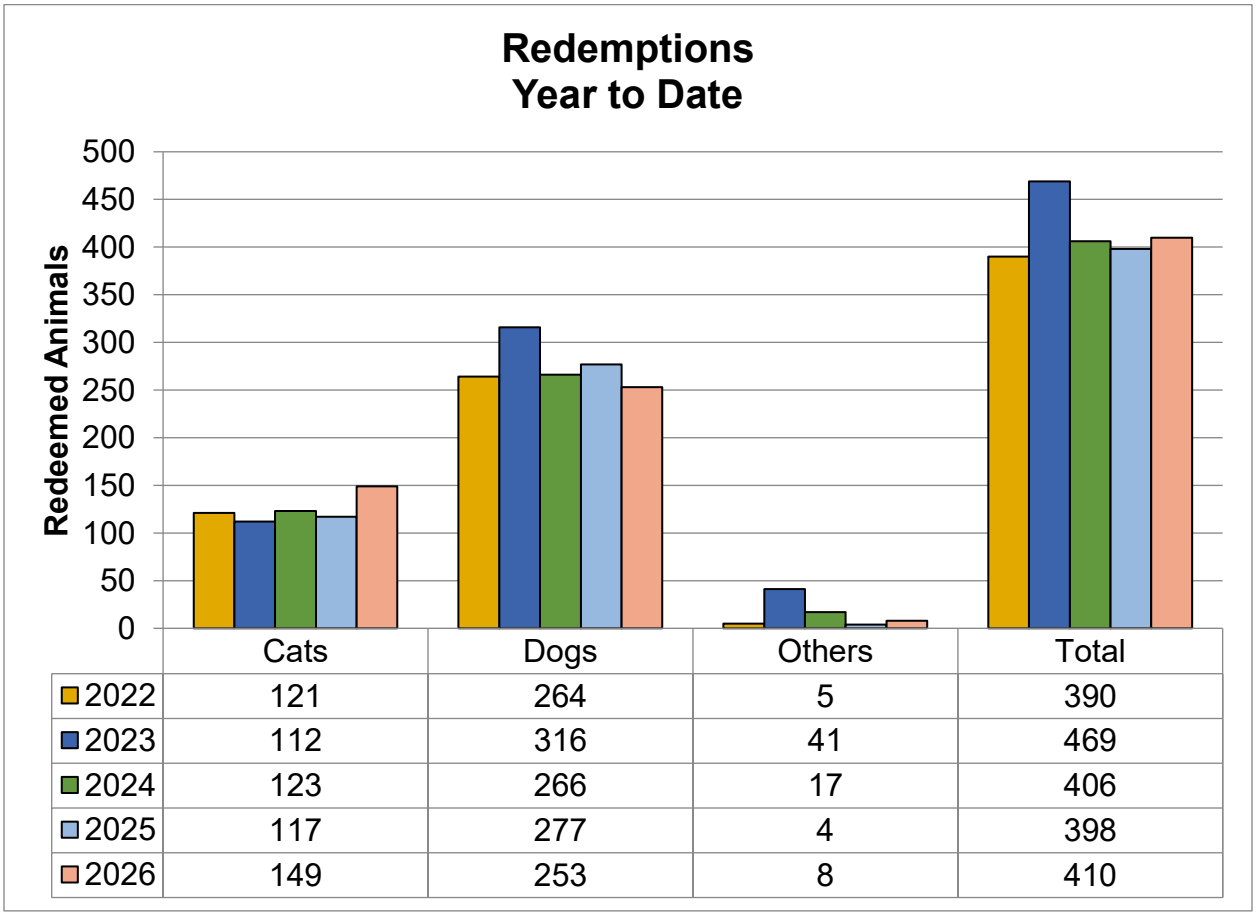
Outgoing Transfers
Year to Date



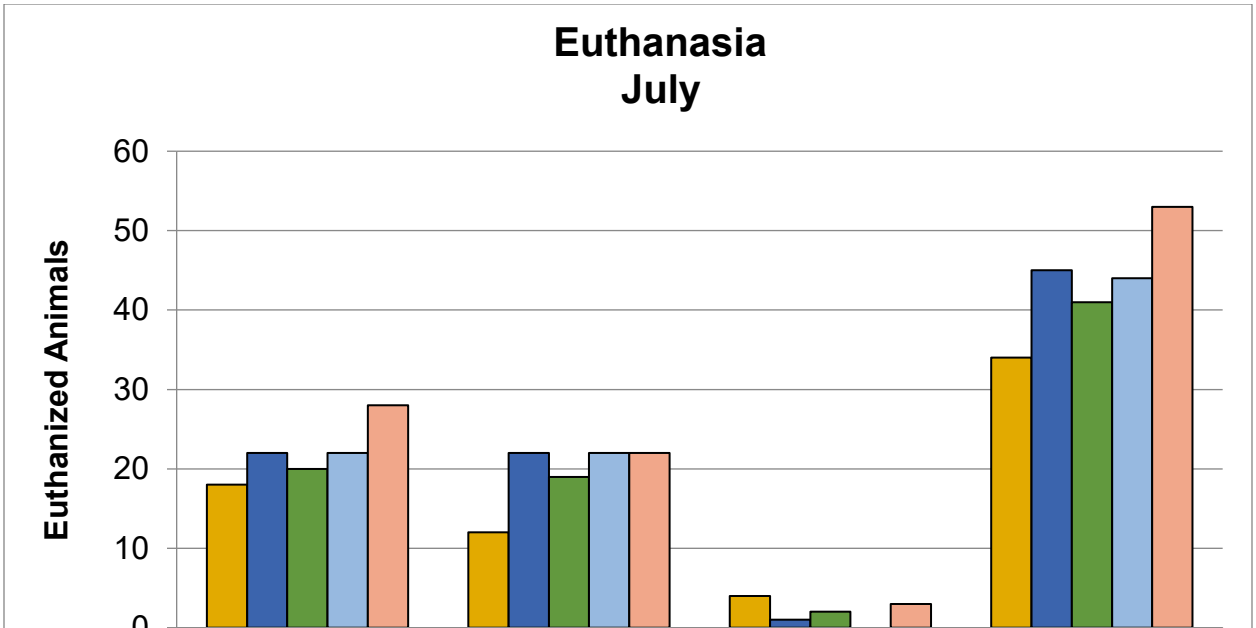
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	53	24	1	78
2023	43	16	1	60
2024	54	20	7	81
2025	47	29	2	78
2026	46	42	8	96



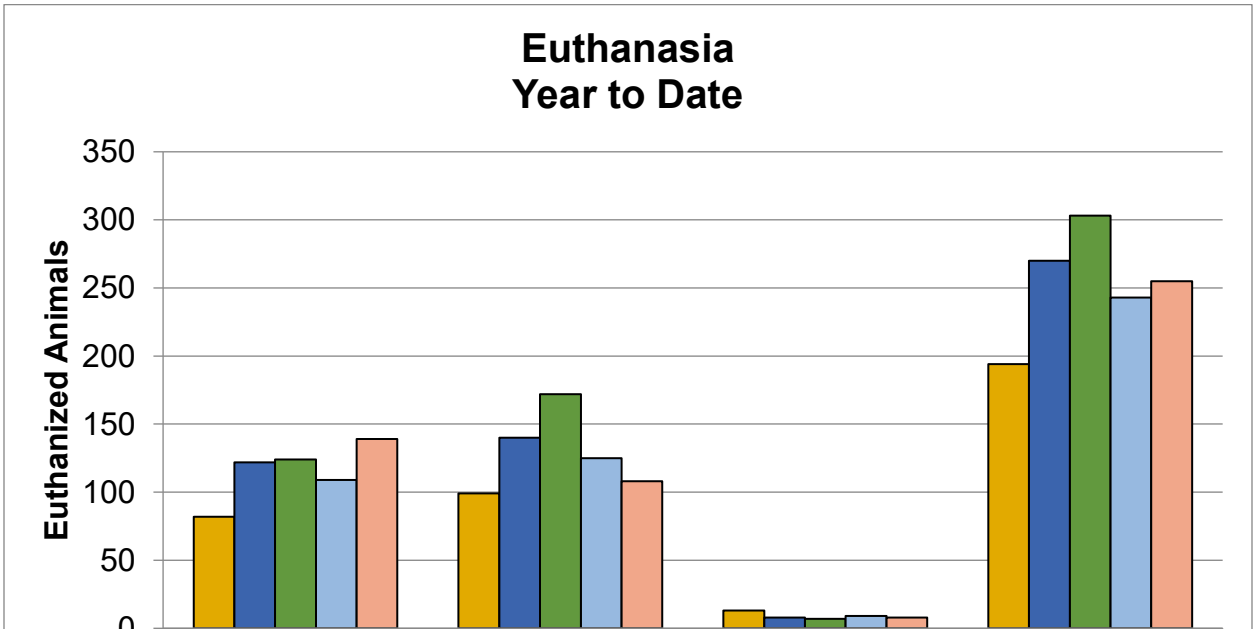
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	23	42	1	66
Jul-23	18	47	0	65
Jul-24	18	37	0	55
Jul-25	15	68	1	84
Jul-26	25	35	0	60



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	121	264	5	390
2023	112	316	41	469
2024	123	266	17	406
2025	117	277	4	398
2026	149	253	8	410

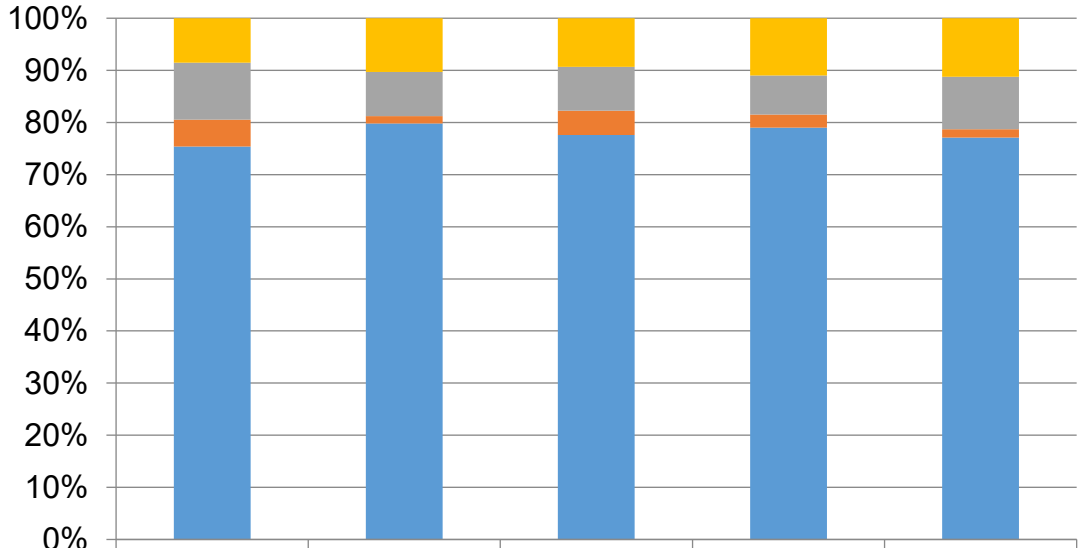


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	18	12	4	34
Jul-23	22	22	1	45
Jul-24	20	19	2	41
Jul-25	22	22	0	44
Jul-26	28	22	3	53



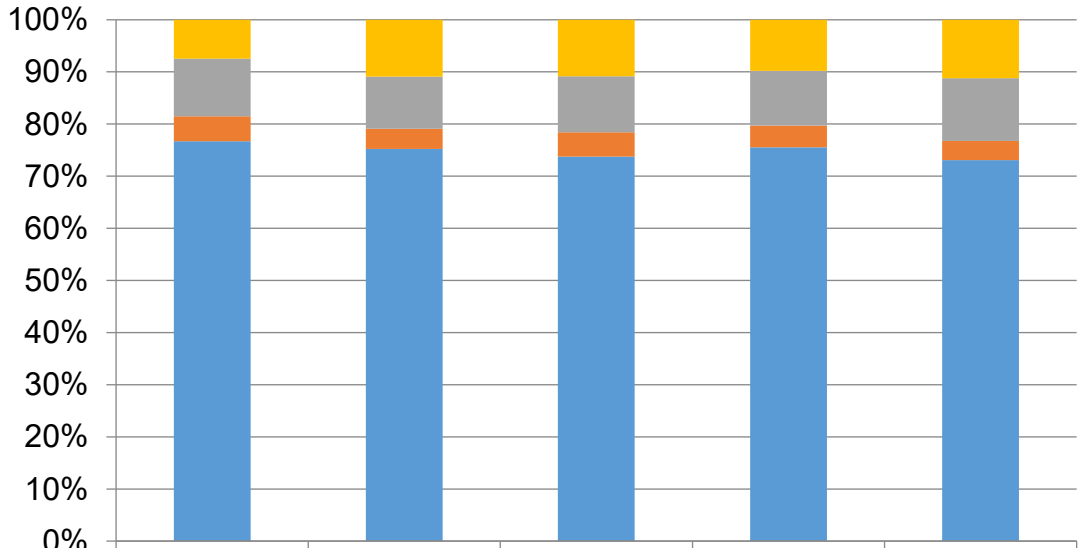
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	82	99	13	194
2023	122	140	8	270
2024	124	172	7	303
2025	109	125	9	243
2026	139	108	8	255

Outcomes by Percentage
Cats - July



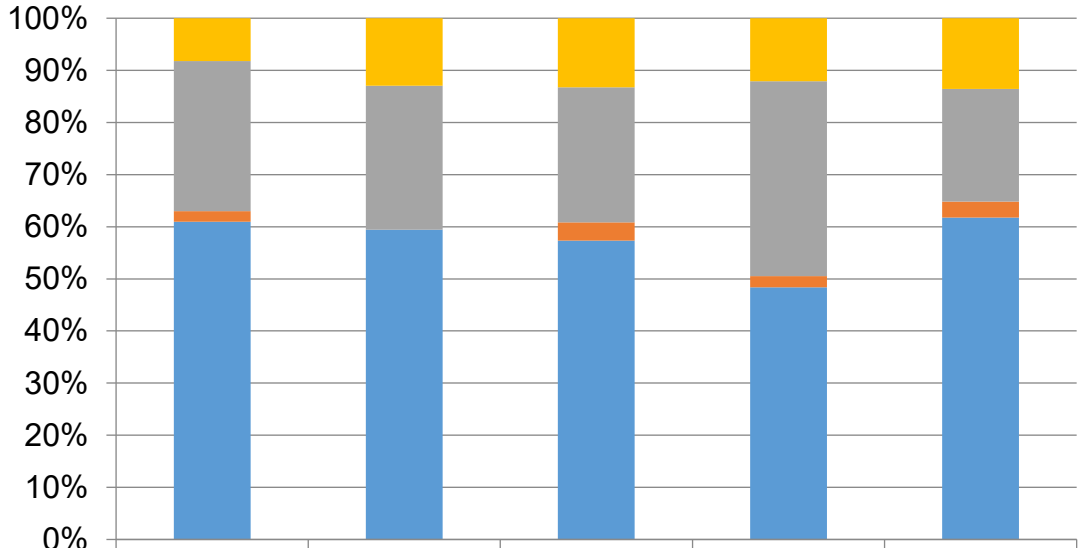
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Euthanasia	8.53%	10.33%	9.35%	11.00%	11.24%
Redemption	10.90%	8.45%	8.41%	7.50%	10.04%
Transfer	5.21%	1.41%	4.67%	2.50%	1.61%
Adoption	75.36%	79.81%	77.57%	79.00%	77.11%

Outcomes by Percentage
Cats - Year to Date



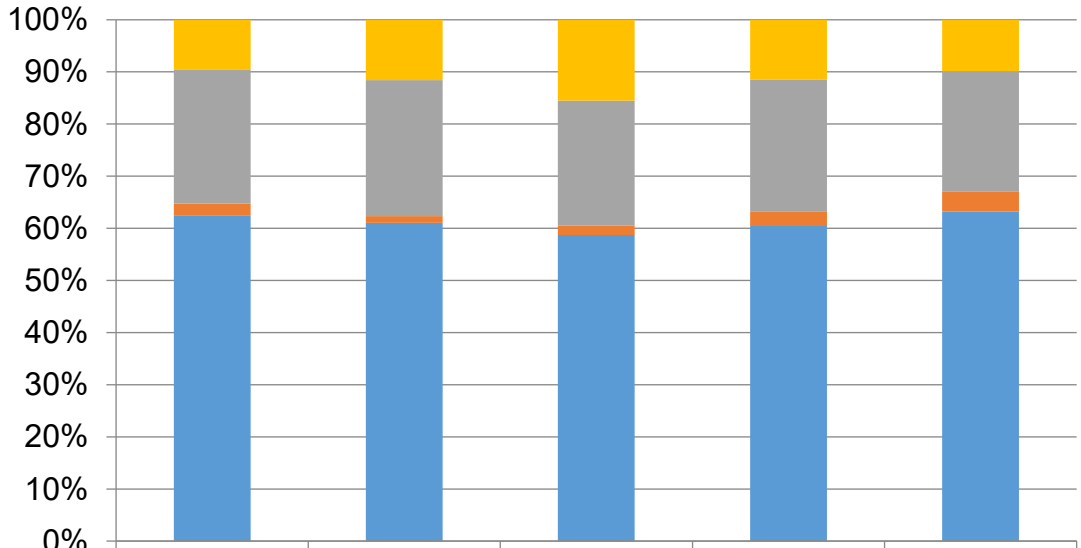
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Euthanasia	7.47%	10.90%	10.82%	9.78%	11.21%
Redemption	11.02%	10.01%	10.73%	10.49%	12.02%
Transfer	4.83%	3.84%	4.71%	4.22%	3.71%
Adoption	76.68%	75.25%	73.73%	75.52%	73.06%

Outcomes by Percentage
Dogs - July



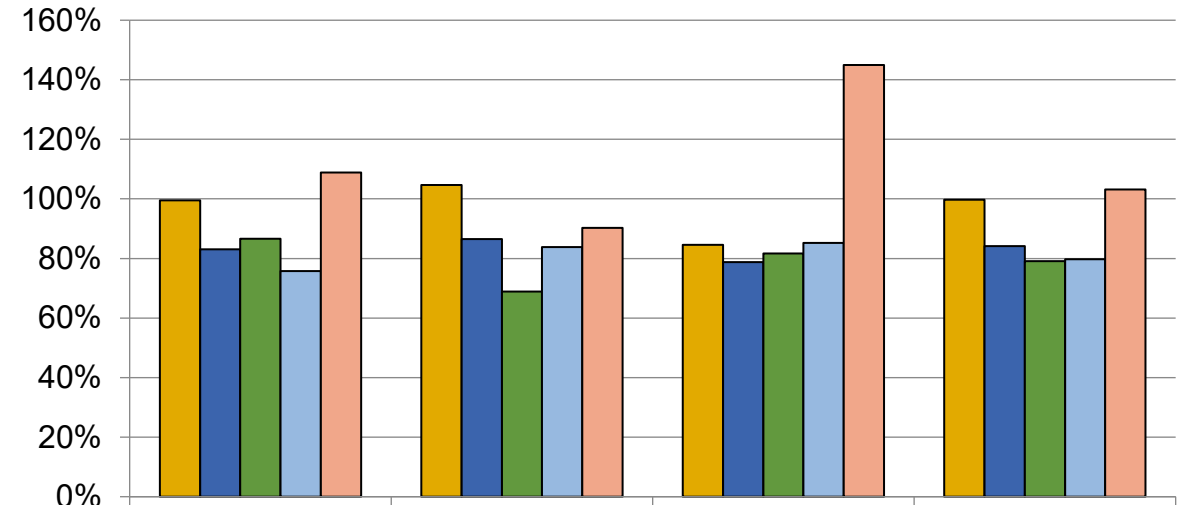
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Euthanasia	8.22%	12.94%	13.29%	12.09%	13.58%
Redemption	28.77%	27.65%	25.87%	37.36%	21.60%
Transfer	2.05%	0.00%	3.50%	2.20%	3.09%
Adoption	60.96%	59.41%	57.34%	48.35%	61.73%

Outcomes by Percentage
Dogs - Year to Date



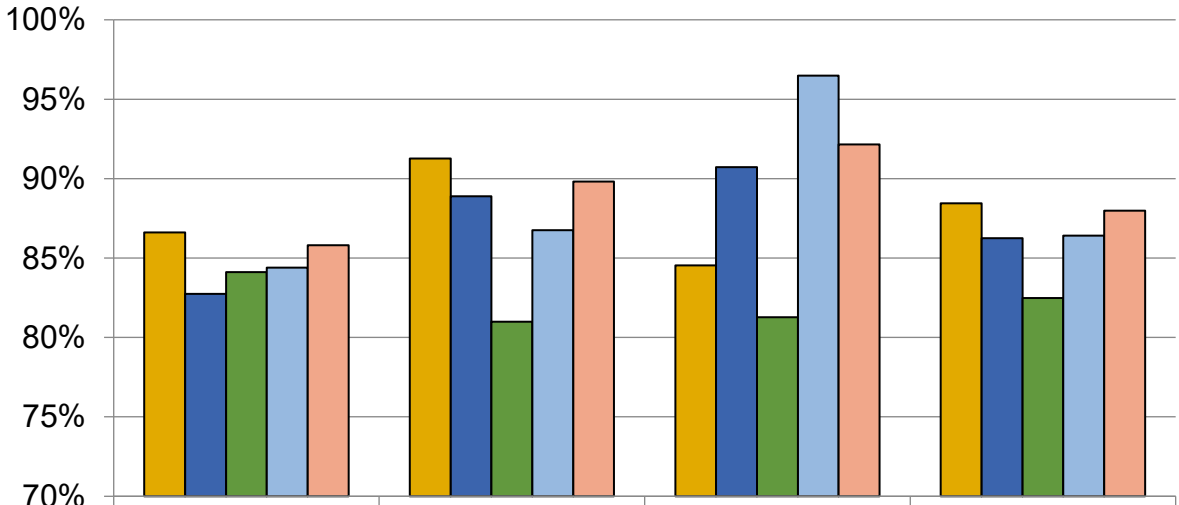
	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25	Jul-26
Euthanasia	9.62%	11.56%	15.51%	11.43%	9.86%
Redemption	25.66%	26.09%	23.99%	25.32%	23.11%
Transfer	2.33%	1.32%	1.80%	2.65%	3.84%
Adoption	62.39%	61.02%	58.70%	60.60%	63.20%

Save Rate
July



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Jul-22	99%	105%	85%	100%
Jul-23	83%	87%	79%	84%
Jul-24	87%	69%	82%	79%
Jul-25	76%	84%	85%	80%
Jul-26	109%	90%	145%	103%

Save Rate
Year to Date



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	87%	91%	85%	88%
2023	83%	89%	91%	86%
2024	84%	81%	81%	82%
2025	84%	87%	96%	86%
2026	86%	90%	92%	88%

Terms and Definitions:

Adoption – The placement of an animal with a new owner/family.

Euthanasia – The act of putting an animal to death painlessly.

Euthanasia Rate – The percentage of animals euthanized during a given time period. For statistical purposes, this number does not include animals admitted specifically for euthanasia.

Euthanasia Rate = Euthanasia / (Intake + Inventory)

Intake – The number of live animals admitted. For statistical purposes, this number does not include animals admitted specifically for euthanasia.

Live Release Rate – The percentage of live animals released by means of adoption, redemption and transfer during a given time period. The difference between Live Release Rate and Save Rate (see Save Rate) is that Live Release Rate takes into account the starting animal inventory for the given time period. This results in a more accurate reflection of live release versus population. DCHS started using Live Release Rate in 2008.

Live Release Rate = (Adoptions + Redemptions + Transfers) / (Intake + Inventory)

Redemption – The reclaiming of an animal by an existing or previous owner.

Rolling Release Rate – A compilation of Live Release Rate, Euthanasia Rate and Sanctuary Rate.

Sanctuary Rate – The percentage of animals remaining in the shelter's care at the end of a given time period.

Sanctuary Rate =
((Inventory + Intake) – (Adoptions + Redemptions + Transfers + Euthanasia)) / (Intake + Inventory)

Save Rate – The percentage of live animals released by means of adoption, redemption and transfer during a given time period. Save Rate is an older and previously widely used formula for calculating a shelter's success but does not include the starting animal inventory for the given time period. This results in a less accurate reflection of live release versus population and could even generate percentages above 100% (for example if during a given time period 10 animals were adopted but only 5 were admitted, the Save Rate would equal 200% because the existing inventory of 5+ animals are not taken into consideration). Save Rate is still commonly used by shelters and is still calculated at DCHS for the purpose of comparisons to other shelter that still use Save Rate and for comparison to past years before Live Release Rate started to be calculated in 2008.

Save Rate = (Adoption + Redemptions + Transfers) / Intake

Transfer – The placement of an animal with another animal welfare organization.