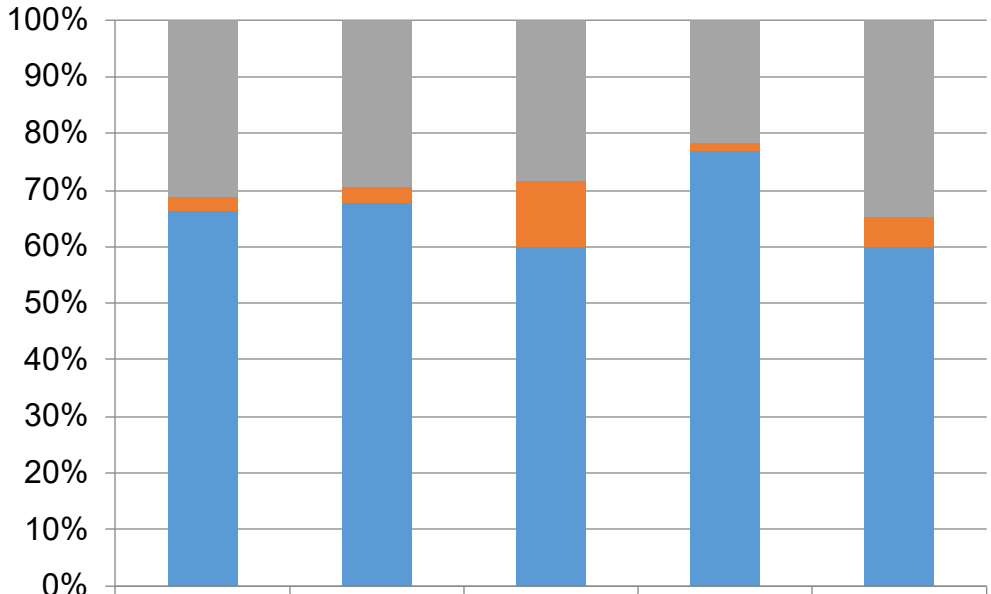
Dane County Humane Society
Rolling Release Rate
&
Save Rate
Overview

August 2026

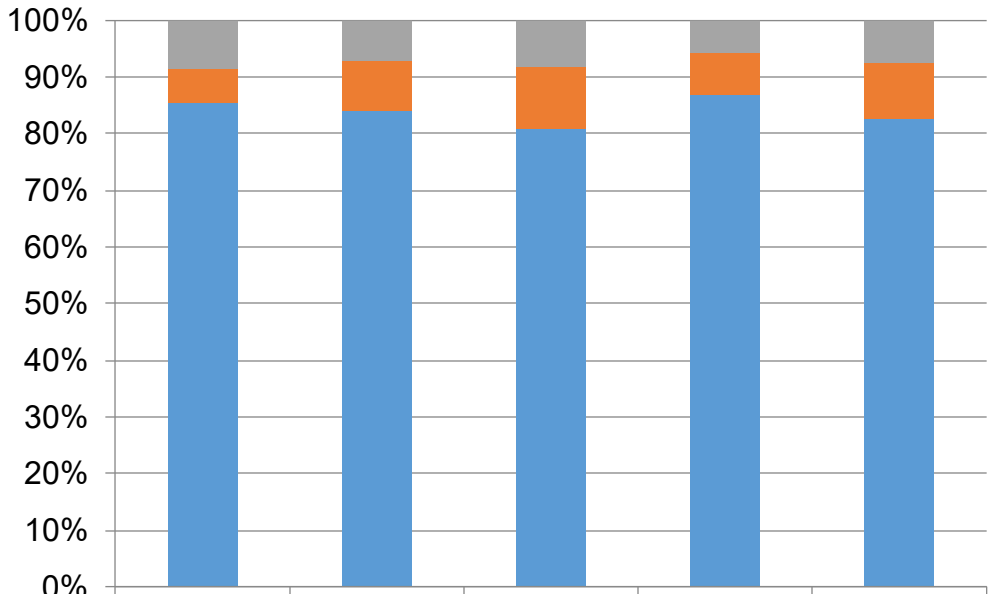
Report prepared by:
Doug Brown
Assistant Executive Director
Dane County Humane Society

Cat Rolling Release Rate
August



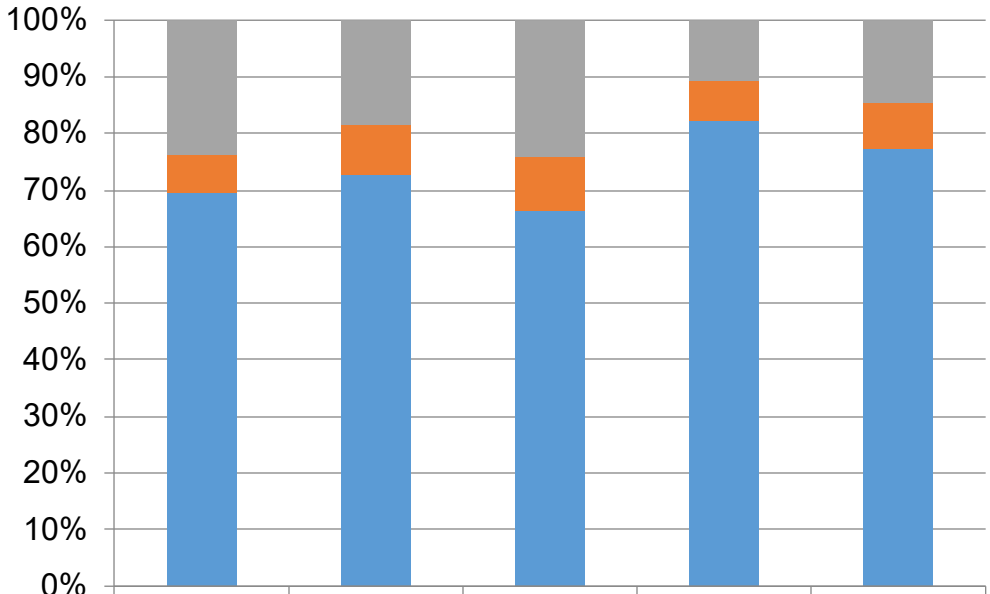
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Aug-25	Aug-26
Sanctuary Rate	31.40%	29.41%	28.31%	21.85%	34.64%
Euthanasia Rate	2.33%	2.81%	11.87%	1.29%	5.31%
Live Release Rate	66.28%	67.77%	59.82%	76.86%	60.06%

Cat Rolling Release Rate
Year to Date



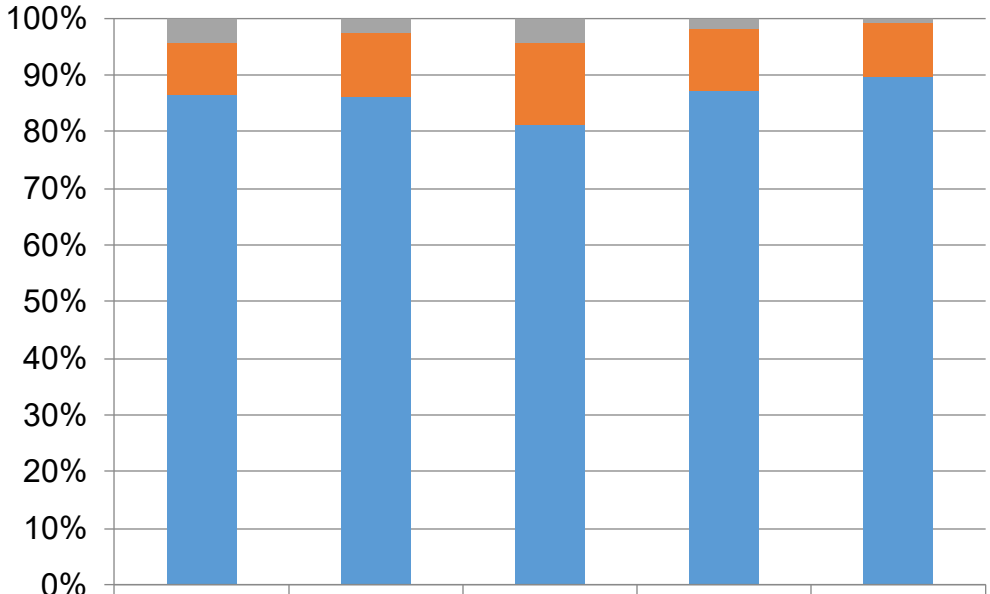
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Aug-25	Aug-26
Sanctuary Rate	8.44%	7.19%	8.23%	5.65%	7.59%
Euthanasia Rate	6.18%	8.85%	11.06%	7.58%	9.91%
Live Release Rate	85.38%	83.97%	80.70%	86.77%	82.51%

Dog Rolling Release Rate
August

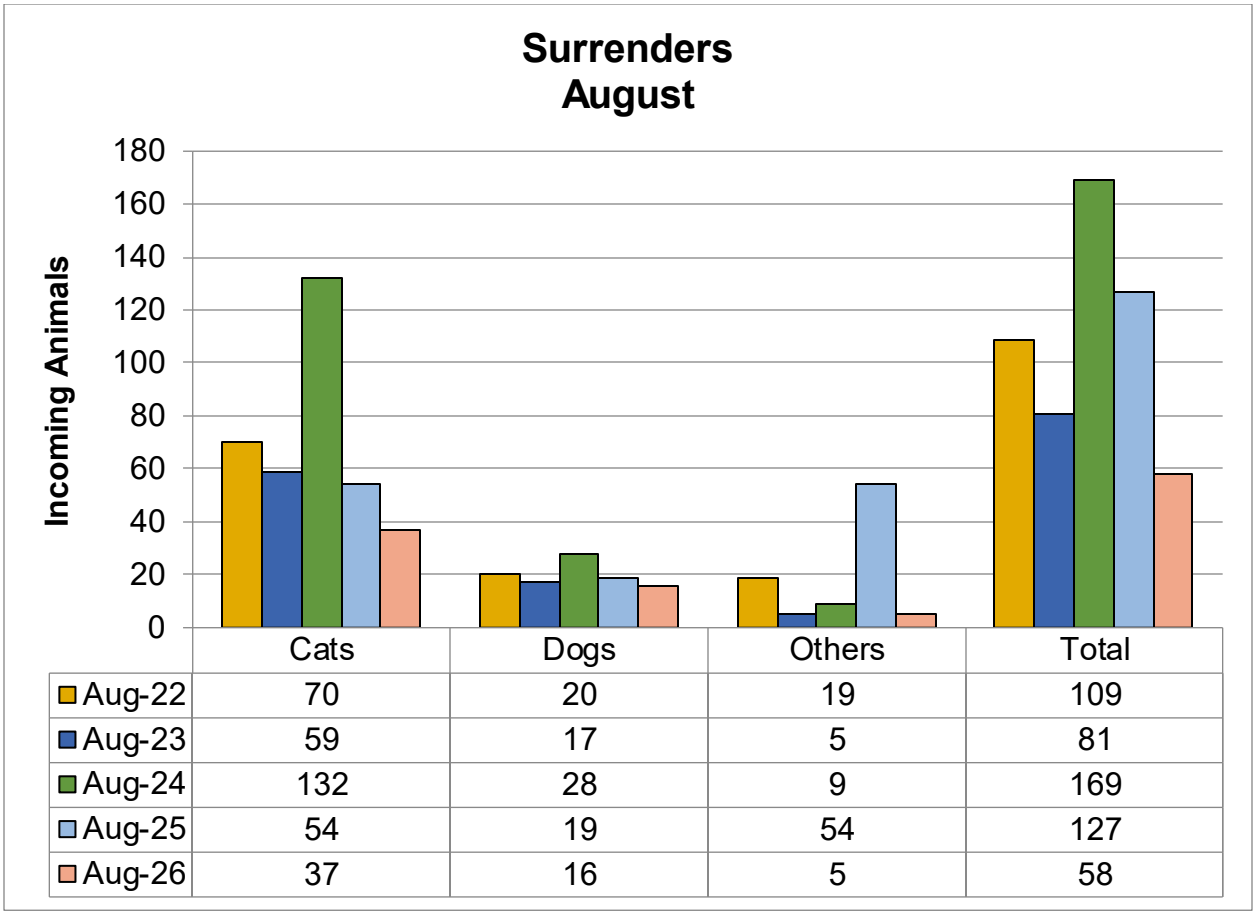


	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Aug-25	Aug-26
Sanctuary Rate	23.68%	18.46%	24.18%	10.63%	14.77%
Euthanasia Rate	7.02%	8.72%	9.43%	7.25%	7.95%
Live Release Rate	69.30%	72.82%	66.39%	82.13%	77.27%

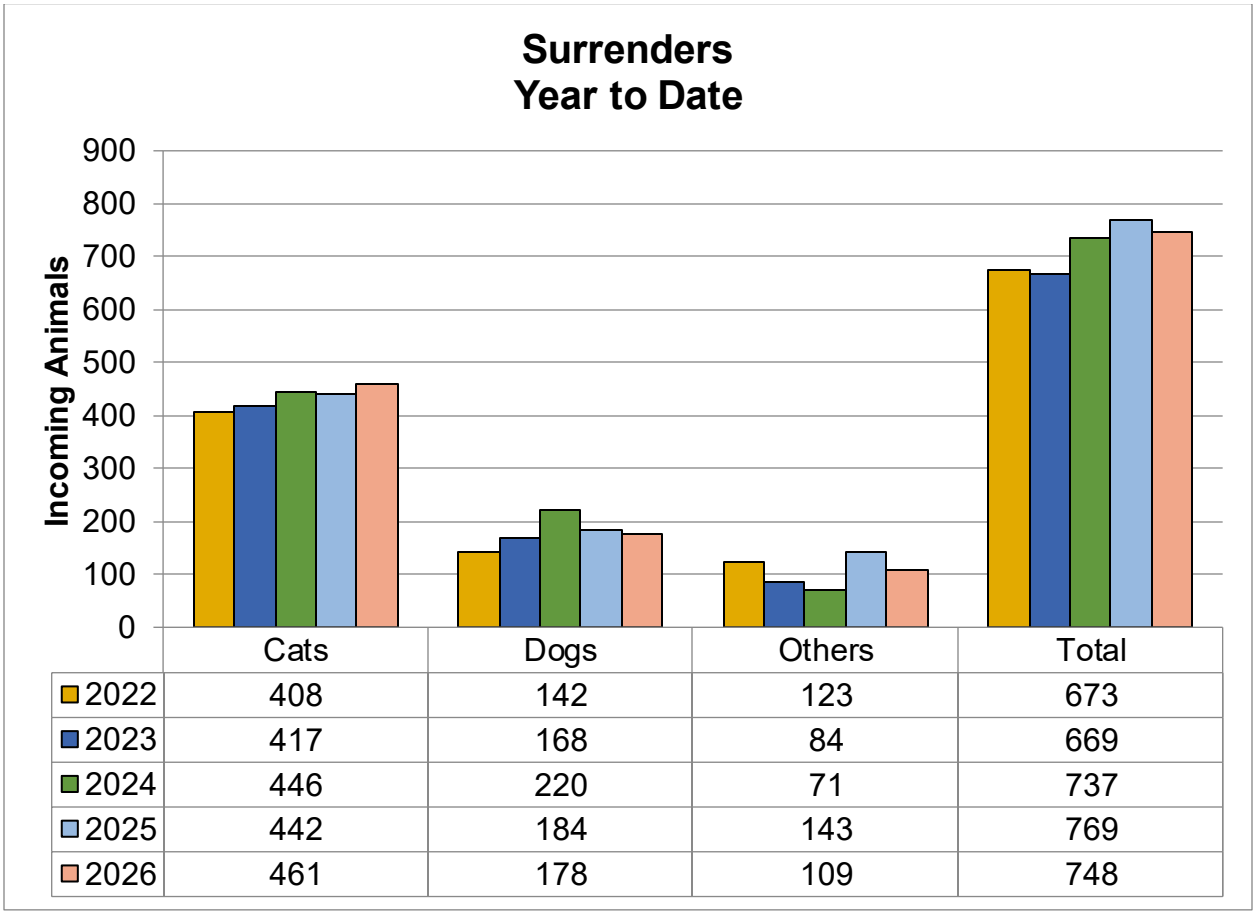
Dog Rolling Release Rate
Year to Date



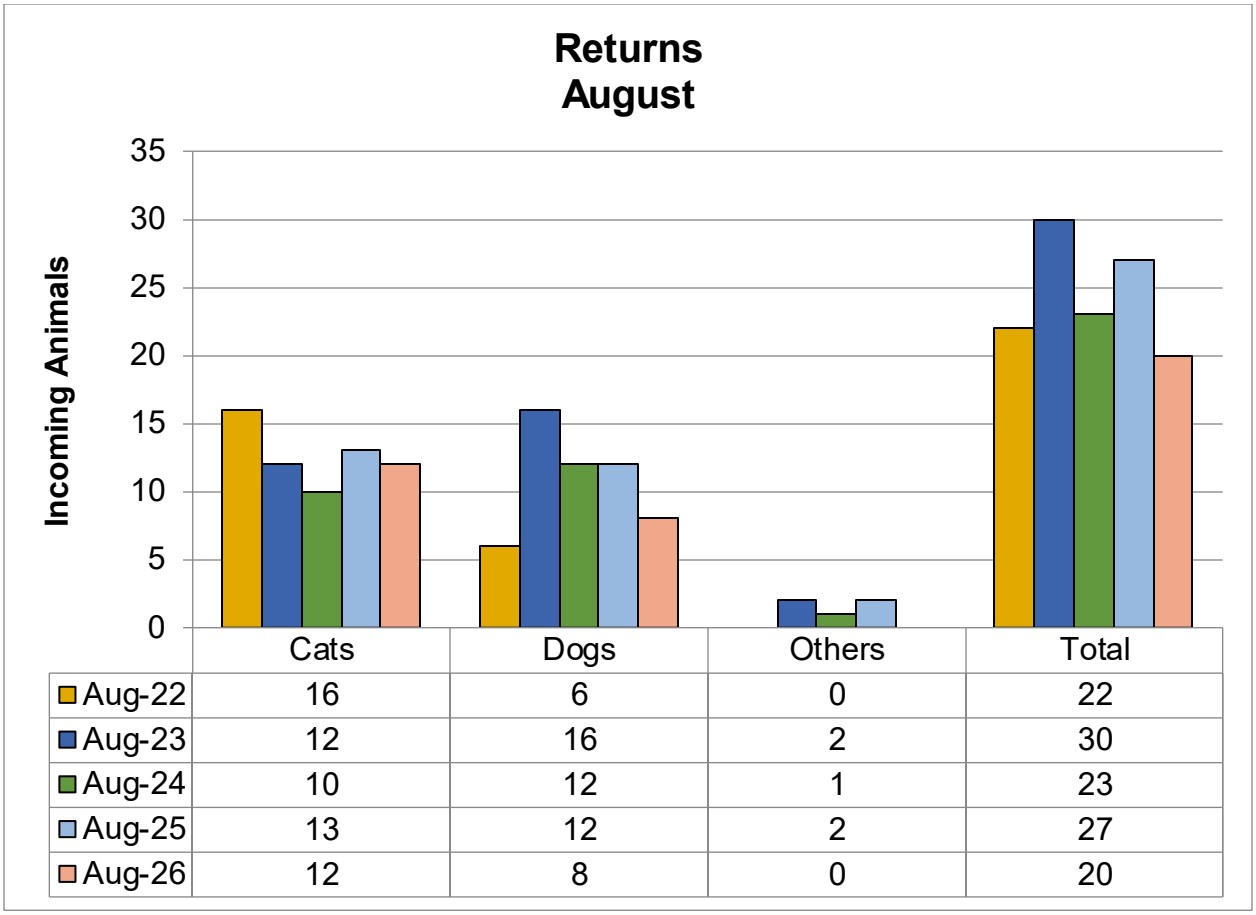
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Aug-25	Aug-26
Sanctuary Rate	4.30%	2.70%	4.29%	1.92%	0.72%
Euthanasia Rate	9.15%	11.15%	14.42%	10.74%	9.73%
Live Release Rate	86.56%	86.15%	81.29%	87.35%	89.55%



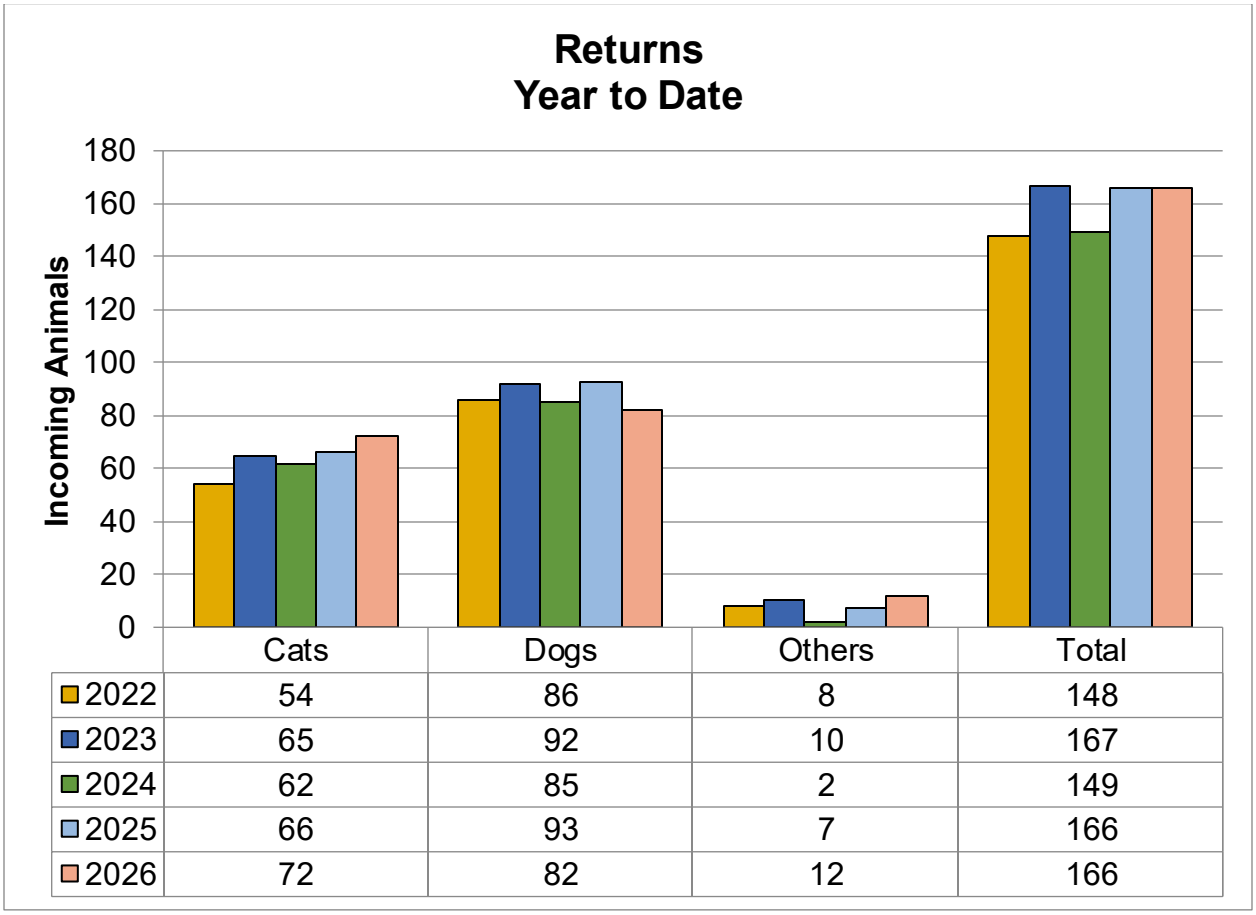
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	70	20	19	109
Aug-23	59	17	5	81
Aug-24	132	28	9	169
Aug-25	54	19	54	127
Aug-26	37	16	5	58



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	408	142	123	673
2023	417	168	84	669
2024	446	220	71	737
2025	442	184	143	769
2026	461	178	109	748

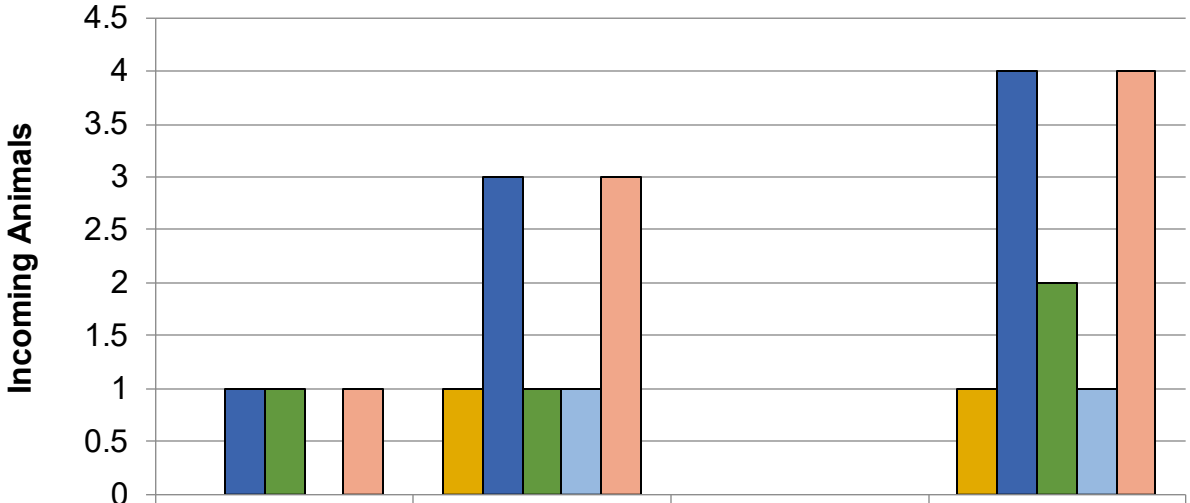


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	16	6	0	22
Aug-23	12	16	2	30
Aug-24	10	12	1	23
Aug-25	13	12	2	27
Aug-26	12	8	0	20



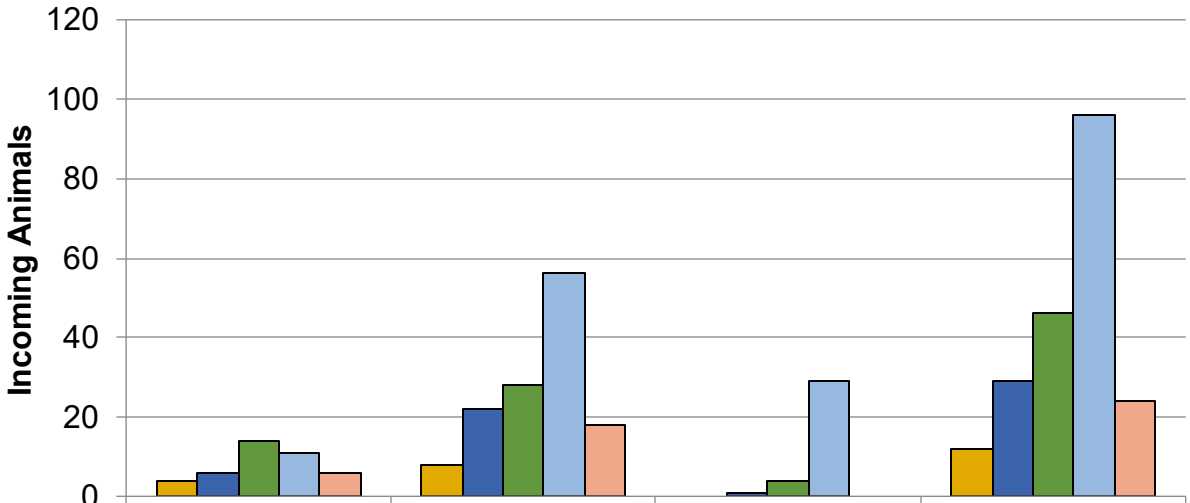
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	54	86	8	148
2023	65	92	10	167
2024	62	85	2	149
2025	66	93	7	166
2026	72	82	12	166

Seized / Custody
August

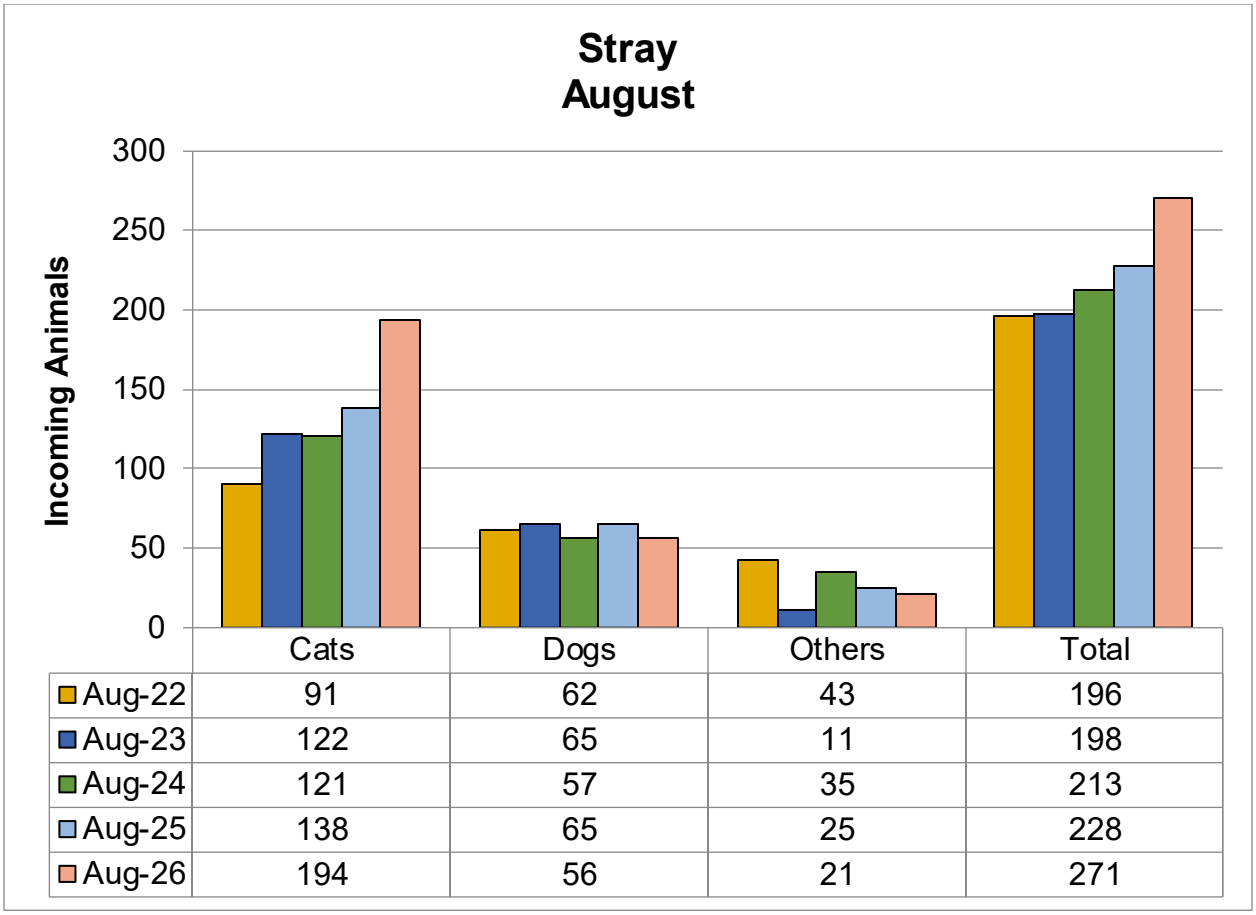


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	0	1	0	1
Aug-23	1	3	0	4
Aug-24	1	1	0	2
Aug-25	0	1	0	1
Aug-26	1	3	0	4

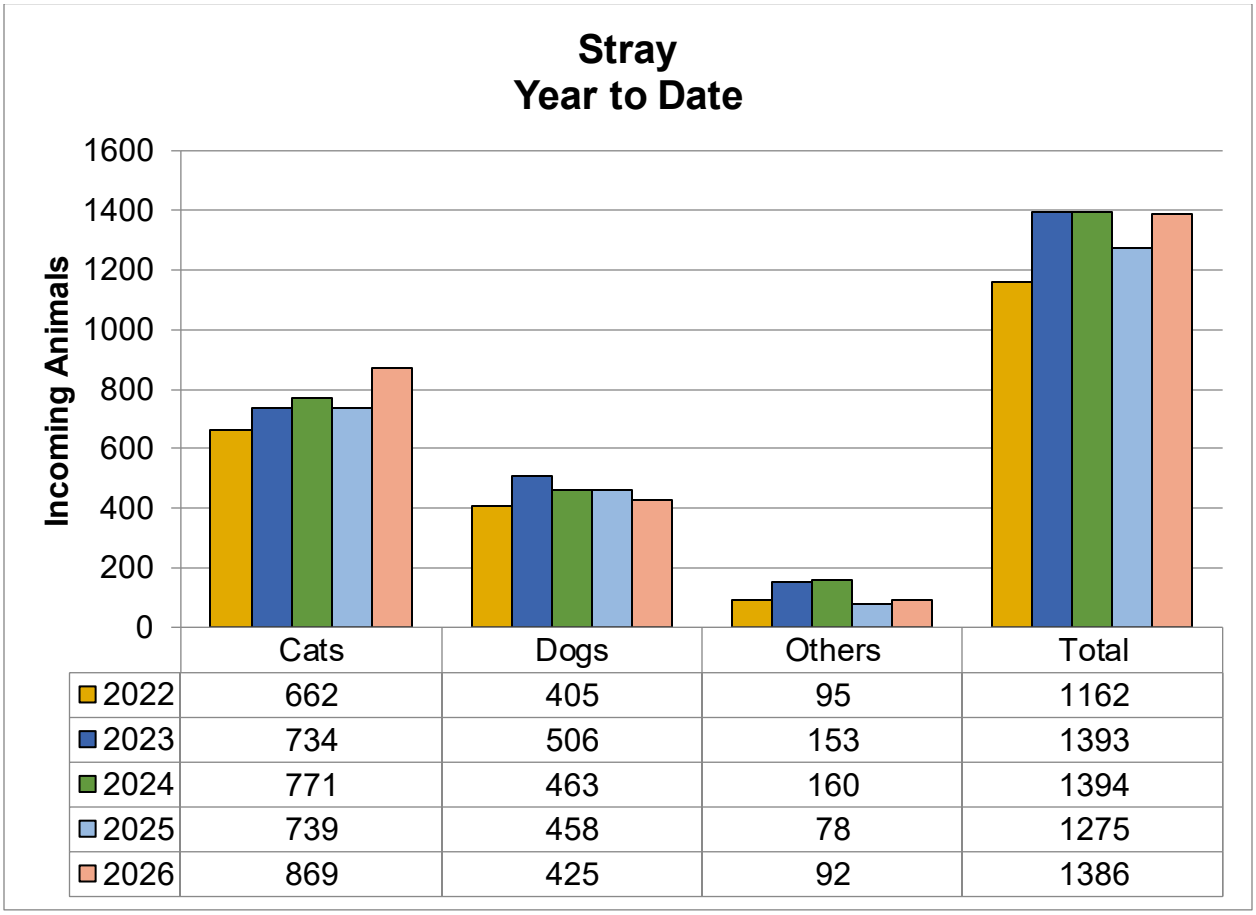
Seized / Custody
Year to Date



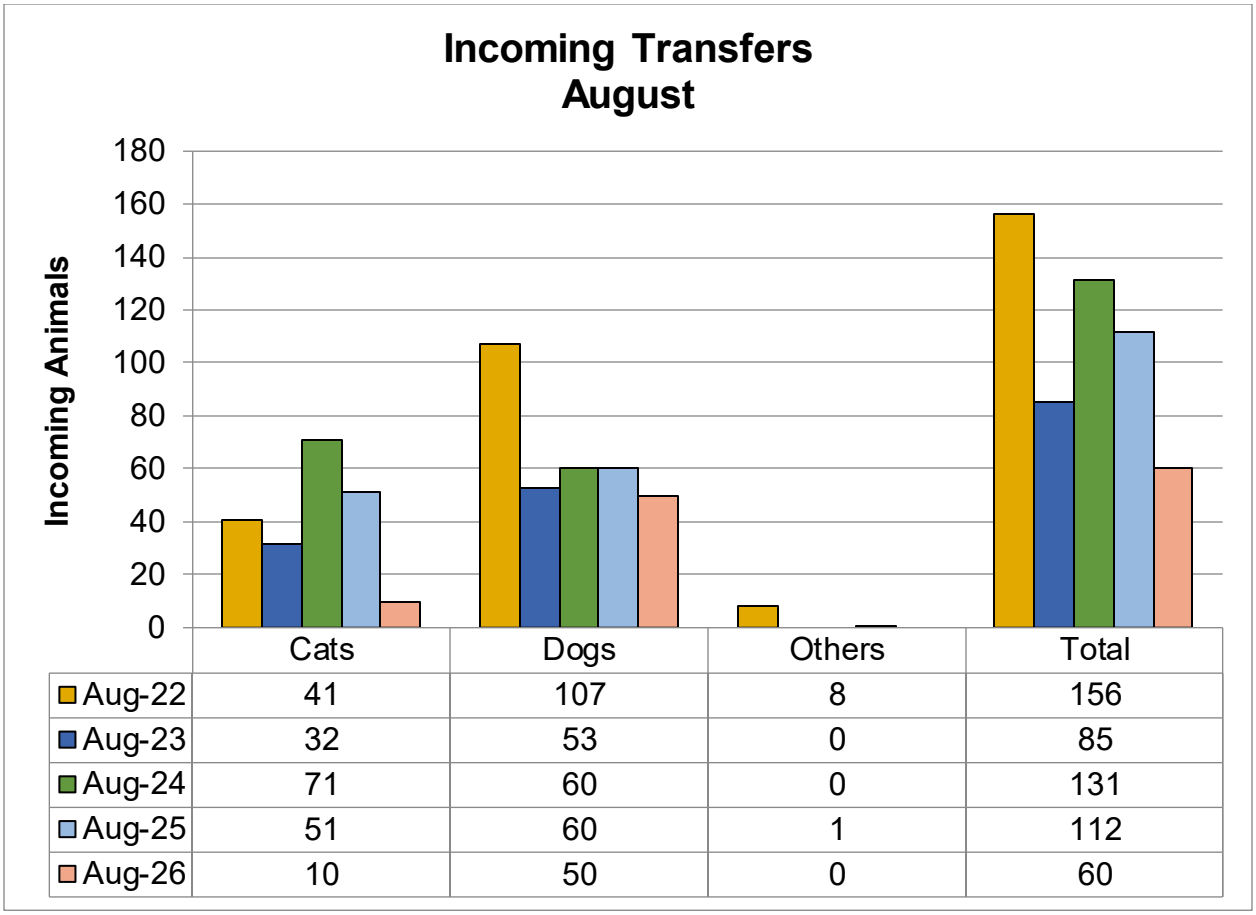
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	4	8	0	12
2023	6	22	1	29
2024	14	28	4	46
2025	11	56	29	96
2026	6	18	0	24



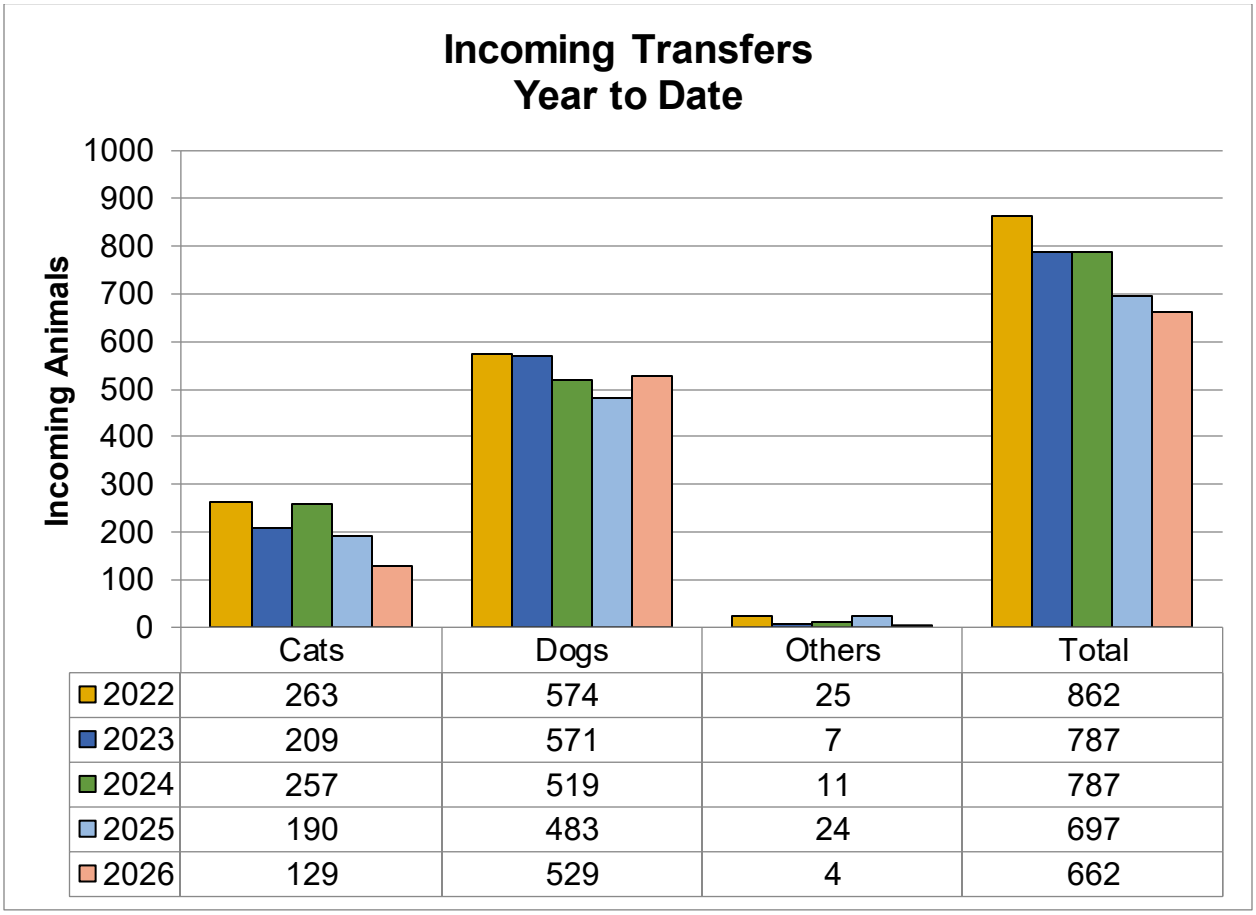
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	91	62	43	196
Aug-23	122	65	11	198
Aug-24	121	57	35	213
Aug-25	138	65	25	228
Aug-26	194	56	21	271



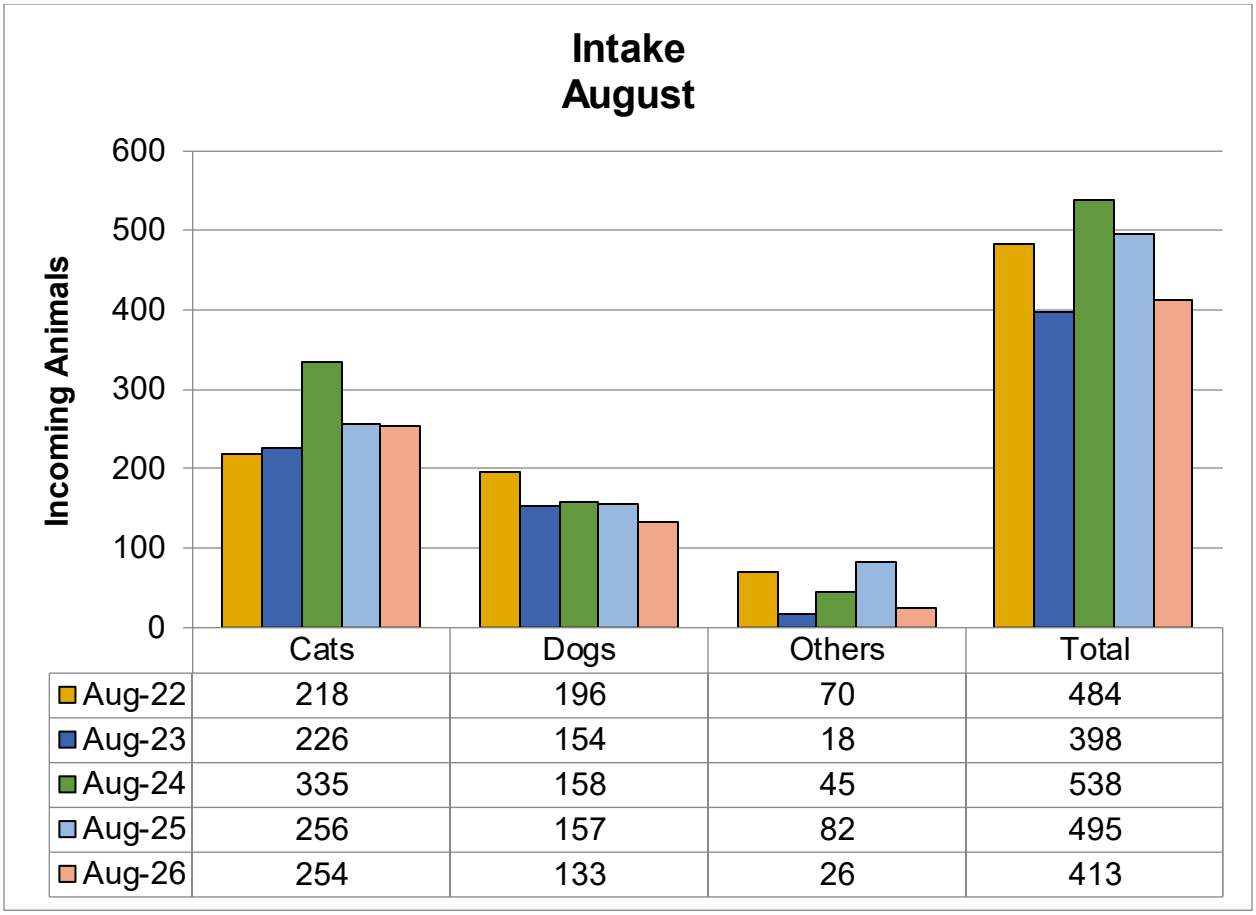
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	662	405	95	1162
2023	734	506	153	1393
2024	771	463	160	1394
2025	739	458	78	1275
2026	869	425	92	1386



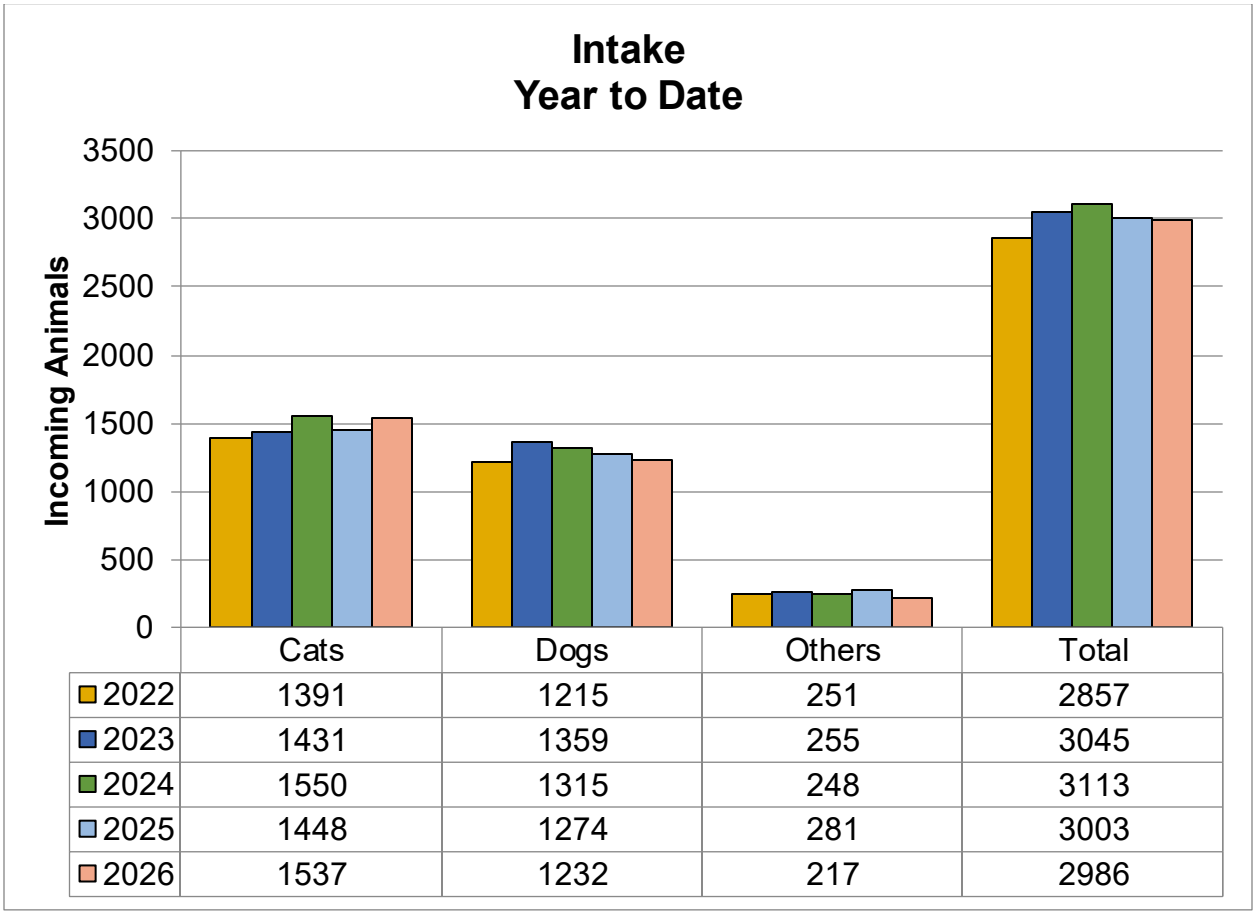
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	41	107	8	156
Aug-23	32	53	0	85
Aug-24	71	60	0	131
Aug-25	51	60	1	112
Aug-26	10	50	0	60



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	263	574	25	862
2023	209	571	7	787
2024	257	519	11	787
2025	190	483	24	697
2026	129	529	4	662

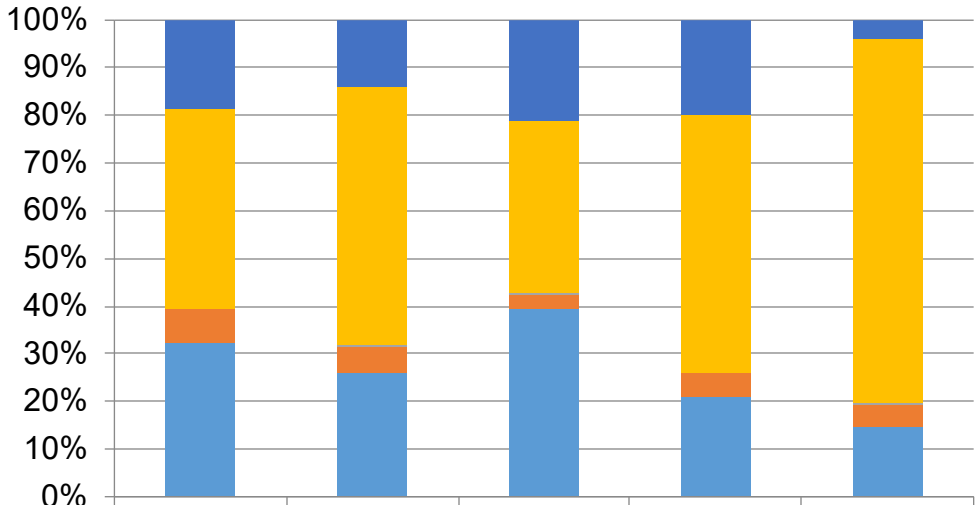


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	218	196	70	484
Aug-23	226	154	18	398
Aug-24	335	158	45	538
Aug-25	256	157	82	495
Aug-26	254	133	26	413



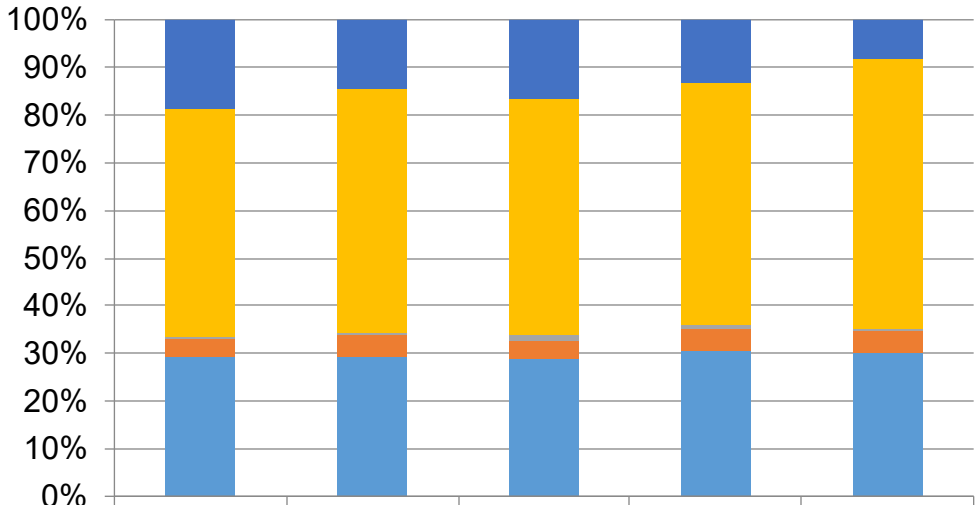
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	1391	1215	251	2857
2023	1431	1359	255	3045
2024	1550	1315	248	3113
2025	1448	1274	281	3003
2026	1537	1232	217	2986

Intakes by Percentage
Cats - August



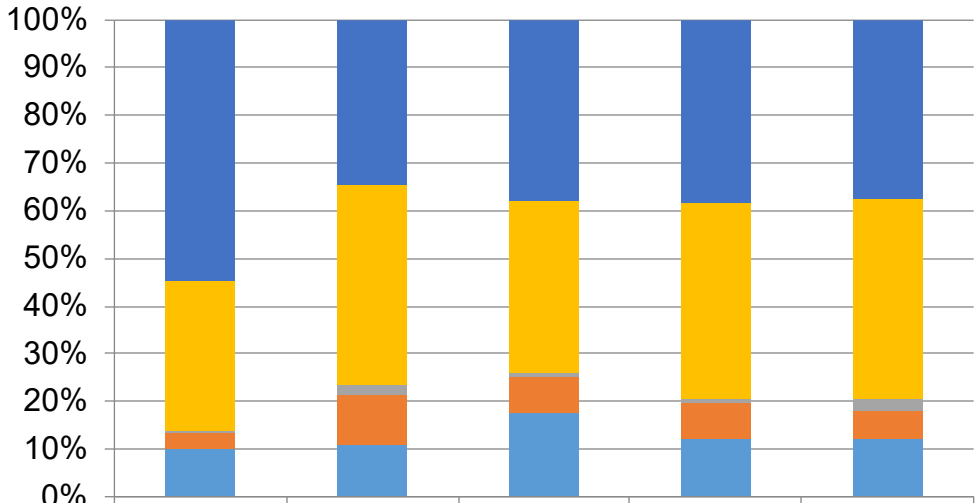
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Aug-25	Aug-26
Incoming Transfers	18.81%	14.16%	21.19%	19.92%	3.94%
Strays	41.74%	53.98%	36.12%	53.91%	76.38%
Seized / Custody	0.00%	0.44%	0.30%	0.00%	0.39%
Returns	7.34%	5.31%	2.99%	5.08%	4.72%
Owner Surrenders	32.11%	26.11%	39.40%	21.09%	14.57%

Intakes by Percentage
Cats - Year to Date



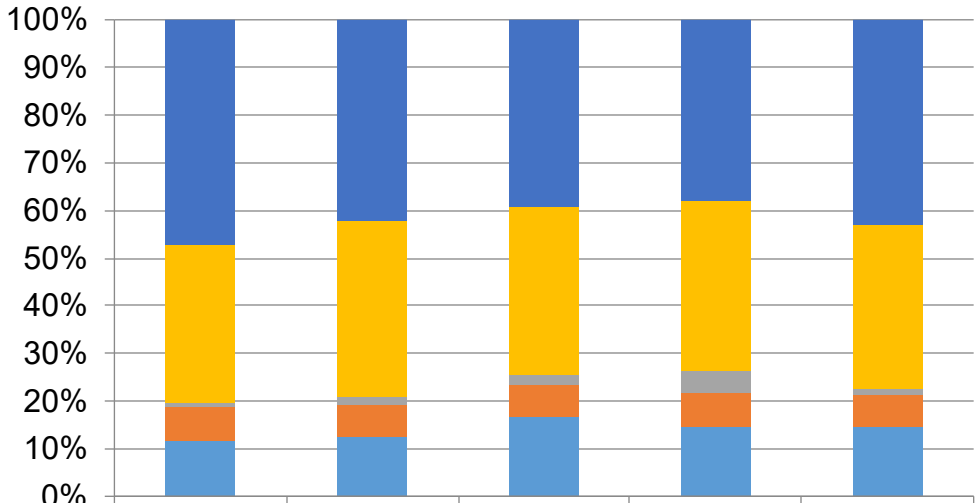
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Aug-25	Aug-26
Incoming Transfers	18.91%	14.61%	16.58%	13.12%	8.39%
Strays	47.59%	51.29%	49.74%	51.04%	56.54%
Seized / Custody	0.29%	0.42%	0.90%	0.76%	0.39%
Returns	3.88%	4.54%	4.00%	4.56%	4.68%
Owner Surrenders	29.33%	29.14%	28.77%	30.52%	29.99%

Intakes by Percentage Dogs - August

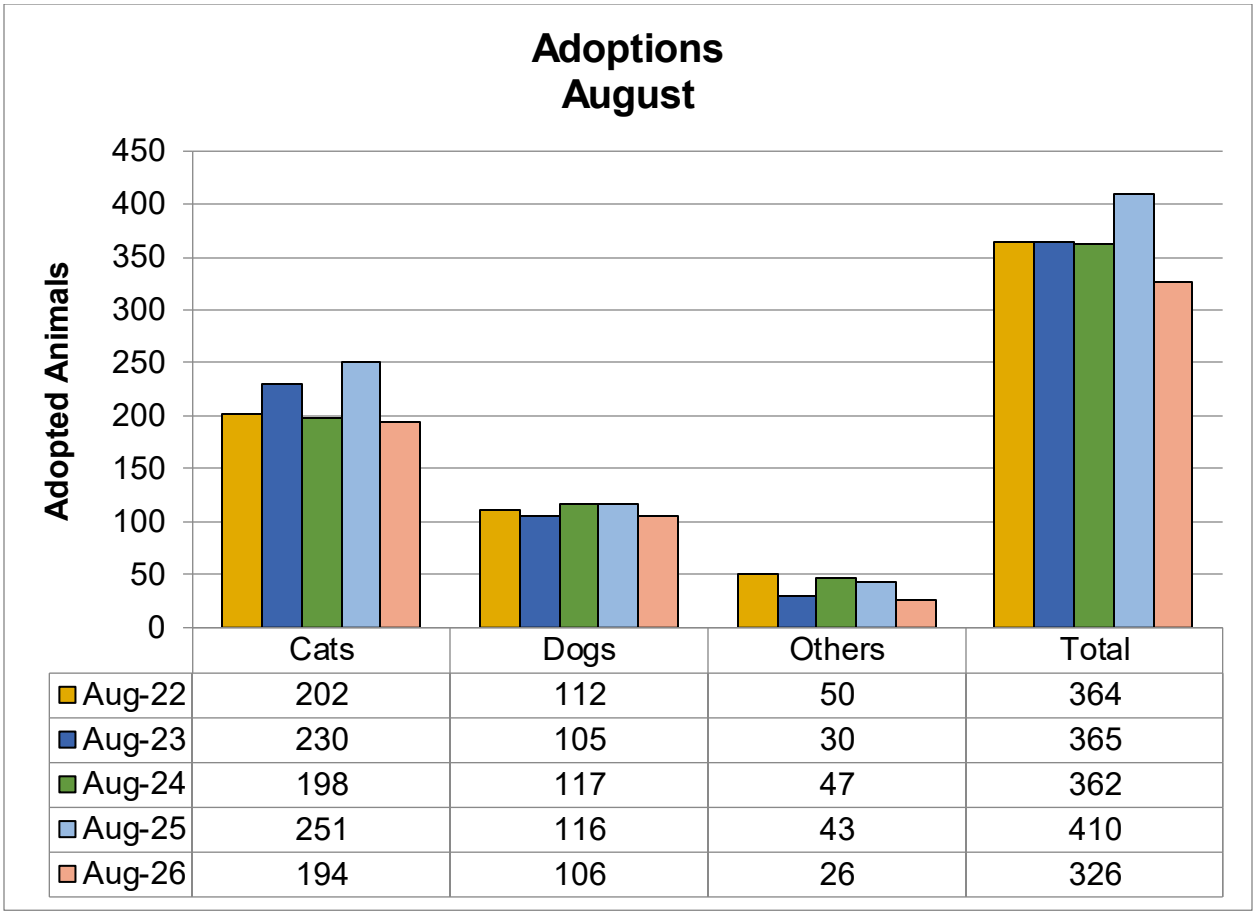


	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Aug-25	Aug-26
Incoming Transfers	54.59%	34.42%	37.97%	38.22%	37.59%
Strays	31.63%	42.21%	36.08%	41.40%	42.11%
Seized / Custody	0.51%	1.95%	0.63%	0.64%	2.26%
Returns	3.06%	10.39%	7.59%	7.64%	6.02%
Owner Surrenders	10.20%	11.04%	17.72%	12.10%	12.03%

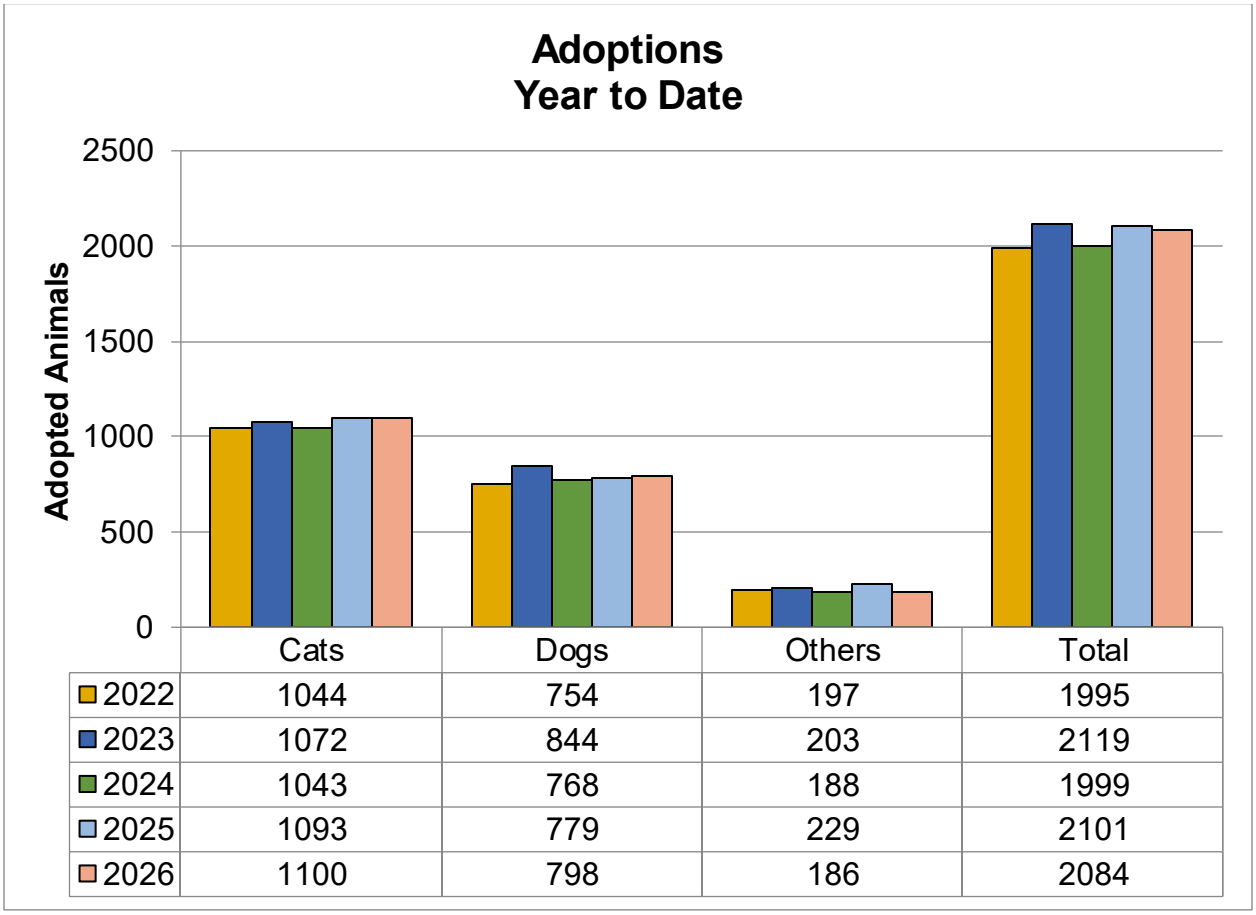
Intakes by Percentage Dogs - Year to Date



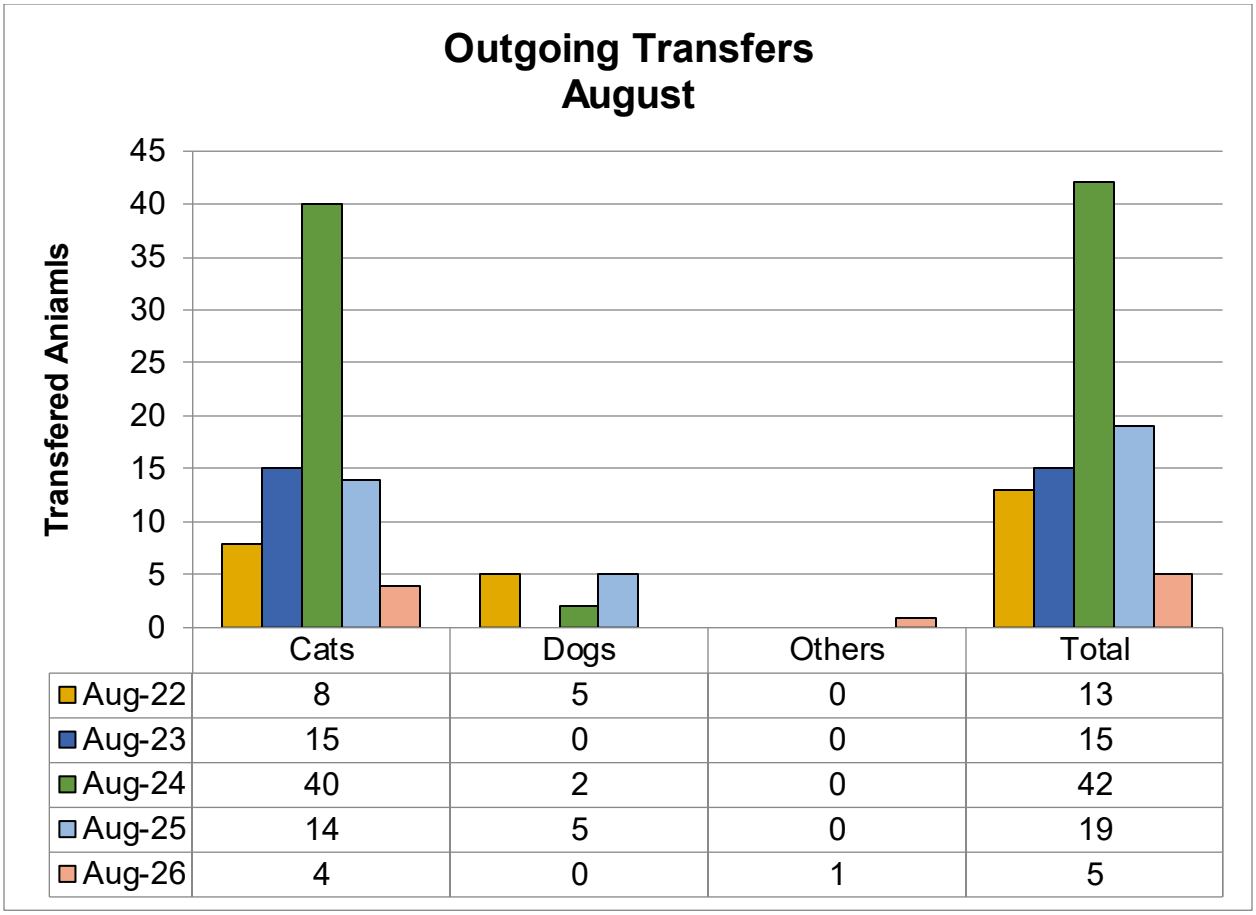
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Aug-25	Aug-26
Incoming Transfers	47.24%	42.02%	39.47%	37.91%	42.94%
Strays	33.33%	37.23%	35.21%	35.95%	34.50%
Seized / Custody	0.66%	1.62%	2.13%	4.40%	1.46%
Returns	7.08%	6.77%	6.46%	7.30%	6.66%
Owner Surrenders	11.69%	12.36%	16.73%	14.44%	14.45%



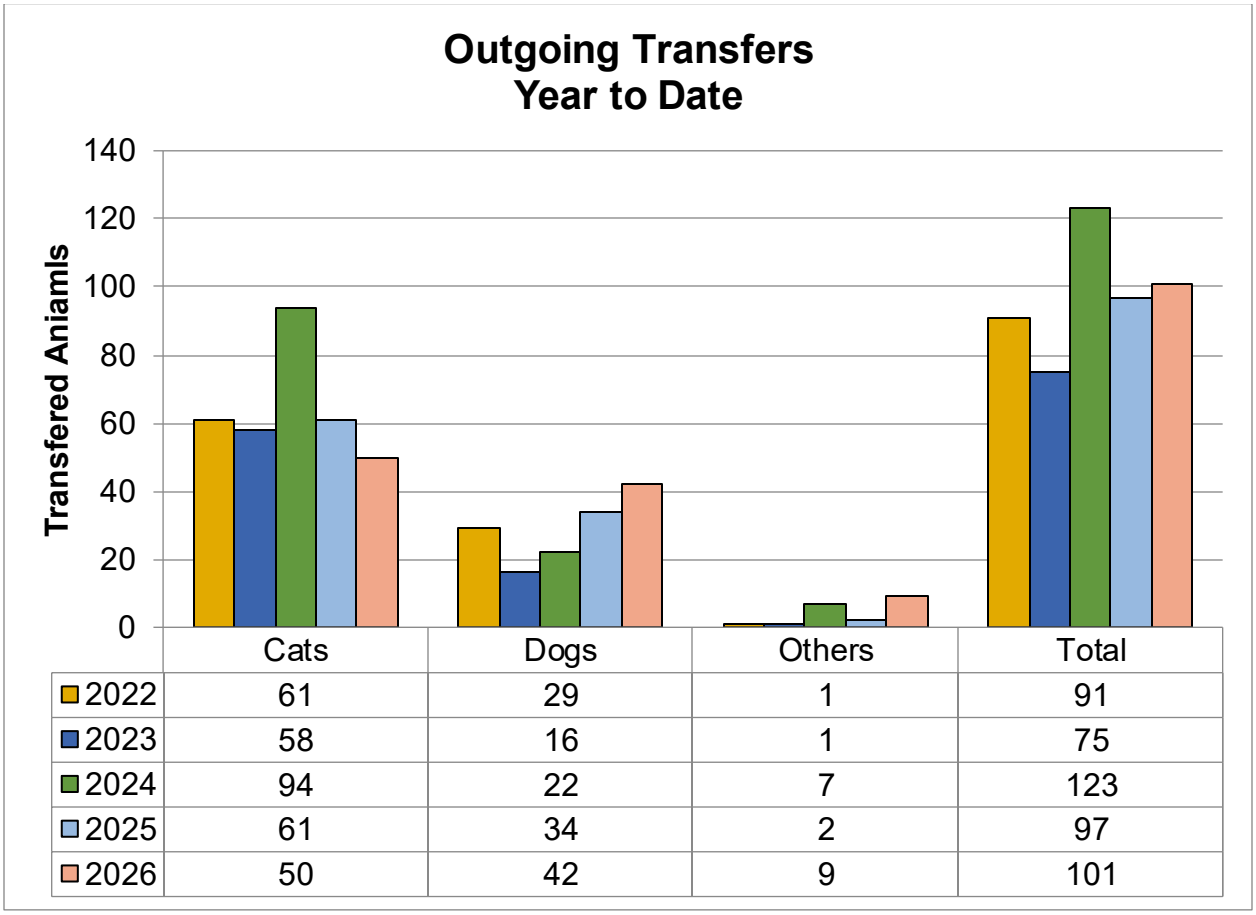
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	202	112	50	364
Aug-23	230	105	30	365
Aug-24	198	117	47	362
Aug-25	251	116	43	410
Aug-26	194	106	26	326



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	1044	754	197	1995
2023	1072	844	203	2119
2024	1043	768	188	1999
2025	1093	779	229	2101
2026	1100	798	186	2084

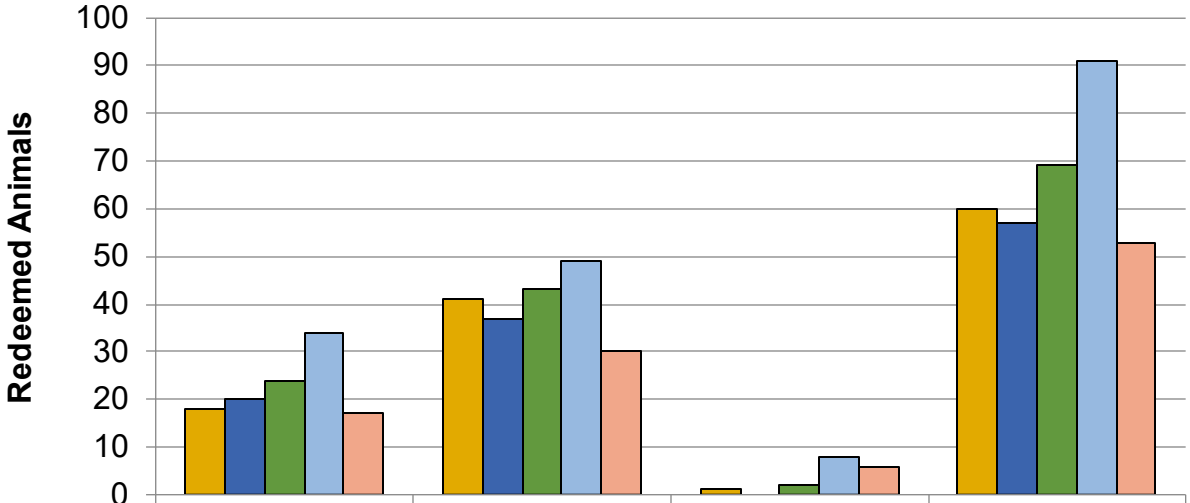


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	8	5	0	13
Aug-23	15	0	0	15
Aug-24	40	2	0	42
Aug-25	14	5	0	19
Aug-26	4	0	1	5



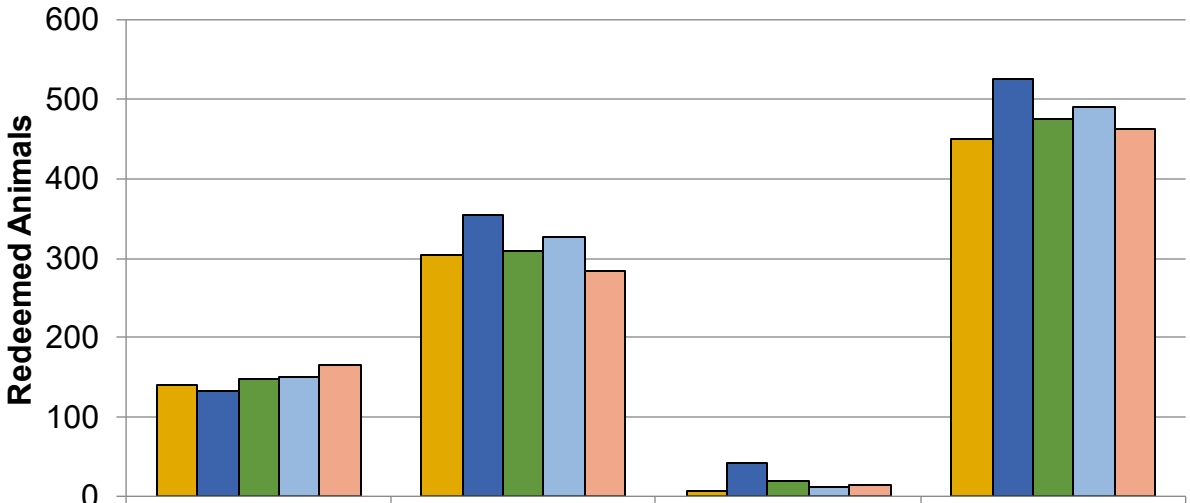
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	61	29	1	91
2023	58	16	1	75
2024	94	22	7	123
2025	61	34	2	97
2026	50	42	9	101

Redemptions August

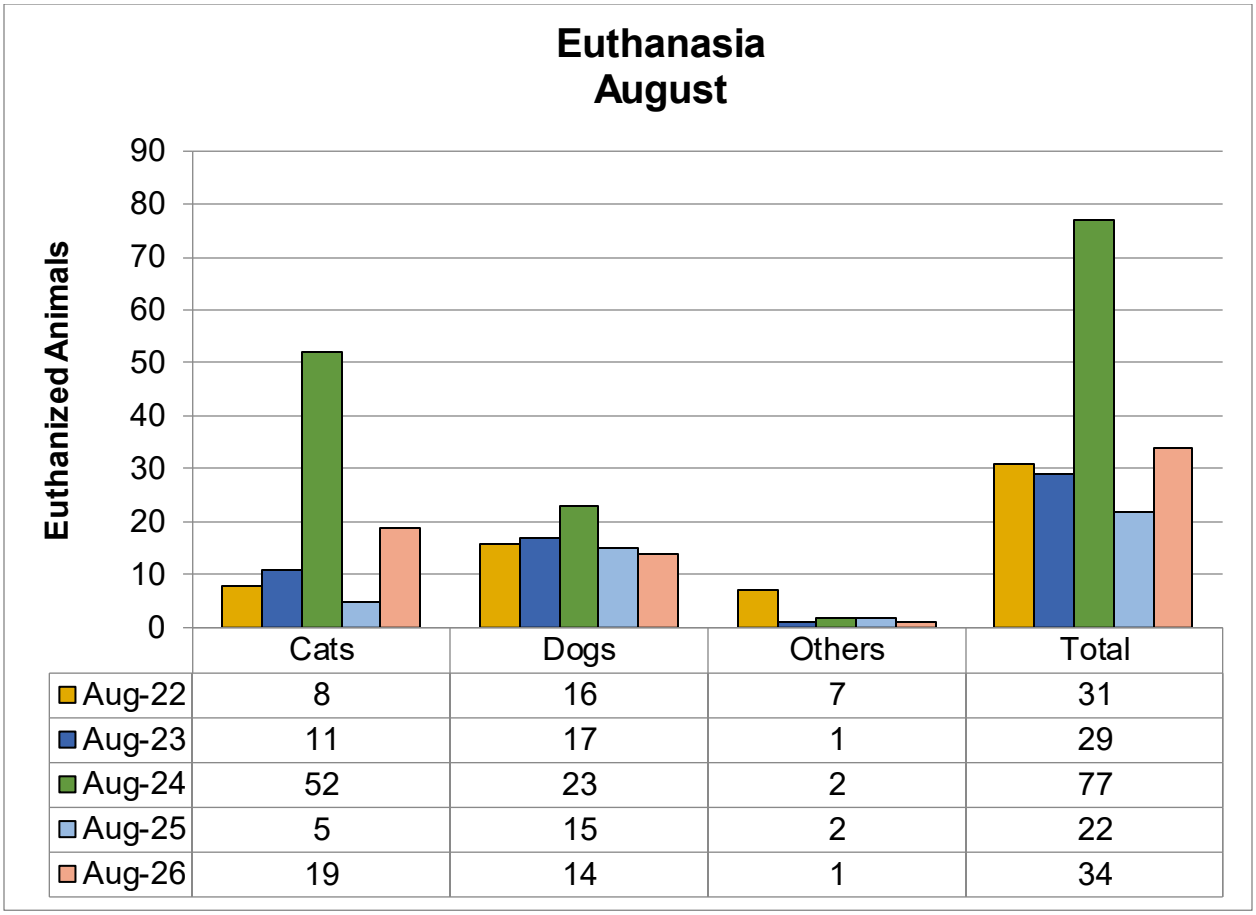


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	18	41	1	60
Aug-23	20	37	0	57
Aug-24	24	43	2	69
Aug-25	34	49	8	91
Aug-26	17	30	6	53

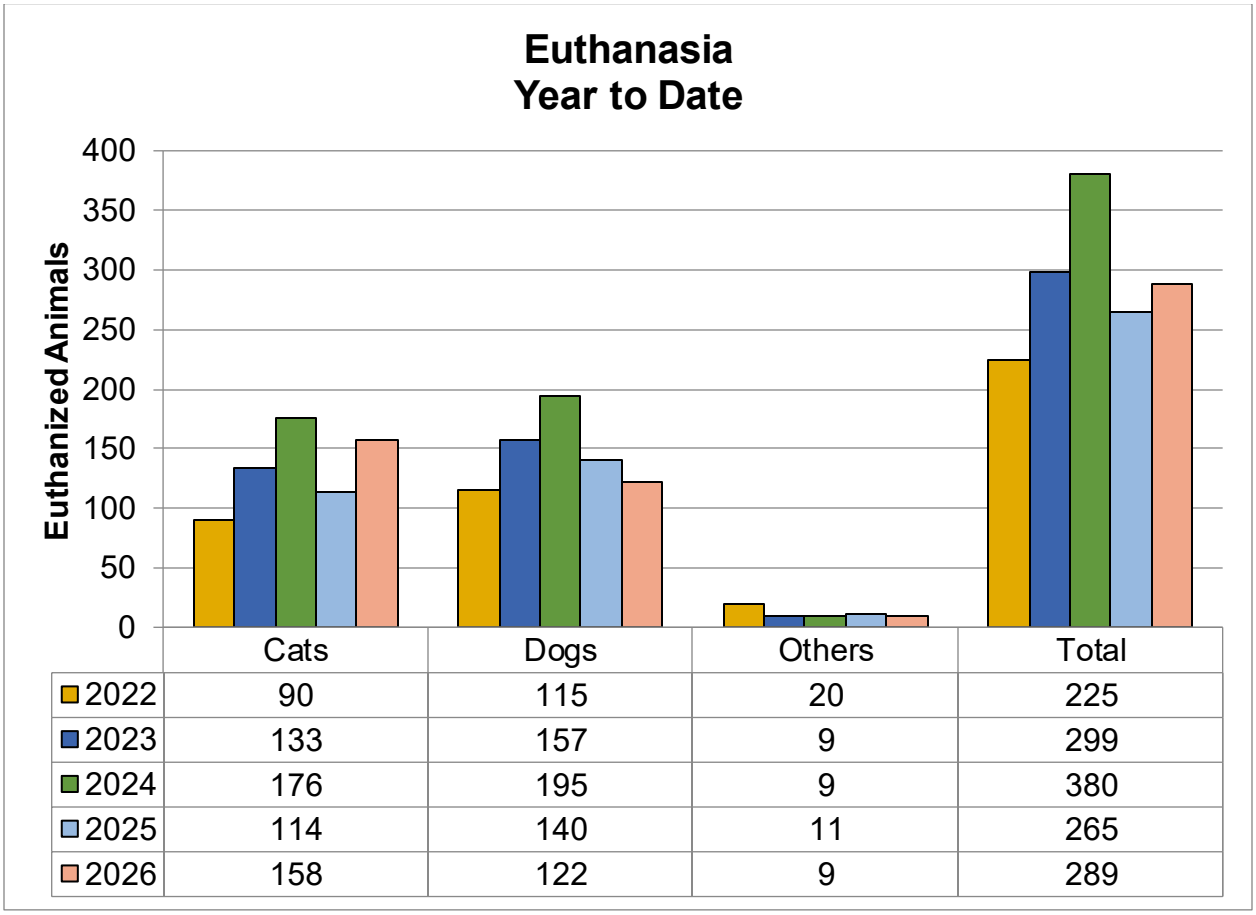
Redemptions Year to Date



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	139	305	6	450
2023	132	353	41	526
2024	147	309	19	475
2025	151	326	12	489
2026	166	283	14	463

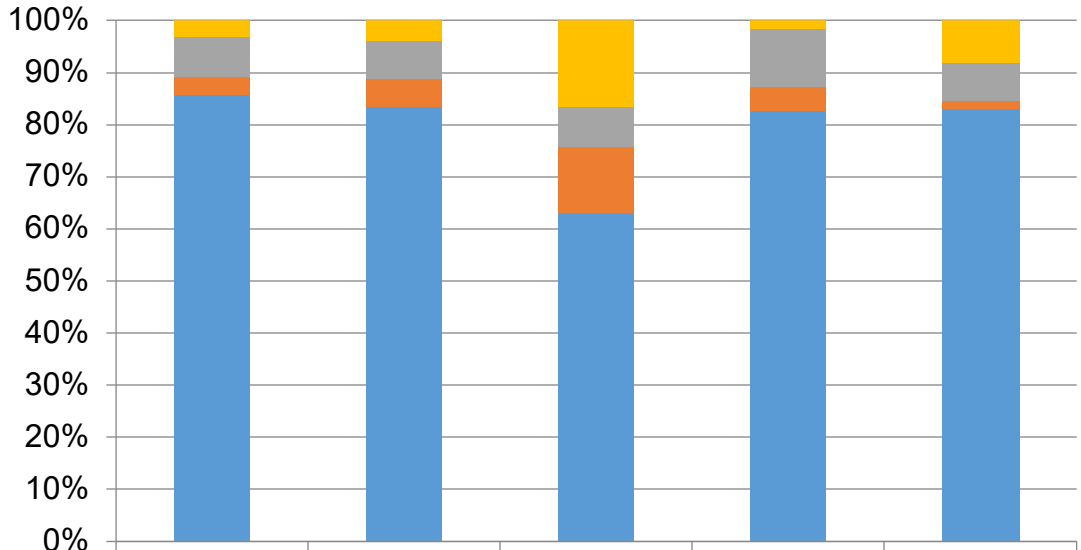


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	8	16	7	31
Aug-23	11	17	1	29
Aug-24	52	23	2	77
Aug-25	5	15	2	22
Aug-26	19	14	1	34



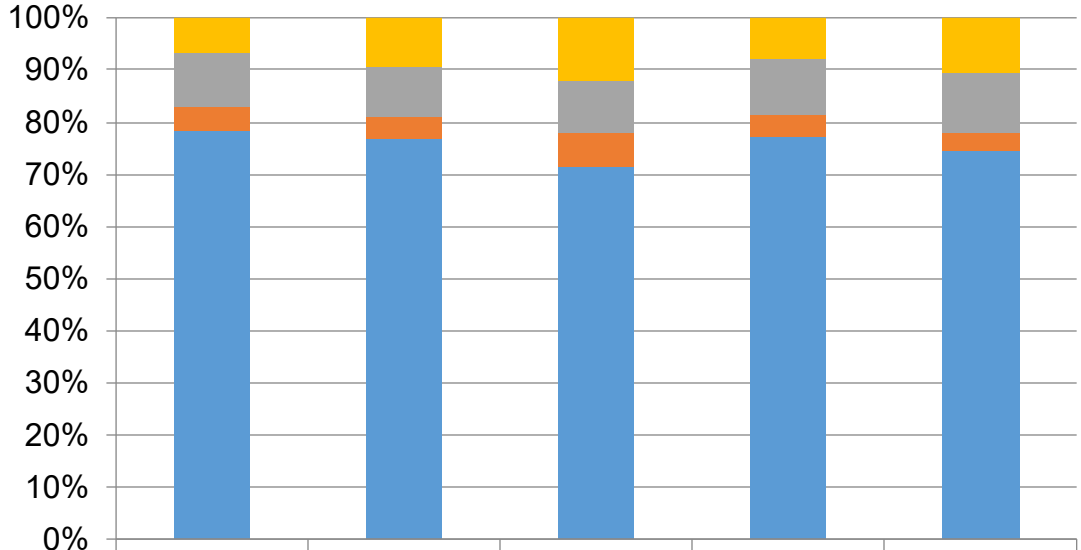
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	90	115	20	225
2023	133	157	9	299
2024	176	195	9	380
2025	114	140	11	265
2026	158	122	9	289

Outcomes by Percentage
Cats - August



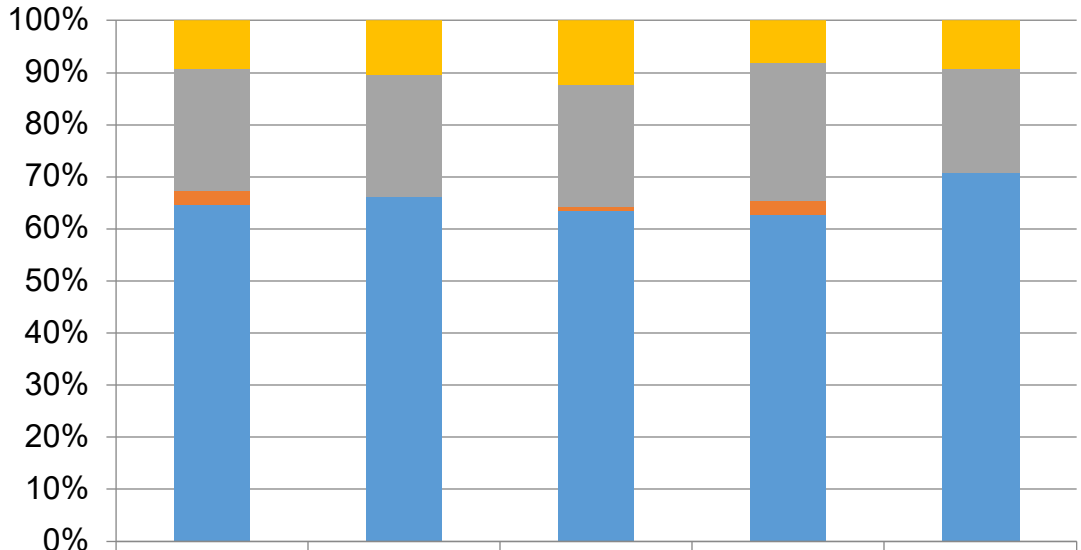
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Jul-25	Aug-26
Euthanasia	3.39%	3.99%	16.56%	1.64%	8.12%
Redemption	7.63%	7.25%	7.64%	11.18%	7.26%
Transfer	3.39%	5.43%	12.74%	4.61%	1.71%
Adoption	85.59%	83.33%	63.06%	82.57%	82.91%

Outcomes by Percentage
Cats - Year to Date



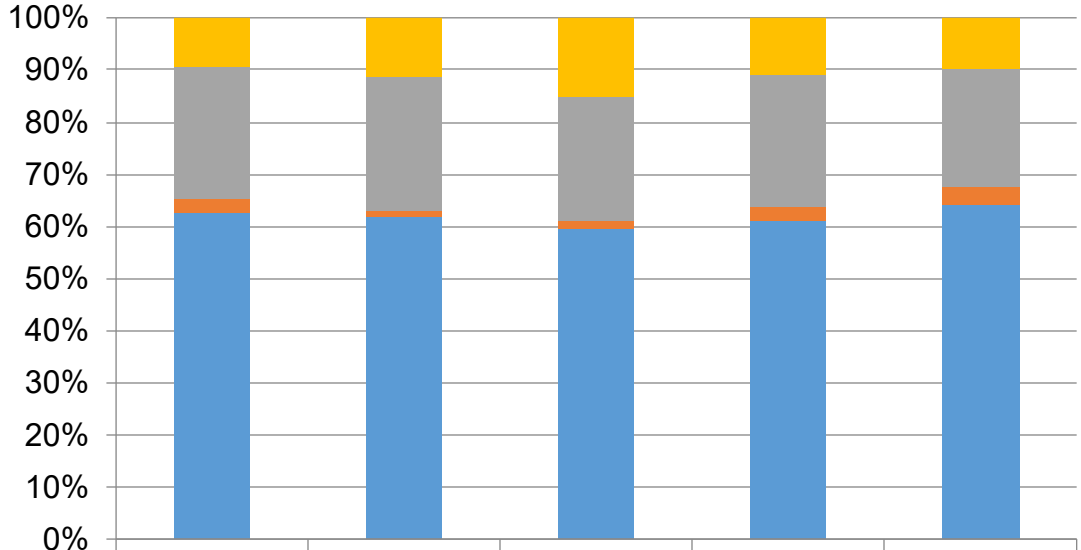
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Jul-25	Aug-26
Euthanasia	6.75%	9.53%	12.05%	8.03%	10.72%
Redemption	10.42%	9.46%	10.07%	10.64%	11.26%
Transfer	4.57%	4.16%	6.44%	4.30%	3.39%
Adoption	78.26%	76.85%	71.44%	77.03%	74.63%

Outcomes by Percentage Dogs - August



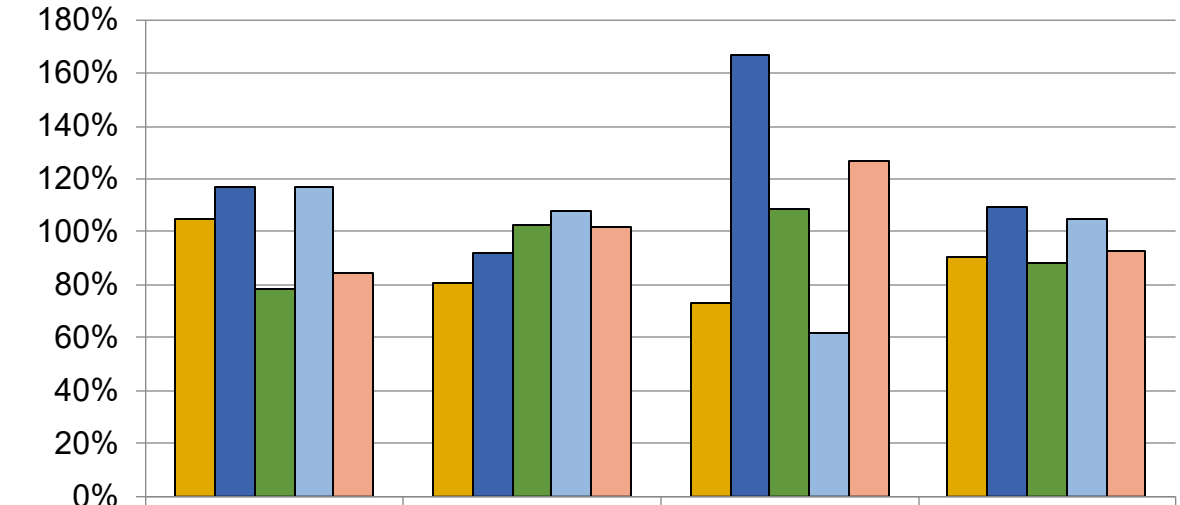
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Jul-25	Aug-26
Euthanasia	9.20%	10.69%	12.43%	8.11%	9.33%
Redemption	23.56%	23.27%	23.24%	26.49%	20.00%
Transfer	2.87%	0.00%	1.08%	2.70%	0.00%
Adoption	64.37%	66.04%	63.24%	62.70%	70.67%

Outcomes by Percentage Dogs - Year to Date



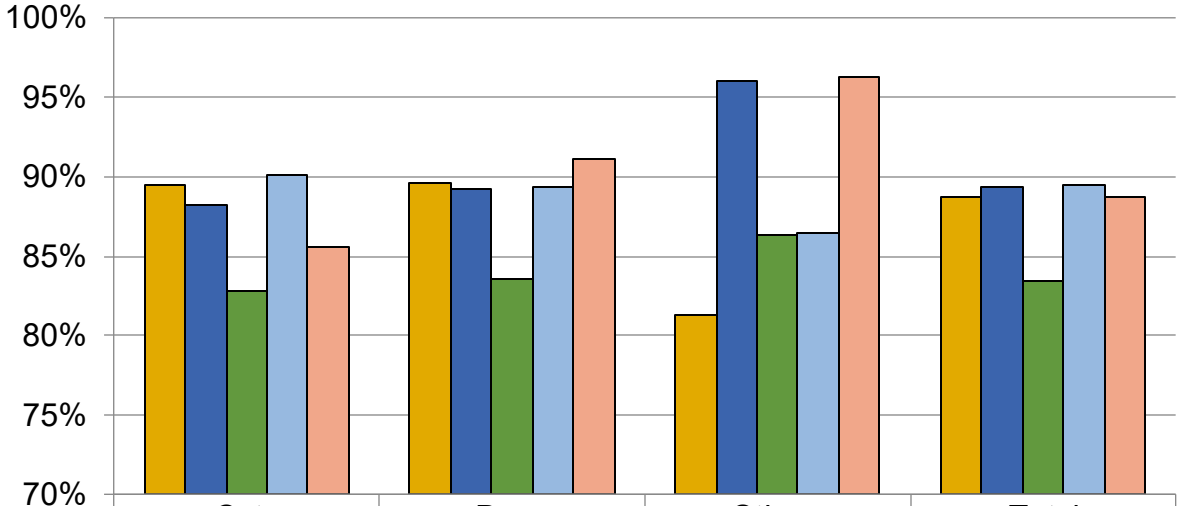
	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Jul-25	Aug-26
Euthanasia	9.56%	11.46%	15.07%	10.95%	9.80%
Redemption	25.35%	25.77%	23.88%	25.49%	22.73%
Transfer	2.41%	1.17%	1.70%	2.66%	3.37%
Adoption	62.68%	61.61%	59.35%	60.91%	64.10%

Save Rate
August



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Aug-22	105%	81%	73%	90%
Aug-23	117%	92%	167%	110%
Aug-24	78%	103%	109%	88%
Aug-25	117%	108%	62%	105%
Aug-26	85%	102%	127%	93%

Save Rate
Year to Date



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

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.