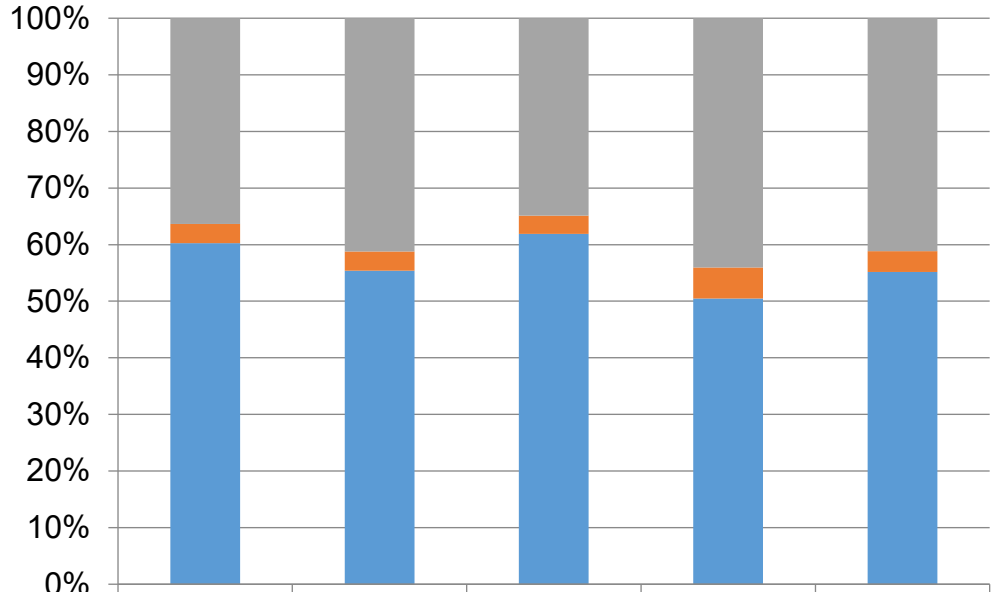
Dane County Humane Society
Rolling Release Rate
&
Save Rate
Overview

September 2026

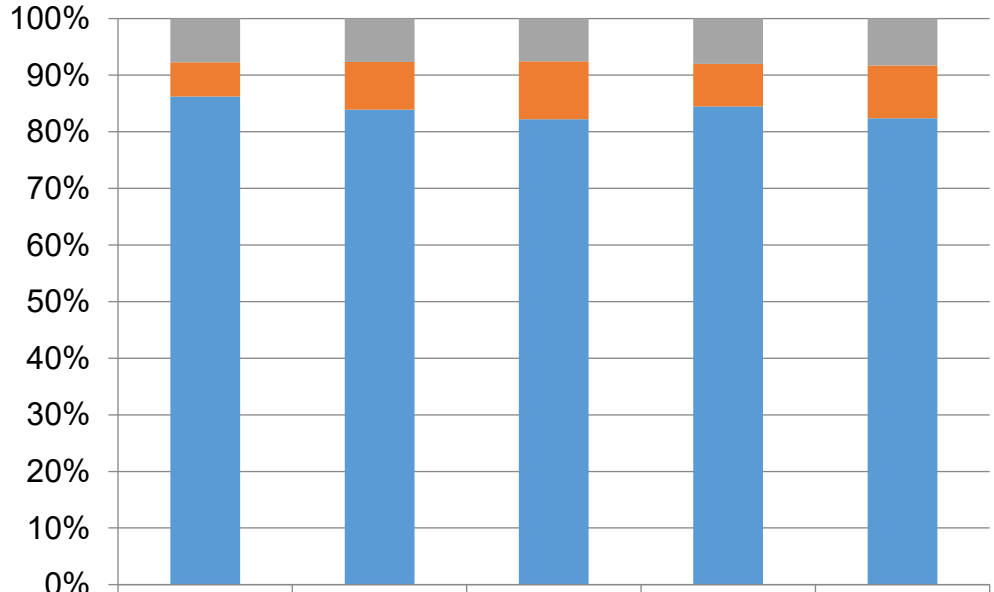
Report prepared by:
Doug Brown
Assistant Executive Director
Dane County Humane Society

Cat Rolling Release Rate
September



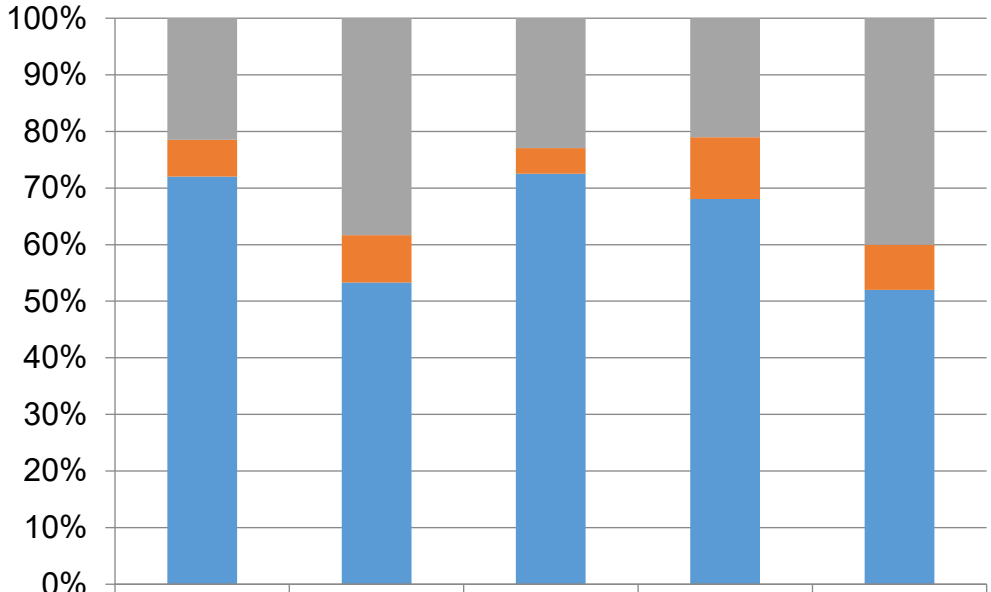
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Sanctuary Rate	36.36%	41.23%	34.86%	44.05%	41.14%
Euthanasia Rate	3.37%	3.38%	3.24%	5.47%	3.71%
Live Release Rate	60.27%	55.38%	61.89%	50.48%	55.14%

Cat Rolling Release Rate
Year to Date



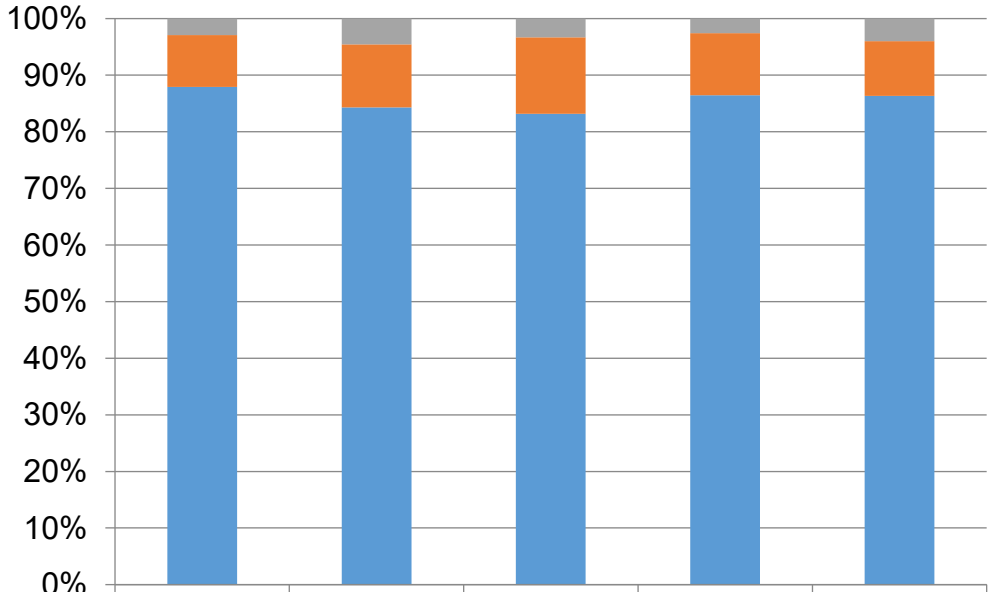
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Sanctuary Rate	7.70%	7.68%	7.55%	7.97%	8.30%
Euthanasia Rate	6.06%	8.38%	10.22%	7.57%	9.33%
Live Release Rate	86.24%	83.93%	82.23%	84.46%	82.37%

Dog Rolling Release Rate
September



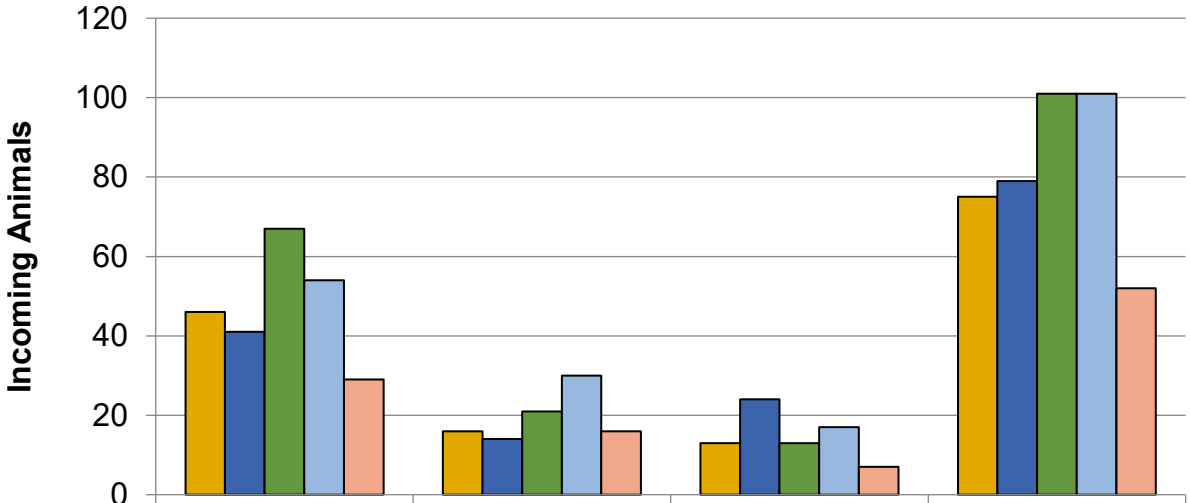
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Sanctuary Rate	21.50%	38.33%	22.97%	21.00%	40.00%
Euthanasia Rate	6.50%	8.37%	4.50%	10.96%	8.00%
Live Release Rate	72.00%	53.30%	72.52%	68.04%	52.00%

Dog Rolling Release Rate
Year to Date



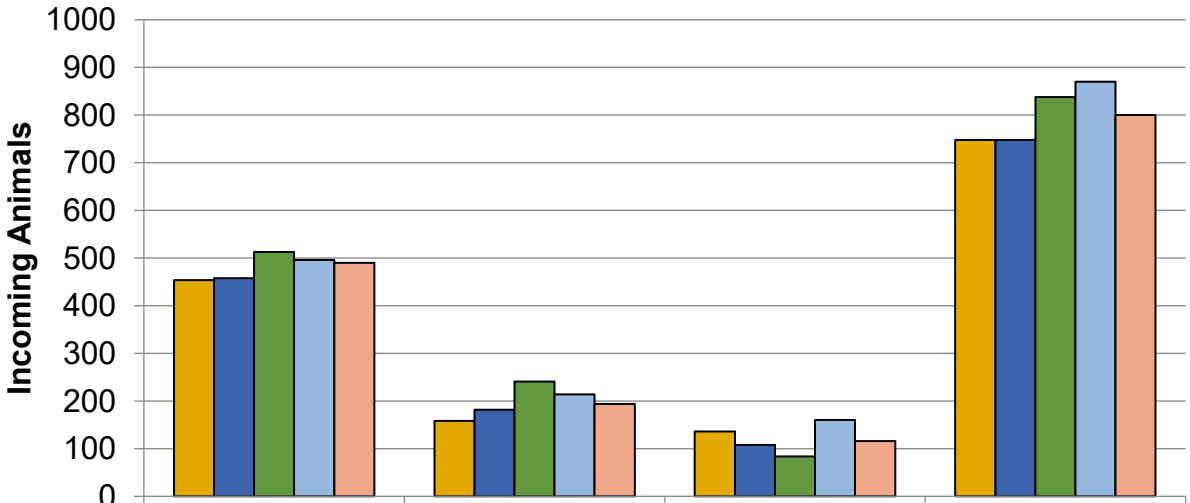
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Sanctuary Rate	2.93%	4.55%	3.30%	2.55%	3.98%
Euthanasia Rate	9.14%	11.13%	13.53%	11.01%	9.67%
Live Release Rate	87.94%	84.32%	83.17%	86.44%	86.34%

Surrenders
Septmeber

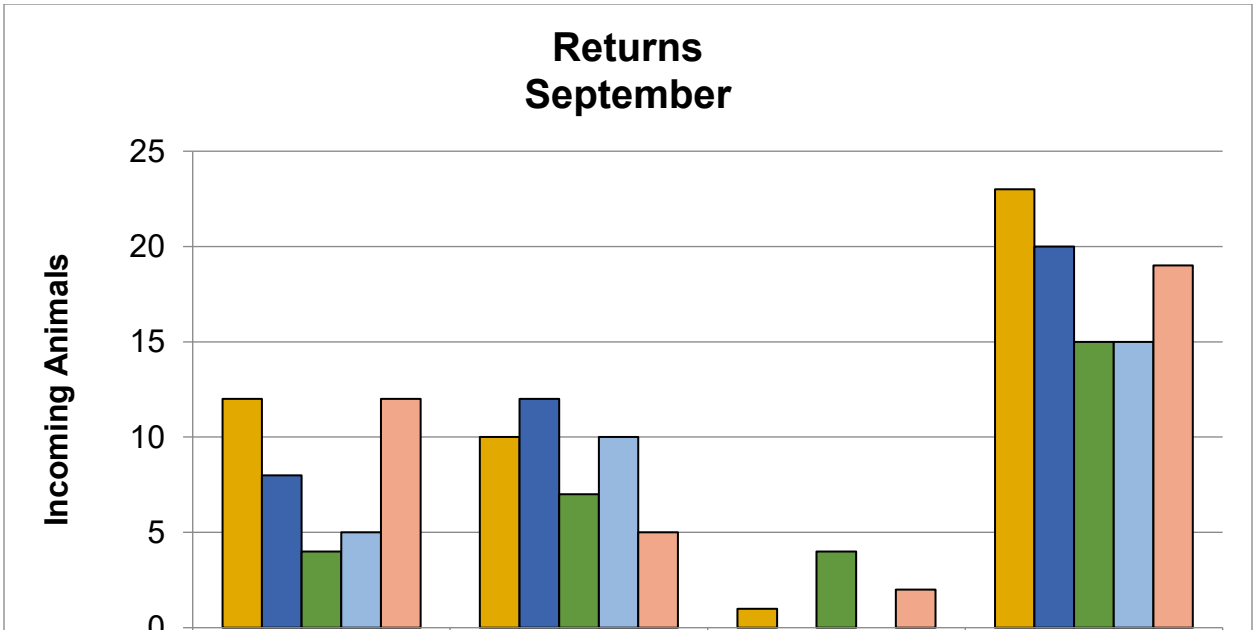


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	46	16	13	75
Sep-23	41	14	24	79
Sep-24	67	21	13	101
Sep-25	54	30	17	101
Sep-26	29	16	7	52

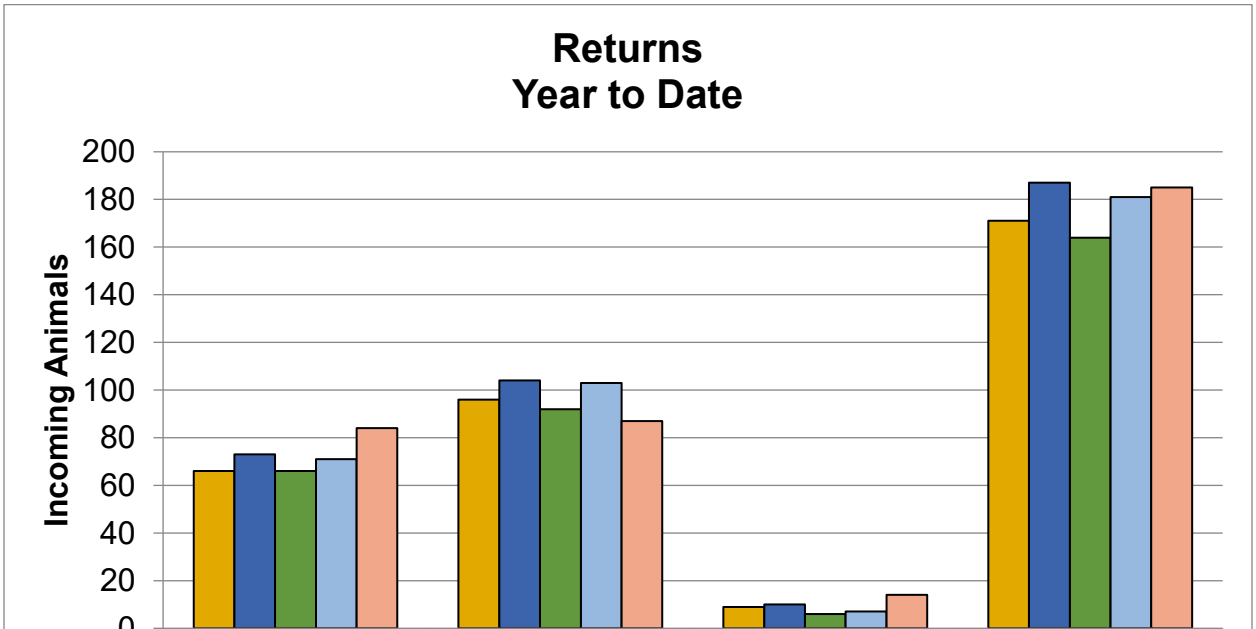
Surrenders
Year to Date



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	454	158	136	748
2023	458	182	108	748
2024	513	241	84	838
2025	496	214	160	870
2026	490	194	116	800

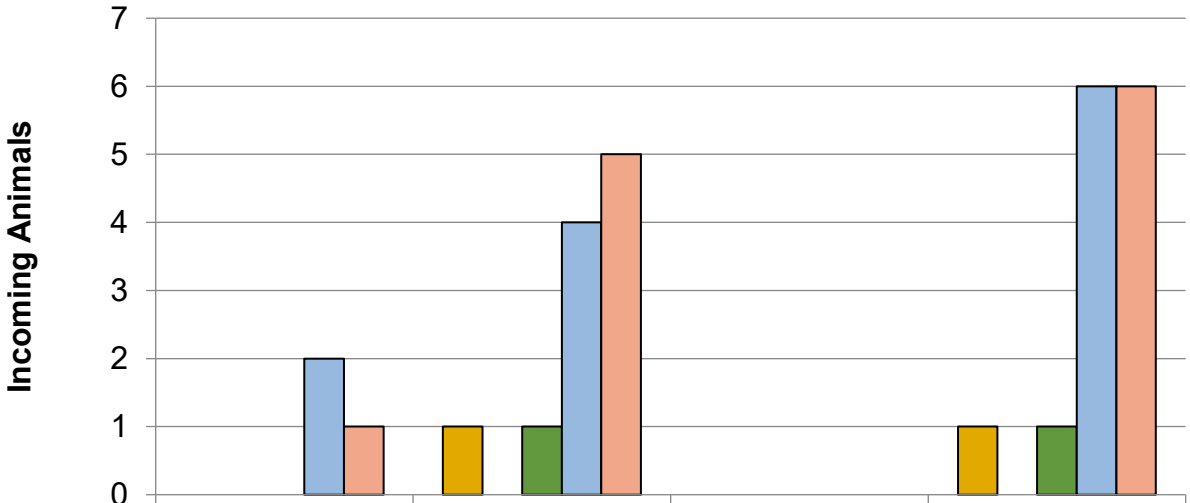


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	12	10	1	23
Sep-23	8	12	0	20
Sep-24	4	7	4	15
Sep-25	5	10	0	15
Sep-26	12	5	2	19



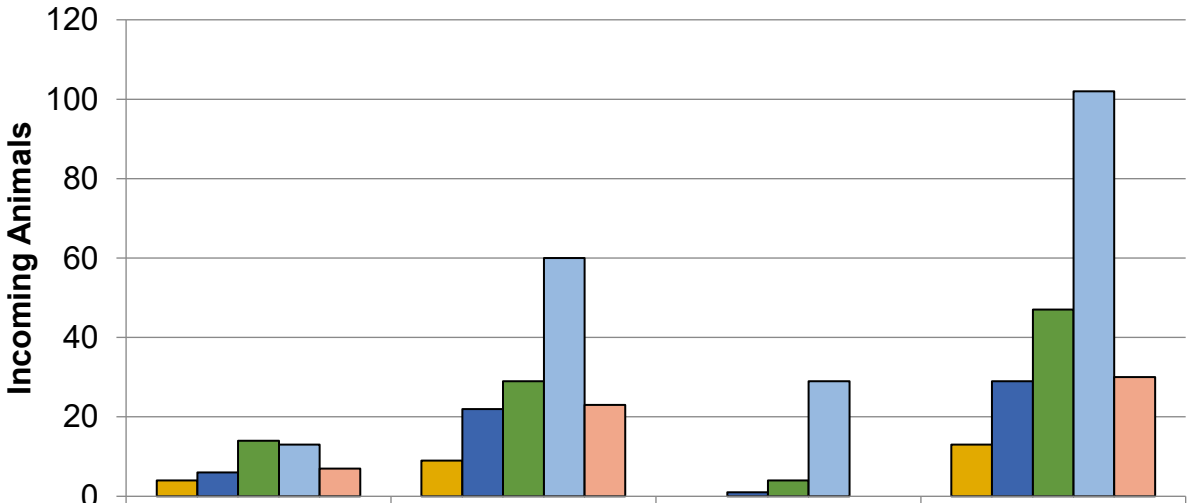
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	66	96	9	171
2023	73	104	10	187
2024	66	92	6	164
2025	71	103	7	181
2026	84	87	14	185

Seized / Custody
September



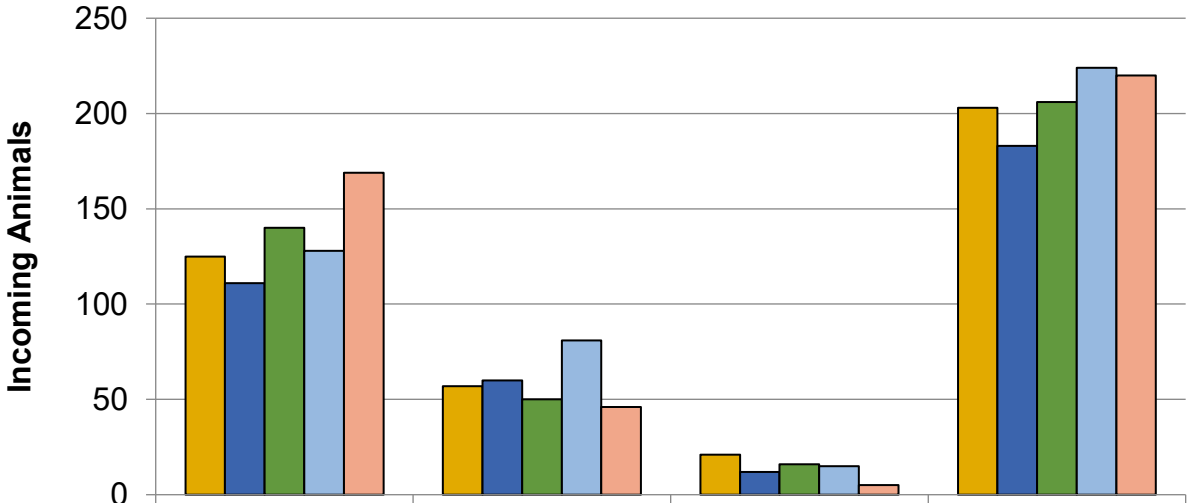
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	0	1	0	1
Sep-23	0	0	0	0
Sep-24	0	1	0	1
Sep-25	2	4	0	6
Sep-26	1	5	0	6

Seized / Custody
Year to Date



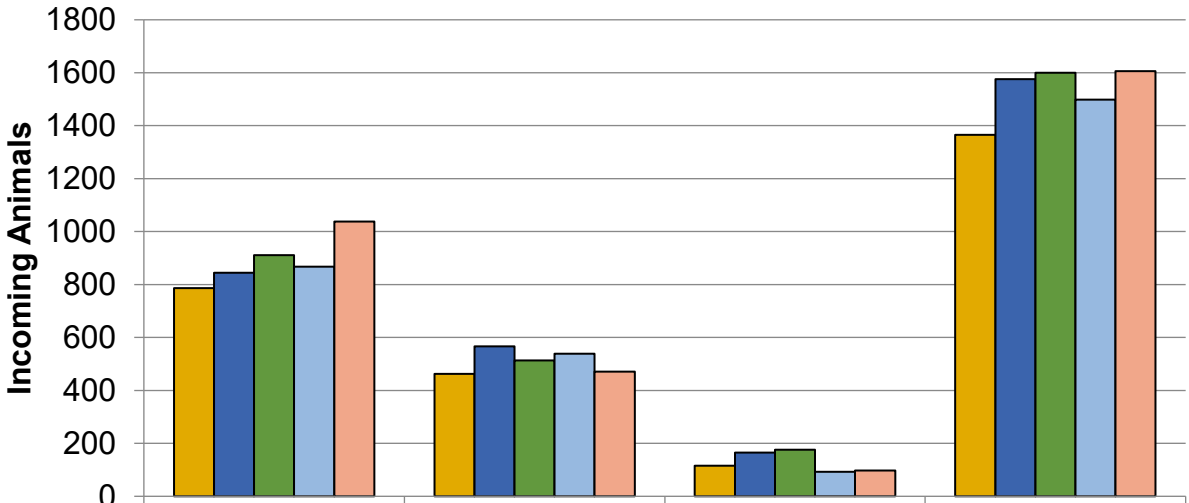
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	4	9	0	13
2023	6	22	1	29
2024	14	29	4	47
2025	13	60	29	102
2026	7	23	0	30

Stray
September

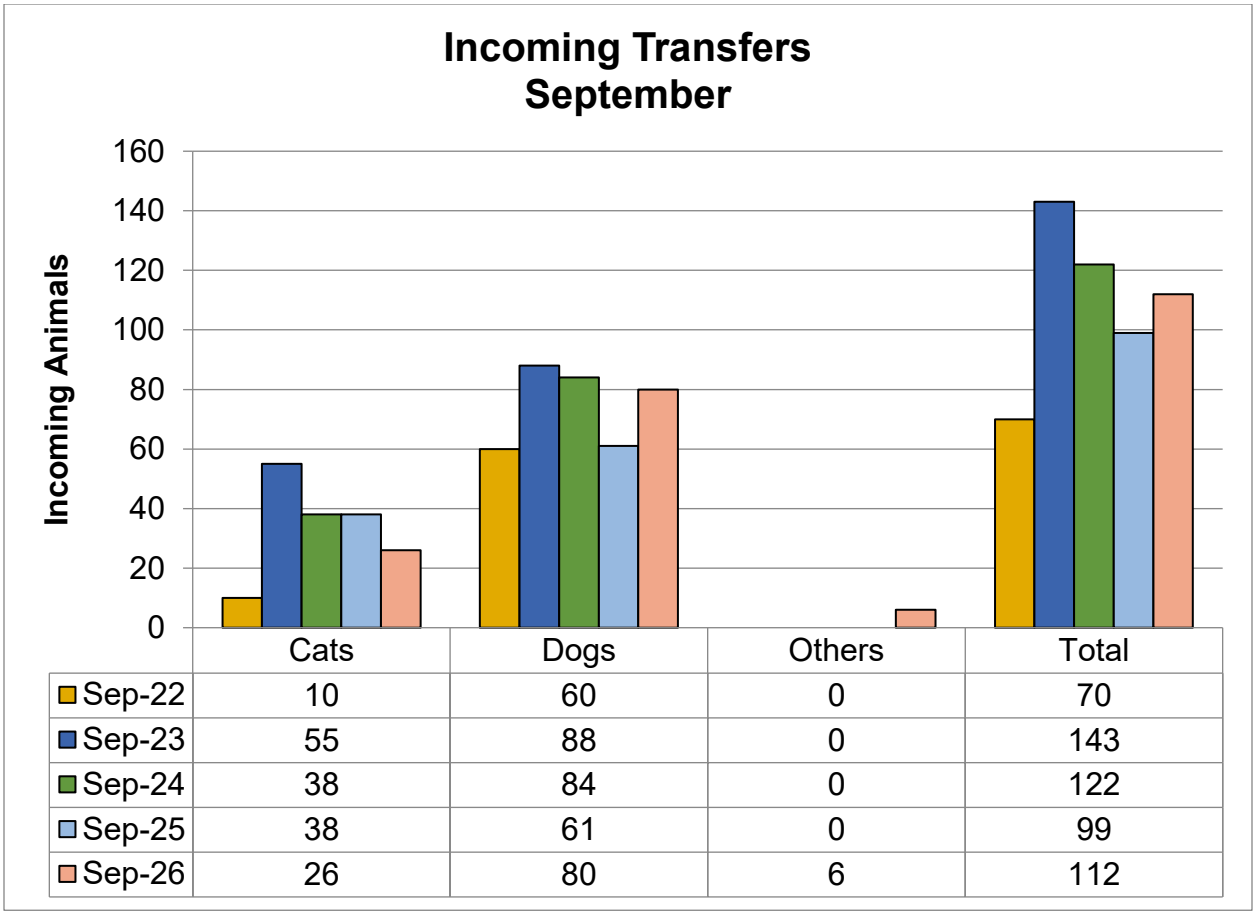


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	125	57	21	203
Sep-23	111	60	12	183
Sep-24	140	50	16	206
Sep-25	128	81	15	224
Sep-26	169	46	5	220

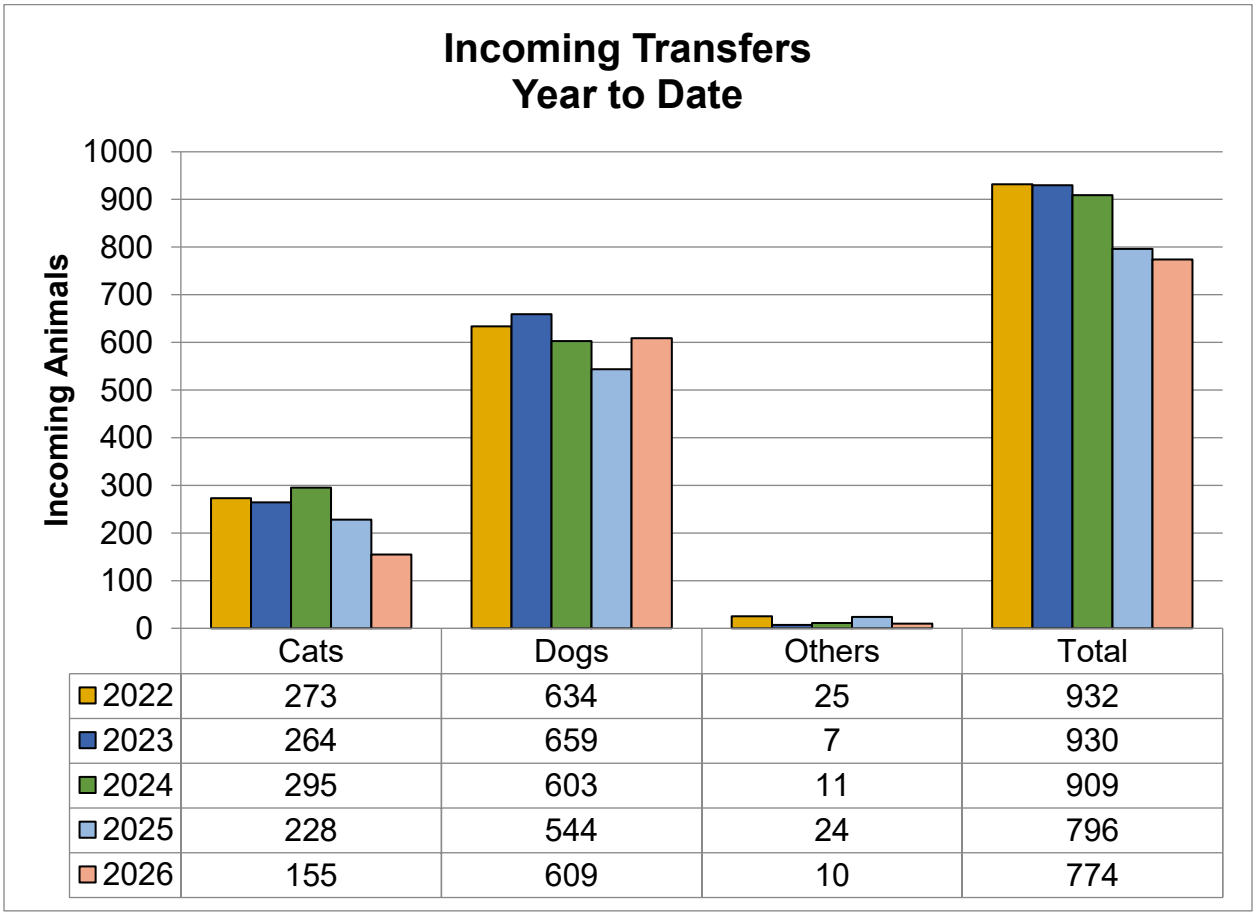
Stray
Year to Date



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	787	462	116	1365
2023	845	566	165	1576
2024	911	513	176	1600
2025	867	539	93	1499
2026	1038	471	97	1606

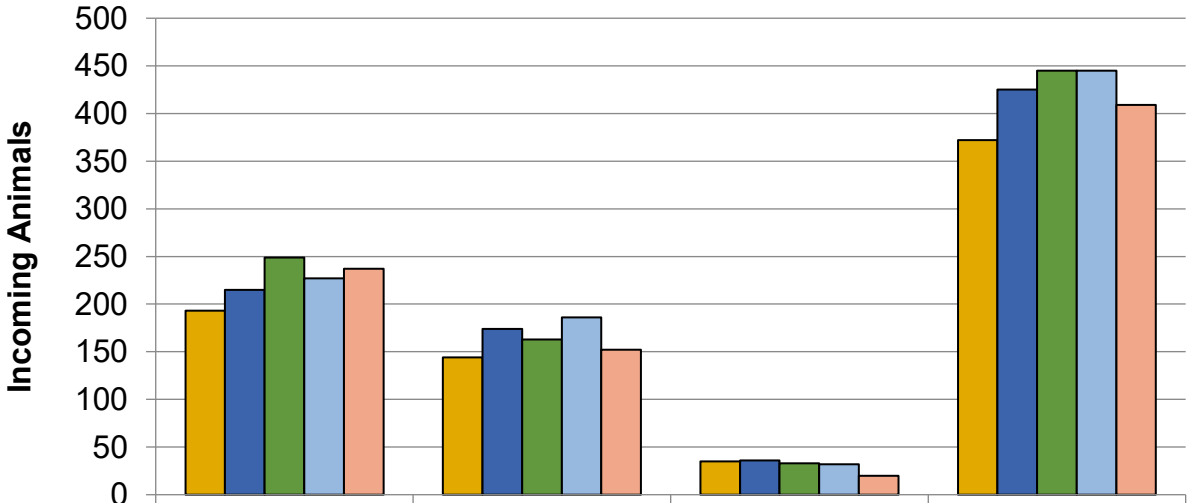


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	10	60	0	70
Sep-23	55	88	0	143
Sep-24	38	84	0	122
Sep-25	38	61	0	99
Sep-26	26	80	6	112



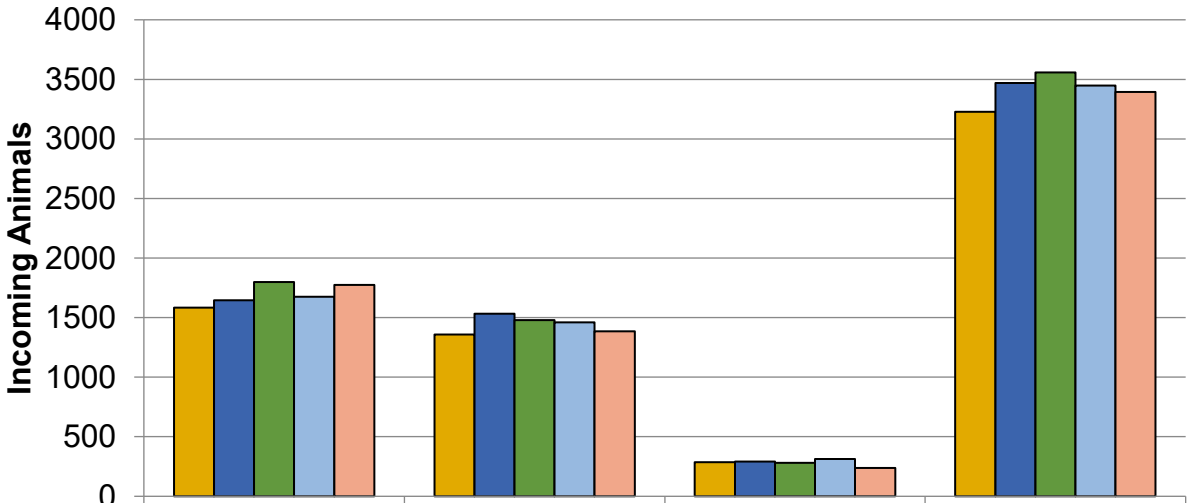
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	273	634	25	932
2023	264	659	7	930
2024	295	603	11	909
2025	228	544	24	796
2026	155	609	10	774

Intake
September



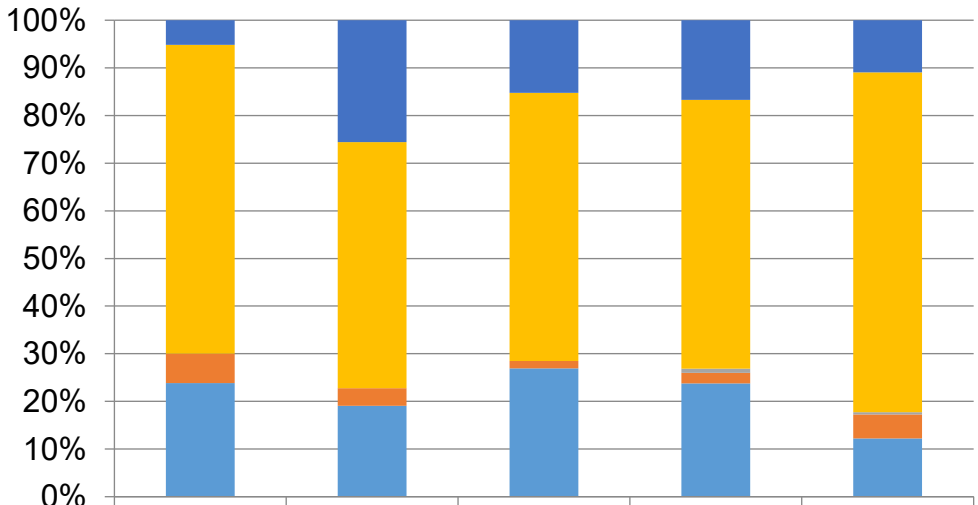
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	193	144	35	372
Sep-23	215	174	36	425
Sep-24	249	163	33	445
Sep-25	227	186	32	445
Sep-26	237	152	20	409

Intake
Year to Date



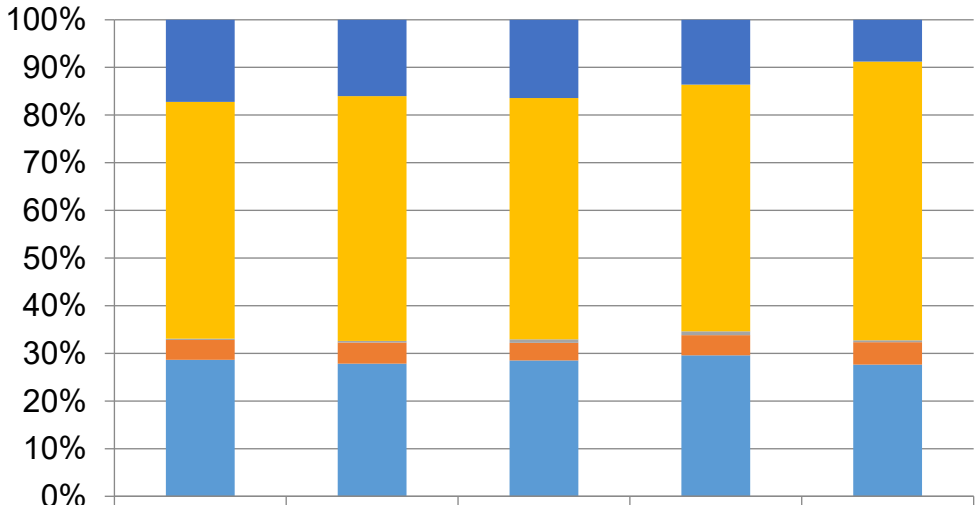
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	1584	1359	286	3229
2023	1646	1533	291	3470
2024	1799	1478	281	3558
2025	1675	1460	313	3448
2026	1774	1384	237	3395

Intakes by Percentage
Cats - September



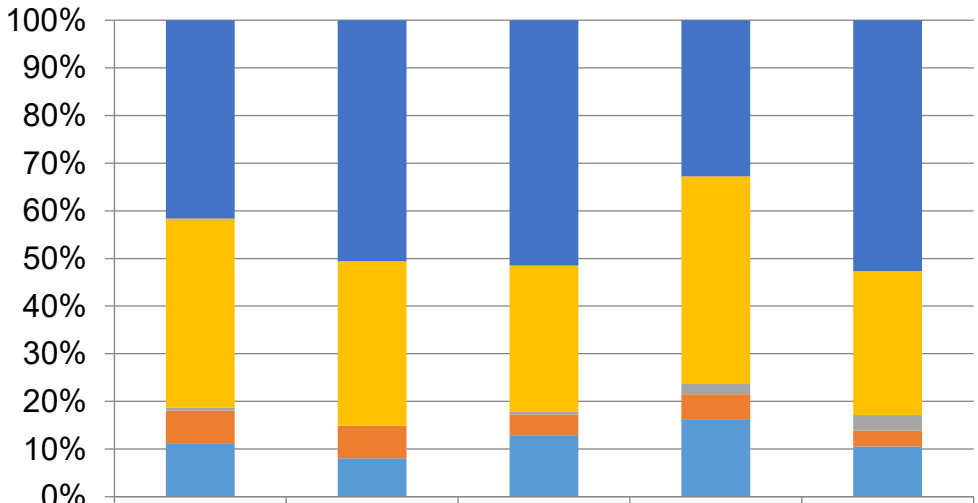
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Incoming Transfers	5.18%	25.58%	15.26%	16.74%	10.97%
Strays	64.77%	51.63%	56.22%	56.39%	71.31%
Seized / Custody	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.88%	0.42%
Returns	6.22%	3.72%	1.61%	2.20%	5.06%
Owner Surrenders	23.83%	19.07%	26.91%	23.79%	12.24%

Intakes by Percentage
Cats - Year to Date



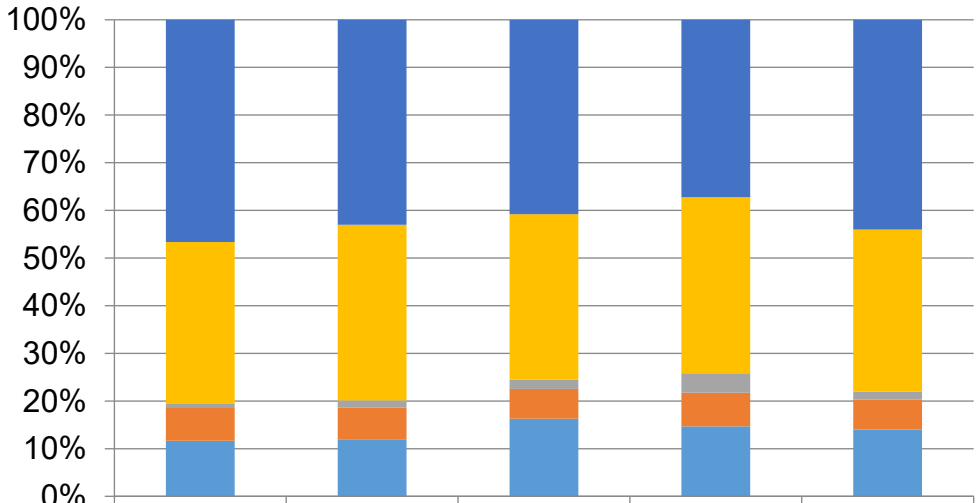
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Incoming Transfers	17.23%	16.04%	16.40%	13.61%	8.74%
Strays	49.68%	51.34%	50.64%	51.76%	58.51%
Seized / Custody	0.25%	0.36%	0.78%	0.78%	0.39%
Returns	4.17%	4.43%	3.67%	4.24%	4.74%
Owner Surrenders	28.66%	27.83%	28.52%	29.61%	27.62%

Intakes by Percentage
Dogs - September

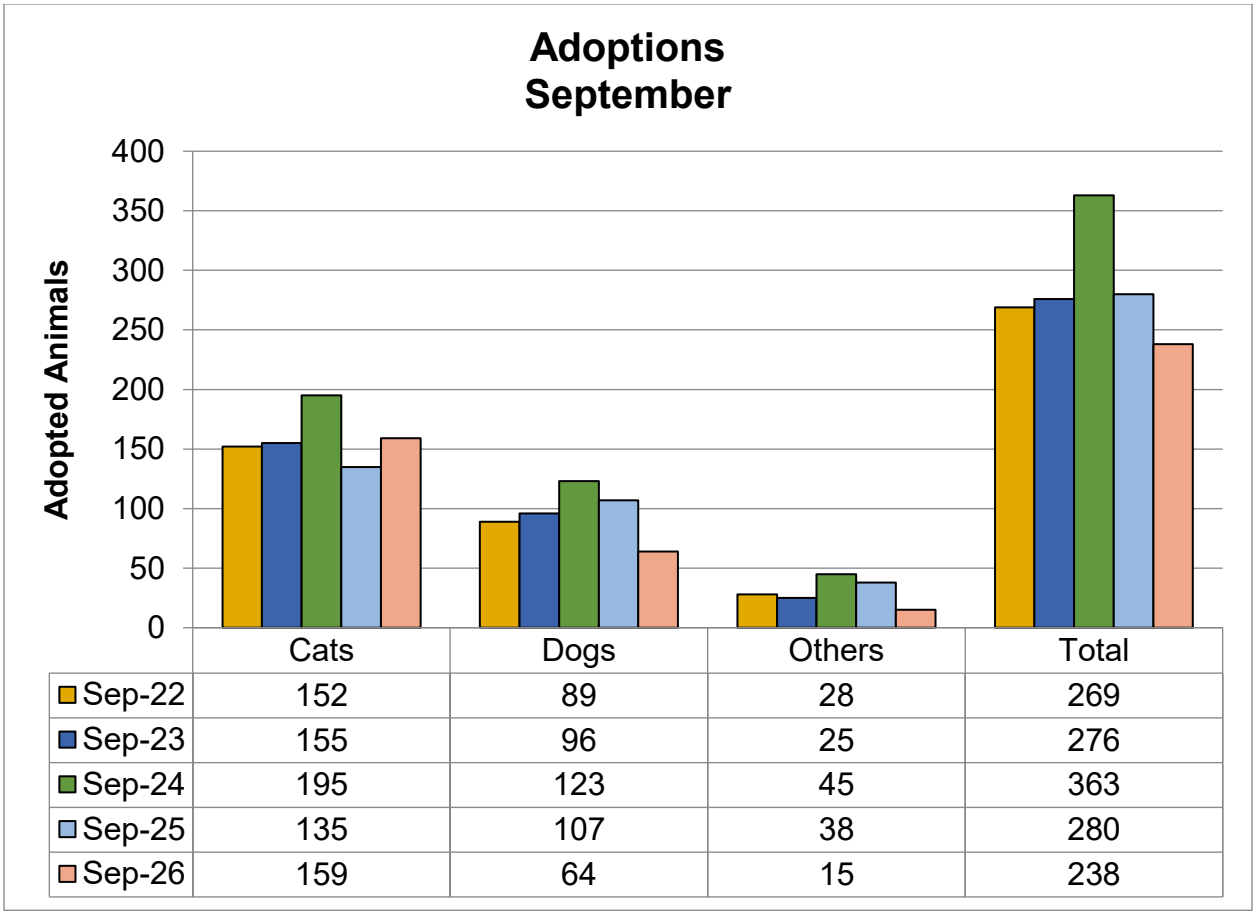


	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Incoming Transfers	41.67%	50.57%	51.53%	32.80%	52.63%
Strays	39.58%	34.48%	30.67%	43.55%	30.26%
Seized / Custody	0.69%	0.00%	0.61%	2.15%	3.29%
Returns	6.94%	6.90%	4.29%	5.38%	3.29%
Owner Surrenders	11.11%	8.05%	12.88%	16.13%	10.53%

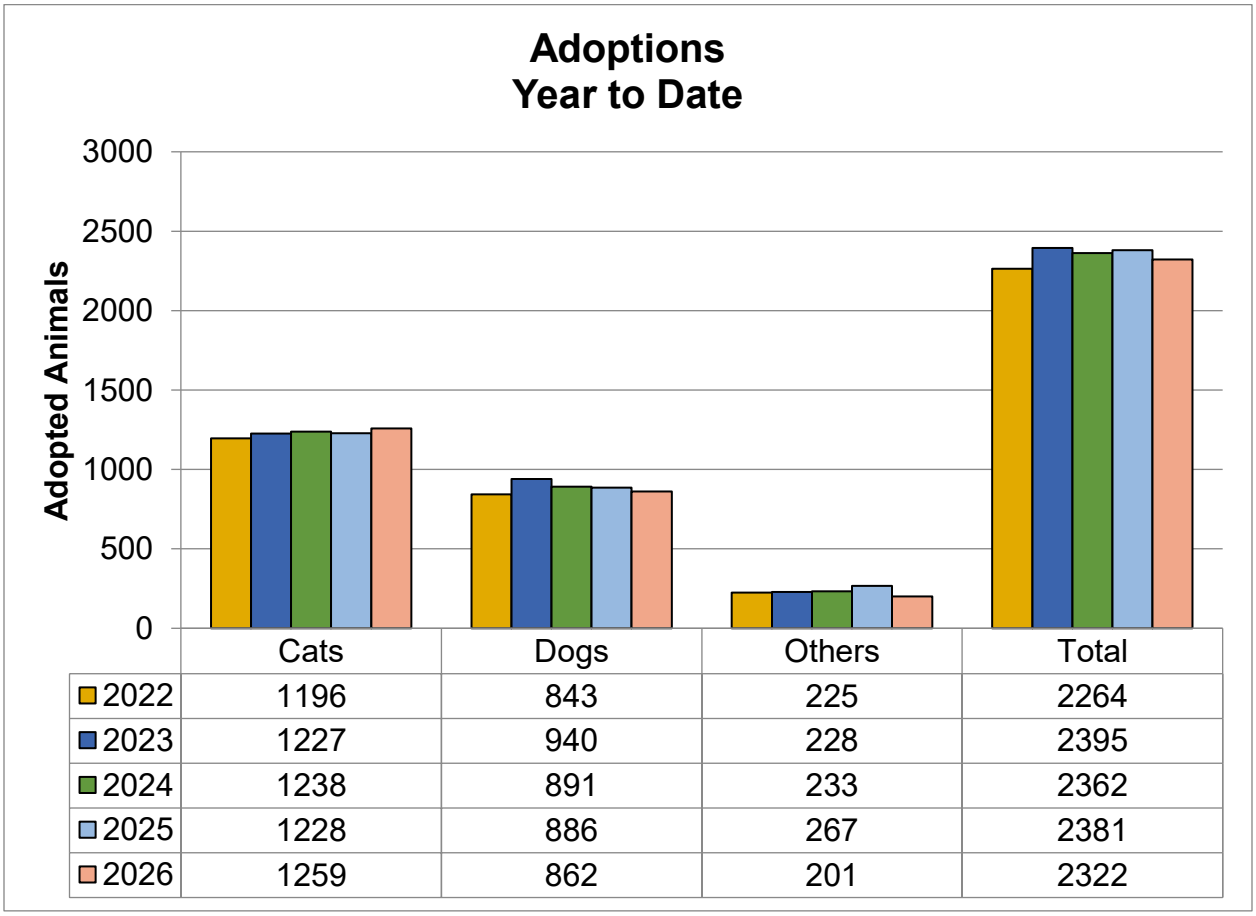
Intakes by Percentage
Dogs - Year to Date



	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Incoming Transfers	46.65%	42.99%	40.80%	37.26%	44.00%
Strays	34.00%	36.92%	34.71%	36.92%	34.03%
Seized / Custody	0.66%	1.44%	1.96%	4.11%	1.66%
Returns	7.06%	6.78%	6.22%	7.05%	6.29%
Owner Surrenders	11.63%	11.87%	16.31%	14.66%	14.02%

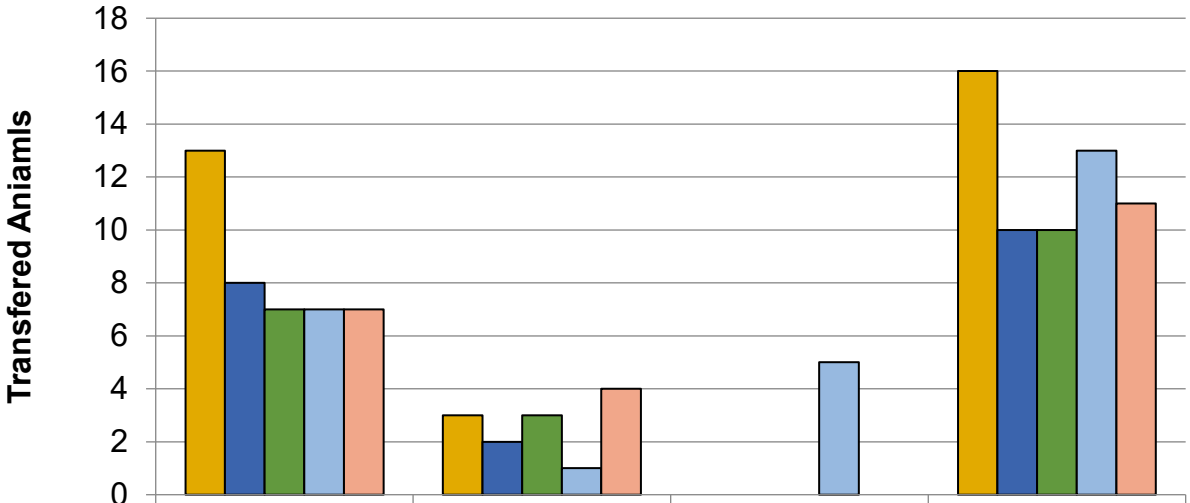


	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	152	89	28	269
Sep-23	155	96	25	276
Sep-24	195	123	45	363
Sep-25	135	107	38	280
Sep-26	159	64	15	238



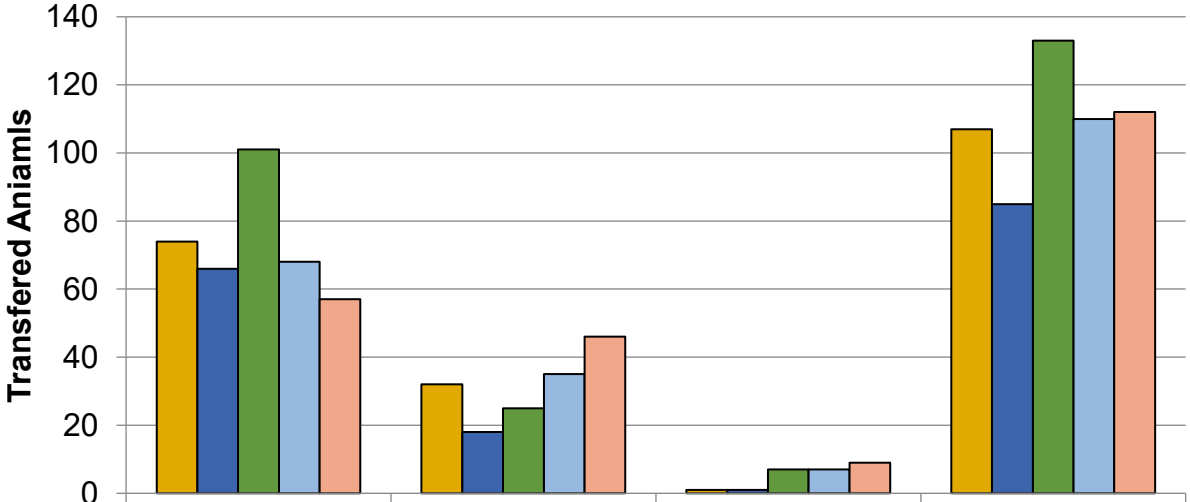
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	1196	843	225	2264
2023	1227	940	228	2395
2024	1238	891	233	2362
2025	1228	886	267	2381
2026	1259	862	201	2322

Outgoing Transfers
September



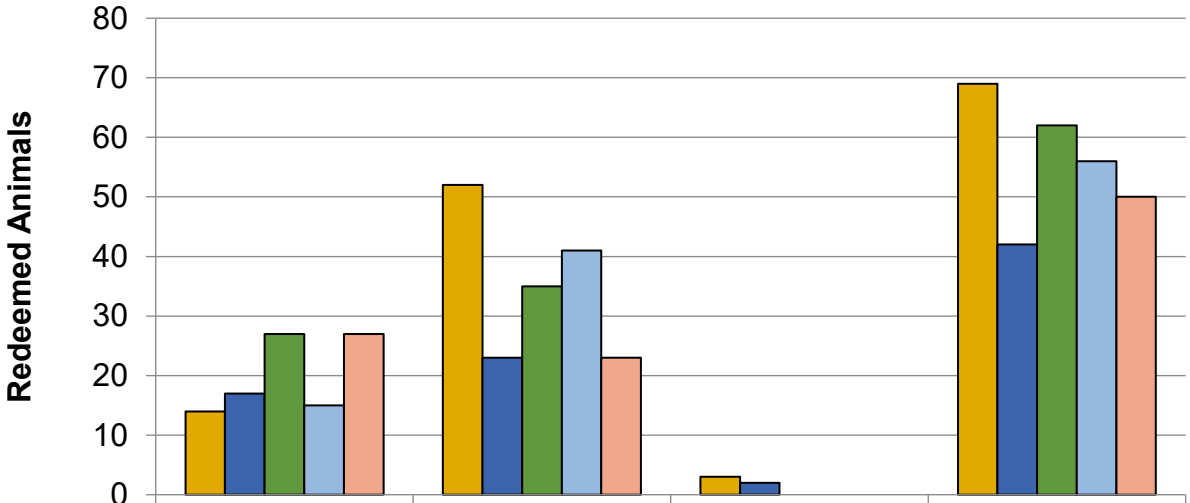
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	13	3	0	16
Sep-23	8	2	0	10
Sep-24	7	3	0	10
Sep-25	7	1	5	13
Sep-26	7	4	0	11

Outgoing Transfers
Year to Date



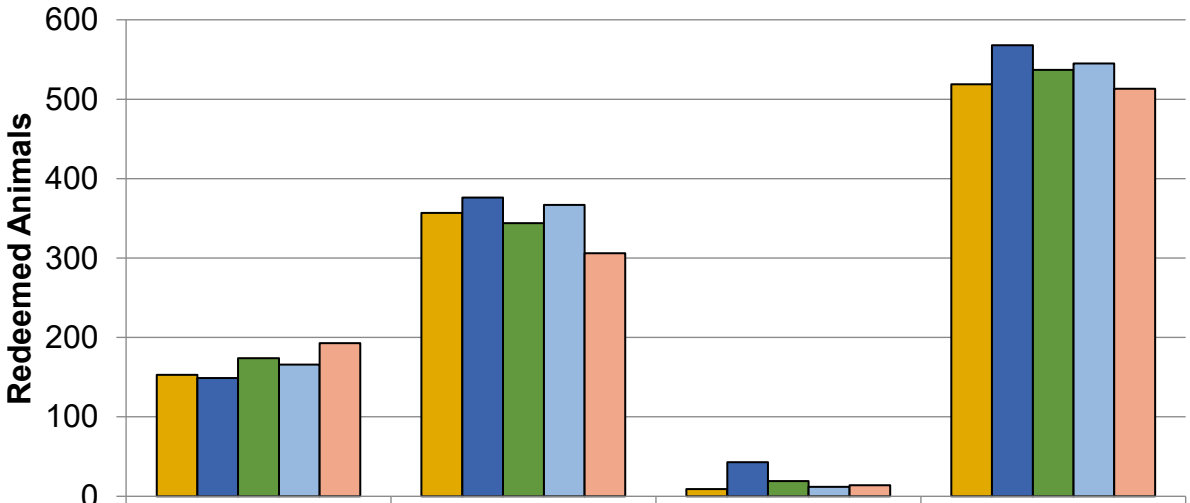
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	74	32	1	107
2023	66	18	1	85
2024	101	25	7	133
2025	68	35	7	110
2026	57	46	9	112

Redemptions September



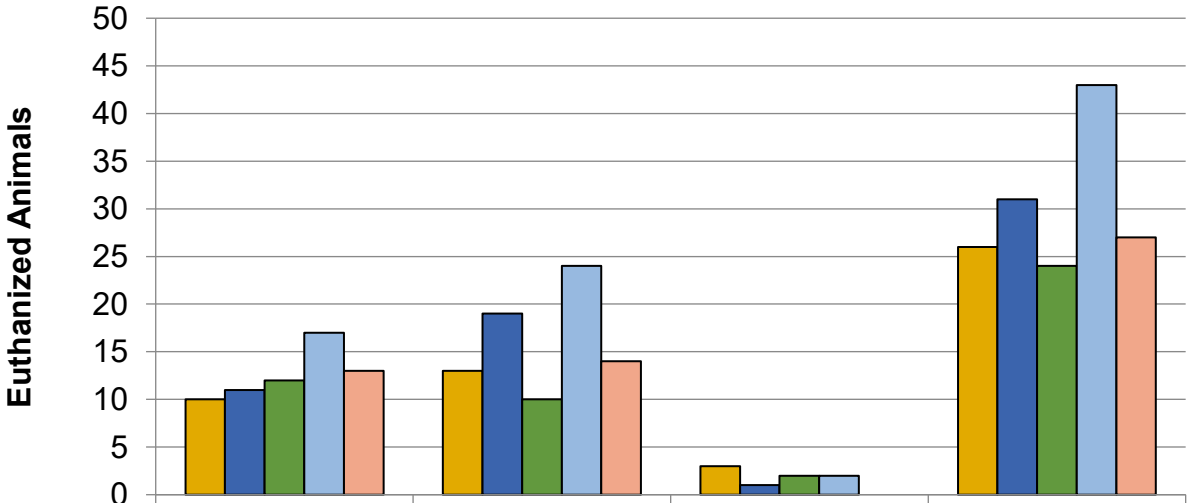
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	14	52	3	69
Sep-23	17	23	2	42
Sep-24	27	35	0	62
Sep-25	15	41	0	56
Sep-26	27	23	0	50

Redemptions Year to Date



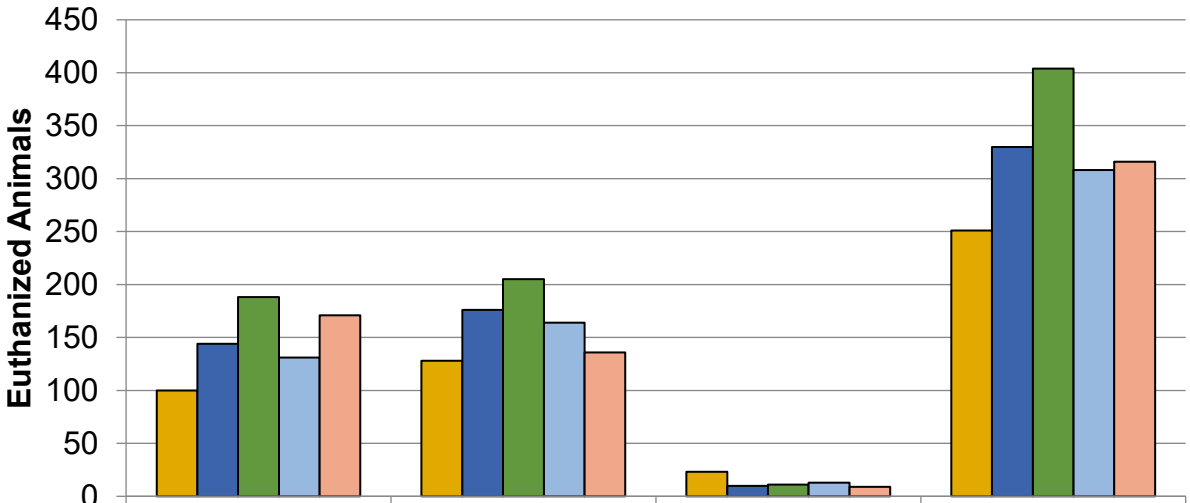
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	153	357	9	519
2023	149	376	43	568
2024	174	344	19	537
2025	166	367	12	545
2026	193	306	14	513

Euthanasia
September



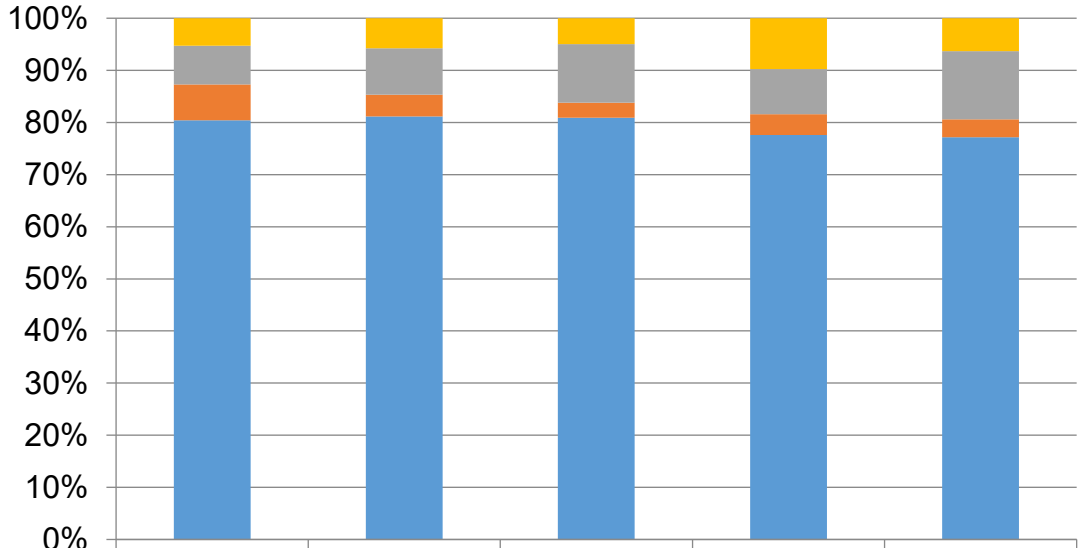
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	10	13	3	26
Sep-23	11	19	1	31
Sep-24	12	10	2	24
Sep-25	17	24	2	43
Sep-26	13	14	0	27

Euthanasia
Year to Date



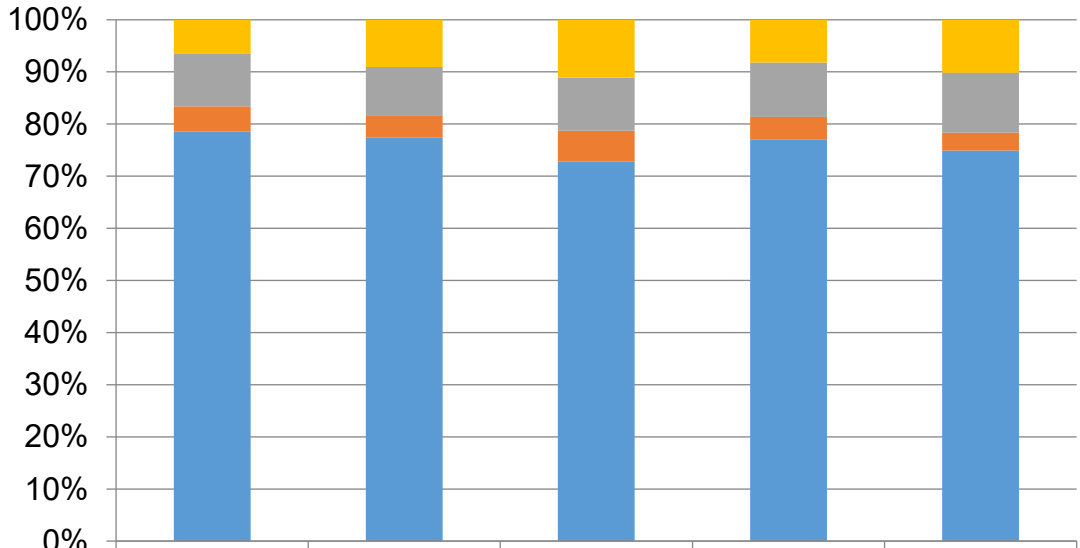
	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	100	128	23	251
2023	144	176	10	330
2024	188	205	11	404
2025	131	164	13	308
2026	171	136	9	316

Outcomes by Percentage
Cats - September



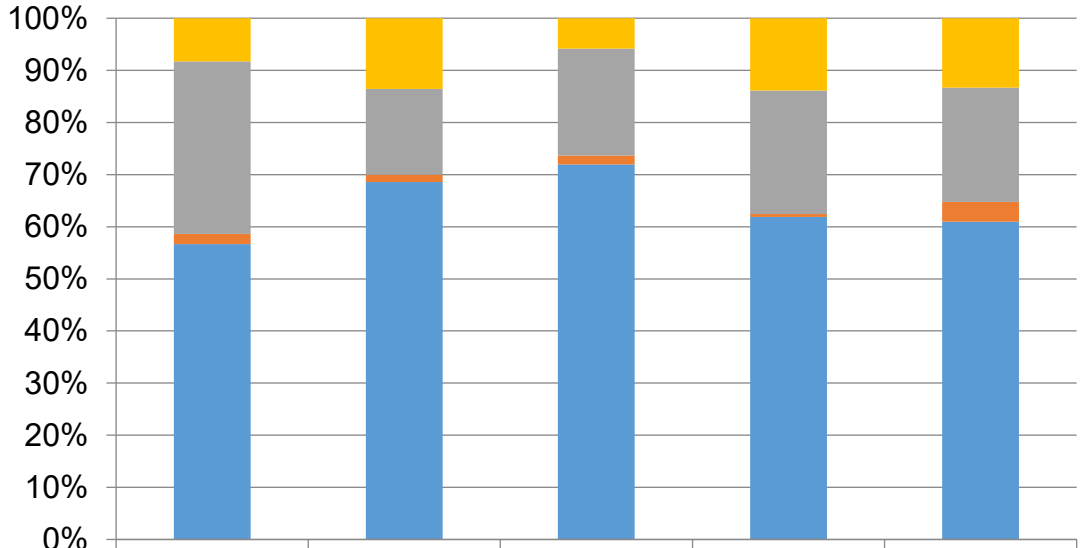
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Euthanasia	5.29%	5.76%	4.98%	9.77%	6.31%
Redemption	7.41%	8.90%	11.20%	8.62%	13.11%
Transfer	6.88%	4.19%	2.90%	4.02%	3.40%
Adoption	80.42%	81.15%	80.91%	77.59%	77.18%

Outcomes by Percentage
Cats - Year to Date



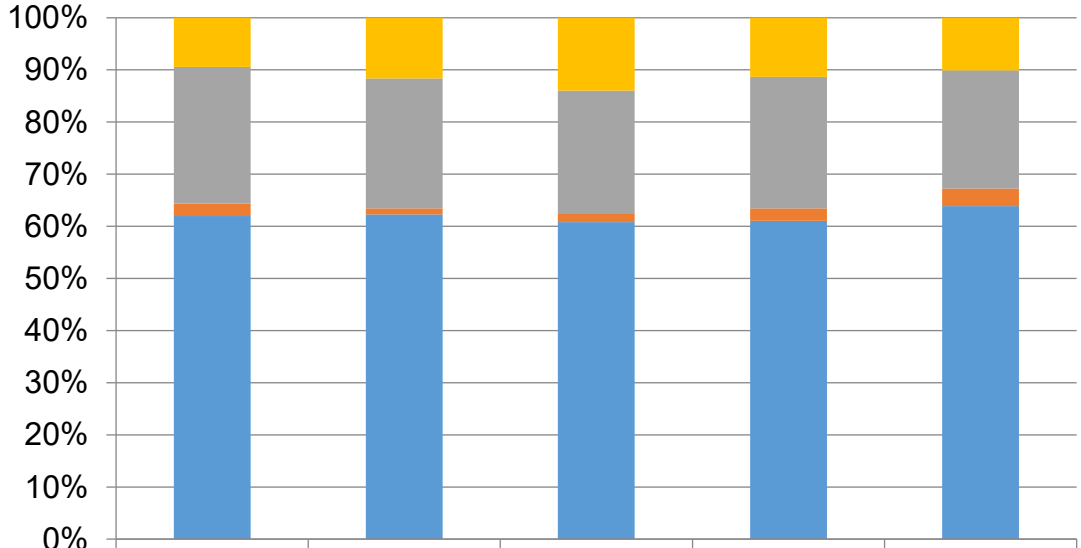
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Euthanasia	6.57%	9.08%	11.05%	8.22%	10.18%
Redemption	10.05%	9.39%	10.23%	10.42%	11.49%
Transfer	4.86%	4.16%	5.94%	4.27%	3.39%
Adoption	78.53%	77.36%	72.78%	77.09%	74.94%

Outcomes by Percentage
Dogs - September



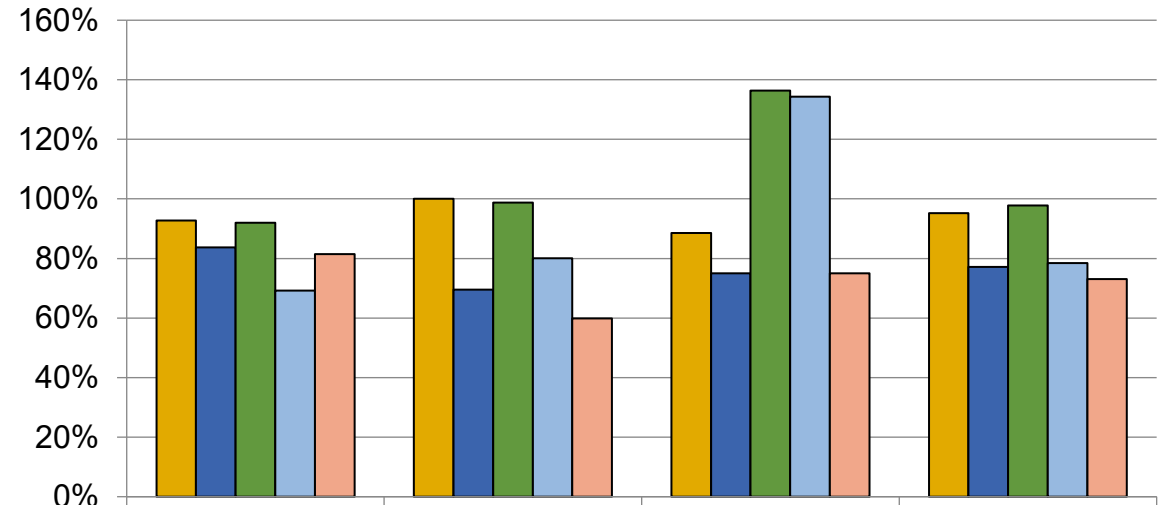
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Euthanasia	8.28%	13.57%	5.85%	13.87%	13.33%
Redemption	33.12%	16.43%	20.47%	23.70%	21.90%
Transfer	1.91%	1.43%	1.75%	0.58%	3.81%
Adoption	56.69%	68.57%	71.93%	61.85%	60.95%

Outcomes by Percentage
Dogs - Year to Date



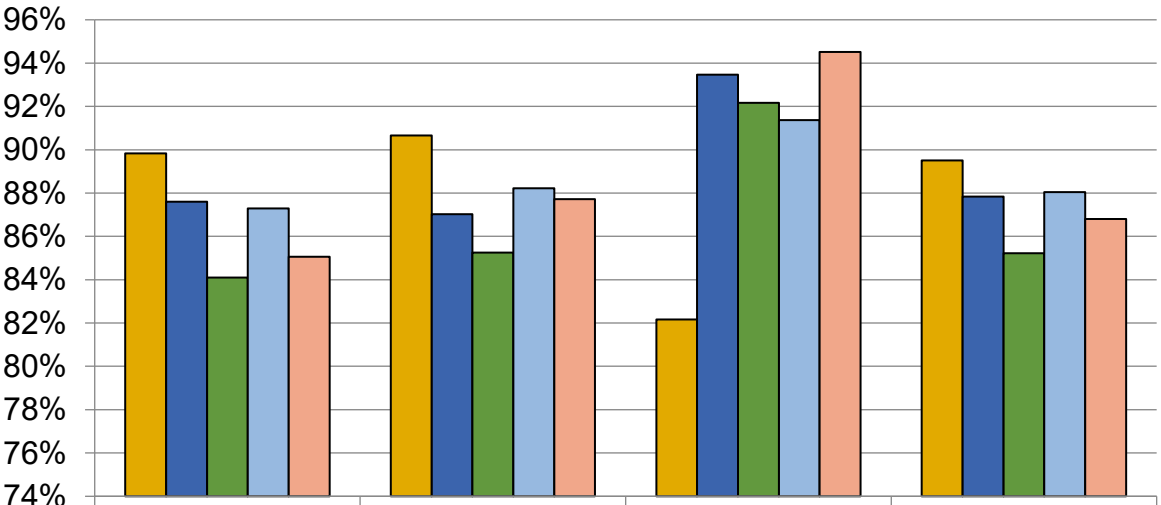
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26
Euthanasia	9.41%	11.66%	13.99%	11.29%	10.07%
Redemption	26.25%	24.90%	23.48%	25.28%	22.67%
Transfer	2.35%	1.19%	1.71%	2.41%	3.41%
Adoption	61.99%	62.25%	60.82%	61.02%	63.85%

Save Rate
September



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
Sep-22	93%	100%	89%	95%
Sep-23	84%	70%	75%	77%
Sep-24	92%	99%	136%	98%
Sep-25	69%	80%	134%	78%
Sep-26	81%	60%	75%	73%

Save Rate
Year to Date



	Cats	Dogs	Others	Total
2022	90%	91%	82%	90%
2023	88%	87%	93%	88%
2024	84%	85%	92%	85%
2025	87%	88%	91%	88%
2026	85%	88%	95%	87%

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.