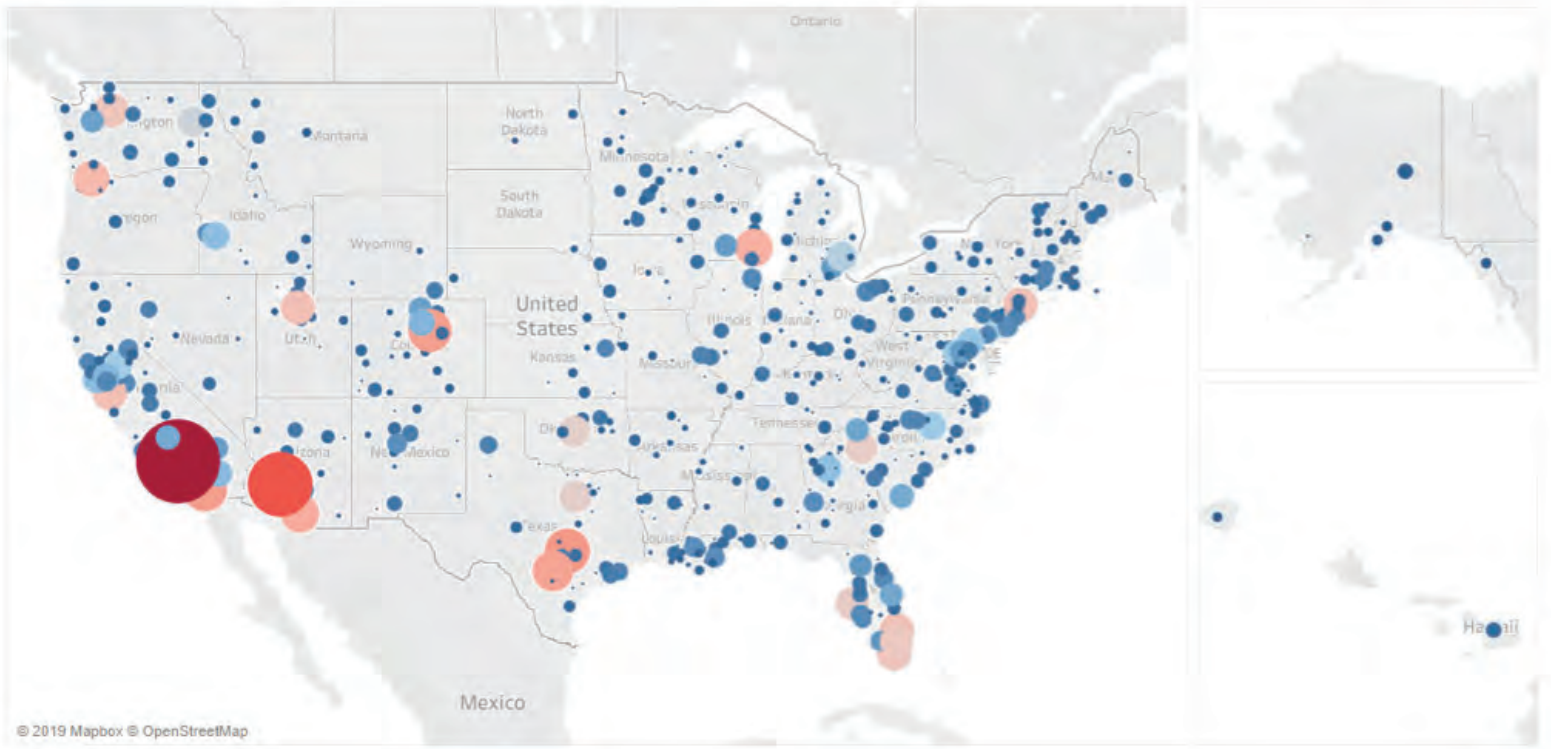


Total Adoptions



2018 Animal Sheltering Statistics



White Paper Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Demographics of Reporting Organizations	4
Types of Organizations	4
Geographic Distribution	5
Number of Animals Reported by State	6
Organizational Size	7
Intakes	8
Species and Age Distribution	9
Community Need Indicator	10
Juvenile Ratios	11
Seasonality	12
Transfers In	13
Relinquishments	14
Outcomes	15
Outcomes by Species and Organization Type	15
Live Outcomes	16
Total Adoptions	17
Transfers Out	18
Return to Owner	19
Return to Field	20
Euthanasia Rate	21
Summary	22

Introduction of the 2018 Animal Sheltering Statistics from the Shelter Animals Count Database

Shelter Animals Count (SAC) is a collaborative, independent organization formed by a diverse group of stakeholders to create and share the national database of sheltered animal statistics, providing facts, and enabling insights that will improve animal welfare throughout the country. The SAC database follows the Basic Data Matrix specified by the National Federation of Humane Societies. The following paper provides a look at the 2018 data from Shelter Animals Count. The data was limited to organizations that completed a full year of reporting in 2018. The goal of this paper is to give an overview of the current state of the national sheltered animal database developed by SAC and demonstrate progress toward a truly national database that can be used to help understand the state of companion animals in this country.

It is worth pointing out both the strengths and weaknesses of the dataset. Since there is no national requirement for reporting, all the data is self-reported and contains natural under and over sampling biases in both the geographic and organization type dimensions. In other words, some areas had a greater level of reporting than others. To analyze the data, we utilized techniques that would minimize the potential bias effects of the partial dataset. The key methodologies were to aggregate at an appropriate level, which was predominately state, and to utilize ratios to normalize scale. Comparing absolute numbers is difficult because of the incomplete dataset at this point. As the dataset grows it will allow for more detailed analysis than we can do today.

Definitions:

The following definitions and abbreviations will be used throughout this paper:

SAC: Shelter Animals Count

OIE: owner intended euthanasia

RBO: relinquished by owner

RTO: return to owner

RTO rate: total RTOs divided by the total of stray intakes

RTF: return to field

Location: unique address for services (organizations may have more than one location)

Adjusted intake: total intake minus transfers in

Adjusted outcome: total outcome minus transfers out

Live outcomes: sum of adoptions, RTOs, RTFs, and transfers

Live outcome rate: live outcomes divided by all outcomes

Euthanasia rate: total euthanasia excluding owner intended euthanasia divided by total outcomes minus owner intended euthanasia

Demographics of Reporting Organizations:

Types of Organizations:

- The top two organization types account for 72% of all locations. These included 1,048 (47%) Rescues w/o Gov. Contract and 552 (25%) Shelters w/o Gov. Contract
- Shelters w/ Gov. Contract and Government Animal Services represent 27% of all locations with 321 and 292 locations, respectively
- 17 Rescues w/ Gov. Contract reported a full year of data in 2018 representing 1% of all locations.

Figure 1: Distribution of Organizations by Type



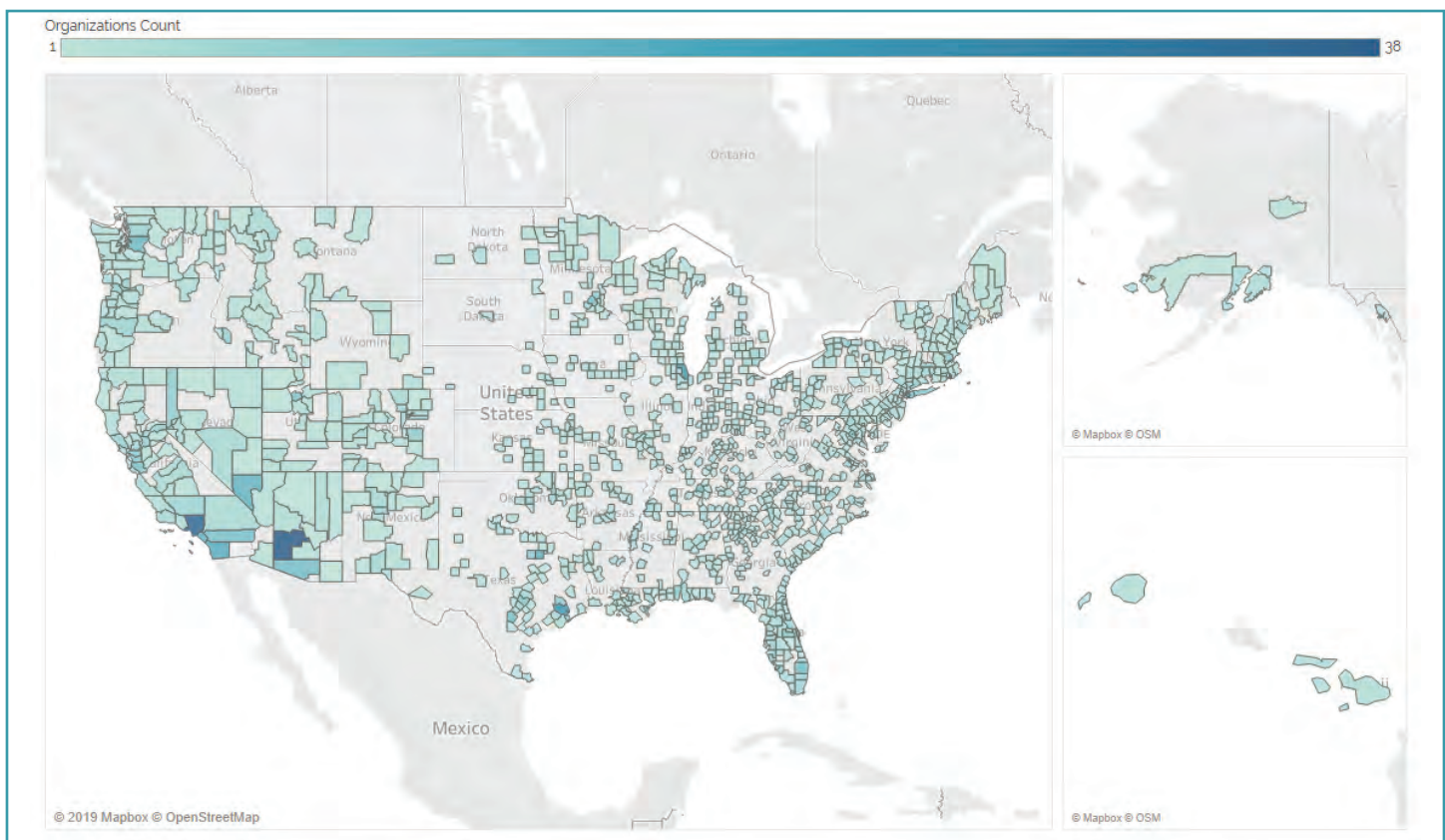
Geographic Distribution:

- 2,230 locations reported a full year of data in 2018.
- Washington, DC is included as state 51 for the purposes of this paper
- There is sparse reporting for counties in the Midwest and the South
- Los Angeles County and Maricopa County were the two counties with the most organizations reporting a full year of data for 2018 with 38 and 35 organizations, respectively

Table 1: Summary of Geographic Coverage by Organizational Type

Organization Type	Locations	States	County	Cities	Zip Codes
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	1,048	51	461	817	994
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	552	50	358	485	545
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	321	48	269	311	320
Government Animal Services	292	39	237	276	290
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	17	12	16	17	17
Total	2,230	51	815	1,545	2,062

Figure 2: Reporting Organizations by County for 2018



Number of Animals Reported by State

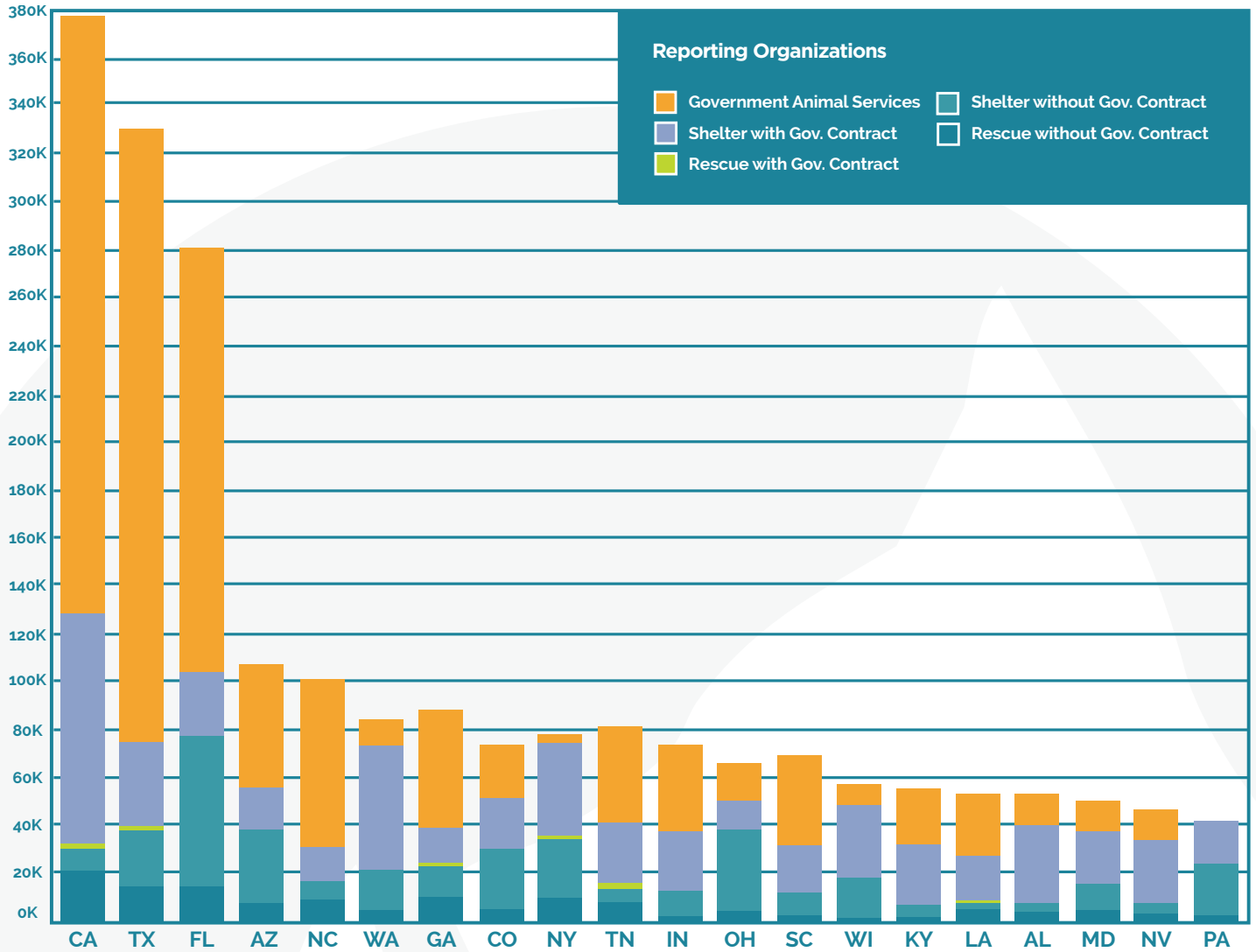


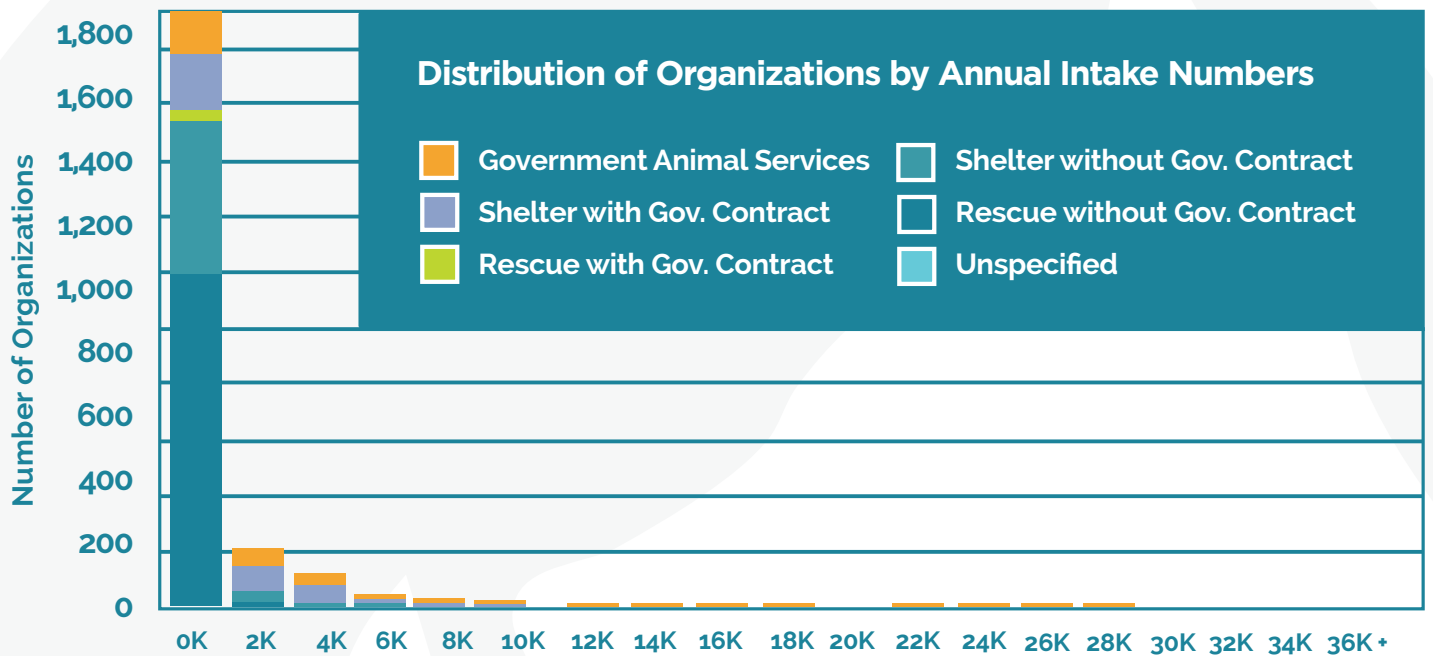
Figure 3: States with Highest Number of Animals Reported

- California reported the most number of intakes accounting for 13.5% of all intakes
- Government Animal Services accounted for 45.5% of all animal intakes – the highest number of all the organization types

Organizational Size:

- Most organizations (92.5%) reported less than 2,000 intakes per year
- 100% of Rescues w/o Gov. Contract reported less than 2,000 intakes per year
- 91.9% of Shelters w/ Gov. Contracts reported less than 6,000 intakes per year

Figure 4: Distribution of Organizations by Annual Intake Numbers



Intakes:

- Government Animal Services are on average the largest intake facilities with an average intake that is 52% higher than the second largest facilities (Shelters w/ Gov. Contract)
- The most common source of intakes are Strays with 1.7M intakes or 50.2% of all intake sources

Table 2: Summary Statistics by Organization Type

Organization Type	Avg. Intakes	Median Intakes	Min. Intakes	Max. Intakes
Government Animal Services	4,394	2,268	38	54,685
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	2,899	1,695	93	28,791
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	1,409	715	0	20,955
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	317	151	0	5,775
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	296	143	11	1,422
Total	1,493	448	0	54,685

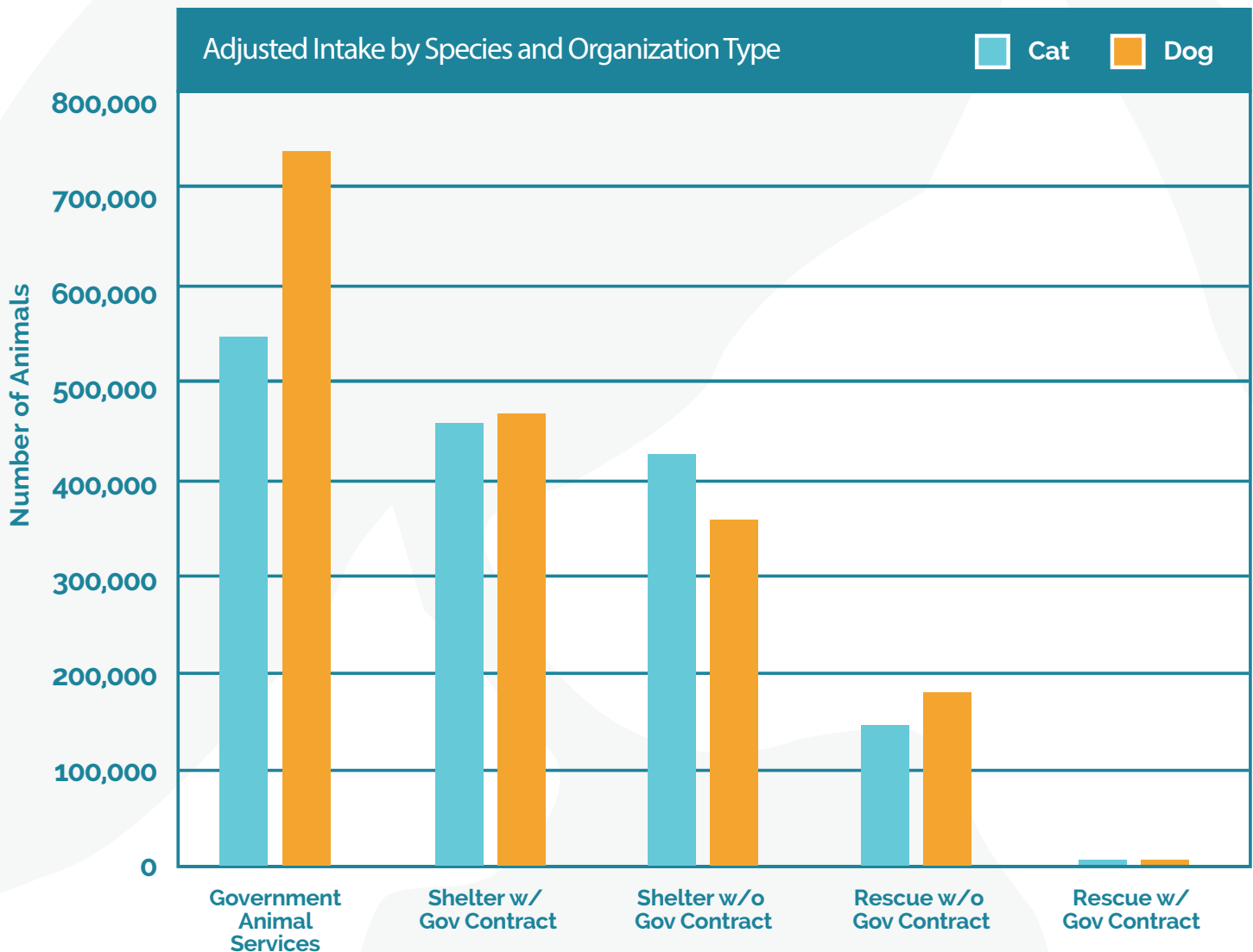
Table 3: Summary of 2018 Intake Data

Organization Type	Stray	Relinquished	Transfer In	OIE	Other	Total
Government Animal Services	893,028	256,618	16,582	26,721	90,115	1,283,064
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	491,696	225,892	117,529	31,574	63,807	930,498
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	199,221	257,065	257,378	20,476	43,608	777,748
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	84,825	64,875	151,140	1,939	29,660	332,439
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	1,994	1,214	1,655	11	166	5,040
Total	1,670,764	805,664	544,284	80,721	227,356	3,328,789

Species and Age Distribution:

- Number of intakes excludes transfers in
- Cat intakes account for 47.5% of all intakes while Dog intakes account for 52.5%
- The largest difference between dog and cat intakes occurs in Government Animal Services with 33.7% more dog than cat intakes
- The second largest difference occurs in Rescues w/o Gov. Contract with 24.7% more dog than cat intakes
- Conversely, Shelters w/o Gov. Contract reported 18.3% more cat intakes than dog intakes

Figure 5: Adjusted Intake by Species and Organization Type



Community Need Indicator:

- The number of juvenile animals entering the system serves as a proxy for community need by suggesting a higher fertility rate in the local animal population
- The juvenile ratio is calculated by dividing puppy/kitten intakes by total dog/cat intakes
- The ability for facilities to absorb homeless animals is assumed to be compromised when juvenile ratio is high
- Rescues w/o Gov. Contracts reported the highest Juvenile Ratio at 46.7%

Table 4: Summary of 2018 Intake Data

Organization Type ⁴	Adj. Cat Intake	Adj. Kitten Intake	Kitten Ratio	Adj. Dog Intake	Adj. Puppy Intake	Puppy Ratio	Juvenile Ratio
Government Animal Services	542,003	214,278	39.5%	724,479	89,087	12.3%	24.0%
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	420,865	167,993	39.9%	392,104	59,349	15.1%	28.0%
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	315,119	143,239	45.5%	205,251	42,692	20.8%	35.7%
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	96,613	52,716	54.6%	84,686	31,908	37.7%	46.7%
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	1,338	652	48.7%	2,047	722	35.3%	40.6%
Total	1,375,938	578,878	42.1%	1,408,567	223,758	15.9%	28.8%

Transfers were excluded from all juvenile ratio calculations to avoid any bias due to oversampling from organizations that take in juveniles from outside their community.

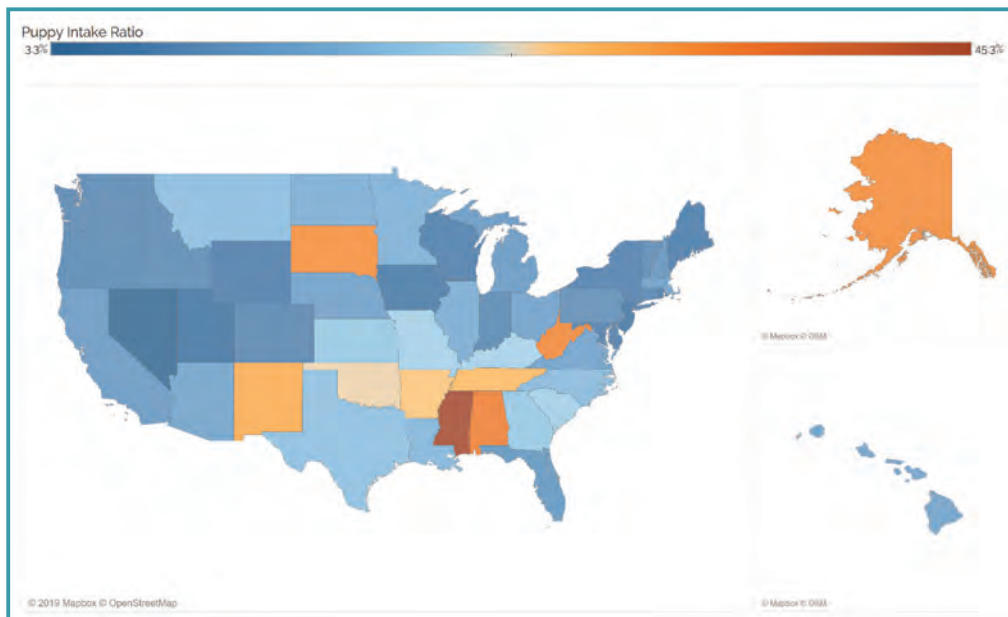


Figure 6:
Map of Average
Puppy Intake
Ratio by State
(Hotter colors represent
higher intake rates)

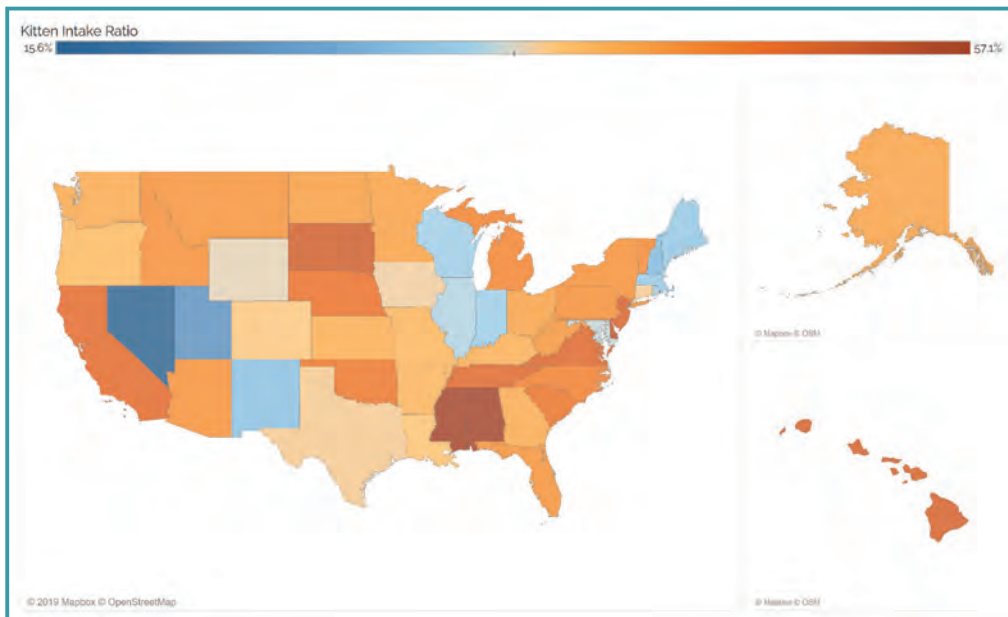


Figure 7:
Map of Average
Kitten Intake Ratio
by State
(Hotter colors represent
higher intake rates)

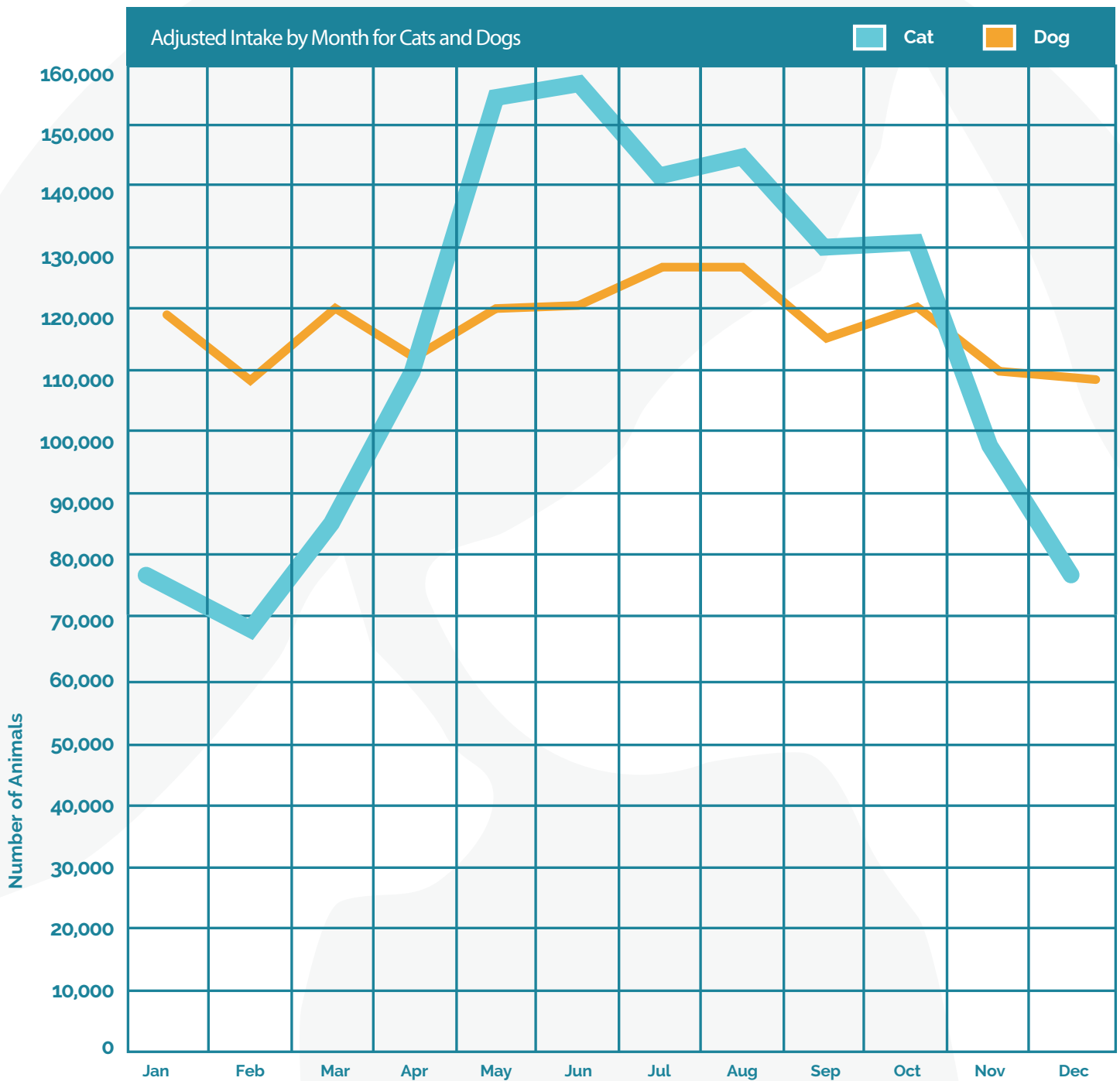
Juvenile Ratios:

- The southern US, New Mexico, South Dakota, and West Virginia had the highest puppy ratios suggesting areas of high community need
- Kitten ratios were substantially higher than puppy ratios across the US
- The state of Nevada showed the lowest puppy and kitten ratios, but their kitten ratio (15.6%) was 4.7 times greater than their puppy ratio (3.3%)

Seasonality:

- There is much higher seasonal variability in Cat intakes than Dog Intakes
- Dog Intakes showed a difference of 18% between the highest and lowest intake months
- Cat Intakes showed a difference of 130% between the highest and lowest intake months
- Intakes exclude transfers in

Figure 8: Adjusted Intake by Month for Cats and Dogs



Transfers In:

- California, Texas, Illinois, and Florida showed high numbers of dogs transferred in
- California, Texas, Florida, Virginia, and Washington showed high numbers of cats transferred in
- It is important to remember that many of these transfers could be intra-state
- Shelters w/o Gov. Contract had the largest proportion of animals transferred in at 47%

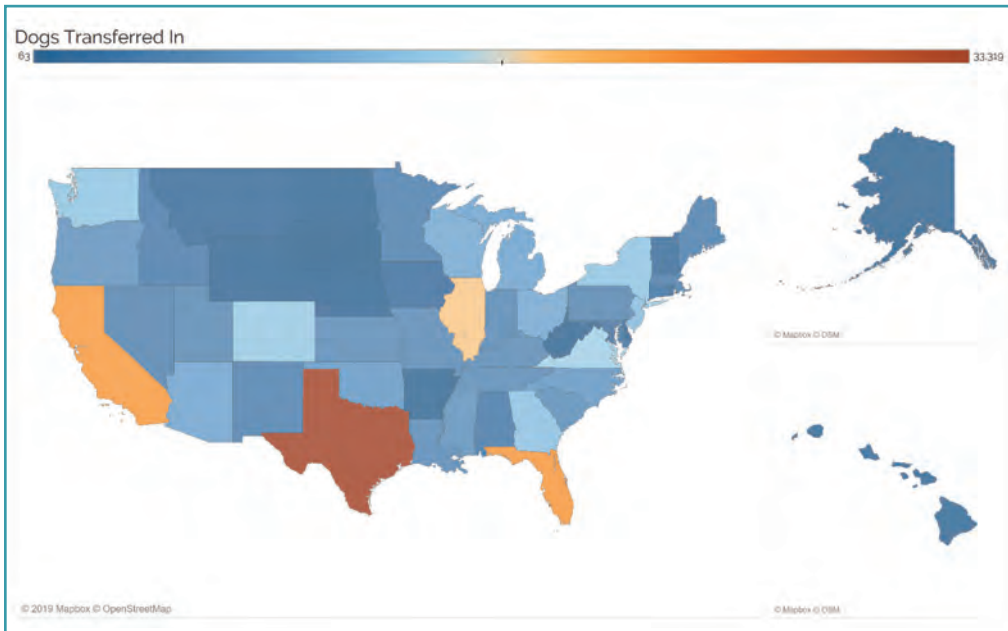


Figure 9:
Dogs Transferred
in by State
(Hotter colors represent
higher transfer in rates)

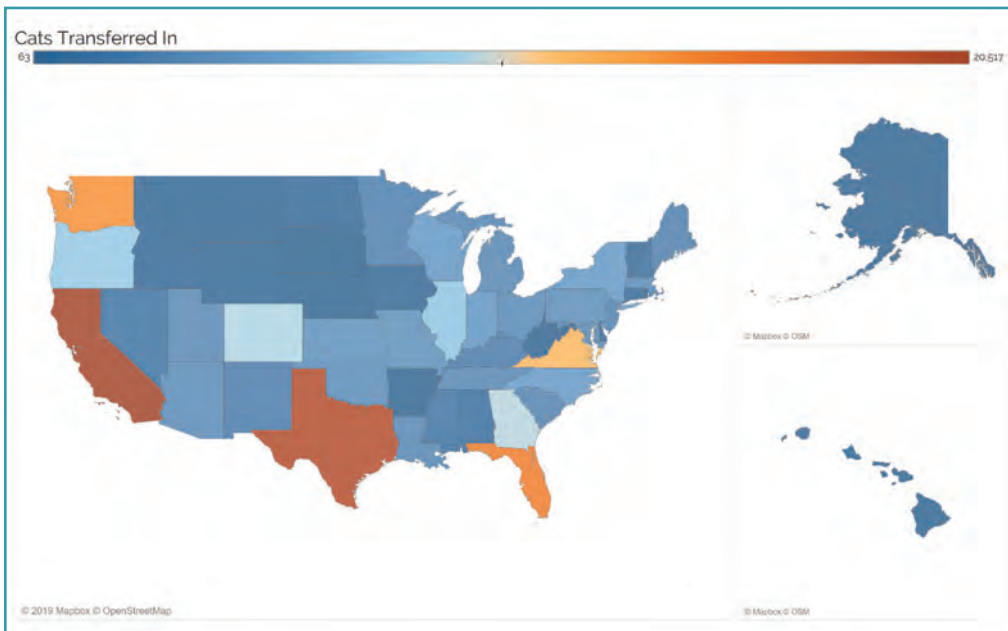


Figure 10:
Cats Transferred
in by State
(Hotter colors represent
higher transfer in rates)

Relinquishments:

- Relinquishments were the second most common form of intake at 24%
- The relinquishment Rate is calculated by dividing relinquishments by total intake for each species

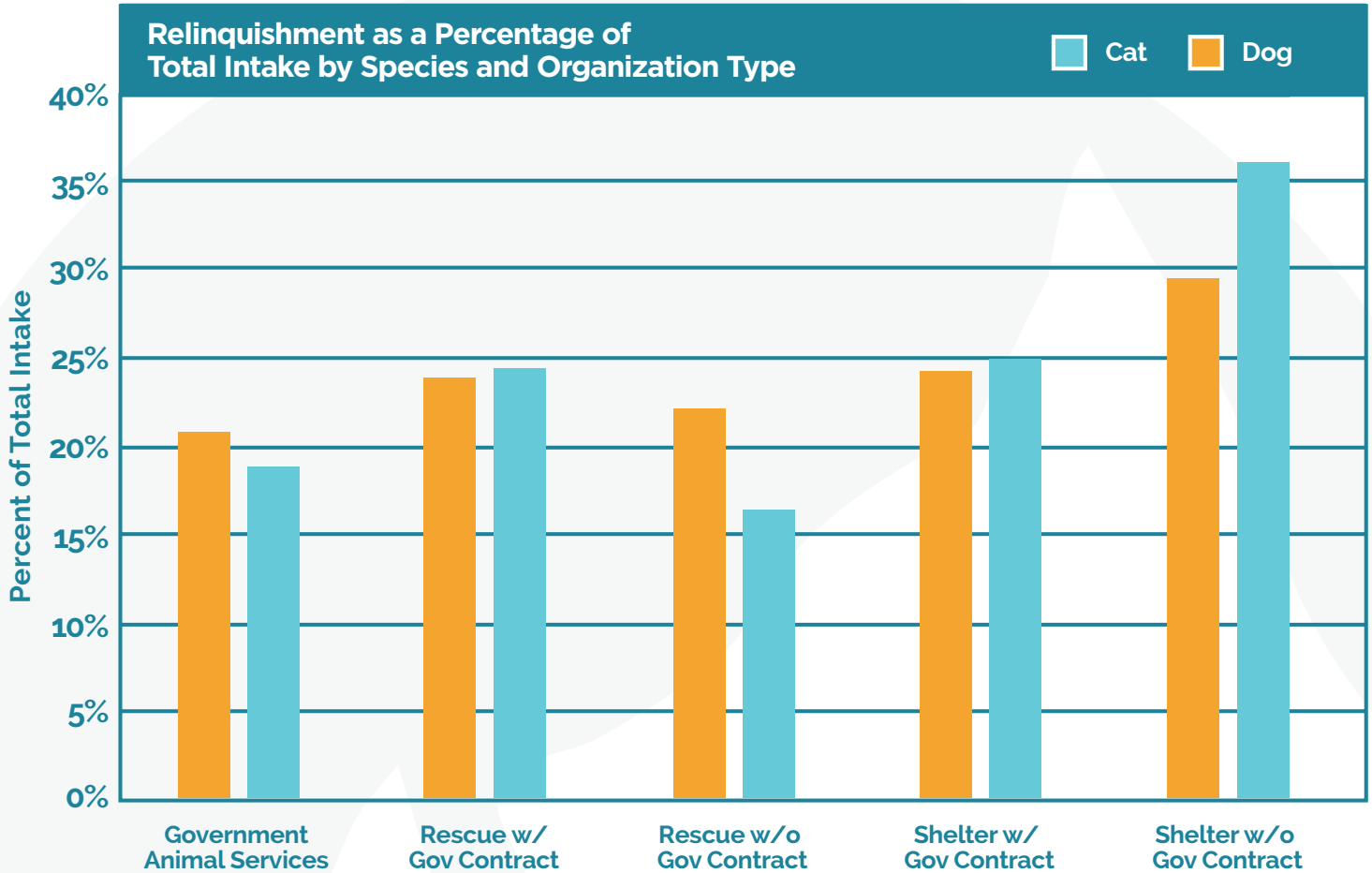


Figure 11: Relinquishments as a Percent of Total Intake by Species and Organization Type

Outcomes by Species and Organization Type

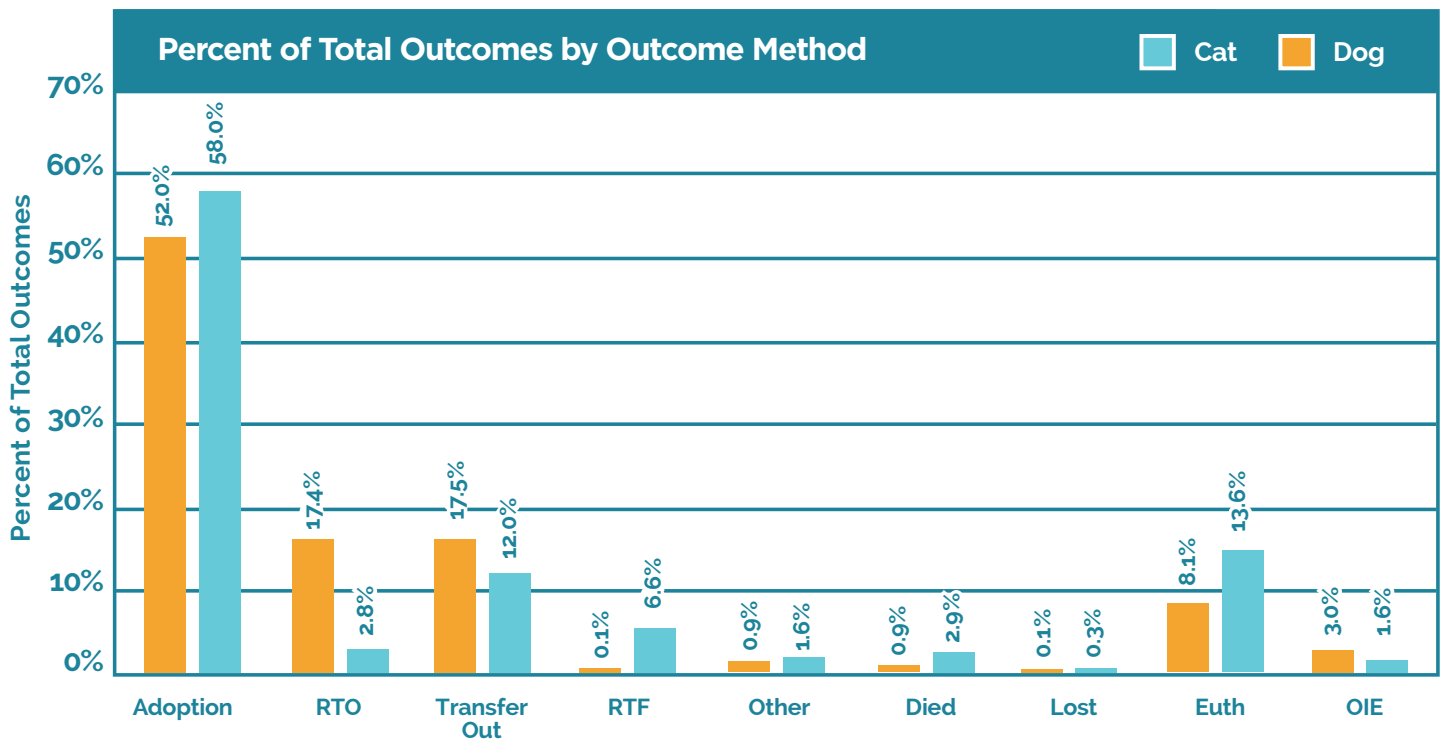


Figure 12: Percent of Total Outcomes by Outcome Method

- Adoption was the most common outcome at 52.0% for dogs and 58.6% for cats
- Euthanasia was a more common outcome for cats at 13.6% than dogs at 8.1%
- RTO was more common for dogs at 17.4% than cats at 2.8%

Organization Type	Adoptions	RTO	Transfer Out	RTF	Other	Died	Lost	Euth	OIE	Total
Government Animal Services	483,867	196,082	268,416	58,310	22,558	18,758	3,577	191,302	27,184	1,270,054
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	474,312	113,530	134,325	22,575	8,618	18,921	1,943	118,334	30,119	922,677
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	602,518	33,075	44,786	15,525	5,913	13,225	740	39,739	19,423	774,944
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	256,730	3,810	43,937	9,175	2,322	10,082	271	3,929	382	330,638
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	4,001	96	386	4	4	312	5	90	1	4,899
Total	1,821,428	346,593	491,850	105,589	39,415	61,298	6,536	353,394	77,109	3,303,212

Table 5: Summary of Outcomes by Organization Type

Live Outcomes

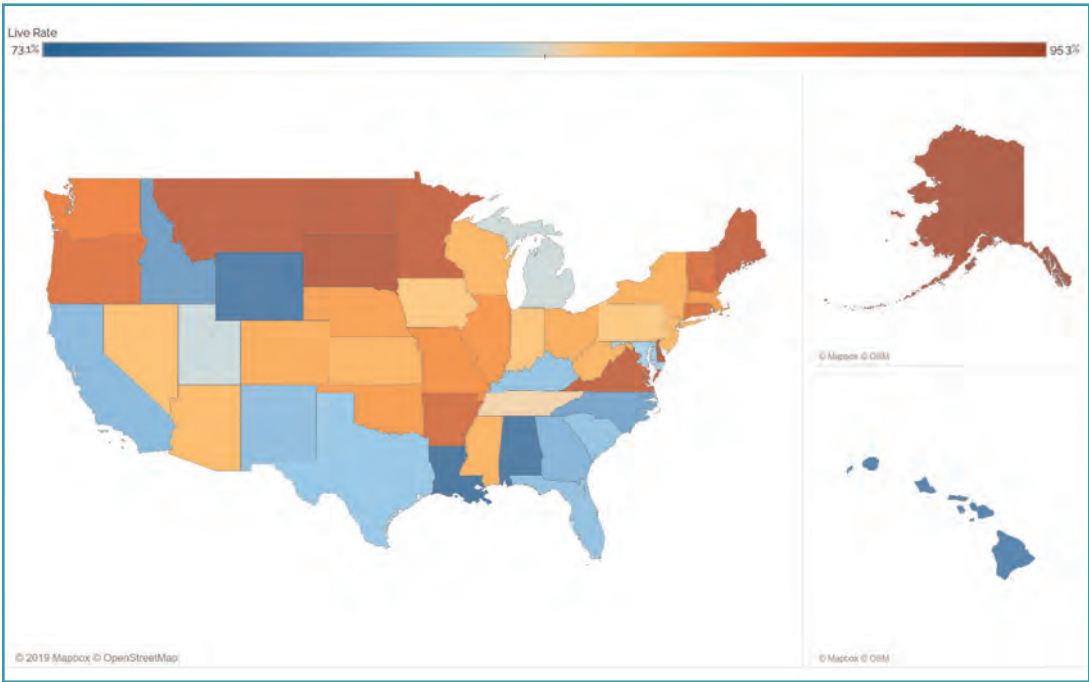


Figure 13:
Live Outcome Rates
by State
 (Hotter colors represent
 higher live outcomes)

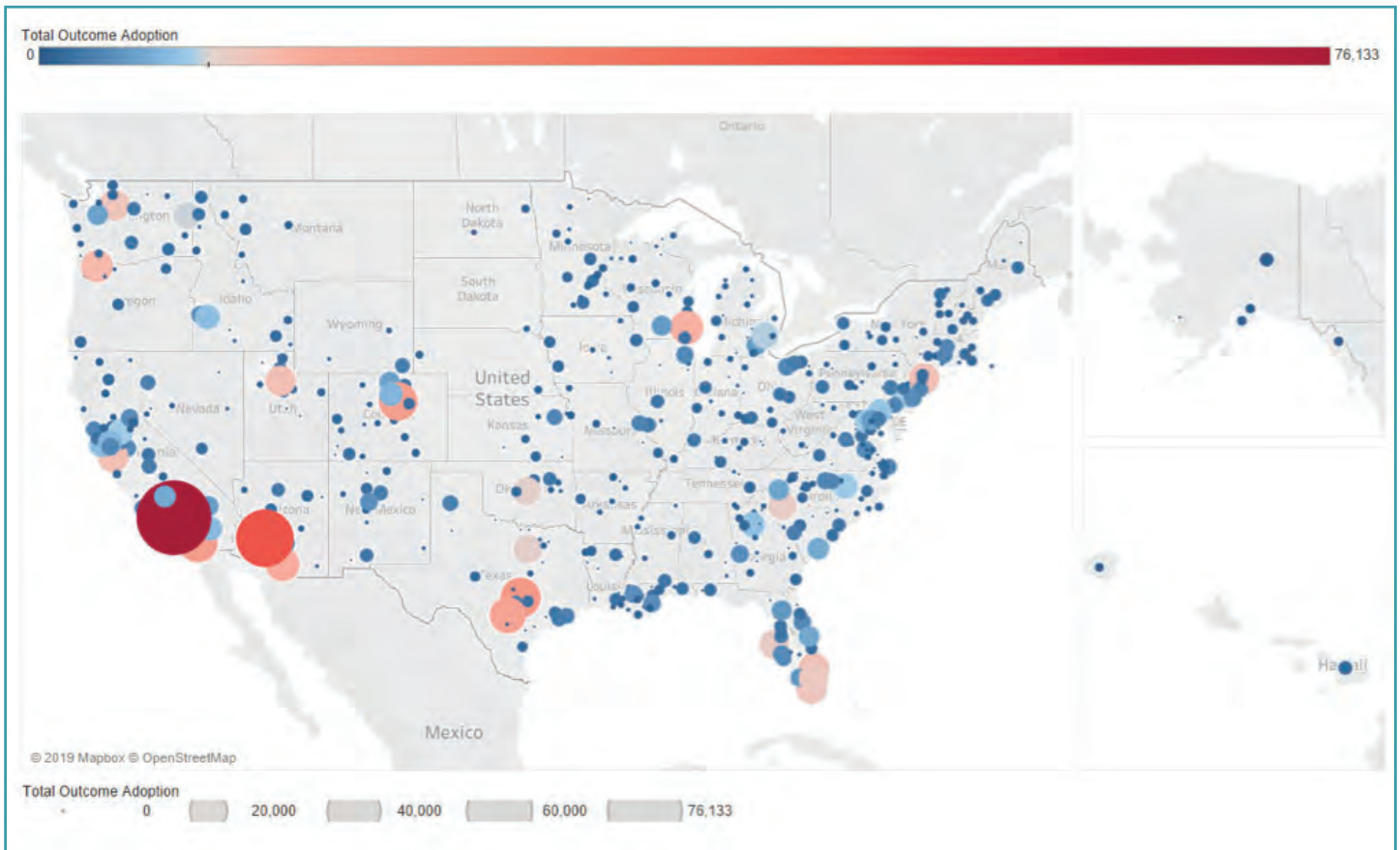
- Live outcomes are considered adoptions, RTO, transfer out, or RTF
- Live outcome rate was calculated by dividing live outcomes by total outcomes
- Rescues w/o Gov. Contract had the highest live outcomes at 94.9%
- Government Animal Services had the lowest live outcomes at 79.3%
- Alaska had the highest live outcomes at 95.6%
- Louisiana had the lowest live outcomes at 73.1%

Table 6: Summary of Live Outcomes and Rates by Organization Type

Organization Type	Dog	Dog Live Outcomes	Cat	Cat Live Outcomes	Total Live Outcomes	Total Live Outcome Rate
Government Animal Services	611,787	84.1%	394,888	72.8%	1,006,675	79.3%
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	394,340	84.5%	350,402	76.9%	744,742	80.7%
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	326,054	91.4%	369,850	88.4%	695,904	89.8%
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	176,852	96.5%	136,800	92.9%	313,652	94.9%
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	2,607	97.6%	1,880	84.3%	4,487	91.6%
Total	1,511,640	87.0%	1,253,820	80.1%	2,765,460	83.7%

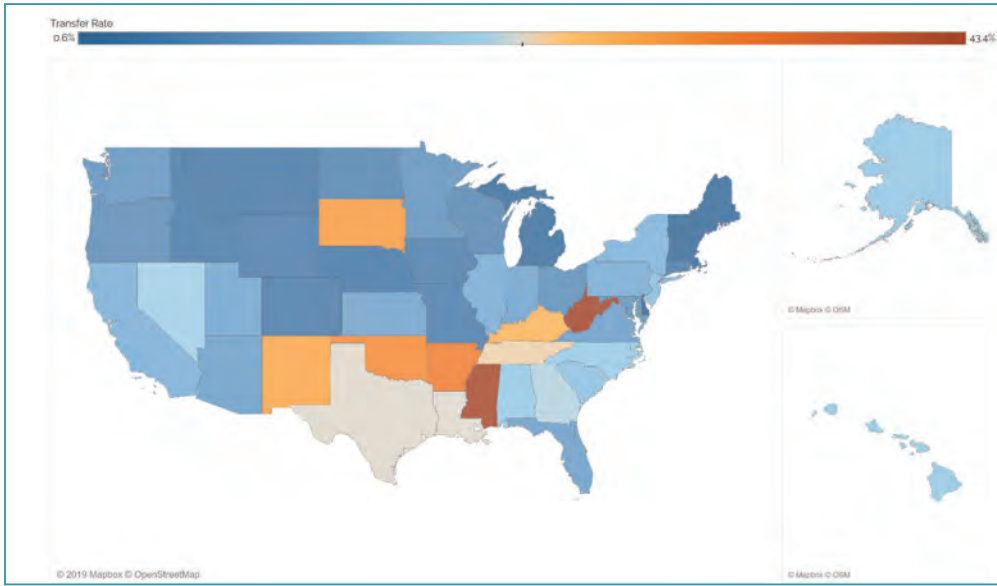
Total Adoptions

Figure 14: Total Annual Adoptions by County



- LA County and Maricopa County had the highest number of adoptions at 76,133 and 45,110, respectively
- The number of adoptions by county is highly skewed with 50% of counties reporting less than 708 annual adoptions

Transfers Out:



**Figure 15:
Transfer Rates
by State**
(Hotter colors represent
higher transfer out rates)

- The Transfer Rate was calculated by dividing transfers out by total intakes
- Dogs represent 61.7% of all transfers
- Cats represent 38.3% of all transfers
- Government Animal Services had the highest transfer rate at 20.9%
- High rates of transfer signify the importance of transfers as a mechanism to maximize live outcomes
- Arkansas, West Virginia, and Mississippi had the top 3 transfer out rates at 32.0%, 43.0%, and 43.4%, respectively

Table 7: Transfer Out Rates by Organization Type

Organization Type	Transfer Rate Canine	Transfer Rate Feline	Transfer Rate Total
Government Animal Services	22.1%	19.4%	20.9%
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	10.5%	4.2%	7.7%
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	16.8%	8.7%	13.2%
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	17.2%	11.7%	14.4%
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	8.3%	3.6%	5.8%
Total	17.4%	11.9%	14.8%

Return to Owner:

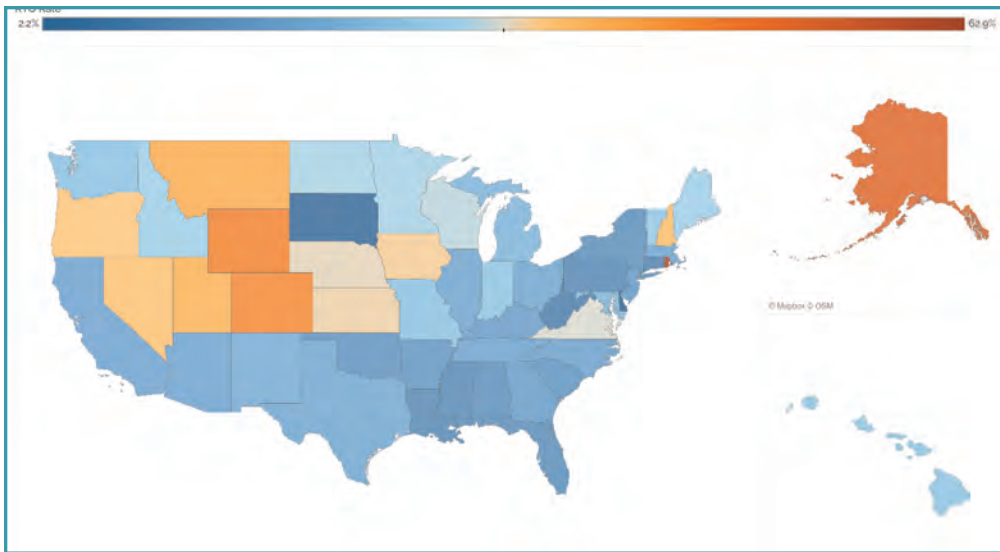


Figure 16:
RTO Rates by State
(Hotter colors represent higher RTO rates)

- Return to Owner rates were calculated by dividing RTO by total number of stray intakes
- RTO for dogs was 37.1%
- RTO for cats was 5.1%
- Rhode Island had the highest RTO Rate at 62.9%
- South Dakota had the lowest RTO Rate at 3.9%

Table 8: RTO Rates by Organization and Species

Organization Type	RTO Dog	RTO Rate Dog	RTO Cat	RTO Rate Cat	Total RTO	Total RTO Rate
Government Animal Services	177,611	35.8%	18,471	4.6%	196,082	22.0%
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	80	6.3%	16	2.2%	96	4.8%
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	2,114	7.5%	1,696	3.0%	3,810	4.5%
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	98,404	43.1%	15,126	5.7%	113,530	23.1%
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	24,803	39.6%	8,272	6.1%	33,075	16.6%
Total	303,012	37.1%	43,581	5.1%	346,593	20.7%

Return to Field:

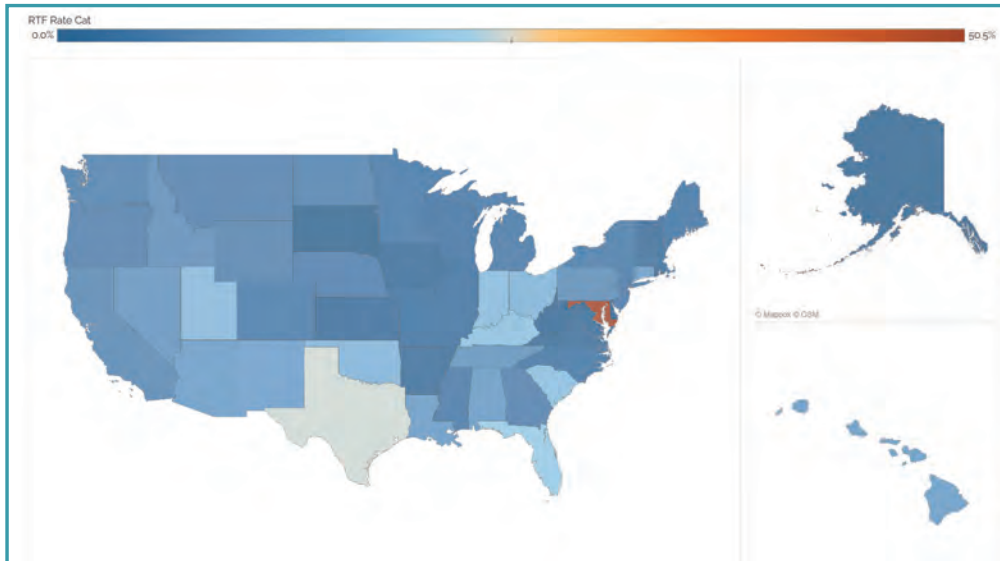


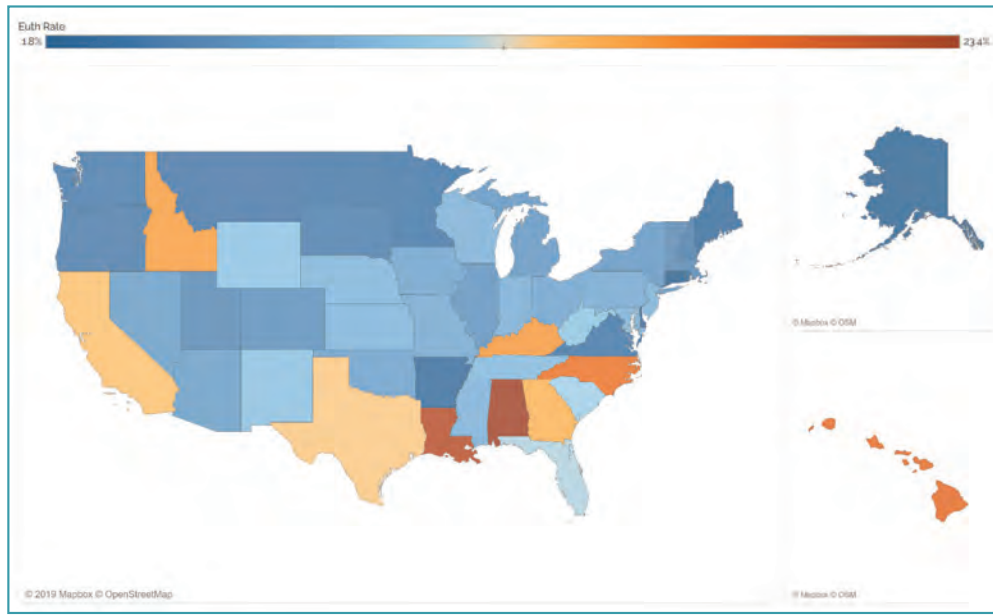
Figure 17:
Feline RTF Rates
by State
 (Hotter colors represent
 higher RTF rates)

- Cat RTF accounted for 98.5% of all RTF outcomes
- Large number of RTF outcomes for cats is an indication of growth in RTF programs around the country
- In 2018, Maryland had the highest RTF ratio at 50.5%
- National RTF Rate for 2018 is 12.2%
- Rescues w/o Gov. Contracts had the highest RTF rates at 16.0%

Table 9: Feline RTF Outcomes and Rates by Organization Type

Organization Type	RTF Feline Outcomes	Feline RTF Rate
Government Animal Services	57,385	14.4%
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	4	0.6%
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	9,043	16.0%
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	22,456	8.5%
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	15,084	11.0%
Total	103,972	12.2%

Euthanasia Rate:



**Figure 18:
Euthanasia
Rates by State**
(Hotter colors represent
higher euthanasia rates)

- The Euthanasia Rate was calculated by dividing the number of animals euthanized by the total outcomes
- Alabama, Louisiana, and Hawaii had the top three euthanasia rates at 23.4%, 22.3%, and 18.7%, respectively
- Government Animal Services and Shelters w/ Gov. Contracts had the highest euthanasia rates at 20.8% and 16.4%, respectively

Table 10: Euthanasia Rates by Species and Age

Organization Type	Canine				Feline			
	Puppy	Unknown	Adult	Total	Kitten	Unknown	Adult	Total
Government Animal Services	3.9%	16.5%	11.3%	11.3%	16.3%	30.9%	20.3%	20.8%
Rescue w/ Gov. Contract	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.8%	2.7%	0.0%	3.5%	3.1%
Rescue w/o Gov. Contract	0.5%	0.7%	1.5%	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	1.7%	1.3%
Shelter w/ Gov. Contract	6.4%	17.8%	10.0%	10.2%	13.3%	34.1%	14.7%	16.4%
Shelter w/o Gov. Contract	1.1%	6.5%	4.7%	3.8%	4.4%	19.3%	6.7%	6.5%
Organization Type	3.0%	14.9%	8.7%	8.4%	10.3%	28.7%	13.0%	13.8%

Summary:

The 2018 Shelter Animals Count dataset highlights the importance and significance of continuing to build the national animal sheltering database. The current dataset has both an organization type and geographic bias which is evidenced from the distribution of size and number of organizations.

A key point to make about the dataset and its use is that it has limitations in analysis as it is not comprehensive of all animal sheltering organizations. Its primary value comes from seeing the macro and geographic trends in things like juvenile intake ratio and transfer volumes.

There are important trends that can be seen throughout the country ranging from species differences to geographic differences. As the database continues to grow, we anticipate be able to do much more detailed analysis and assessments to key community trends across the country.

Appendix:

Shelter Animals Count: <https://www.shelteranimalscount.org>

Basic Data Matrix: <https://www.shelteranimalscount.org/data/basic-data-matrix>

Explore the Data: <https://www.shelteranimalscount.org/data/explore-the-data>

Request the Data: <https://www.shelteranimalscount.org/data/request-the-data>

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.shelteranimalscount.org/who-we-are/about>

Contact Us: info@shelteranimalscount.org

Credits:

Alex Castelazo, Marie Abbondanza, Michael Blackwell, Lauren Bluestone, Jodi Buckman, Christa Chadwick, Lena DeTar, Janelle Dixon, Michael Greenberg, Roger Haston, Mary Ippoliti-Smith, Sara Kent, Vicki Kilmer, Jan McHugh-Smith, Amy Nichols, Anne Reed, Jim Tedford, Shelly Thompson, Gary Weitzman