Q2 2023 ANALYSIS

JANUARY - JUNE: 2021, 2022, 2023

SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT
THE NATIONAL DATABASE

MOST TRUSTED ANIMAL SHELTERING DATA

Dear Animal Welfare Community,

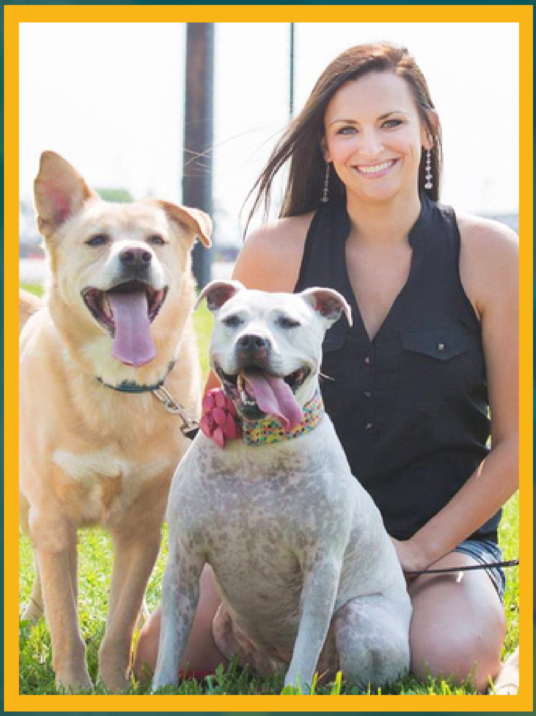
The summer months are known for fun, sun, and relaxation, but for animal sheltering organizations, the rise in temperatures more often means feelings of chaos — kittens and puppies seem to materialize out of thin air and kennel availability gets smaller and smaller as the constant stream of lost and displaced pets grows with each new day.

As we look back at the second quarter of 2023, one issue stands out to me more than the rest: the continuing decline of animal transfers between organizations. In Q1, we saw some hope that the bottleneck in transfers may be starting to ease. Unfortunately, that hope was short-lived. Now in Q2, transfers in and out of organizations have hit their lowest point in the past three years.

While we have seen some encouraging decreases in the number of animals arriving directly at foster-based rescue organizations through "community intakes" (down 7% compared to 2022 and 12% compared to 2021), this reduction has not been sufficient enough to initiate a resurgence in transfers. In fact, Government Animal Service organizations have hit a new low point with a 19% decrease in the number of animals they have been able to transfer out compared to last year.

One shelter population, however, is impacted more than the rest — dogs. While cat transfers have remained relatively stable over the past few years, we are continuing to see a significant decline in canine transfers. In fact, dog transfers are now 23% lower than in 2021 and 14% lower than in 2022. This trend, combined with the fact that dogs continue to drive the increase in non-live outcomes across the board (a 14% increase from Jan-June 2022, which puts non-live outcomes 25% higher now than the same time in 2021), highlights an urgent need to increase outcomes for dogs in other outcome categories as our industry continues to address the challenges contributing to the sluggish transfer system.

We all know transfers between organizations play a vital role in ensuring the well-being of shelter animals. Transfers enable us to balance the distribution of animals and alleviate overcrowding, but as the last three years have proven, when that system stalls, we have to balance the number of animals in our care through other outcome types in order to humanely and responsibly care for the animals who still need us today — and in the coming days — and provide them with greater opportunities for adoption.



At Shelter Animals Count, we have always strived to foster collaboration in the animal welfare community through data insights and knowledge-sharing. It is my hope that the information shared in this report will inspire innovative strategies to tackle the outcome challenges we currently face. While this report is a snapshot in time from the first half of the last 3 years, continued updates are made monthly on our online dashboards to provide the most current information until our Q1-Q3 report is released this fall. Thank you for the important work you do every day to improve the lives of pets and the people who love them!

Stephanie Filer

Executive Director, Shelter Animals Count

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY - JUNE, 2021 - 2023

1. Community intakes in the first half of 2023 for cats and dogs combined remained largely unchanged compared to 2022 (1% increase) but were up 8% compared to 2021. Without significant intervention, animal intakes in the second half of the year are expected to climb each month to a 3-year high with outcomes still not keeping pace.
   PAGE 5, 11

2. Owner relinquishment rates remained unchanged for cats (29%) but dogs saw a decrease over the three-year period (27% in 2021 to 26% in 2023). However, not all organization types are seeing this same trend.
   PAGE 6 - 8

3. Dog adoptions have decreased at foster-based rescues by 3% compared to 2022 and 10% compared to 2021. Private shelters also saw a decrease of 5% and 3% respectively. Decreases in adoptions generally leads to fewer outcomes overall at these organizations, likely impacting their ability to transfer in animals. This then leads to a continued bottleneck in the transfer system.
   PAGE 14

4. Cat adoptions are forecast to hit a 3-year high in the second half of the year while dog adoptions are forecast to remain flat and even dip below 2022 numbers.
   PAGE 14

5. The gap of cats and dogs waiting for an outcome reached 7% (93% PBC) in the first half of the year, leading to an increase in animal populations at already burdened shelters, rescues, and government-funded organizations in every region of the U.S.
   PAGE 17

INTAKES

SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT 2023 Q2 REPORT

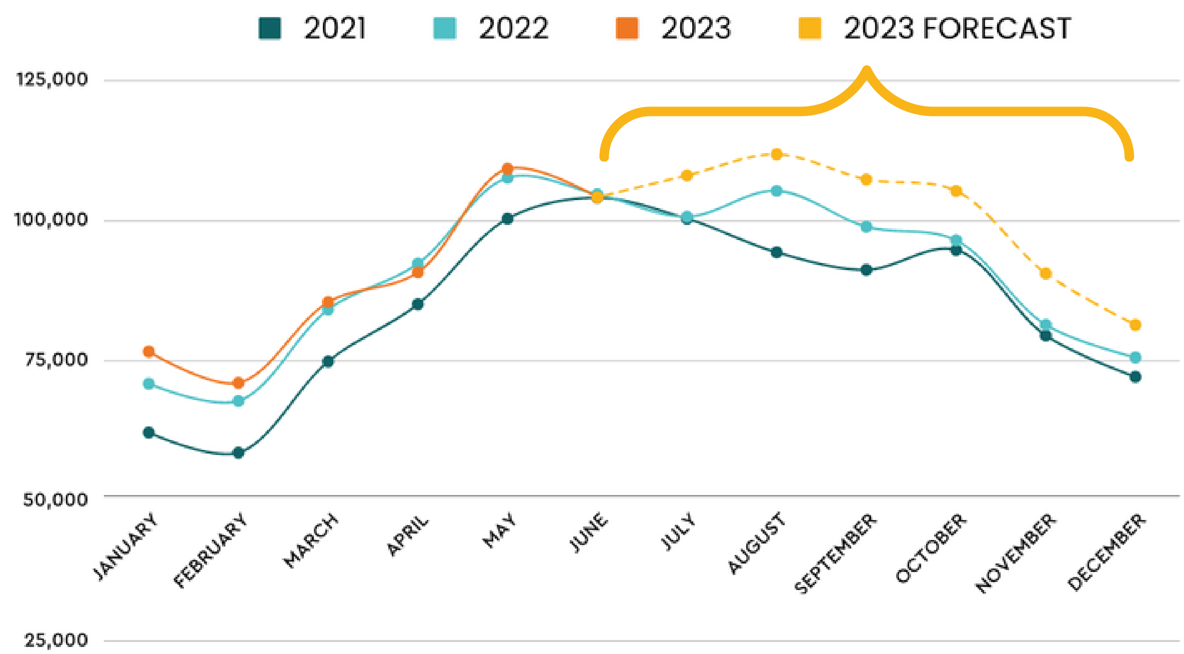
COMMUNITY INTAKES

TOTALS

DOGS AND CATS COMBINED

1.2% COMPARED TO JAN - JUNE 2022

7.6% COMPARED TO JAN - JUNE 2021



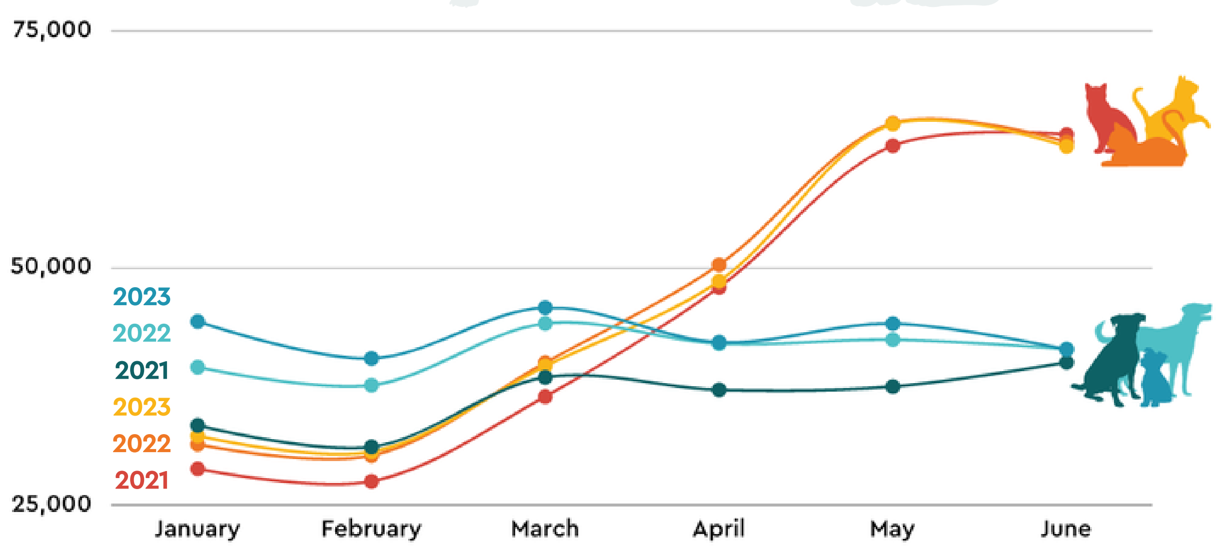
SPECIES BREAKDOWN

3.6% FROM 2022

+14.8% FROM 2021

0.9% FROM 2022

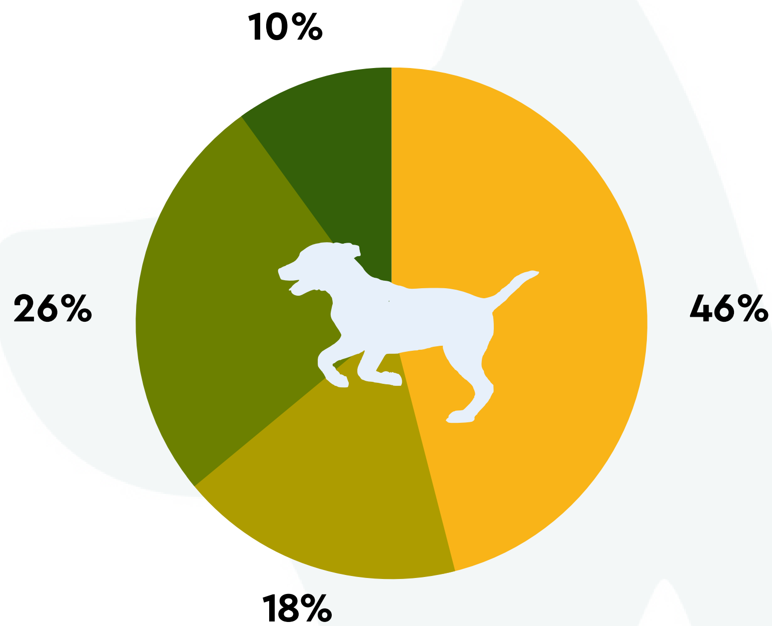
+1.7% FROM 2021



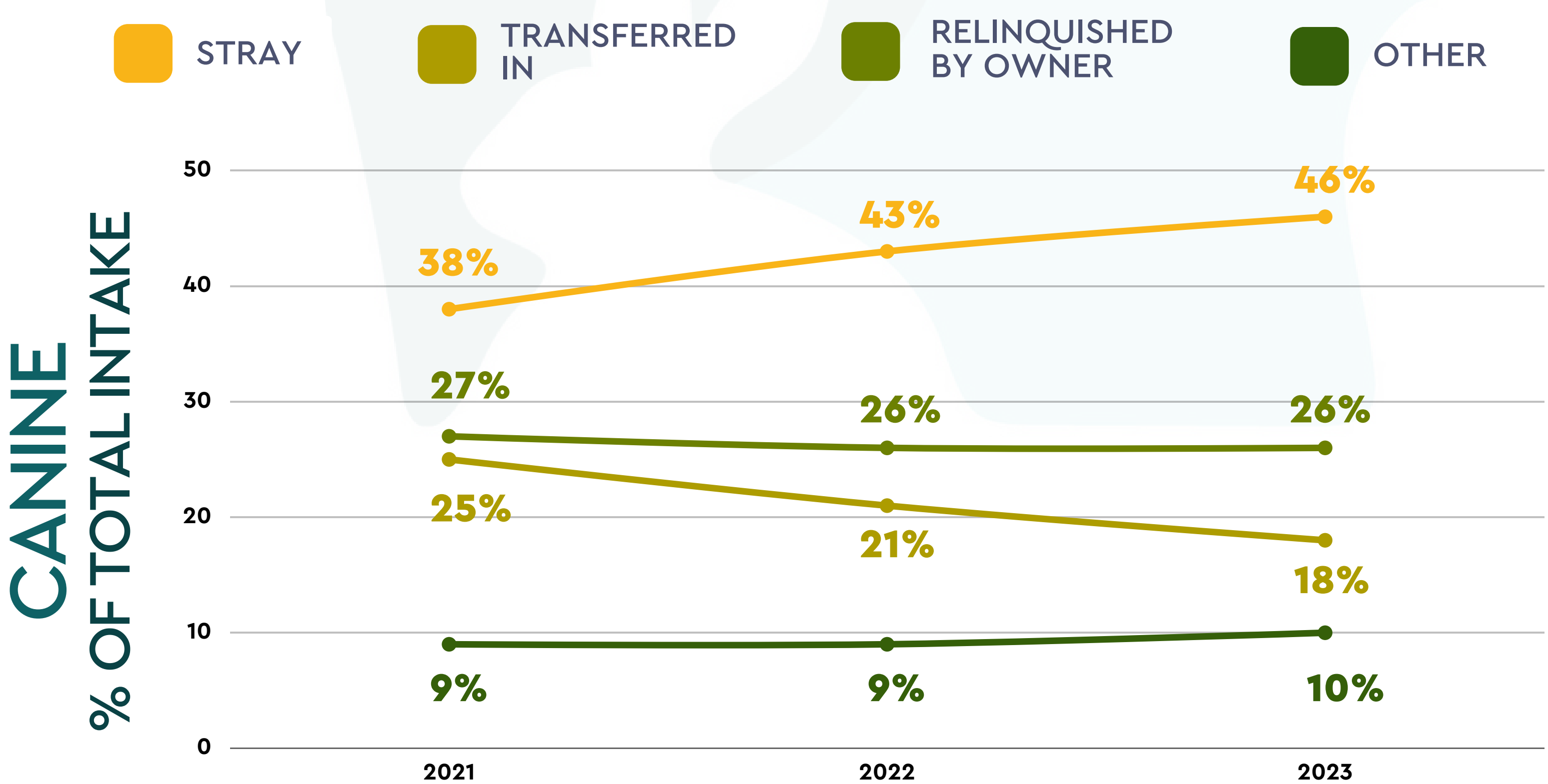
CANINE INTAKE RATES

2023

AS A % OF TOTAL INTAKE THRU Q2
(JAN - JUNE 2023)



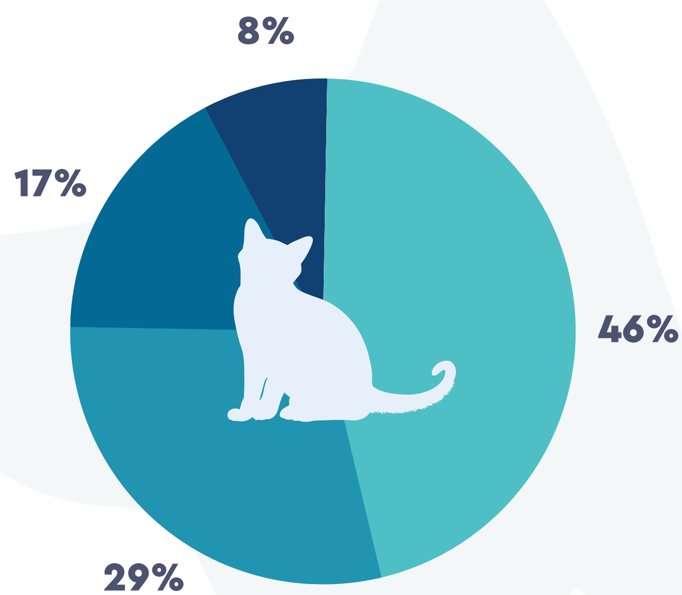
Owner relinquishment rates continue to drop (from 27% in 2021 to 26% in 2023) while stray intake continues to increase — 8% higher than 2022 and 27% higher than 2021.



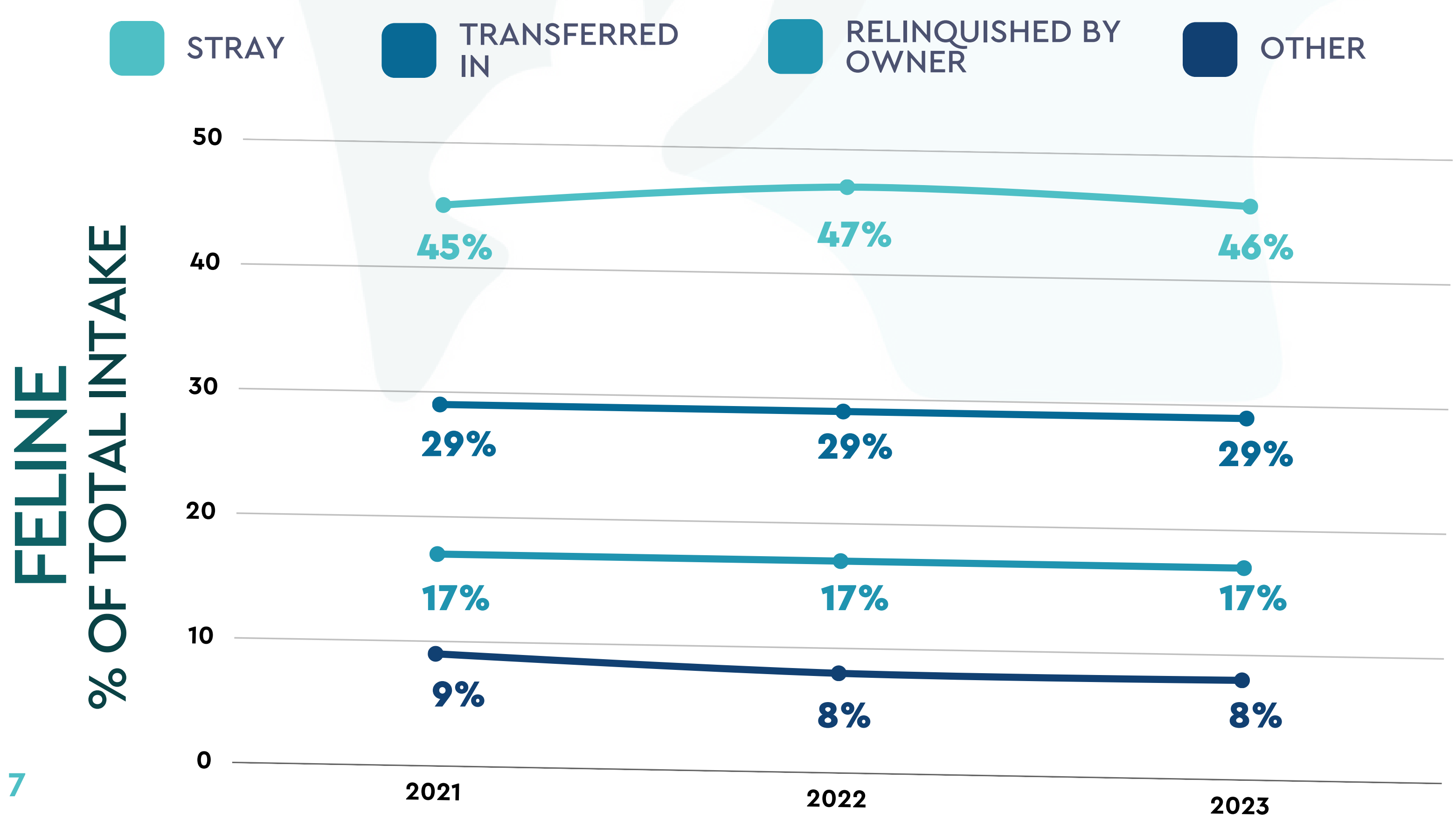
FELINE INTAKE RATES

2023

AS A % OF TOTAL INTAKE THRU Q2
(JAN - JUNE 2023)



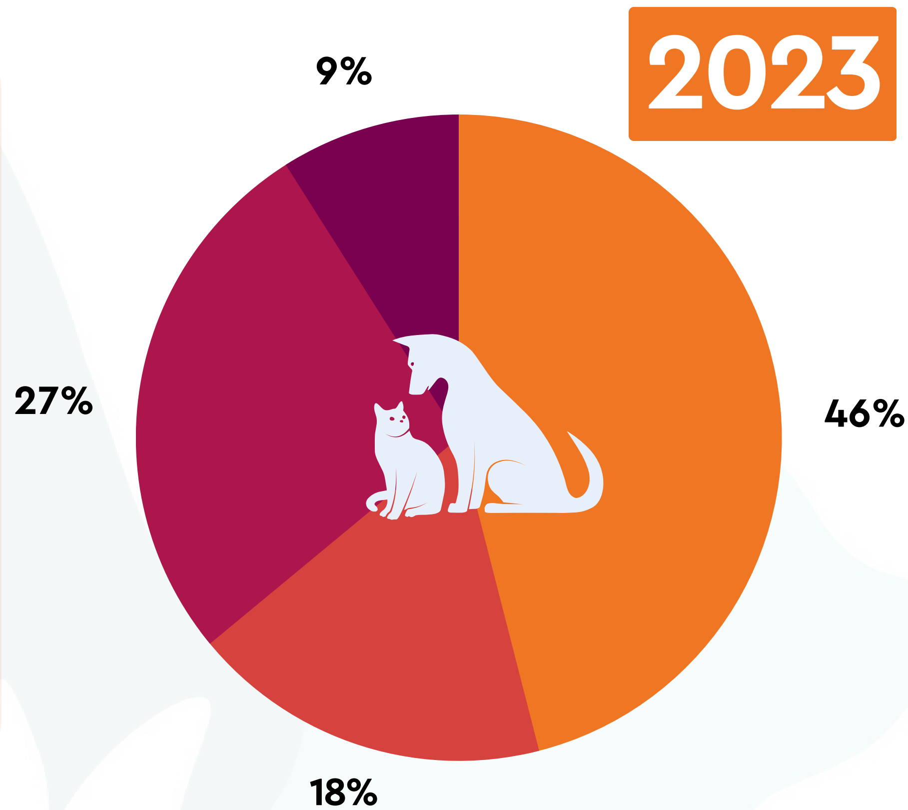
Overall cat intake rates are consistent across 2021, 2022 and 2023.

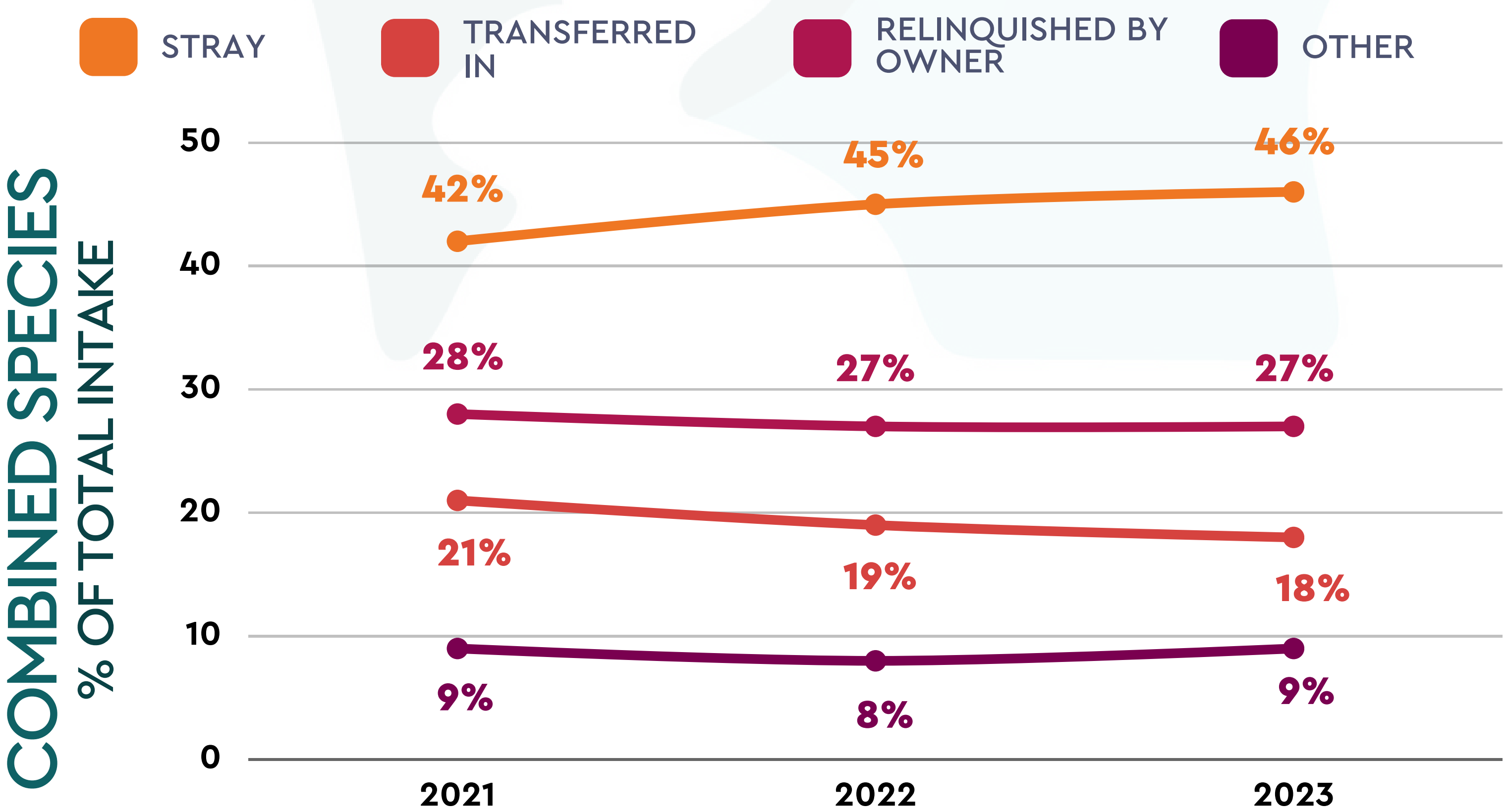


COMBINED INTAKE RATES

AS A % OF TOTAL INTAKE THRU Q2 (JAN - JUNE 2023)

Government-funded organizations are driving the overall decrease in owner surrenders, while private shelters have experienced the opposite — seeing an increase in animals relinquished by their owners.





INTAKES BY
ORG TYPE, DOGS & CATS COMBINED

COMMUNITY AND TRANSFER INTAKE CHANGES 2023 vs 2022

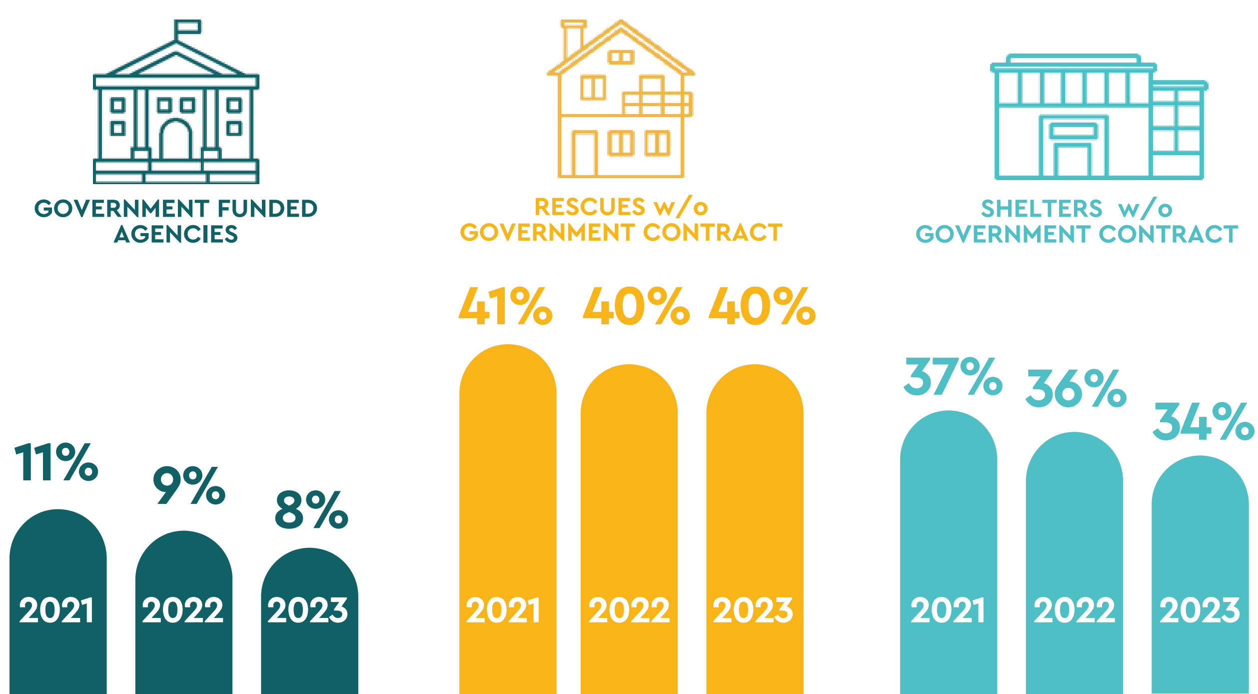
GOVERNMENT FUNDED AGENCIES
- COMMUNITY INTAKES: +2.3%
- TRANSFERS IN: -23.6%

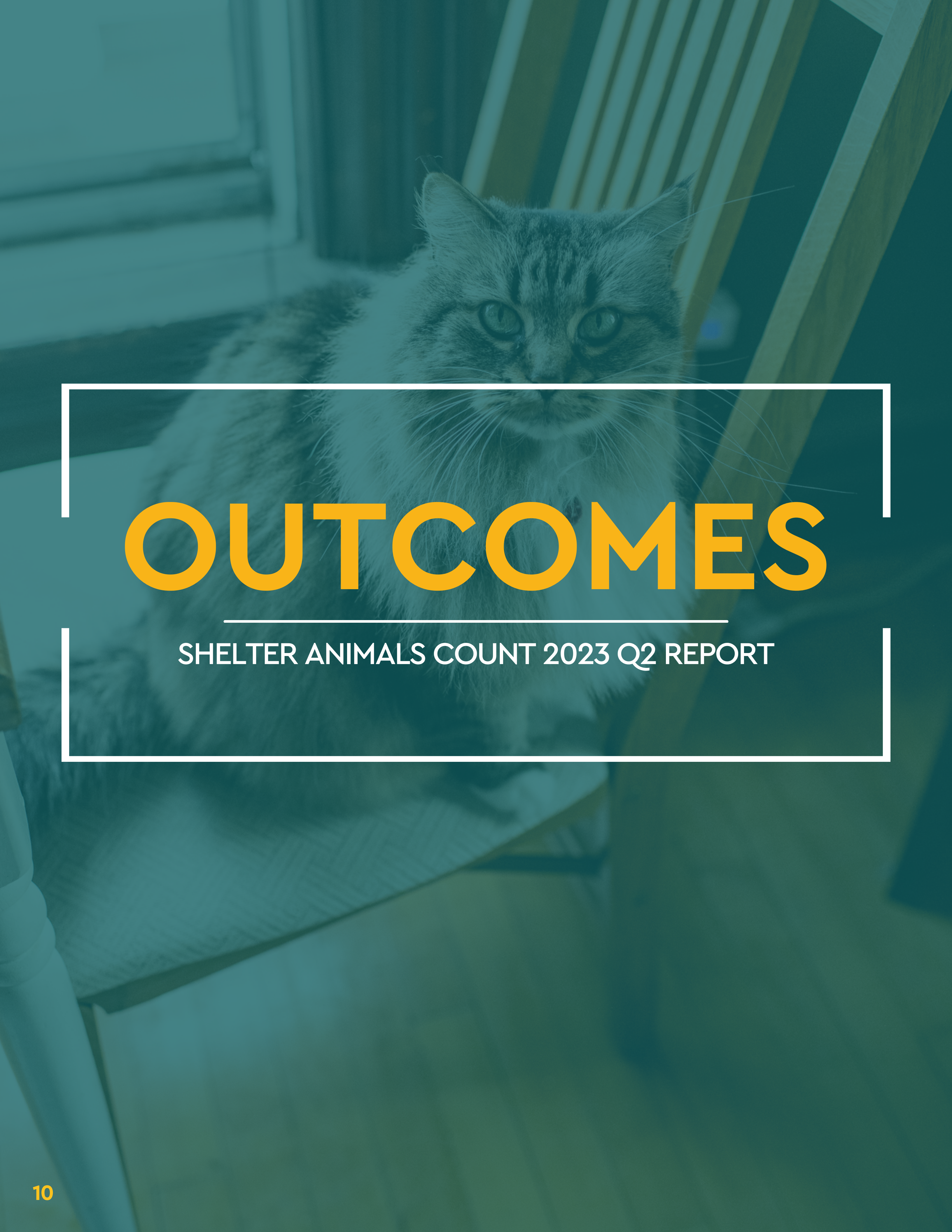
RESCUES w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT
- COMMUNITY INTAKES: -7.1%
- TRANSFERS IN: -16%

SHELTERS w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT
- COMMUNITY INTAKES: 0.9%
- TRANSFERS IN: -4.5%

The hope for bottleneck relief in transfers was short-lived in Q1, as the percentage of intakes that are transferred into rescues is now decreasing through Q2. While rescues are continuing to decrease their community intakes (7% less than 2022 and 12% less than 2021), it is still not enough to significantly increase transfers again.

RATE OF TRANSFER IN (% TOTAL INTAKES)





OUTCOMES

SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT 2023 Q2 REPORT

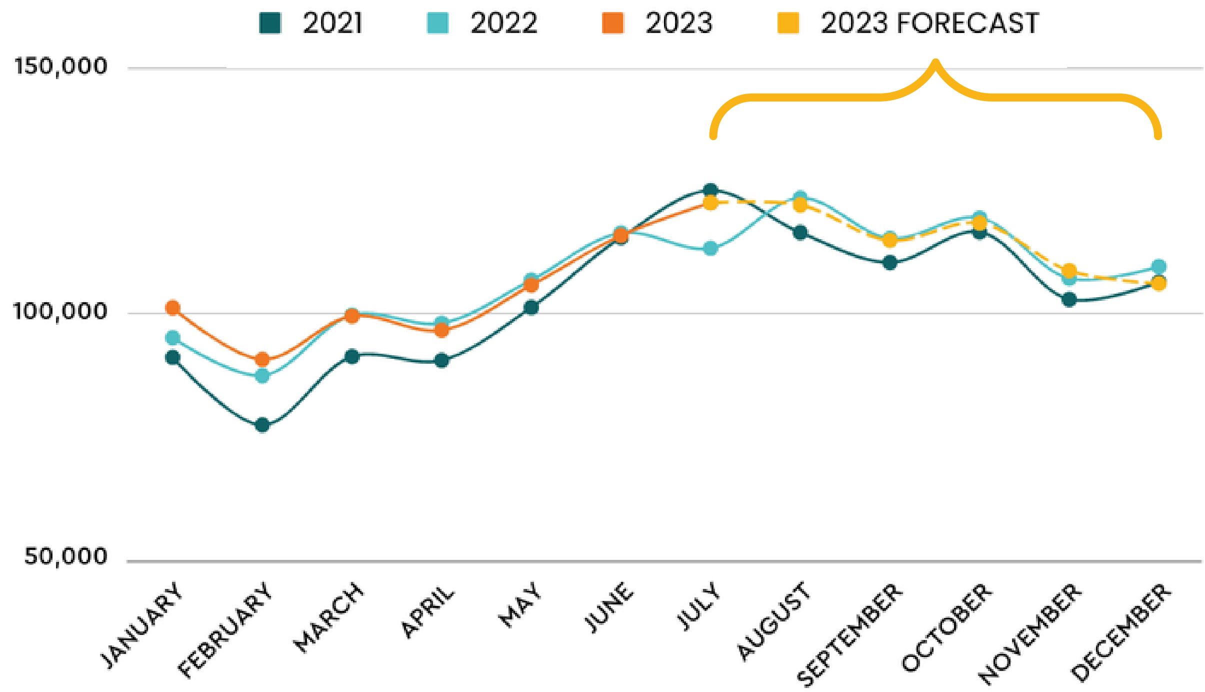
TOTAL OUTCOMES

TOTALS

DOGS AND CATS COMBINED

0.4% COMPARED TO JAN - JUNE 2022

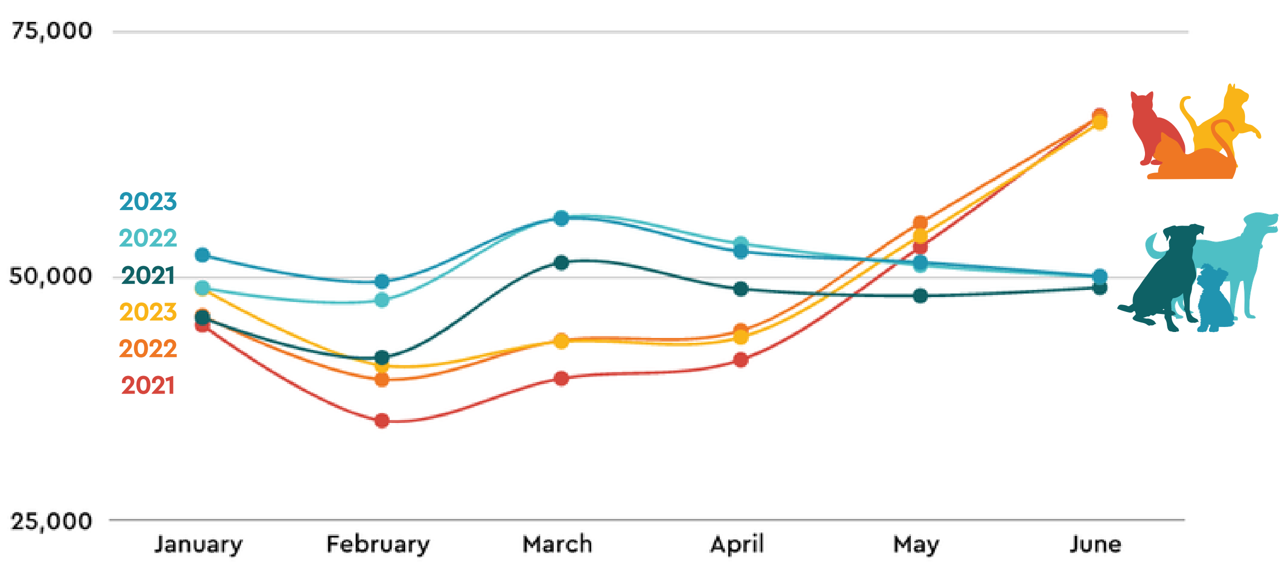
4.6% COMPARED TO JAN - JUNE 2021



SPECIES BREAKDOWN

0.8% FROM 2022
+6.4% FROM 2021

0.2% FROM 2022
+2.8% FROM 2021

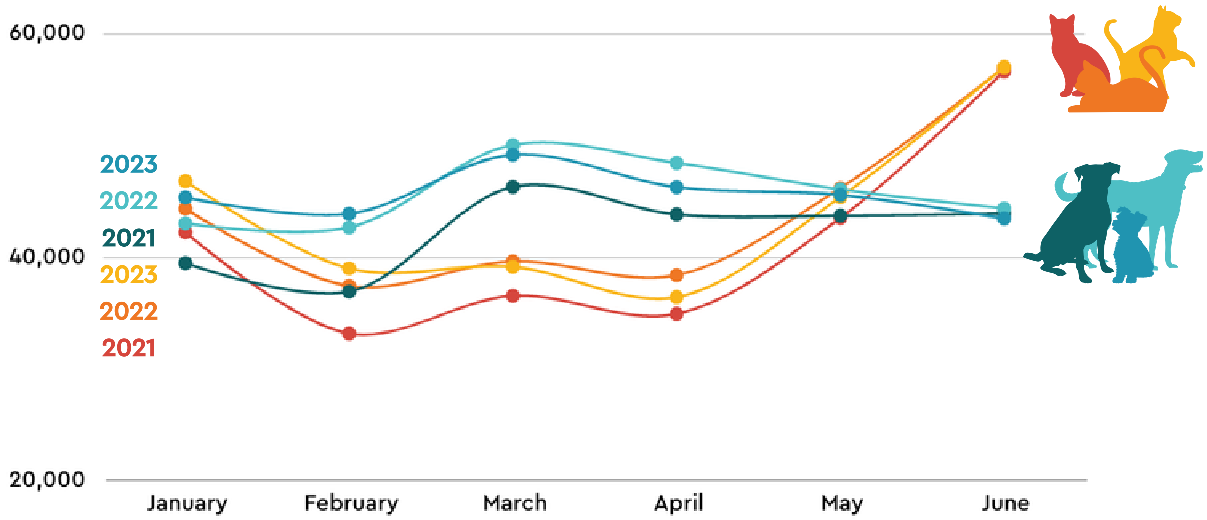


SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT

TOTAL OUTCOME TYPES
LIVE VS. NON-LIVE

COMMUNITY LIVE OUTCOMES

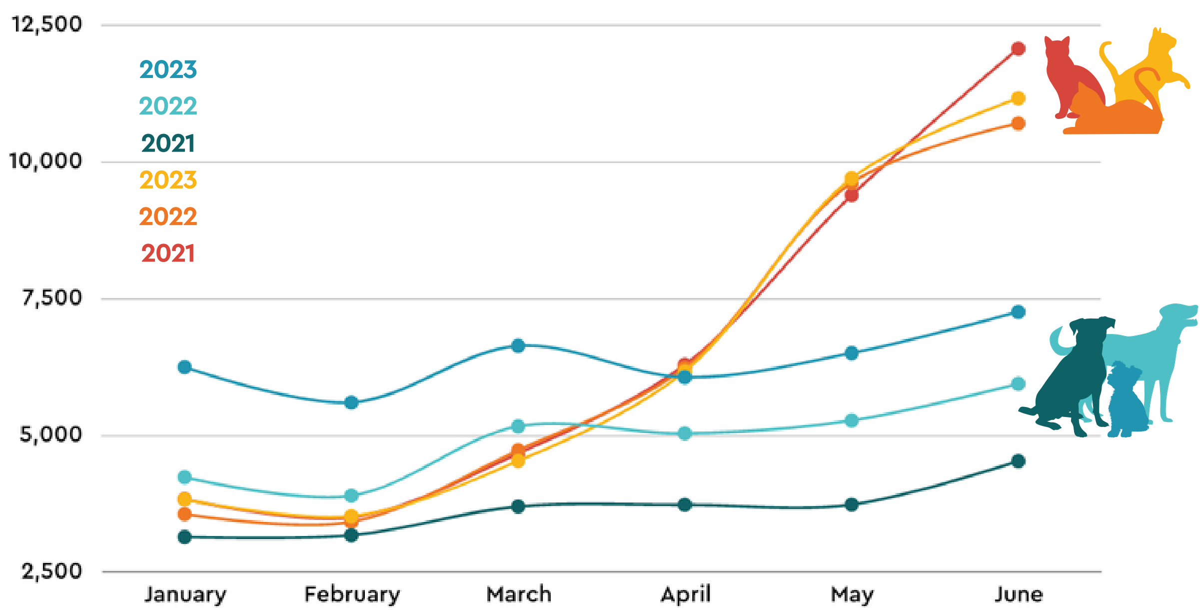
ADOPTIONS REMAINING THE SAME AND RETURN-TO-OWNER DECREASES FOR DOGS ARE IMPACTING COMMUNITY LIVE OUTCOMES.



	CATS	DOGS	TOTAL
COMPARED TO 2022	↑ 0.3%	↓ 0.3%	0%
COMPARED TO 2021	↑ 6.8%	↑ 7.7%	↑ 7.2%

NON-LIVE OUTCOMES

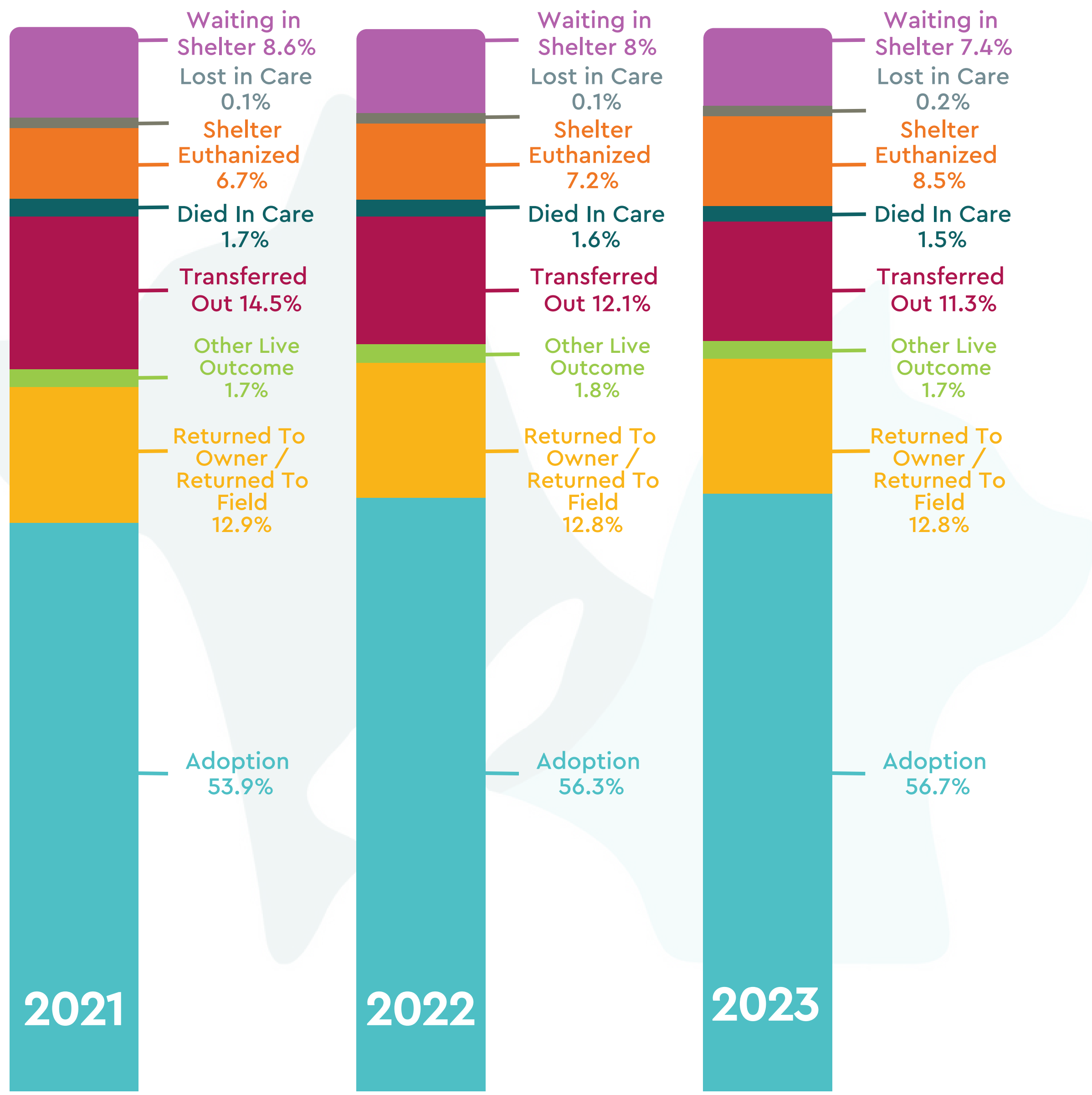
Q2 2023 SAW A 14% INCREASE IN NON-LIVE OUTCOMES, WHICH ARE NOW 25% HIGHER THAN 2021.



	CATS	DOGS	TOTAL
COMPARED TO 2022	↑ 1.7%	↑ 29.6%	↑ 14%
COMPARED TO 2021	↓ 2.1%	↑ 73.8%	↑ 25%

TOTAL OUTCOME TYPES AS A % OF TOTAL INTAKES IN Q2

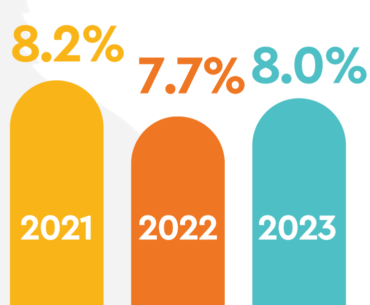
TOTAL OUTCOME TYPES FOR DOGS AND CATS COMBINED, AS A % OF TOTAL INTAKES



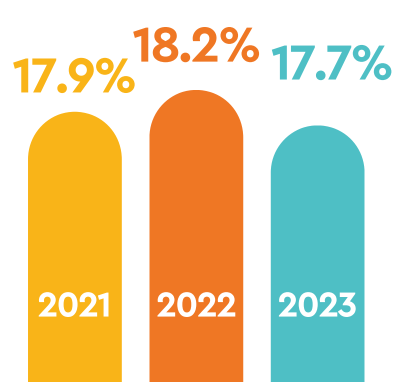
Dogs have seen a decrease in RTO by 2.7%, primarily driven by government-funded organizations. With the increase in stray intake, we would typically expect to see an increase in RTO rather than a decrease.

RETURN TO FIELD/OWNER CATS

Because dogs are not "returned to field" under normal circumstances, cat RTO rates artificially appear lower than dog RTO rates. For this reason, we have combined RTF and RTO rates for cats.



RETURN TO OWNER DOGS

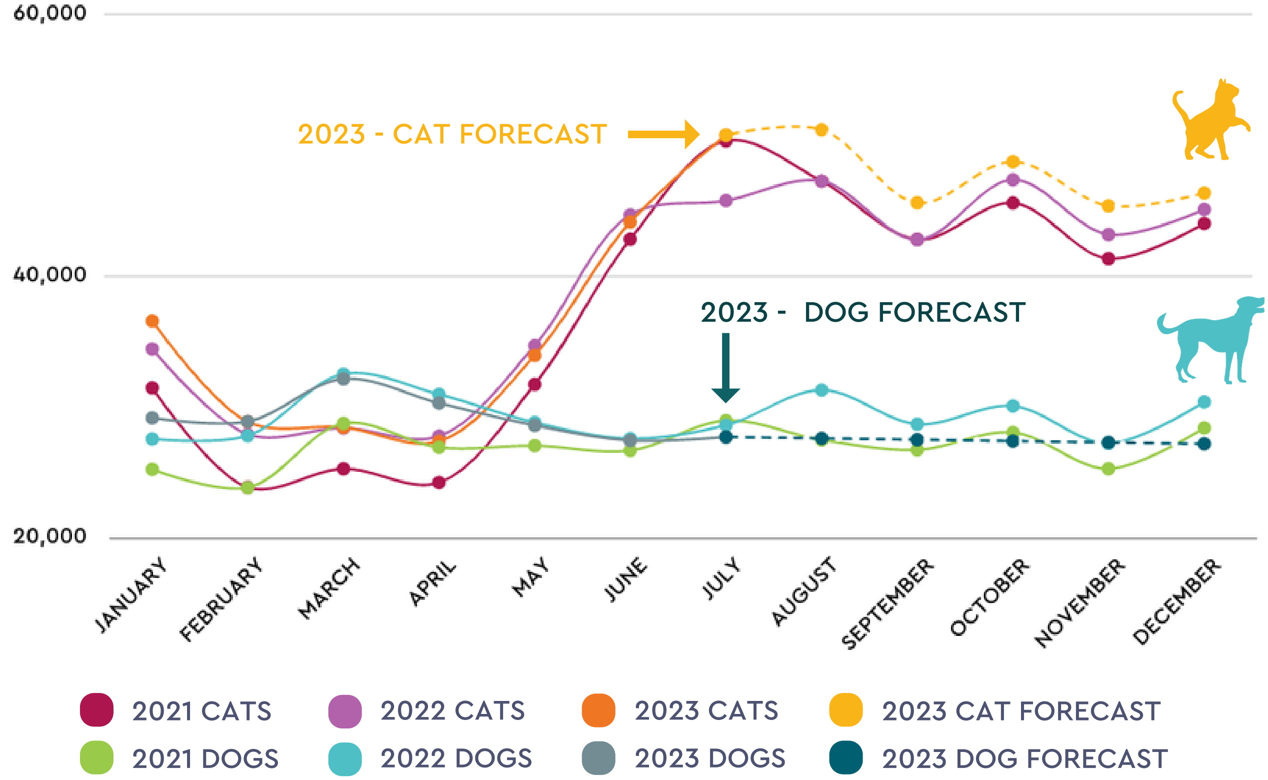


SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT

ADOPTIONS

0.3% COMPARED TO JAN - JUNE 2022

8.6% COMPARED TO JAN - JUNE 2021

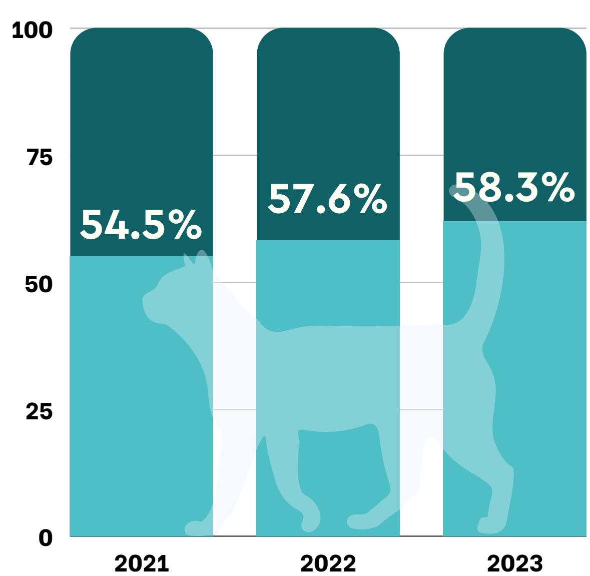


While higher than 2021, the number of adoptions in the first half of 2023 is the same as Jan-June 2022 for both cats and dogs. Through the first half of the year, cat adoption rates normally decrease due to the influx of felines during kitten season. This year was no exception, however the year-to-date adoption rate in 2023 is higher than 2021.

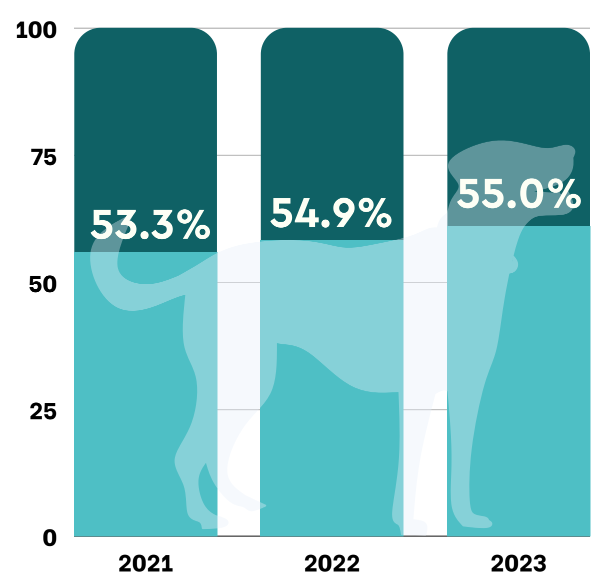
JAN - JUNE ADOPTIONS

AS A % OF TOTAL INTAKE

CAT



DOG



SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT

OUTCOMES BY

ORG TYPE, DOGS & CATS COMBINED

COMMUNITY AND TRANSFERS OUTCOME CHANGES 2023 vs 2022

GOVERNMENT FUNDED AGENCIES

+12.0% COMMUNITY LIVE OUTCOMES

-18.6% TRANSFERS OUT

RESCUES w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT

-7.5% COMMUNITY LIVE OUTCOMES

-19.5% TRANSFERS OUT

SHELTERS w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT

+4.4% COMMUNITY LIVE OUTCOMES

-25.6% TRANSFERS OUT

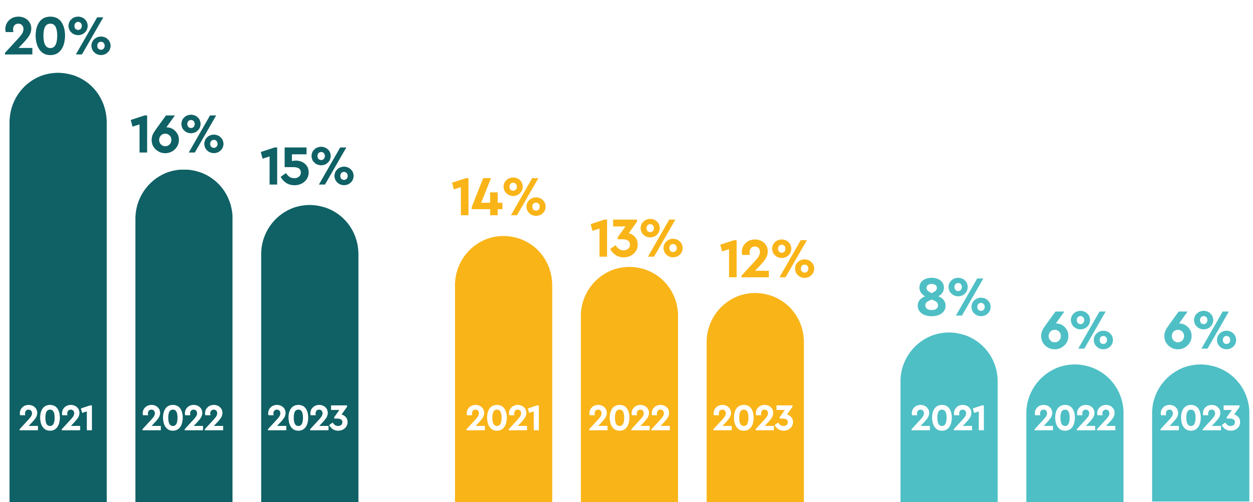
Transfers out continue to be the lowest they have been in the three-year period, impacting total live outcomes.

TRANSFER OUT % TOTAL INTAKES

GOVERNMENT FUNDED AGENCIES

RESCUES w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT

SHELTERS w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT



SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT

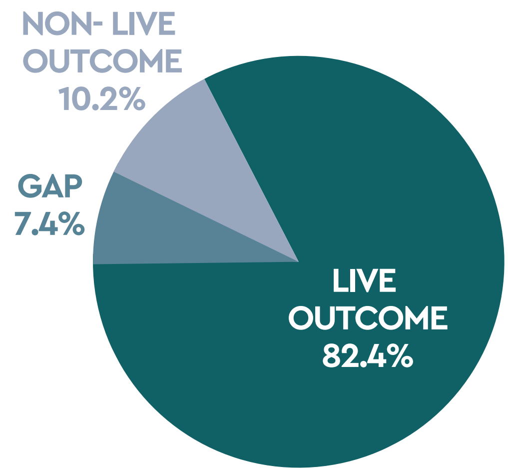
PBC

(POPULATION BALANCE CALCULATION)

SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT 2023 Q2 REPORT

POPULATION BALANCE CALCULATION

2023 YEARLY COMPARISON AND 2023 FORECAST



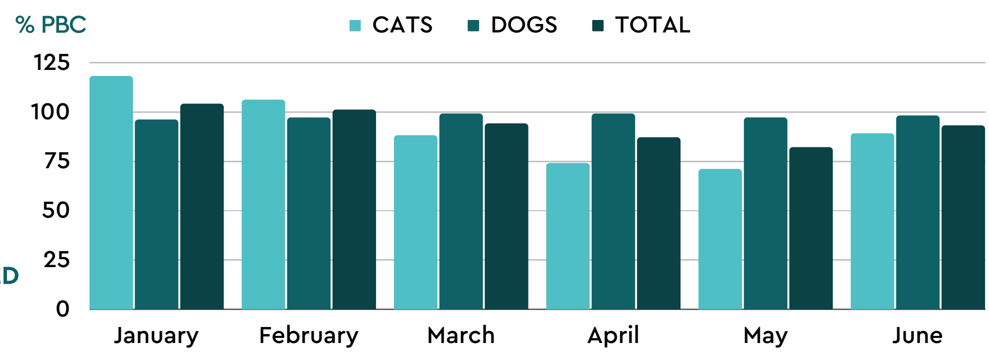
93%
COMBINED SPECIES PBC THRU Q2

Population > 100% = More animals LEAVING than ENTERING
This could mean the shelter has available kennel space, has just held a successful large adoption event, etc.

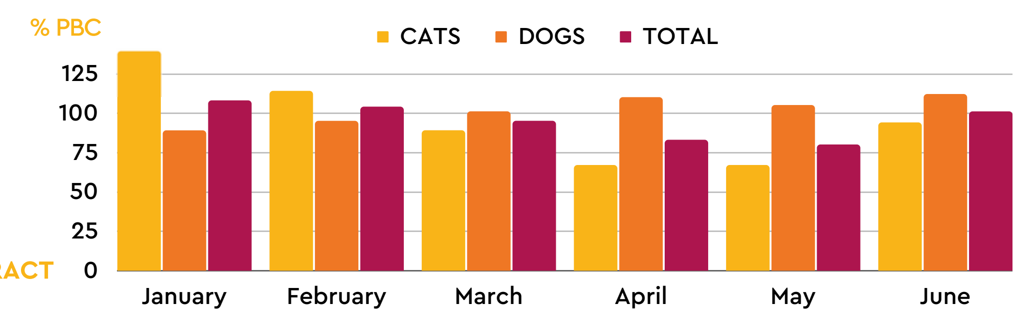
Population = 100% = Stable
This could mean the shelter has reached equilibrium, is working to correct after being over or under capacity, etc.

Population < 100% = More animals ENTERING than LEAVING
This could mean the shelter is struggling with overcrowding issues, has just assisted with a large intake case, etc.

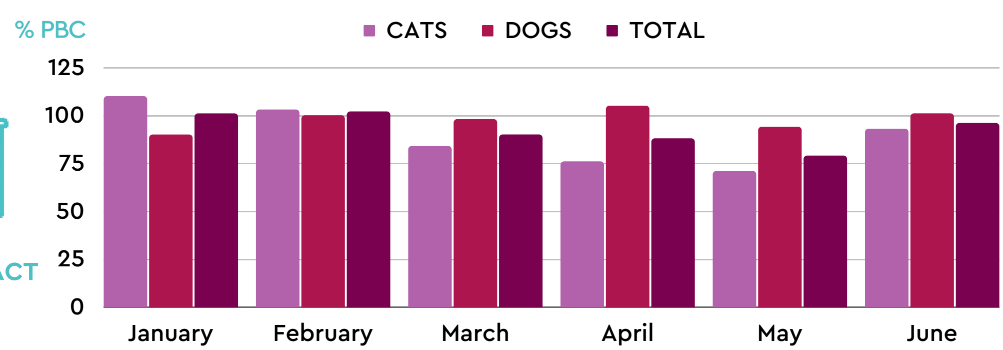
GOVERNMENT FUNDED AGENCIES



RESCUES w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT



SHELTERS w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT



POPULATION BALANCE CALCULATION

12.5%

More felines <u>entered</u> than left the shelter Jan-June 2023.

2%

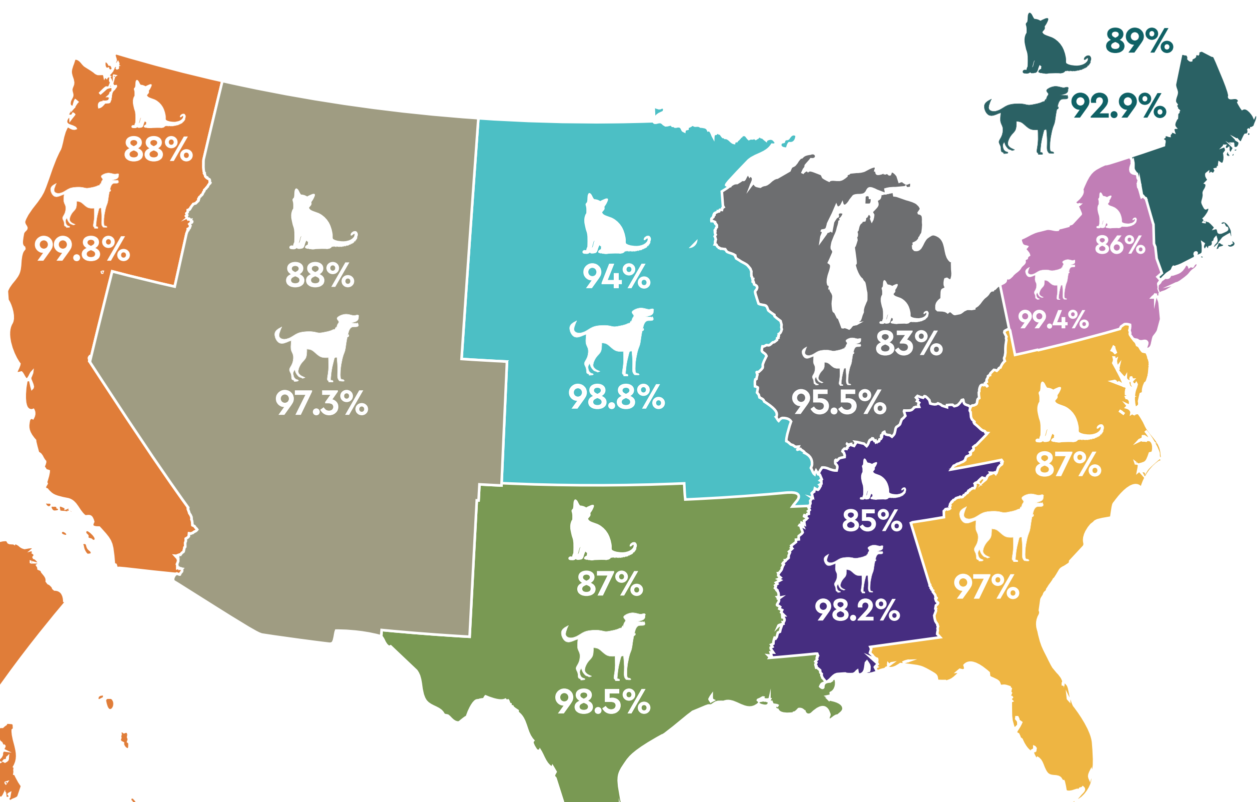
More canines <u>entered</u> than left the shelter Jan-June 2023.

2023 SPECIES PBC BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

	Cats	Dogs	Cats & Dogs
GOVERNMENT FUNDED AGENCIES	87%	98%	93%
RESCUES w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT	89%	101%	94%
SHELTERS w/o GOVERNMENT CONTRACT	88%	98%	92%

LOOKING FOR 2022 OR OLDER?

Visit our Industry Trends dashboard at shelteranimalscount.org/data-dashboards.

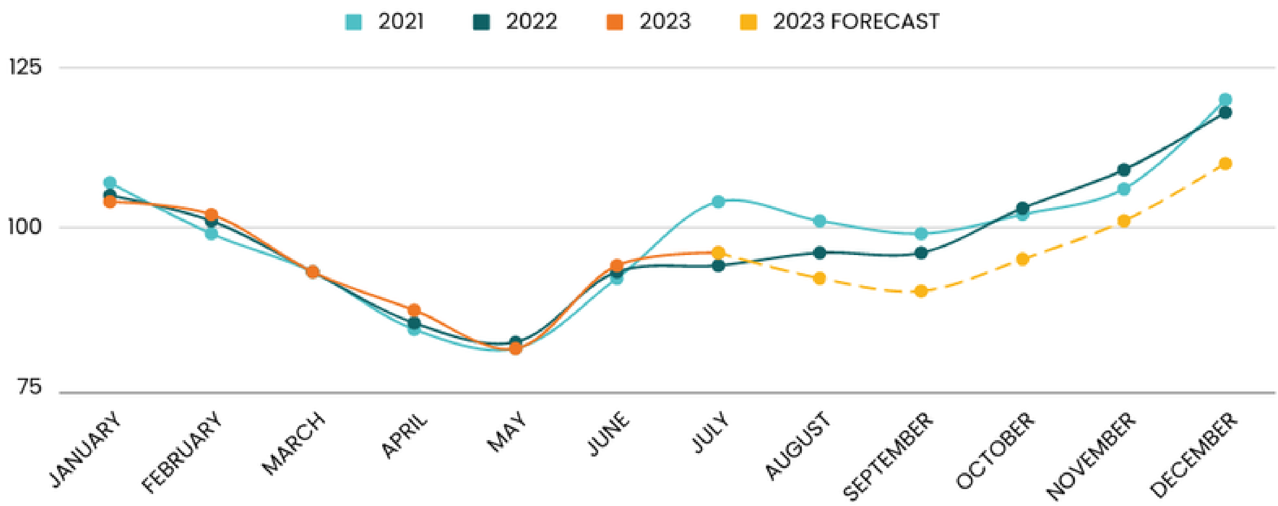


SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT

POPULATION BALANCE CALCULATION

FORECAST

COMBINED SPECIES PBC MONTH-BY-MONTH



After the first half of 2023, the projected forecast for total PBC in 2023 is now 95%.

2023 FULL YEAR FORECAST

91% 99% 95%

2022

97% 97% 97%

2021

99% 98% 98%

2020

103% 103% 103%

2019

100% 100% 100%

SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT

Based on full-year 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and the first half of 2023, a forecast for community intakes, adoptions and the population balance calculation was developed for the remainder of 2023. This forecast is an estimate only.

DEFINITIONS

GROSS INTAKES
Stray, relinquished by owner, transfers in, other intakes (born in care, seized, etc.).

COMMUNITY (NET) INTAKES
Total intakes but does not include transfers in as an effort to show actual community intakes and to avoid double counting intakes when aggregating.

INTAKE TYPES % OF INTAKE
The percentage of total intakes that were a certain intake type.

TOTAL OUTCOMES
Includes all live outcomes and non-live outcomes.

LIVE OUTCOMES
Adoption, return to owner (RTO), return to field, transfer, and other live outcomes.

COMMUNITY (NET) LIVE OUTCOMES
Total outcomes excluding transfers out.

OTHER OUTCOMES/NON-LIVE OUTCOMES
Died in care, lost in care, and shelter euthanasia.

OUTCOME TYPES % OF INTAKE
The percentage of total intakes that resulted in certain outcome.

POPULATION BALANCE CALCULATION
The formula SAC uses to determine if a shelter's population is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same. It simply takes the total outcomes divided by the total intakes for a time period.

100% EQUILIBRIUM

100% means that animals are leaving at the exact same rate that they're coming in, so the total number of animals is unchanged (equilibrium).

ABOVE 100%

Over 100% means the population is decreasing (i.e. 107% means 7% more animals left than entered the shelter).

BELOW 100%

Under 100% means the population is increasing (i.e. 97% means 3% of animals that entered stayed in the shelter).

SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT
THE NATIONAL DATABASE

2023
Q1 & Q2: JANUARY - JUNE

This report shows comparative data on sheltered animals from January - June for 2021 - 2023. Only organizations that reported complete data for the time period are included in the analysis.

Since there is no national requirement for reporting, all data is self-reported and contains natural under and over sampling biases in both the geographic and organization type dimensions.

Based on full-year 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and the first half of 2023, a forecast for community intakes, adoptions and the population balance calculation was developed for the remainder of 2023. This forecast is an estimate only.

32%

MORE REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

compared to the 2022 Q2 report. 947 organizations contributed complete data for felines and canines in the Intake and Outcome Database for all 18 months of Jan - June 2021, 2022 and 2023.

1,800,000

CATS & DOGS COUNTED

2023: 620,880
2022: 613,344
2021: 576,789

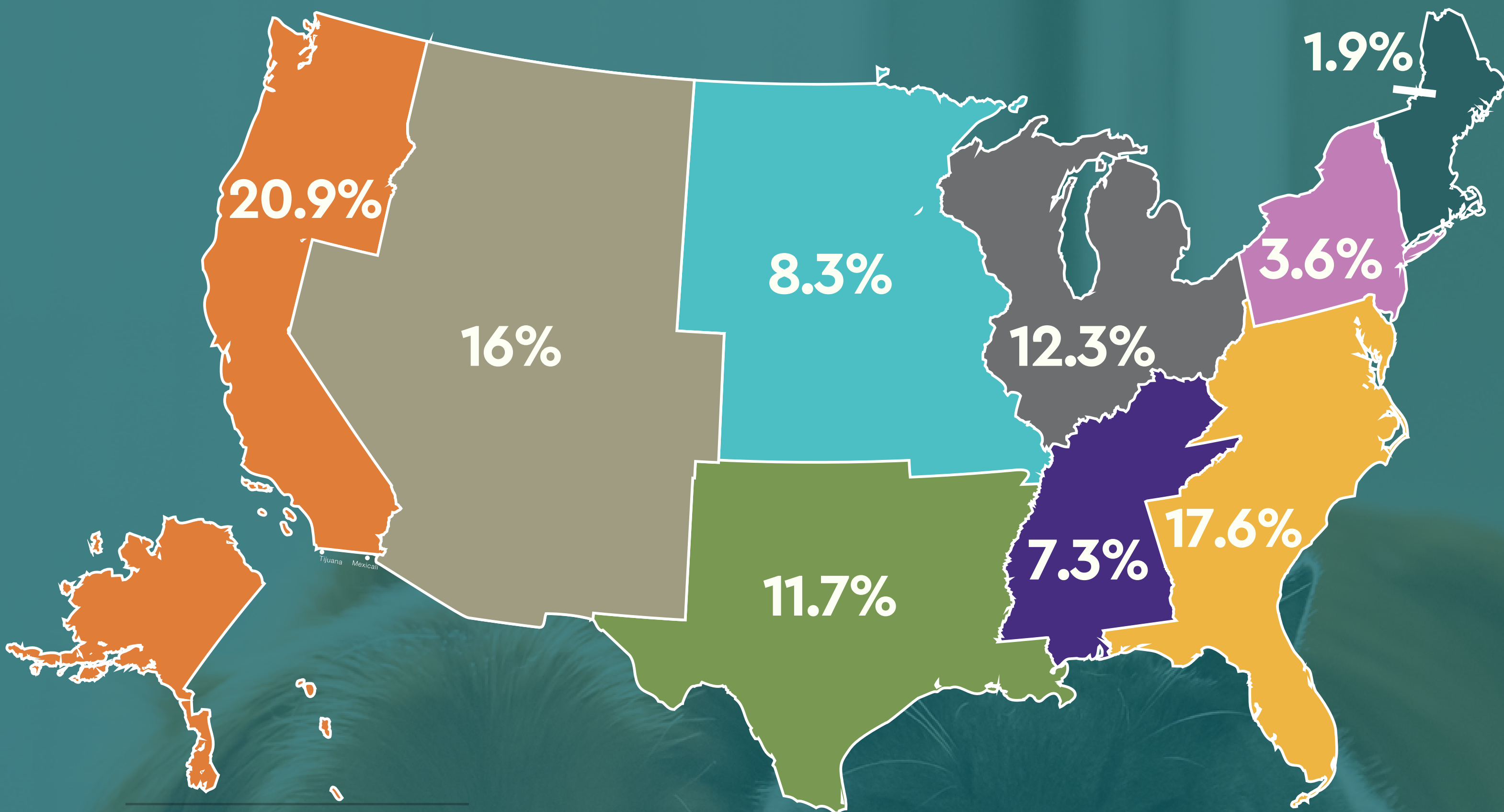
MOST TRUSTED ANIMAL SHELTERING DATA SINCE 2016

Find data for additional species, including rabbits, equines, small mammals, farm animals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, on our website at

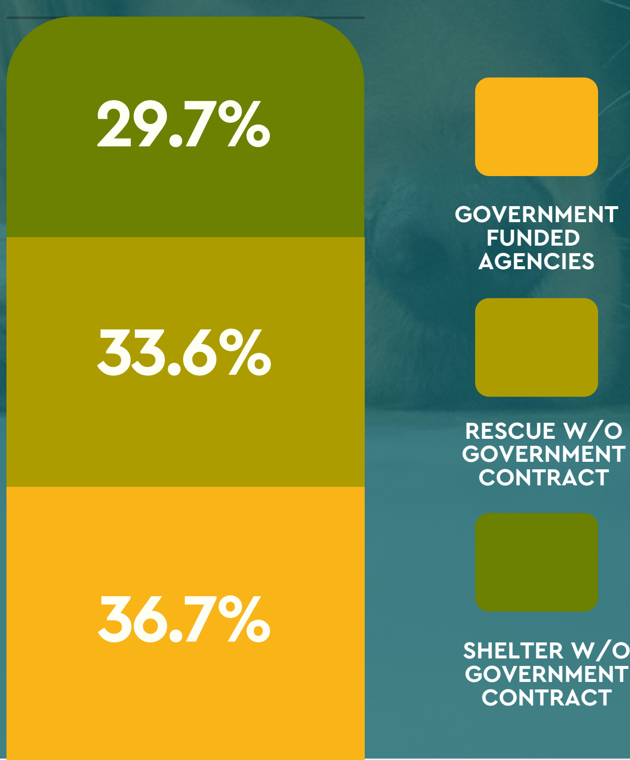
www.ShelterAnimalsCount.org

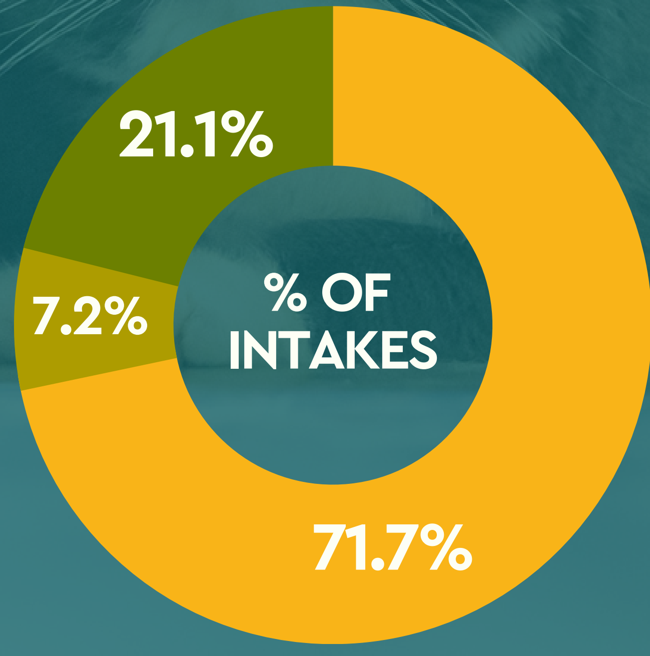
ORGANIZATIONS

% OF ORGANIZATIONS IN INTAKE/OUTCOME DATA BY REGION



% OF ORGANIZATIONS BY TYPE





ABOUT THE

NATIONAL DATABASE

24M
ANIMALS COUNTED

6,936
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

172
DATA POINTS COLLECTED

53
REPORTING STATES & US TERRITORIES

ABOUT SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT

THE MOST TRUSTED SOURCE FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING STATISTICS

Over the past few decades, several attempts were made to create a platform for shelter data reporting in the animal welfare industry. Shelter Animals Count was founded in 2012 by a diverse group of animal welfare agencies with the desire to come together as an industry and finally create a standardized database.

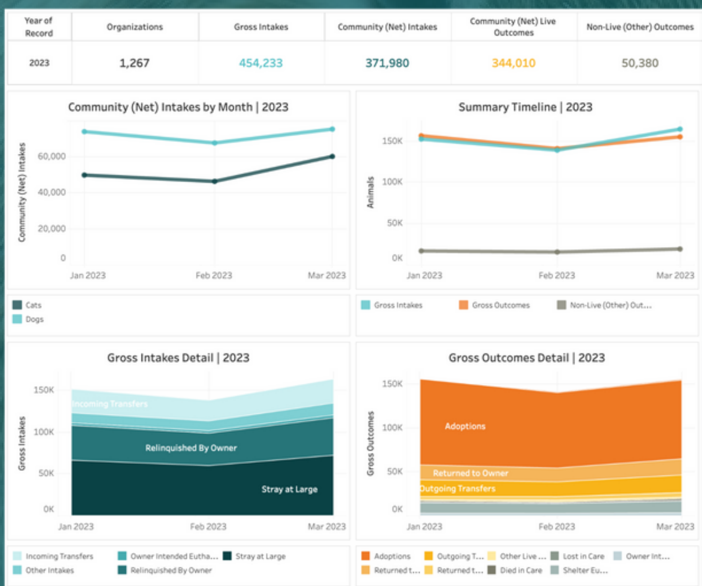
Their partnership and collaboration led to the development of The National Database, which aims to measure progress in animal welfare, foster collaboration, and address the issue of pet homelessness. Shelter Animals Count is a neutral, independent non-profit organization entrusted with analyzing and sharing animal sheltering data to provide crucial information and insights to save lives.

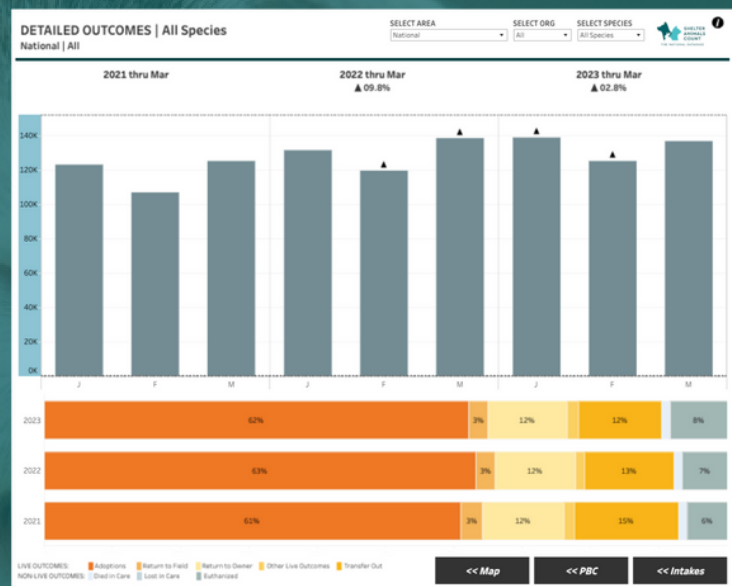
Data collection began in 2016 and has grown to include intake and outcome data from all organization types (without any minimum intake requirements), all species (beyond just cats and dogs), and community services (for owned pets) in all 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The database is continuing to grow with planned expansions into Canada, the collection of additional data points — including field services and more detailed intake and outcome data categories (animal-level data).

Shelter Animals Count operates as a 501(c)(3) organization, relying on grants, sponsorships and donations to fund their efforts.

ALL THIS...
AND SO MUCH MORE!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT SHELTERANIMALSCOUNT.ORG TO VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE DASHBOARDS AND ADDITIONAL REPORTS





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