

INTAKE & OUTCOME DATABASE™

(VRS 2.2025)

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE BASIC DATA MATRIX

Introduction

The Intake & Outcome Database (IOD)™ was designed to serve as a tool for basic data collection. It is a simple database containing what many (including Asilomar, ASPCA, National Federation of Humane Societies, American Humane, UC Davis, Maddie's Fund, PetSmart Charities, Humane World for Animals and Shelter Animals Count) have agreed are the minimum data points (along with definitions) an organization should gather. Whether organizations already gather a great deal of data or have only gathered the basics, this database should facilitate the roll up or merging of data at the local, regional, or national level by providing a common framework. This database does not reflect any preference in data analysis or the calculation of rates but is rather simply a tool for data collection.

By agreeing to the IOD, our goal is for organizations to gather these data points, or if an organization already gathers a great deal of data, that they will consider rolling up their data into this format to help facilitate data collection at a local, regional, or national level, which would allow participating agencies to benchmark their work against similar agencies around their region or the nation. This database does not reflect any preference for the variety of live release rates used in animal sheltering and welfare. Most rates, other than full Asilomar, which requires a conditions matrix, should be able to be calculated from the data points included.

What Animals are Counted?

The 2021 update to the Intake & Outcome Database expands beyond canines and felines to include other companion animal categories: rabbits, equines, small mammals, farm animals, birds, and reptiles + amphibians. Many organizations also provide extraordinary services for other animals such as wildlife, not captured in this database.

Equine: Horses, donkeys, mules, and other equines

Small Mammals: Small domestic mammals such as guinea pigs, hamsters, rats

Farm Animals: Non-equine, hooved farm animals like pigs, llamas, and cows

Birds: Domestic birds like chickens, pigeons, and parrots

Reptiles and Amphibians: Pet reptiles and amphibians like turtles, snakes, iguanas

Live Admissions Only

For the purposes of this database, we are tracking live admissions only, i.e. animals who are alive when they come into an agency's possession. Animals who are deceased when taken into an agency's possession may be a data point to track, but that information is not tracked by this database.

Tracking by Species and Age

The risks associated with being an adult dog, puppy, adult cat, or kitten (or neonate of any kind) in a shelter environment vary a great deal. To help shelters assess and understand the differing risks for these populations of animals, the Intake & Outcome Database includes a break out by species and age for intake and outcome categories. The age tracked within intake categories is the age at intake, and the age tracked within outcome categories is the age at outcome. Age is not necessary to track for beginning and ending counts. If tracking statistics broken out by species and age is beyond the capacity of an agency, simply tracking statistics by species would be a place to begin. This document defines puppy and kitten as under 5 months of age (see below: Determining Age).

Determining Age

The Intake & Outcome Database utilizes 5 months as the break point between puppy/kitten and adult. At or near 5 months of age, there are changes in the teeth which can help guide trained staff regarding proper categorization of the animal. For cats, at 4-5 months of age permanent canines, premolars and molars are coming in (all in by 6 months of age). For dogs, at 5-7 months of age permanent canines, premolars and molars are coming in (all in by 7 months of age).

Beginning and Ending Shelter Counts

These numbers help frame the population of the animals sheltered and cared for by the organization. We recommend a shelter walk through – physically counting the animals sheltered within the organization, and not forgetting to count those animals who have been admitted but who are not currently within the shelter (foster care, in the care of a veterinary hospital, etc.). Beginning and ending counts aren't broken down by age, since the age of animals will change while at the shelter.

RTF vs TNR

Return to Field (RTF) programs involve community cats who have been admitted to an animal shelter, brought in by animal control personnel or by members of the public. Trap Neuter Return (TNR) programs involve the management of community cats by trapping, sterilizing and returning cats to where they originated. While the programs function in similar ways, the key difference is that RTF cats are admitted for sheltering and are therefore part of the animal sheltering function. TNR cats are NOT admitted for sheltering, only for a service or services (sterilization and/or vaccination). Both programs are lifesaving, but the admission for sheltering, or not, is an important distinction. TNR cats can be counted using the Community Services Database.

What is Possession?

"Adoption" and "Transferred to another agency" both make reference to possession. The primary concept here is one of ownership. For example, in foster care, the agency still has possession or ownership. If adopted or transferred to another agency, possession is now with the new owner, or with another agency.

Defining Owner Intended Euthanasia

Beginning July 1, 2022 all Owner Intended Euthanasia (OIE) numbers will be represented as a Community Service in SAC's reporting. This change reflects the most accurate intent of this service to the community.

Since the roll-out of our Community Services Database in 2021, shelters/rescues have had the opportunity to enter OIE as either an intake/ outcome or as a community service, and that hasn't changed. You still have the choice of which database to enter your OIE data – if you enter it as an intake/outcome it will feed to our Intake/Outcome dashboards and if you enter your OIE data as a service it will automatically feed to our Community Services dashboard. Regardless of which dashboard best fits your organization's needs, all of the OIE data will be combined and reported only as a service in SAC published reports.

This will apply to all future as well as historical data used for reporting. You can change which dashboard your historical OIE data is reported to by logging into your SAC portal.

NOTE: An Owner Intended Euthanasia is defined as a pet whose owner brought the pet to the shelter/community service clinic with the intent of requesting euthanasia due to a medical or behavior condition or the owner selects euthanasia as the best treatment option after consultation with a veterinarian. It is not defined as a euthanasia that takes place after an owner surrenders a pet without the intent to euthanize and the shelter/rescue then determines the euthanasia outcome.

Intakes & Outcomes Database™

Companion Animal Intake & Outcomes (VRS 2.2025)

For All Species

LIVE INTAKES	ADULT	UP TO 5 MONTHS	AGE UNKOWN	TOTAL	DEFINITIONS
Stray					Also called 'at large'. Animal stated to be unowned, free-roaming, or owner not present. Animal is held for a legally mandated period that must be kept in the custody of an organization to allow for the animal to be returned to its owner or caregiver. <i>Note: Please refer to the definition of trap-neuter-return for animals brought in as strays with the intent of being returned to their original community.</i>
Relinquished by Owner					Also called 'owner surrender'. Animal admitted by its owner, including adoption returns.
Transferred in from agency (in state)					Animal transferred into the organization's possession from another within the same state, for adoption, large scale seizure support, etc.
Transferred in from agency (out of state)					Animal transferred into the organization's possession from another in a different state, for adoption, large scale seizure support, etc.
Transferred in from agency (international)					Animal transferred into the organization's possession from another organization from another organization or agency outside the US, for adoption, large scale seizure support, etc.
Impound/ Seizure					Pets impounded by animal control or law enforcement due to neglect, cruelty, ordinance violations, police arrests, evictions, or other legal circumstances are housed at the organization for a specific period as mandated by state and local laws. These pets may be either owned or stray.
Other Intakes					Pets born in care or other types of intakes not listed above
TOTAL LIVE INTAKES					Sum of live animals that entered the organization's care.
NON-LIVE OUTCOMES	ADULT	UP TO 5 MONTHS	AGE UNKOWN	TOTAL	DEFINITIONS
Died in Care					Animal died, unassisted, while in the custody of the organization.
Lost in Care					Animal outcome is unknown. This is also referred to as 'missing' and may include stolen animals.
Shelter Euthanasia					Animal euthanized in the custody of the organization.
TOTAL NON-LIVE OUTCOMES					Sum of animals that left the organization's care through a non-live outcome.

LIVE OUTCOMES	ADULT	UP TO 5 MONTHS	AGE UNKOWN	TOTAL	DEFINITIONS
Adoptions					Animal custody permanently transferred from the organization to an individual adopter via an adoption process.
Returned to Owner (RTO)					Also called 'Return to Home' or 'RTH'. Animal returned to its owner after being processed as an intake.
Transferred out to agency (in state)					Animal custody transitioned to another organization within the same state or territory. Entities may include local rescue partners or national groups
Transferred out to agency (out of state)					Animal custody transitioned to another organization within a different state or territory. Entities may include local rescue partners or national groups
Transferred out to agency (international)					Animal custody transitioned to another organization outside the US.
Returned to Field (RTF)					Return-to-field as an outcome type is the return of felines taken into the organization, counted as stray intake, and then returned to their capture location as free roaming felines. This is only for felines brought into the organization as a stray without the intention of having them returned to where they were found. Return-to-field is an outcome decision made by the organization.
Other live outcomes					Other types of live outcome not captured above.
TOTAL LIVE OUTCOMES					Sum of animals that left the organization's care through a live placement.

TOTAL LIVE OUTCOMES	TOTAL NON-LIVE OUTCOMES	TOTAL OUTCOMES
Sum of animals that left the organization's care through a live placement	Sum of animals that left the organization's care through a non-live outcome	Includes all outcomes including adoptions, return to owner/field, other live outcomes, transfers out, shelter euthanasia, died in care/lost in care

ANIMAL COUNTS	TOTAL IN CARE	IN FOSTER CARE
	Number of animals at the shelter, offsite locations, and in foster care on the first and last day of the month	Number of animals in foster care on the first and last day of the month
Beginning Count		
Ending Count		