



Shelter Animals Count

12/1/2023-12/31/2023

BASIC ANIMAL DATA MATRIX (VRS 1.2021)

What Animals are Counted?

The 2021 update to the basic data matrix 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 here.

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, this basic data matrix 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:

This basic matrix 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.

Live Admissions Only:

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

Defining Owner Intended Euthanasia:

Some shelters offer pet euthanasia to the public as a service whose cost may be subsidized and therefore more affordable than local veterinary clinics, thus ensuring access to this service. Defining when euthanasia should be recorded as "at the request of the owner", or not, is the subject of much discussion. For the purposes of this document, we are choosing to define owner INTENDED euthanasia as the euthanasia of a pet whose owner brought the pet to the shelter for that service. In other words, the owner brought the pet in specifically for that service - it was their intent before arriving. Any other definition of "owner requested" euthanasia leaves much up to interpretation and therefore a great deal of variation among organizations and their reporting. We believe the simplicity of this definition helps to ensure consistent application and record keeping. Owner-Intended Euthanasia provided as a service outside of intake is not counted in this Basic Data Matrix but is counted in Community Services Matrix.

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 Matrix.

Canines

Beginning Animal Count In Shelter: **85** In Foster: **3** Total: **88**

Live Intake	Adult	287
	Stray/At Large	157
	Relinquished by Owner	39
	Transferred in from agency (in state)	3
	Owner Intended Euthanasia	32
	Impound/Seizure	56
	Up to 5 Months	23
	Stray/At Large	15
	Relinquished by Owner	7
	Impound/Seizure	1
Total Live Intake		310

Live Outcomes	Adult	155	
	Adoption	38	
	Returned to Owner	101	
	Transferred out to agency (in state)	16	
	Up to 5 Months	17	
	Adoption	5	
	Returned to Owner	3	
	Transferred out to agency (in state)	9	
	Total Live Outcomes		172

Other Outcomes	Adult	132
	Shelter Euthanasia	102
	Owner Intended Euthanasia	30
	Up to 5 Months	1
	Died in Care	1
Total Other Outcomes		133
Total Outcomes		305

Ending Animal Count In Shelter: **80** In Foster: **4** Total: **84**

Felines

Beginning Animal Count	In Shelter: 120	In Foster: 72	Total: 192
Live Intake	Adult		224
	Stray/At Large		141
	Relinquished by Owner		35
	Transferred in from agency (in state)		8
	Owner Intended Euthanasia		14
	Impound/Seizure		26
	Up to 5 Months		98
	Stray/At Large		49
	Relinquished by Owner		19
	Transferred in from agency (in state)		27
	Impound/Seizure		3
	Total Live Intake		322
Live Outcomes	Adult		159
	Adoption		78
	Returned to Owner		21
	Transferred out to agency (in state)		16
	Returned to Field		44
	Up to 5 Months		118
	Adoption		111
	Returned to Owner		1
	Returned to Field		6
	Total Live Outcomes		277
Other Outcomes	Adult		71
	Shelter Euthanasia		57
	Owner Intended Euthanasia		14
	Up to 5 Months		15
	Shelter Euthanasia		15
	Total Other Outcomes		86
	Total Outcomes		363
Ending Animal Count	In Shelter: 92	In Foster: 46	Total: 138

Rabbits

Beginning Animal Count	In Shelter: 3	In Foster: 0	Total: 3
Live Intake	Adult		9
	Stray/At Large		6
	Relinquished by Owner		2
	Impound/Seizure		1
	Total Live Intake		9
Live Outcomes	Adult		2
	Adoption		2
	Total Live Outcomes		2
Other Outcomes	Adult		3
	Shelter Euthanasia		3
	Total Other Outcomes		3
	Total Outcomes		5
Ending Animal Count	In Shelter: 7	In Foster: 0	Total: 7

Small Mammals

Beginning Animal Count In Shelter: **3** In Foster: **1** Total: **4**

Live Intake	Adult	8
	Stray/At Large	1
	Relinquished by Owner	4
	Owner Intended Euthanasia	1
	Impound/Seizure	2
	Up to 5 Months	5
	Relinquished by Owner	5
Total Live Intake		13

Live Outcomes	Adult	7
	Adoption	7
	Up to 5 Months	4
	Returned to Owner	4
Total Live Outcomes		11

Other Outcomes	Adult	2
	Died in Care	1
	Owner Intended Euthanasia	1
Total Other Outcomes		2
Total Outcomes		13

Ending Animal Count In Shelter: **2** In Foster: **2** Total: **4**

Birds

Beginning Animal Count In Shelter: **0** In Foster: **0** Total: **0**

Live Intake	Adult	4
	Stray/At Large	4
Total Live Intake		4

Live Outcomes	Adult	3
	Adoption	3
Total Live Outcomes		3
Total Outcomes		3

Ending Animal Count In Shelter: **1** In Foster: **0** Total: **1**