

# Q1-Q4 2022

## ANALYSIS



# HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY-DECEMBER, 2019-2022

**1** **4% more animals entered shelters than left in 2022.** This is up from 2% in 2021. This is the largest gap in the past 4 years.

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**2** **The number of animals entering shelters continues to slightly increase each year since the pandemic, but is still 16% less than 2019.** Dog intakes represented the majority of this increase.

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**3** **Dog adoption rates remained very consistent throughout 2022, with 53% of dogs being adopted by year-end.** Cats had higher overall adoption rates than dogs at 64%, but saw much more variability in the rates by quarter.

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**4** **The increased number of animals in shelters today is a combination of many factors, but nationally, it is not being driven by an increase in owner surrenders.** Owner relinquishment rates remain consistent in the last four years at around 25%.

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**5** **The percentage of dogs being transferred between shelters continues to be the lowest rate in 4 years.**

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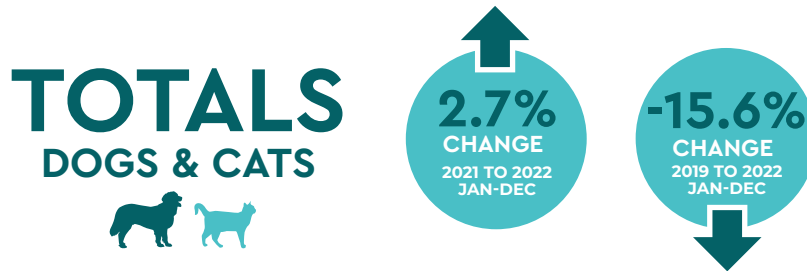
Over 80% of respondents to a recent survey conducted in partnership with the ASPCA and Adopt-a-Pet indicated that the lack of people-related resources (e.g. fosters, volunteers, staff) negatively impacted their ability to outcome animals in the past year.

# GROSS INTAKES VS. COMMUNITY INTAKES

## Gross Intakes

Typically used when looking at an individual shelter's data (shelter-level data).

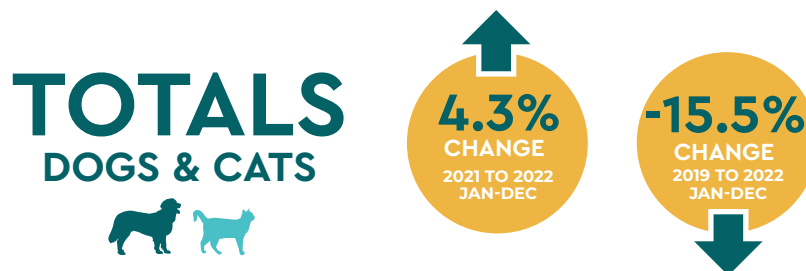
**DEFINITION:** Total animals entering the shelter. Stray, relinquished by owner, transfers in, other intakes (born in care, seized, etc.).



## Community (Net) Intakes

Typically used when aggregating intakes at state/region/national levels to prevent “double-counting” of animals being transferred after initial intake type. Assumes that animals being transferred were already accounted for in another intake type by another organization also in the dataset.

**DEFINITION:** Total animals entering the shelter **minus transfers in** as an effort to show actual community intakes.



# COMMUNITY INTAKES

## TOTALS DOGS & CATS



**4.3%**  
CHANGE  
2021 TO 2022  
JAN-DEC

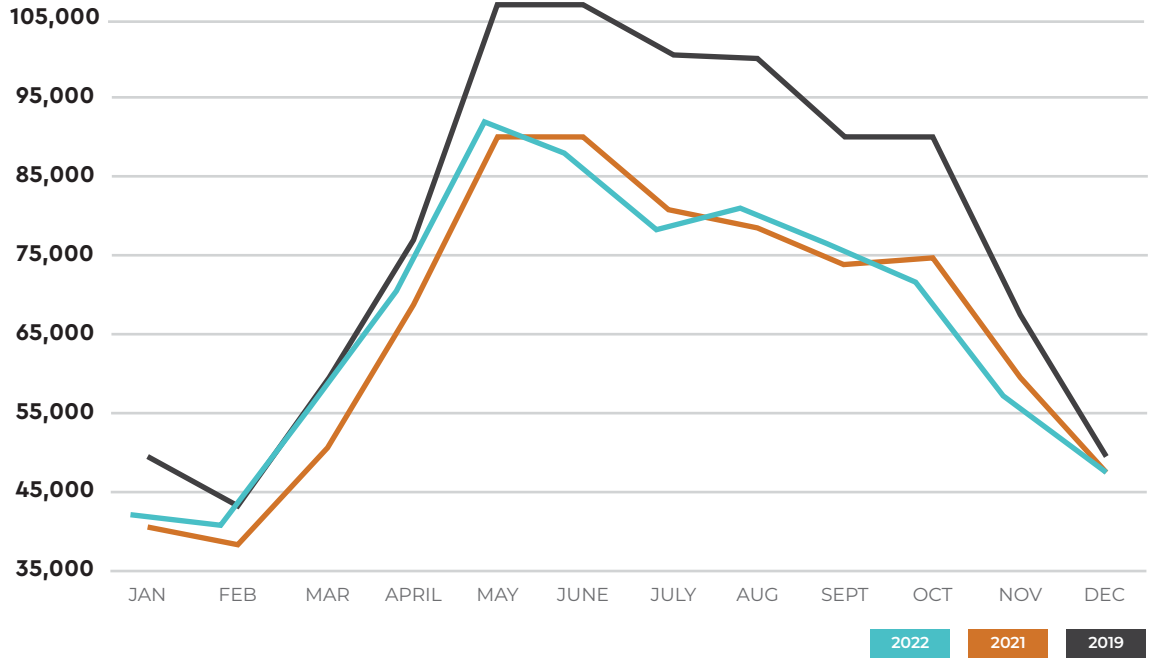
**-15.5%**  
CHANGE  
2019 TO 2022  
JAN-DEC

### FELINE



**1.1%**  
CHANGE  
2021 TO 2022  
JAN-DEC

**-14%**  
CHANGE  
2019 TO 2022  
JAN-DEC

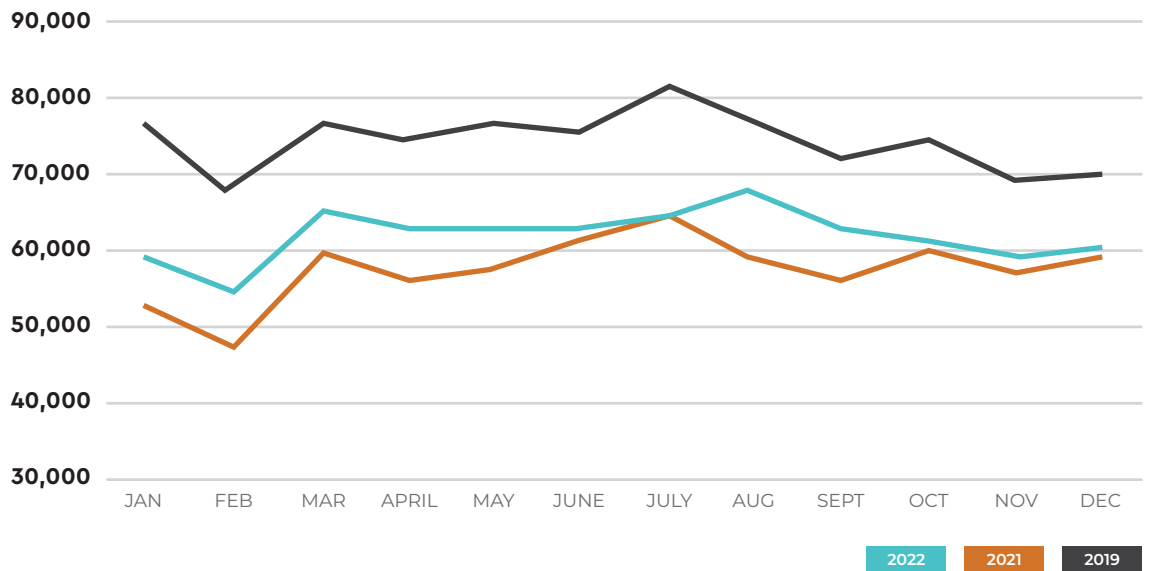


### CANINE



**7.9%**  
CHANGE  
2021 TO 2022  
JAN-DEC

**-17.1%**  
CHANGE  
2019 TO 2022  
JAN-DEC



ALL COMPARISONS INCLUDE JANUARY-DECEMBER IN THE STATED YEAR FOR DOGS AND CATS

## TOTAL OUTCOMES

INCLUDES ALL LIVE OUTCOMES AND NON-LIVE OUTCOMES.



**1.1% CHANGE**  
COMPARED TO 2021



**-18.9% CHANGE**  
COMPARED TO 2019

## LIVE OUTCOMES

ADOPTION, RETURN TO OWNER (RTO), RETURN TO FIELD, TRANSFER, AND OTHER LIVE OUTCOMES.



**-0.1% CHANGE**  
COMPARED TO 2021



**-16.9% CHANGE**  
COMPARED TO 2019

## COMMUNITY LIVE OUTCOMES

TOTAL OUTCOMES EXCLUDING TRANSFERS OUT.



**1.8% CHANGE**  
COMPARED TO 2021



**-14.2% CHANGE**  
COMPARED TO 2019

## NON-LIVE OUTCOMES

DIED IN CARE, LOST IN CARE, AND SHELTER EUTHANASIA.



**12.0% CHANGE**  
COMPARED TO 2021



**-33.2% CHANGE**  
COMPARED TO 2019

# INTAKE TYPES

as a % of total intake (January-December 2022)



	RELINQUISHED BY OWNER	STRAY	TRANSFER IN	OTHER INTAKES	TOTAL
22	26.1%	50.5%	15.5%	7.9%	100%
21	25.7%	50.0%	16.0%	8.3%	100%
19	25.1%	53.6%	14.2%	7.1%	100%
22	23.7%	48.7%	17.6%	10.0%	100%
21	24.7%	45.6%	19.9%	9.8%	100%
19	24.7%	48.0%	19.0%	8.4%	100%
22	24.9%	49.6%	16.5%	9.0%	100%
21	25.2%	48.0%	17.7%	9.1%	100%
19	24.8%	50.8%	16.6%	7.9%	100%

**2022 saw a 4.2% increase in community intakes compared to 2021. This increase is being driven by dogs (7.8% increase) while cats only saw a 1.1% increase. Overall, intakes remain 15.5% less than 2019.**

Dogs are not being surrendered at higher rates than in previous years. Owner relinquishment rates remained consistent in the last four years at around 25%. Compared to 2021, less than 1% more dogs were surrendered in 2022.

Stray cats are entering shelters at a lower percentage in 2022 than in 2019 (50% vs. 54%). This could be due to trap-neuter-return program efforts.



# OUTCOME TYPES

as a % of total intake (January-December 2022)



## ADOPTIONS

Adoptions are 3.1% higher than 2021 for dogs and cats. As a percentage of intake, cats saw an increase of 1 percentage point from 2021 while dog adoption rates have stayed steady, meaning that regardless of an increase in intakes, dogs are being adopted at the same rate as 2019 and 2021 in 2022.

## TRANSFERS OUT

The percentage of animals entering and leaving through Transfers Out continues to be the lowest it has been in the 4 year period at 11.8%.

The transfer system was disrupted when typical transfer partners, foster-based rescues, increased their intakes from their community during 2020.

## PENDING OUTCOME GAP

There is a higher portion of cats and dogs entering shelters that are not experiencing any outcome in the time period compared to 2021 and 2019.

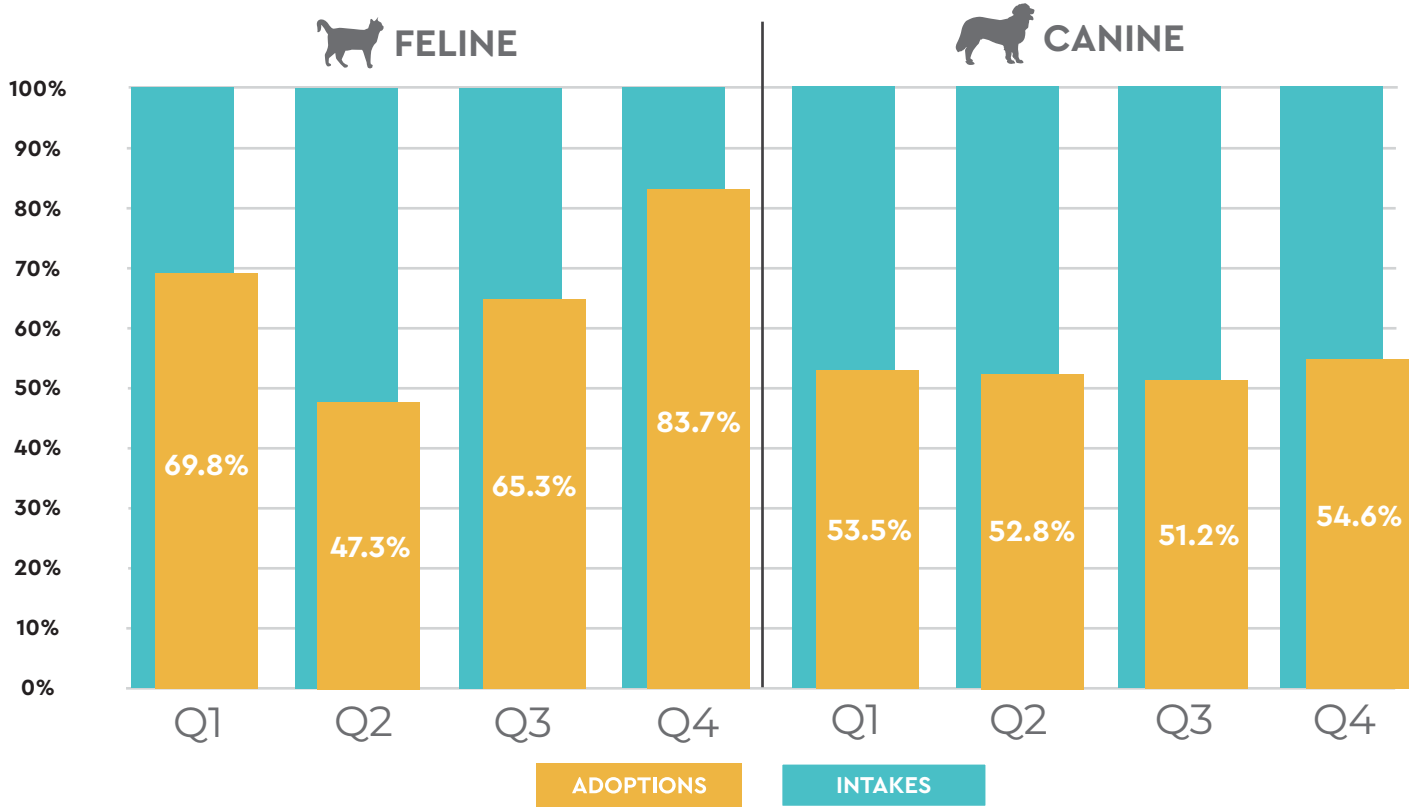
Read more about gaps in outcomes and the Population Balance Calculation on Page 9.

	ADOPTION	RETURN TO OWNER	RETURN TO FIELD	TRANSFER OUT	OTHER LIVE OUTCOMES	DIED IN CARE	LOST IN CARE	SHELTER EUTHANASIA	PENDING OUTCOME GAP
22	64.6%	2.8%	5.6%	9.6%	2.5%	2.6%	0.1%	8.2%	3.9%
21	63.6%	2.8%	6.4%	10.8%	2.7%	2.9%	0.2%	8.4%	2.3%
19	59.5%	2.7%	7.0%	11.3%	2.4%	3.0%	0.3%	13.6%	0.2%
22	53.0%	18.5%	0.1%	14.1%	1.7%	0.8%	0.1%	8.2%	3.5%
21	53.3%	19.4%	0.0%	16.5%	1.8%	0.8%	0.1%	5.9%	2.1%
19	53.4%	19.8%	0.1%	17.3%	1.5%	0.8%	0.1%	7.7%	-0.6%
22	58.9%	10.5%	2.9%	11.8%	2.1%	1.8%	0.1%	8.2%	3.7%
21	58.7%	10.7%	3.3%	13.5%	2.3%	1.9%	0.1%	7.2%	2.2%
19	56.4%	11.3%	3.5%	14.3%	1.9%	1.9%	0.2%	10.6%	-0.2%

# ADOPTIONS

as a % of total intake (January-December 2022)

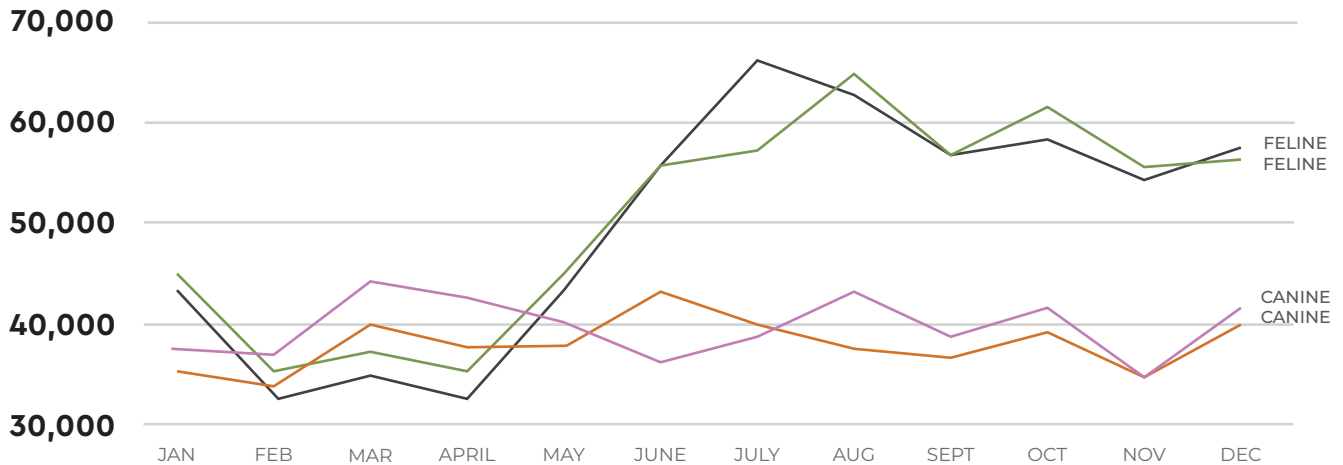
This chart shows that of all cats and dogs entering shelters for each quarter, these are the percentages that had adoption outcomes.



This chart shows the percentage changes of all dogs and cats adopted each quarter.

Dog adoption rates remain very consistent throughout the year (50%-55%). Overall, cats have higher adoption rates than dogs, but in Q2 their adoption rates decrease and then rebound in Q3 and Q4.

## ADOPTION % CHANGE ↑ 3.1% FROM 2021



 **↑ 4.3%**  
FROM 2021

2022   
2021 

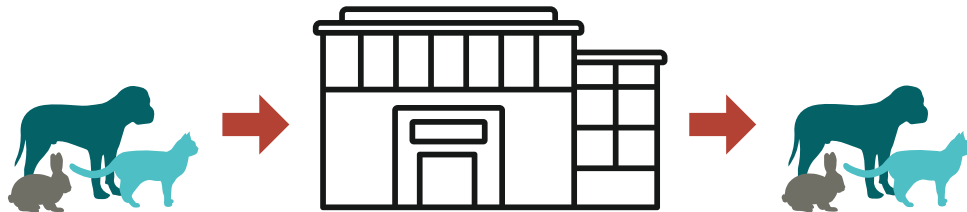
 **↑ 2.2%**  
FROM 2021

2022   
2021 



# POPULATION BALANCE CALCULATION (PBC)

The SAC Population Balance Calculation (PBC) is the formula we use 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.



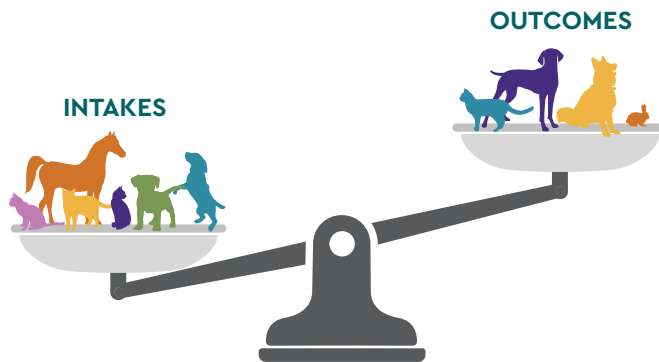
## 100% EQUILIBRIUM

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%

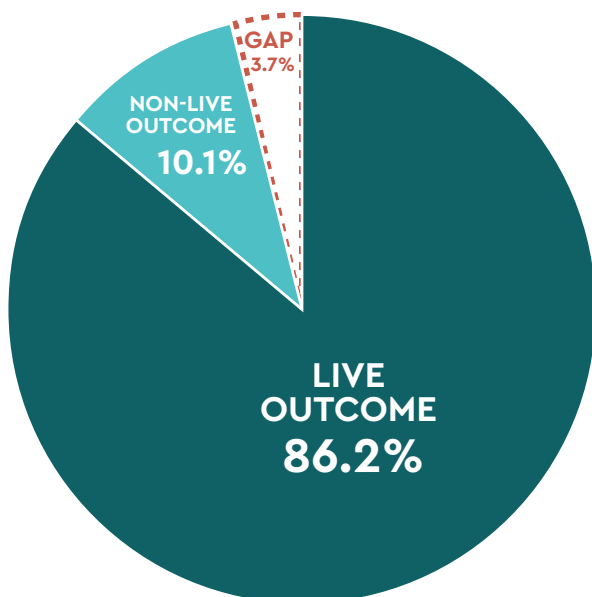
Over 100% means the population is decreasing (i.e. 107% means 7% more animals left than entered the shelter).



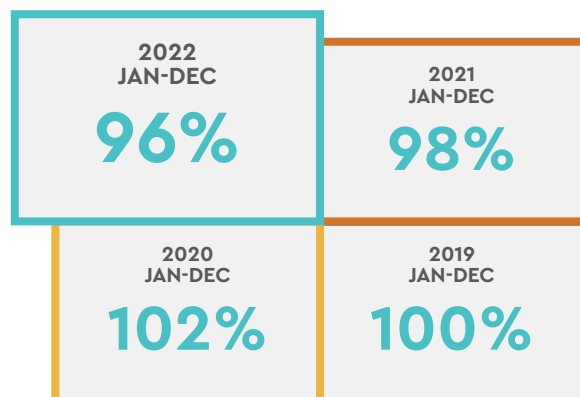
### BELOW 100%

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

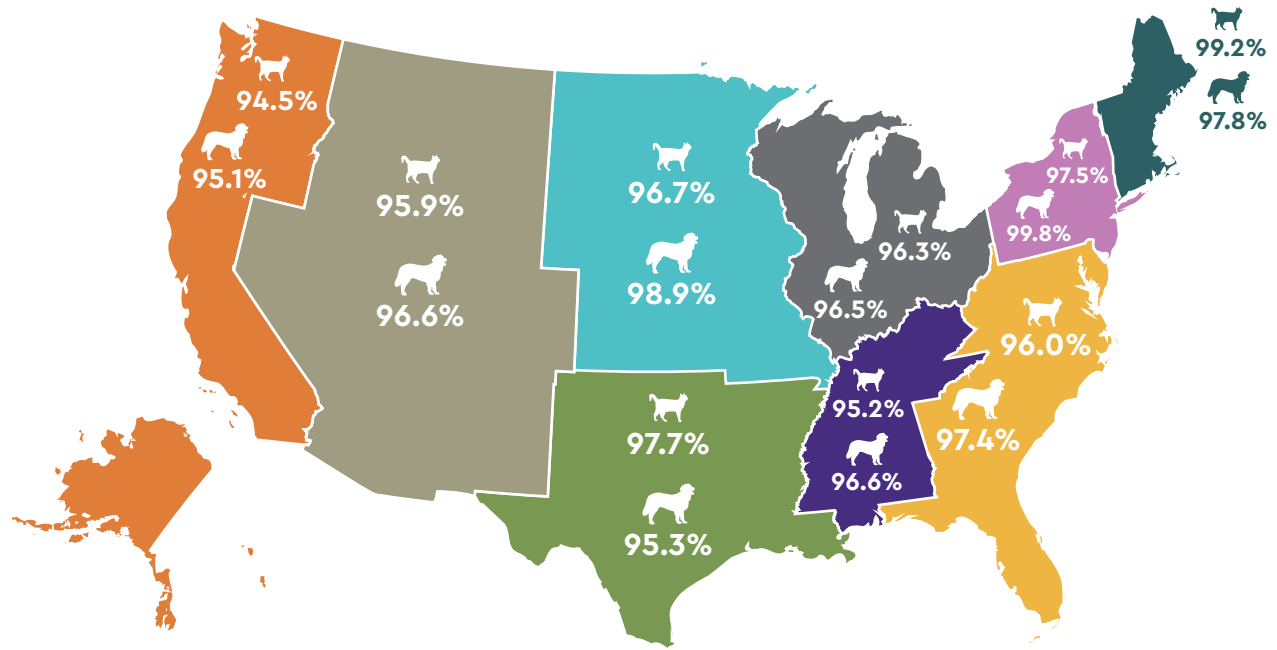
2022



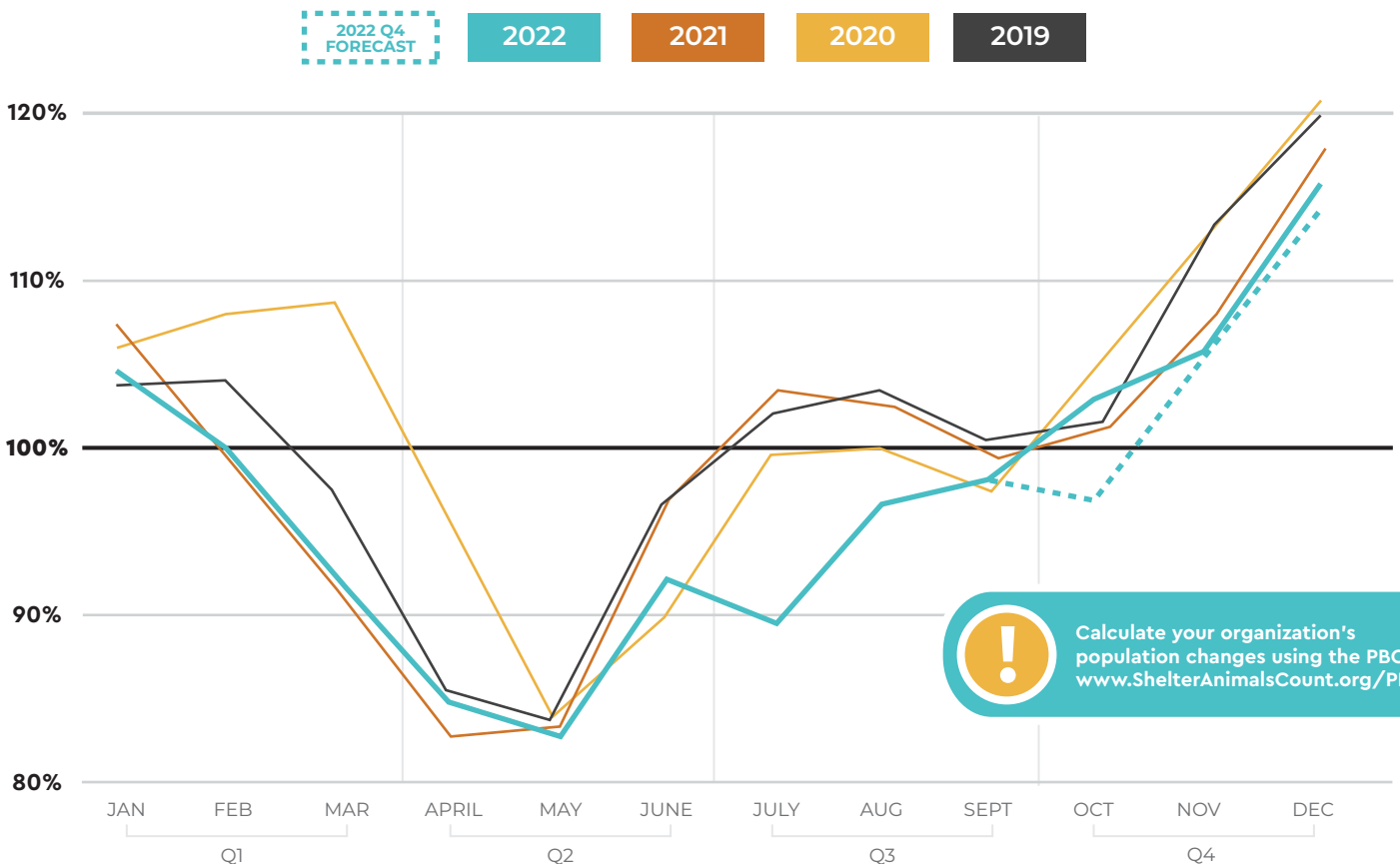
The national PBC for 2022 is 96% which is lower than 2021 (98%) and 2019 (100%).



# POPULATION BALANCE CALCULATION (PBC)



## PBC MONTH-BY-MONTH



Calculate your organization's population changes using the PBC at: [www.ShelterAnimalsCount.org/PBC](http://www.ShelterAnimalsCount.org/PBC)



# ADDITIONAL SPECIES

OTHER SPECIES INCLUDE RABBITS, EQUINES, SMALL MAMMALS, FARM ANIMALS, BIRDS, AND REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

## COMMUNITY INTAKES

More insights on Additional Species available on dashboards at [ShelterAnimalsCount.org/data-dashboards](https://ShelterAnimalsCount.org/data-dashboards)



**11.2%**  
CHANGE  
2021 TO 2022  
JAN-DEC

**3.3%**  
CHANGE  
2019 TO 2022  
JAN-DEC

## INTAKE TYPES

as a % of total intake (January-December 2022)



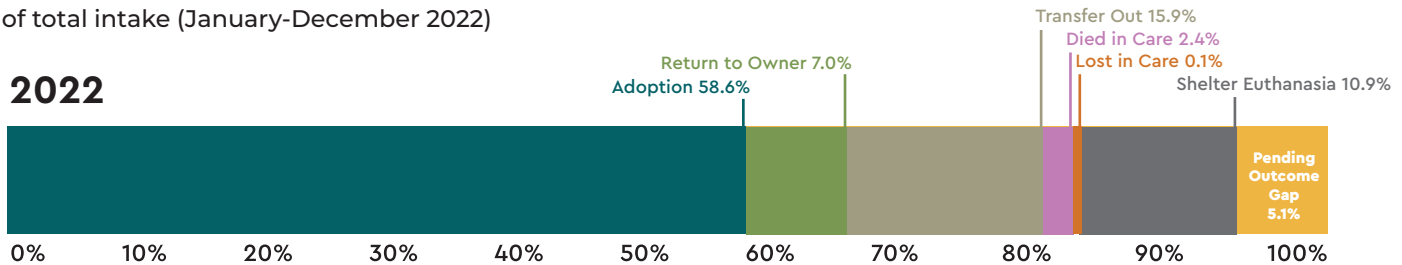
	RELINQUISHED BY OWNER	STRAY	TRANSFER IN	OTHER INTAKES	TOTAL
22	61.1%	23.8%	2.0%	13.1%	100%
21	62.2%	30.0%	0.7%	7.1%	100%
19	67.4%	22.8%	1.0%	8.9%	100%

## OUTCOME TYPES

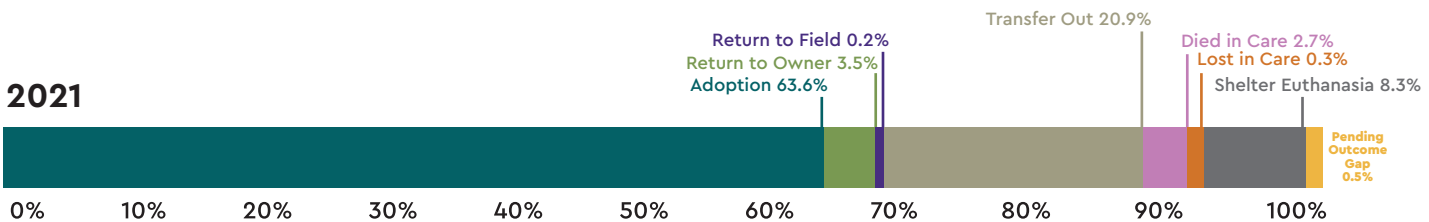
as a % of total intake (January-December 2022)



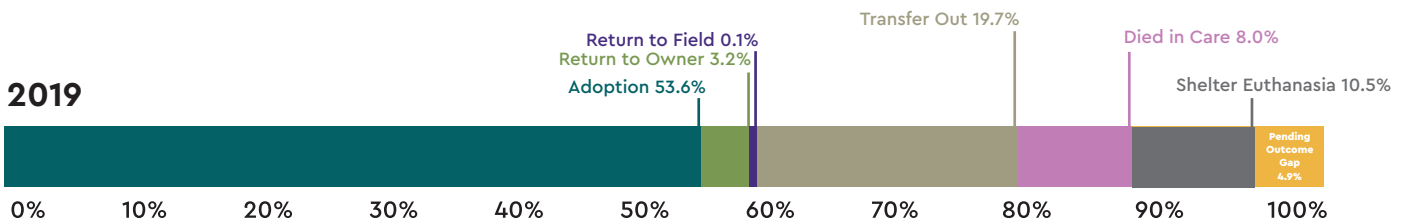
### 2022



### 2021



### 2019




	ADOPTION	RETURN TO OWNER	RETURN TO FIELD	TRANSFER OUT	OTHER LIVE OUTCOMES	DIED IN CARE	LOST IN CARE	SHELTER EUTHANASIA	PENDING OUTCOME GAP
22	58.6%	7.0%	0.0%	15.9%	0.0%	2.4%	0.1%	10.9%	5.1%
21	63.6%	3.5%	0.2%	20.9%	0.0%	2.7%	0.3%	8.3%	0.5%
19	53.6%	3.2%	0.1%	19.7%	0.0%	8.0%	0.0%	10.5%	4.9%




# ORGANIZATION TYPES

The three Organization Types include Shelters without a Government Contract, Rescues without a Government Contract and Government Funded Agencies. In the reports, we will refer to these as simply **Shelters**, **Rescues** and **Government**.

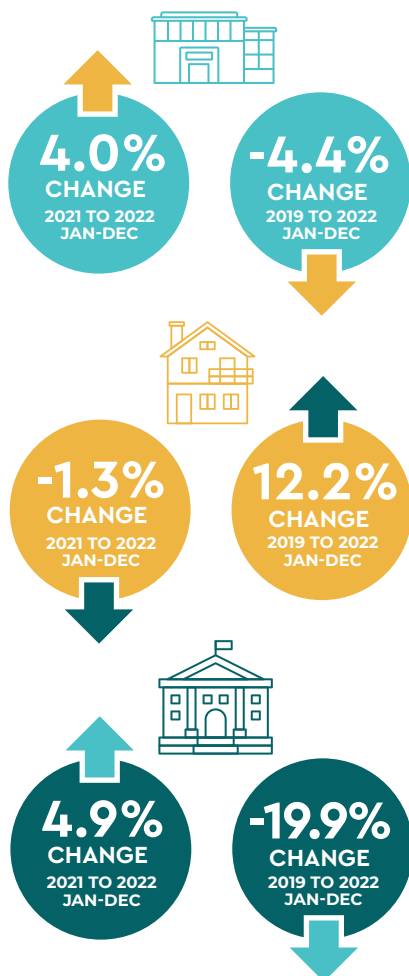
*Each of the following categories below include totals for dogs and cats.*

## POPULATION BALANCE CALCULATION

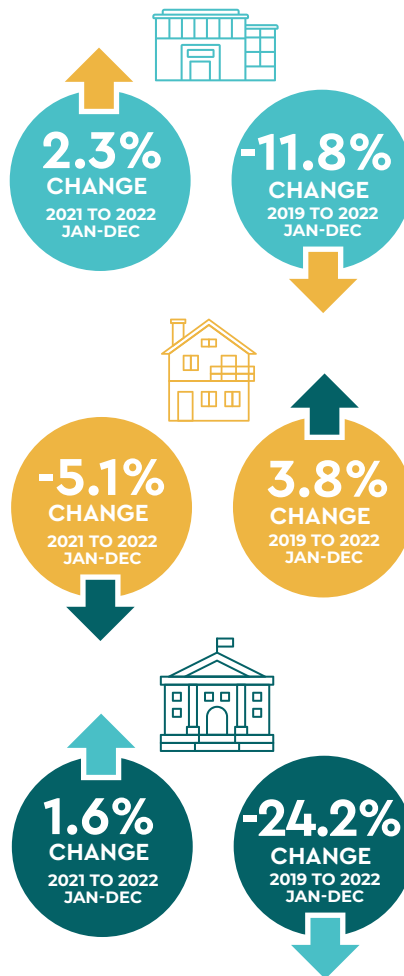


	 SHELTERS	 RESCUES	 GOVERNMENT
22	98.3%	99.1%	95.1%
21	99.0%	99.1%	97.1%
19	100.4%	98.8%	100.4%

## COMMUNITY INTAKES



## GROSS OUTCOMES



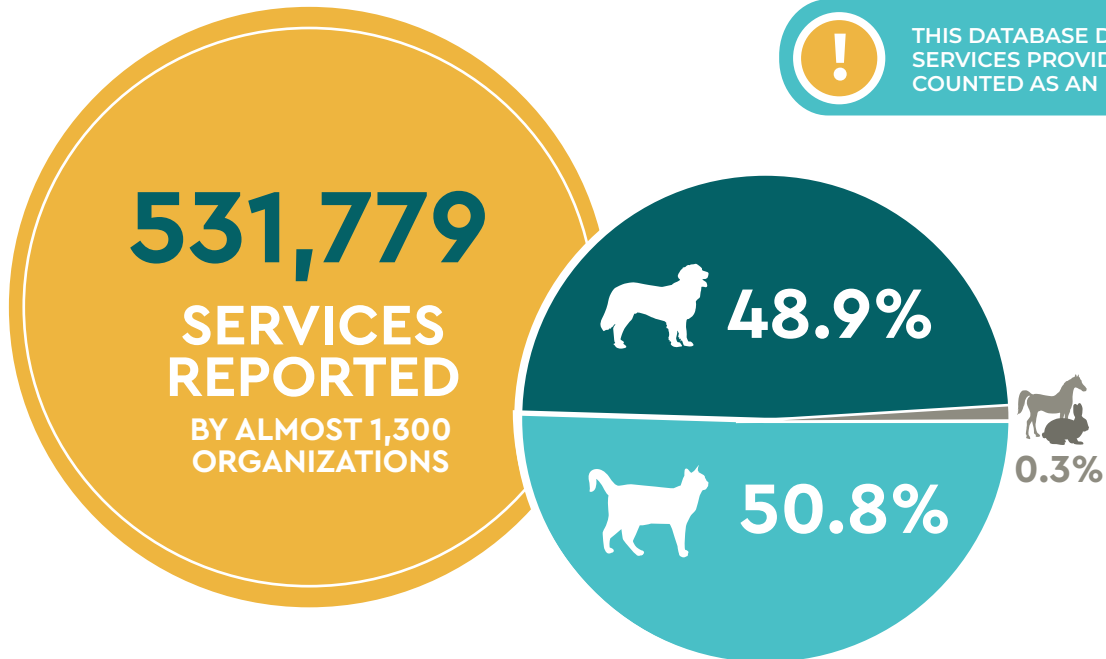
 Separate reports with additional data for Organizational Types will be coming soon!

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

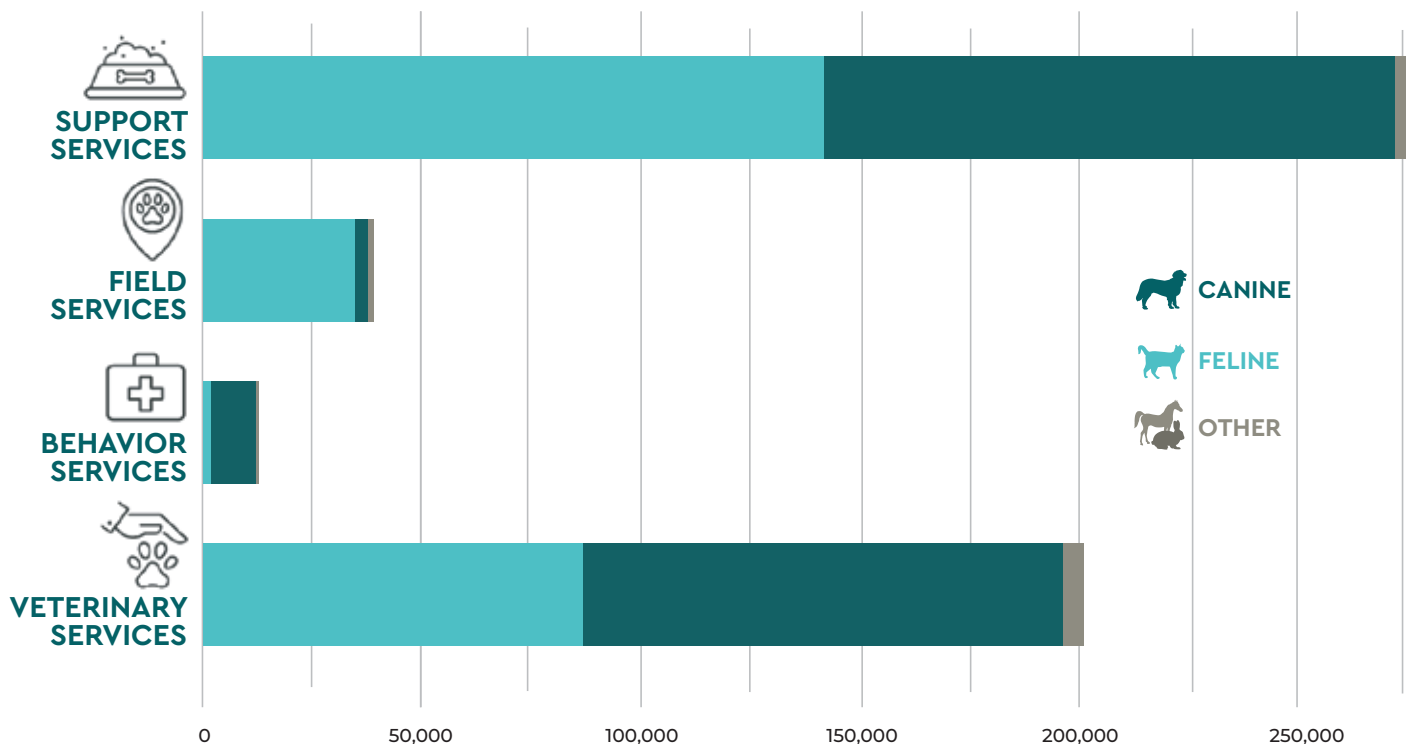
## FOR OWNED ANIMALS

Almost 1,300 organizations submitted Community Services data in January-December 2022.  
 Additional report will be coming soon with full Community Services Data!

**!** THIS DATABASE DOES NOT TRACK SERVICES PROVIDED TO ANIMALS COUNTED AS AN INTAKE.



### TOTALS BY SPECIES & SERVICE TYPE



Visit [Shelteranimalscount.org/community-services-database-csd](https://shelteranimalscount.org/community-services-database-csd) for category and service type definitions.

This report shows comparative data on sheltered animals from January-December 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. Only organizations that reported complete data for Jan-Dec 2019-2022 are included in the analysis. Most data in the report is comparing Jan-Dec 2019, 2021 and 2022 unless otherwise noted. We intentionally excluded 2020 comparisons for most of the report, unless noted otherwise.

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.

**1,030**  
**ORGANIZATIONS**  
with complete data for felines  
and canines in the Intake  
and Outcome Database



**1,558,418**  
**ANIMALS**

## 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 a certain outcome.



View the **NEW** Animal Welfare Glossary on the website for additional data definitions.

[ShelterAnimalsCount.org/animal-welfare-glossary](https://ShelterAnimalsCount.org/animal-welfare-glossary)



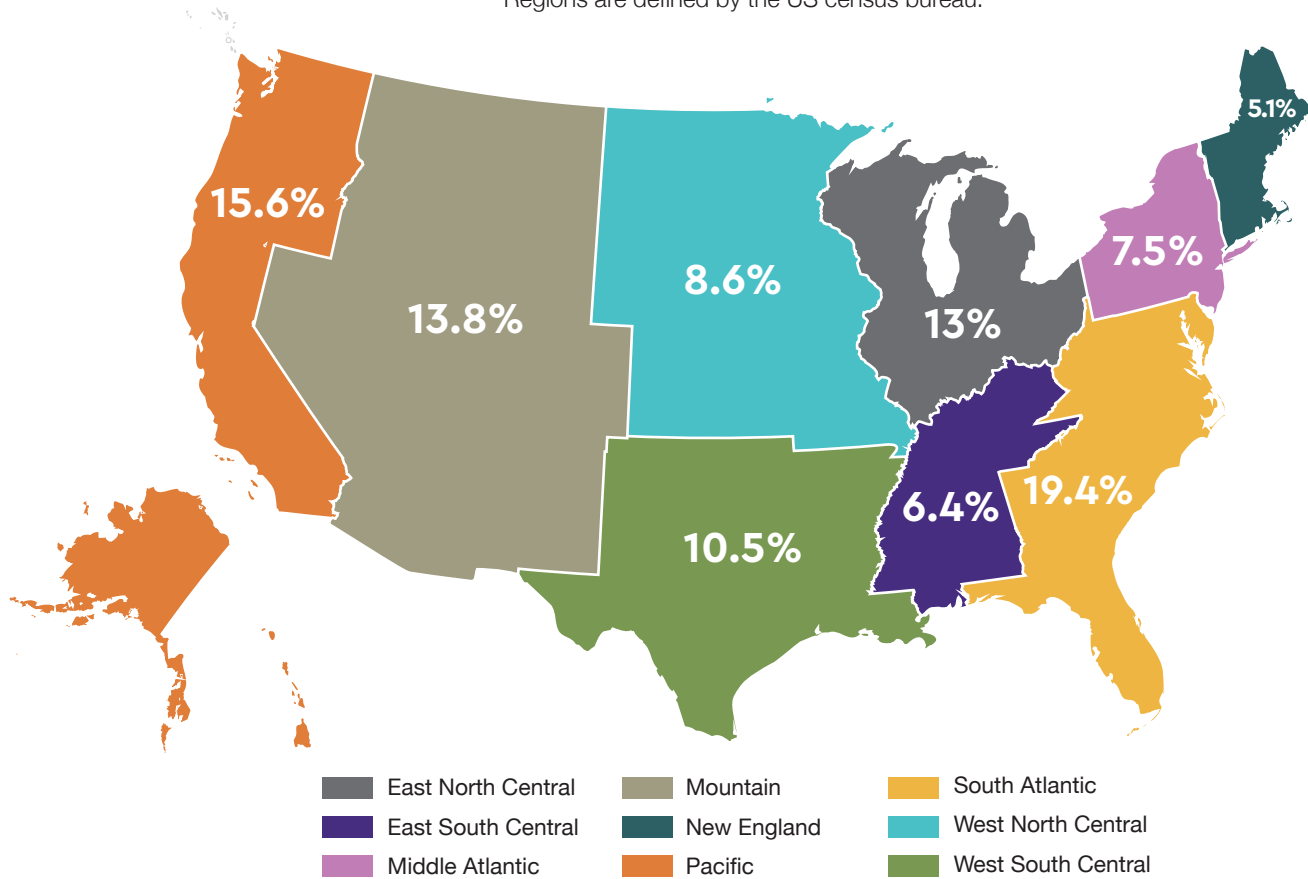
[WWW.SHELTERANIMALSCOUNT.ORG](https://WWW.SHELTERANIMALSCOUNT.ORG)

Shelter Animals Count is a collaborative industry-led nonprofit organization formed by a diverse group of stakeholders to create, share and steward The National Database of sheltered animal statistics, providing facts, and enabling insights that will save lives.

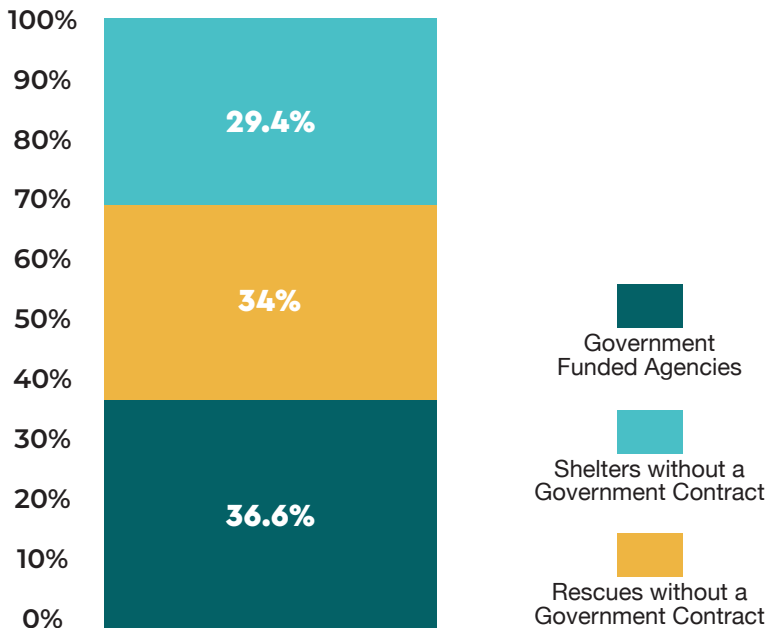
# ORGANIZATIONS BY REGION

% of organizations in intake/outcome data by region

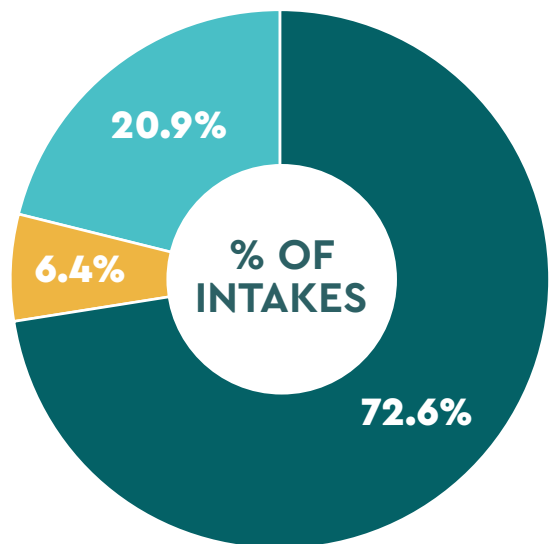
Regions are defined by the US census bureau.



## ORGANIZATION TYPES



## ORGANIZATIONS AS % OF COMMUNITY INTAKE





[WWW.SHELTERANIMALSCOUNT.ORG](http://WWW.SHELTERANIMALSCOUNT.ORG)

Shelter Animals Count  
 931 Monroe Dr NE  
 Ste A102 #109  
 Atlanta, GA 30308  
[info@shelteranimalscount.org](mailto:info@shelteranimalscount.org)



THE OFFICAL TECHNOLOGY PARTNER



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