



## Department of Animal Services

**Mayor**  
Dee Margo

**City Council**

*District 1*  
Peter Svarzbein

*District 2*  
Alexandra Annelio

*District 3*  
Cassandra Hernandez

*District 4*  
Dr. Sam Morgan

*District 5*  
Isabel Salcido

*District 6*  
Claudia Ordaz Perez

*District 7*  
Henry Rivera

*District 8*  
Cissy Lizarraga

**City Manager**  
Tommy Gonzalez

### Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

**Minutes**  
**January 8, 2020**

1. **Call to Order- Establish Quorum**

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Humane Society of El Paso conference room at 6:09 p.m. by Chair Edith Prado.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Regina Wagner	X	
Celeste Varela	X	
Vacant		
Mary Kay Rosenkranz		X
Yansi Parent	X	
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Yvonne Rosales		X
Edith Prado	X	
Dr. Jayne Causey	X	
Julie Rutledge	X	
Claudia Ordaz-Perez		X

Animal Services staff present: Paula Powell, Maribel Karisch, Ramon Herrera, Adan Parra and Ana Schumacher

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Discussion and action on the approval of the December 11, 2019 minutes.

**Celeste Varela motioned to add additions to the December 11, 2019 minutes and bring back for approval; Julie Rutledge seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Reports-Support the City of El Paso's Initiative to Reach and Sustain a 90% or Greater Live-Release Rate by 2020.**

**A. Free Roaming Cats-December's update**

Regina Wagner mentioned that she wants everyone to understand that TNR does work. She added that when the TNR program is carried out effectively, it benefits the cats in our community such as stabilizing the cat population, improving their lives and relations with the community and prevents unwanted litters of kittens. There are factors that need to be determined for a successful TNR program and she will discuss those factors at next month's meeting on why the program is not



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working in some areas and why it's successfully working on others. She wanted to remind everyone that TNR does not happen overnight and everyone conveying that message to the public needs to understand that it's not a quick fix. For decades, tens of thousands of cats were trapped and killed in this community, and now the entire community has to be reeducated and retrained in TNR. The public needs to let the program work, and not take things in their own hands. The program can either have managed TNR colonies that work or unmanaged colonies that do not work.

### **B. Rescue Group Report**

Kyla Young, rescue coordinator for Animal Services, gave a report on the Animal Services Rescue Group Program. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of animals in the shelter and help reach no kill. The program has different criteria on how it is working to reach that goal. Kyla mentioned that they are transferring to rescue groups, finding foster homes for healthy animals for transport, working with rescue partners to transfer out of state and are starting to transport to out-of-state rescue groups as this will help save lives and reduce euthanasia. The process to become a rescue partner starts by filling out an application, which includes number of foster homes, animals pulled per year, reference letters from veterinarians and other rescue groups, look into any Animal Control issues and sign a code of conduct. The number of rescue partners continues to increase with 61 in 2018 to 79 in 2019. There are also 34 active out-of-state rescue partners. In 2017 there were 3,720 animals transferred. Three-thousand six hundred and nine animals were transferred in 2018 and that number increased to 3,901 in 2019. She is aiming on transferring 4,500 animals for 2020. Animal Services transferred 50 dogs per flight with Paws & Co-Pilots for seven months and will be transferring more dogs. The program has currently one transport vehicle and is looking into purchasing a much larger one. The program is in need of Foster Rescues that have the ability to quarantine and to take animals to a veterinarian for treatment. They are also starting a Foster Transfer where animals are sent to a foster home where they are quarantined for 2 to 3 weeks and/or receive medical treatment, then transferred to out-of-state rescue partners.

### **C. Department of Animal Services Center-Update on December's Statistics**

Paula Powell mentioned that Animal Services is currently updating the Strategic Plan with animal care attendants, supervisors and staff. The intake for December was 1,644 which included 1,369 strays, 74 owner surrenders, 11 owner-requested euthanasia, 5 transferred in, 185 other (DOA, Born in care/returns). The outcome for December was 1,722. There were more outcomes than intakes in December and that was due to fosters. The outcome for December was 1,722. There were 673 adoptions and changes to the adoption section are in the works to increase that number. Return-to-owner was 333, transferred out was 220, Spay/Neuter returns were 301, 40 died, three were lost, nine were owner-requested euthanasia and 143 were shelter euthanasia which is the first month below the 200 mark. There are currently 755 fosters out. The numbers and reasons euthanasia are 9-owner request, 15 trauma, 17 non-infectious, 50 behavior and 52 infectious. The died-in-care breakdown for the shelter was one for failure to thrive, three for non-infectious disease, 4 trauma and seven for non-infectious. The breakdown for fosters was three



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non-infectious, 11 failure to thrive, and 11 infectious. Animal Services staff meets every Tuesday to determine an exit plan for live outcomes. She also mentioned that education is having a big role this year. The total LRR for December was 88.62% with 91.95% for cats and 87.06% for dogs. The Calendar Year LRR was 86.75% for 2019 and 84.46% for 2018. The Fiscal LRR was 87.13% and the Shelter Animals Count for 2019 was 88.62% with a 8.7% euthanasia rate compared to 85.26% LRR and 12.27% euthanasia rate in 2018. Paula added that the community stepped up last year by fostering 6,000 animals.

Ramon Herrera and Michele Anderson presented the PAW Cast

Barbara Candelaria inquired about the number of intake from County, Tigua and Ft. Bliss. Paula explained that County brings in about 18% of the intake, one cat and one dog came in from Ft. Bliss and Tigua is working on training their officers to make field RTOs. She added that they are working with County on making changes. Regina Wagner requested to have the number of large dogs in the facility added to the statistics and requested the number of animals presently at the shelter. Paula explained there are 750 animals and of those, 128 are cats.

#### 4. Call to the public

- a. Loretta Hyde- Rabies vaccination for all fosters
- b. Karen Washington- Quarantine protocol

#### 5. Main Agenda

##### A. **Research and Advise on Effective Ordinances and Polices to Improve Overall Health, Welfare and Safety for Animals**

###### A1. **Election of Vice-Chair**

Edith Prado opened floor for vice-chair nominations.

Celeste Varela nominated Julie Rutledge for vice-chair and Edith Prado seconded Julie Rutledge accepted. All voted in favor.

###### A2. **Discussion and action on Proposals for City Council year-end Report**

Edith Prado explained that she will draft the Annual Report and will have it ready within 2 weeks. It will be sent to ASAC members prior to next month's meeting for review. The ASAC will then vote on it, as to content, at February's meeting. The Annual Report will be presented to City Council no later than March.

###### A3. **Discussion and action on the process of posting agenda.**

Regina Wagner explained that she placed this agenda item to understand the agenda process since some of her items have not been added to the agenda. She added that ASAC is appointed by City Representatives and are performing their duties to offer guidance. It's ASAC's decision to determine what should be on the agenda and Animal Services should not have control as they are only to provide logistical support for ASAC. Paula explained that some agenda



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items need more clarification for the public to know what the item entails and so she can be prepared for questions. Ana Schumacher explained that it's by the Open Meetings Act that agenda items must be clear. The agenda has to go through Ana Schumacher, city attorney assigned to ASAC, before it's posted. In the event an agenda item needs clarification, she will submit a re-worded item or she will request for the member to make clarifications within sufficient time for her to review before posting.

Regina Wagner explained that she had submitted an item on the discussion and action on the investigation of Animal Services three times and was not added. She added that she was trying to be involved as an ASAC member by offering guidance. She suggested posting the agenda on the Thursday before the 72 hours posting deadline, in case changes need to be made. Ana Schumacher recommended no reposting of agendas and that would be a discussion with the chair. Regina inquired about how can members know ahead of time whether their item(s) is or isn't on the agenda. Ana Schumacher explained that it's not in the by-laws, but members can submit agenda items earlier.

Celeste Varela added that County has deadlines before posting. This gives enough time to review the item in case the item needs clarification or if the backup is not ready, the department will receive notification that the item will be removed. The members do not review the agenda before it's posted Julie Rutledge added.

Ana Schumacher suggested submitting agenda items sooner so that the chair and her have sufficient time to review before posting. The chair can inform the members as to whether their item needs clarification and/or whether their item was removed or postponed for the next meeting.

Edith Prado will inform the members of the status of their agenda items.

### **B. Promote Education and Engagement of Animal Health and Welfare**

#### **B1. Discussion and action on recommendations for promoting vaccination clinics**

Edith Prado mentioned that she would like to see the ASAC proactive rather than reactive on the promotion of the vaccination clinics. She explained that at the last meeting, there was discussion on promoting these clinics, however since the item did not include action, the item was added again to discuss dates and locations.

Regina Wagner suggested having these clinics before kitten season and Paula mentioned that the Socorro Clinic is available for the clinics on January 22 and 23, February 13, 20 and 26. Loretta Hyde mentioned that several clinics have been held around the city with huge success. She would like to see more clinics held in the Lower Valley, Central and North East. Regina also recommended the North East, because according to data that was collected by the Community Foundation Collaboration, animals in the 79904 and 79924 zip code area are in need of vaccinations.

Paula explained that as far as funding goes, Animal Services has the same funding as last year, several volunteers will be needed for the clinics and a veterinarian must be on-site. Dr. Causey agreed on having the clinic on the northeast and volunteered to be the on-site veterinarian. Eric Bohem added that once the clinic dates are in place, he would let the EPVMA know. Barbara Candelaria suggested the clinic be held on a Sunday and maybe offer incentives and Julie Rutledge will sent out a



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call for volunteers. Dr. Causey mentioned that she is available on Sunday, February 9. For the location, Celeste Varela suggested the County Cohen Annex. The clinic will require 20 to 25 volunteers which Marcia Margherio agreed to coordinate. Loretta Hyde added that the volunteers must be able to give shots and handle animals. Paula recommended handing out surveys.

**Julie Rutledge motioned to recommend Animal Services having the shot clinic in the northeast on February 9 from 8am-12pm at the County Cohen Annex for 800-1000 animals and Marcia Margherio will coordinate volunteers. Parvo, distemper, rabies, city license, microchip will be offered and city license must be paid; Celeste Varela seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Future Agenda Items**

Discussion and action on Annual Report

Discussion and action on amending the time allotted for the Call to the Public in the by-laws

Foster Program Report

Discussion and action on how to increase awareness on cleaning after your dog

County Report on Surratt Farms

7. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM

**Dr. Jayne Causey motioned to adjourn; Regina Wagner seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.**

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. J. ...", is written over a horizontal line.



# Animal Services Director's Report

## January 2020



**TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE MORE LIVES**  
ADOPT | FOSTER | VOLUNTEER | DONATE

## - Strategic Goals -

### **Goal 1**

Reduce the number of pets entering Animal Services.

### **Goal 4**

Increase positive outcomes for pets in our community.

### **Goal 2**

Provide healthier pets.

### **Goal 5**

Increase social awareness of animal welfare in our community.

### **Goal 3**

Provide safe, comfortable living conditions for pets in our care and community.

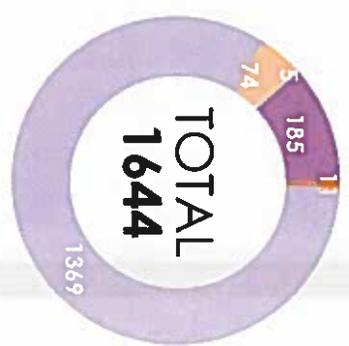
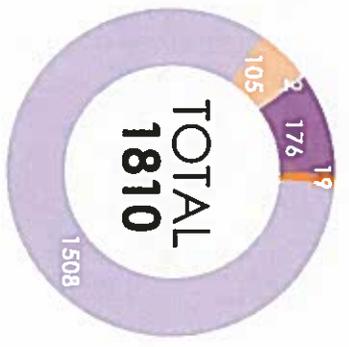
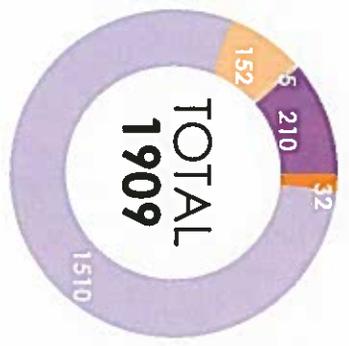
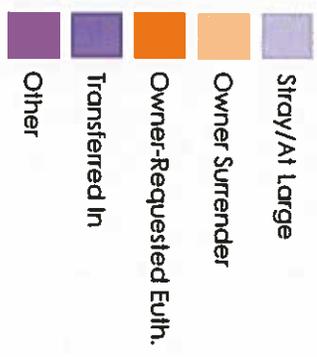
### **Goal 6**

Provide a safe environment for employees and opportunities for professional development.

# El Paso Animal Services, December 2019 – Intake Comparatives



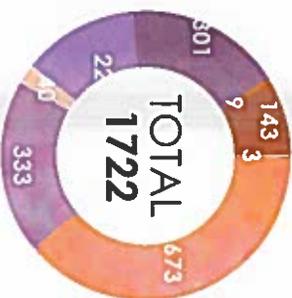
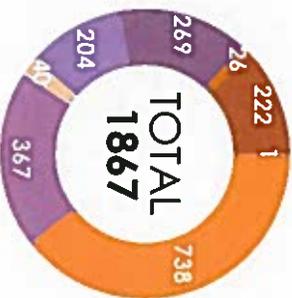
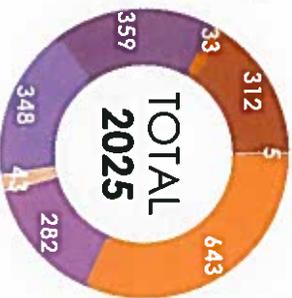
	2017			2018			2019		
	Dog	Cat	Total	Dog	Cat	Total	Dog	Cat	Total
Stray / At Large	1099	411	1510	1138	370	1508	1013	356	1369
Owner Surrender	92	60	152	73	32	105	48	26	74
Owner-Requested Euthanasia	31	1	32	17	2	19	10	1	11
Transferred In	5	0	5	2	0	2	4	1	5
Other (DOA/Born In Care/Returns)	50	160	210	70	106	176	46	139	185
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1277</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>1909</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>1810</b>	<b>1121</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>1644</b>



# El Paso Animal Services, December 2019 – Outcome Comparatives



	2017			2018			2019		
	Dog	Cat	Total	Dog	Cat	Total	Dog	Cat	Total
Adoption	358	285	643	421	317	738	364	309	673
Return to Owner	272	10	282	362	5	367	326	7	333
Transferred Out	312	36	348	193	11	204	206	14	220
Spy/Neuter Return	-	359	359	-	269	269	-	301	301
Died	16	27	43	20	20	40	25	15	40
Lost	2	3	5	1	0	1	3	0	3
Owner-Requested Euth.	32	1	33	23	3	26	8	1	9
Shelter Euthanasia	254	58	312	180	42	222	116	27	143
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1867</b>	<b>1048</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>1722</b>



El Paso Animal Services, December 2019 – Foster Numbers



Started

Completed

Currently Out

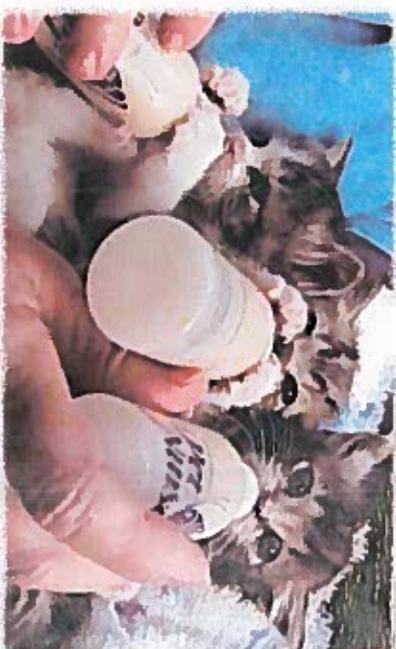
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379

130

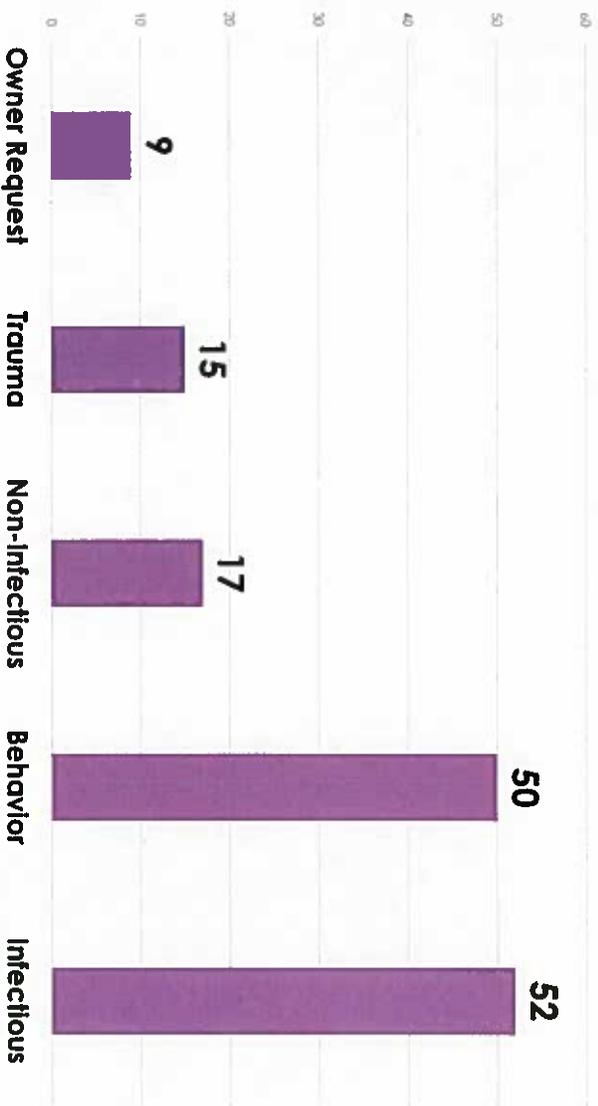
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755



## El Paso Animal Services, December 2019 – Euthanasia

### Euthanasia History

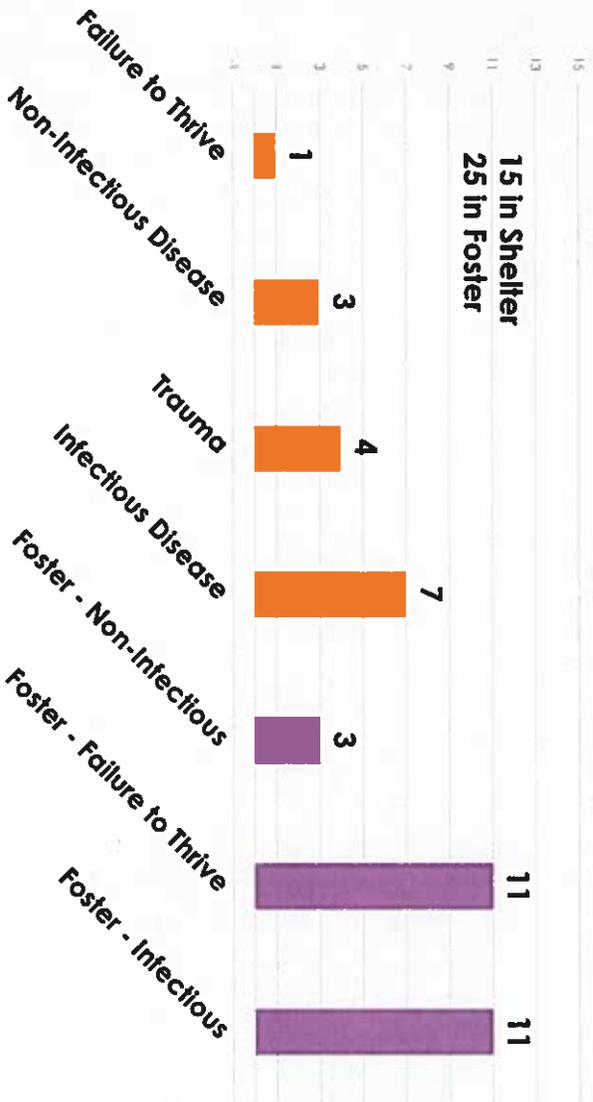


\*MHD – Medical Health Declining  
 \*NRT – Not Responding to Treatment

Reason	Cat	Dog	Total
Behavior		30	30
Behavioral Health Declining		20	20
Cancer		2	2
Diaphragmatic Hernia	2		2
Distemper		12	12
Failure to Thrive	3	1	4
FIV (Immunodeficiency Virus)	1		1
Heart Failure	1		1
MHD - Infectious		1	1
MHD - Non Infectious	4	2	6
NRT - Infectious	2	13	15
NRT - Non Infectious	2		2
Owner Requested	1	8	9
Parvo (Canine)		2	2
Trauma	9	6	15
URI	2	8	10
URI/Distemper Suspect		11	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>143</b>

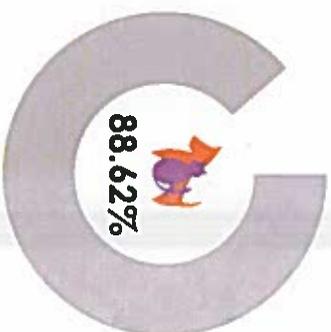
El Paso Animal Services, December 2019 – Died Break Down

Died in Care Breakdown

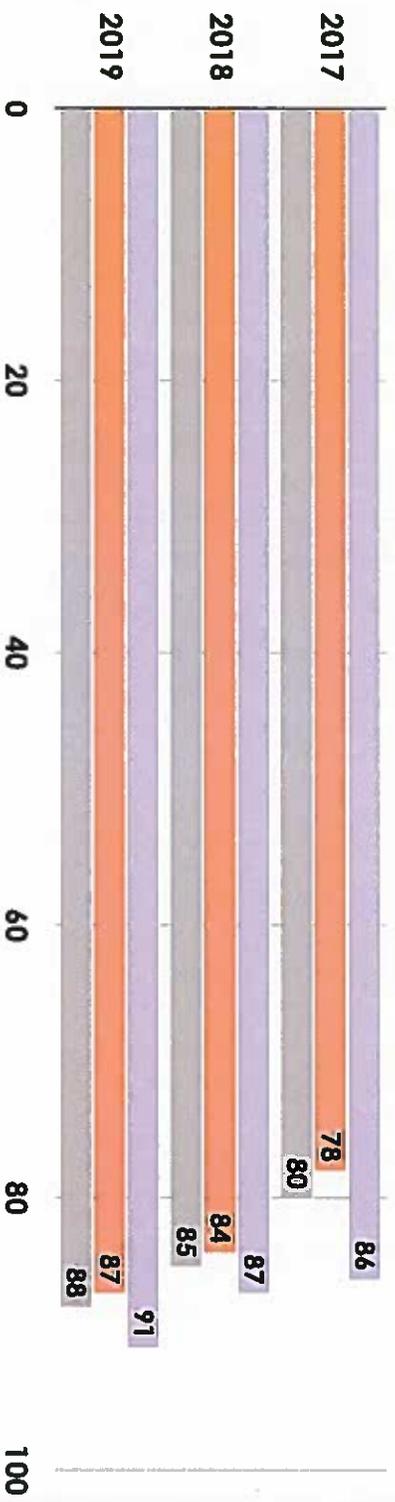


Reason	Cat	Dog	TOTAL
Failure to Thrive	1	0	1
Foster - Failure to Thrive	6	5	11
Foster - Infectious	2	9	11
Foster - Non-Infectious	1	2	3
Infectious Disease	1	6	7
Non-Infectious Disease	2	1	3
Trauma	2	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>

El Paso Animal Services, December 2019 – Live Release Rate Comparatives

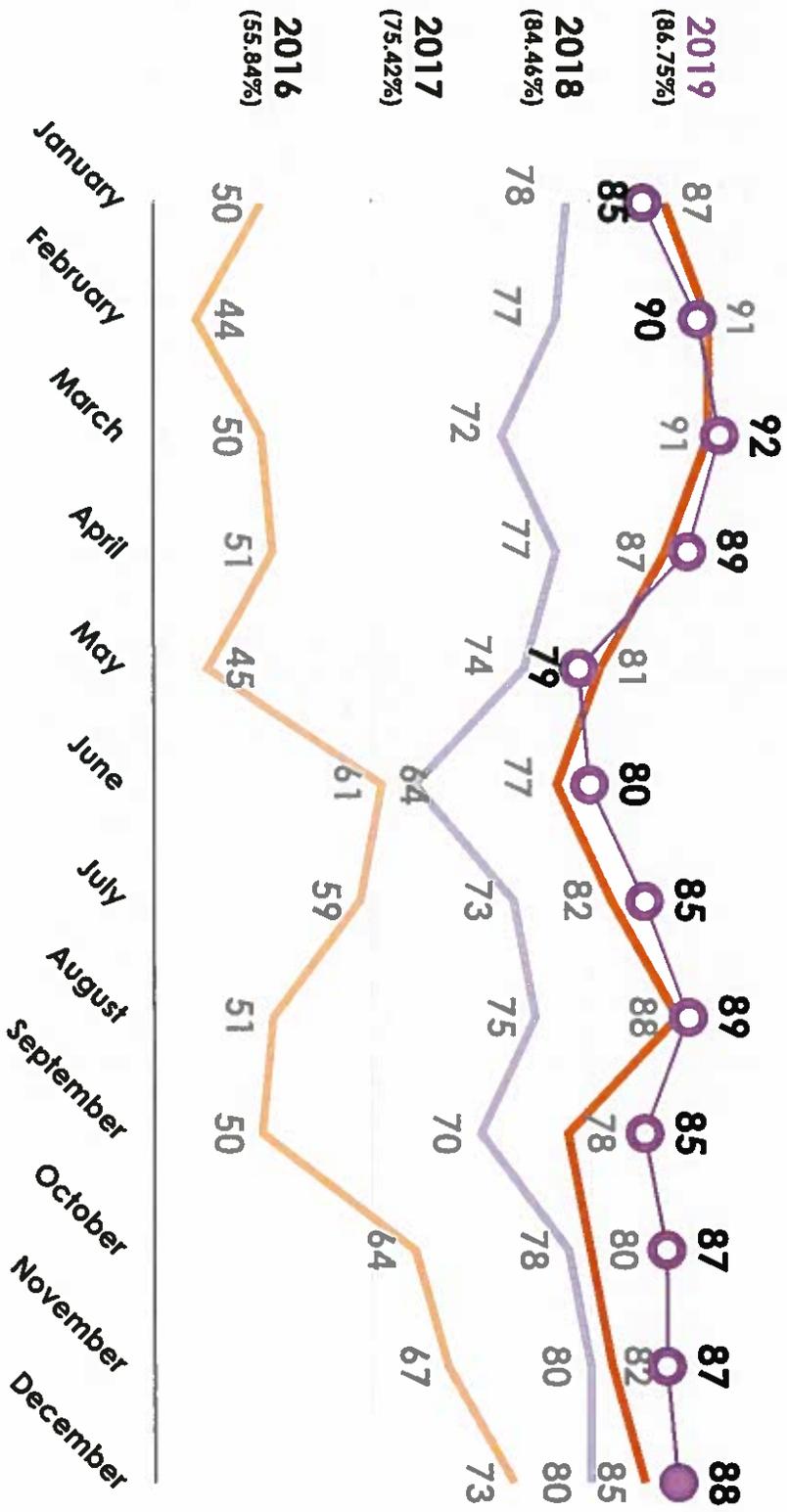


**LIVE-RELEASE COMPARATIVES**



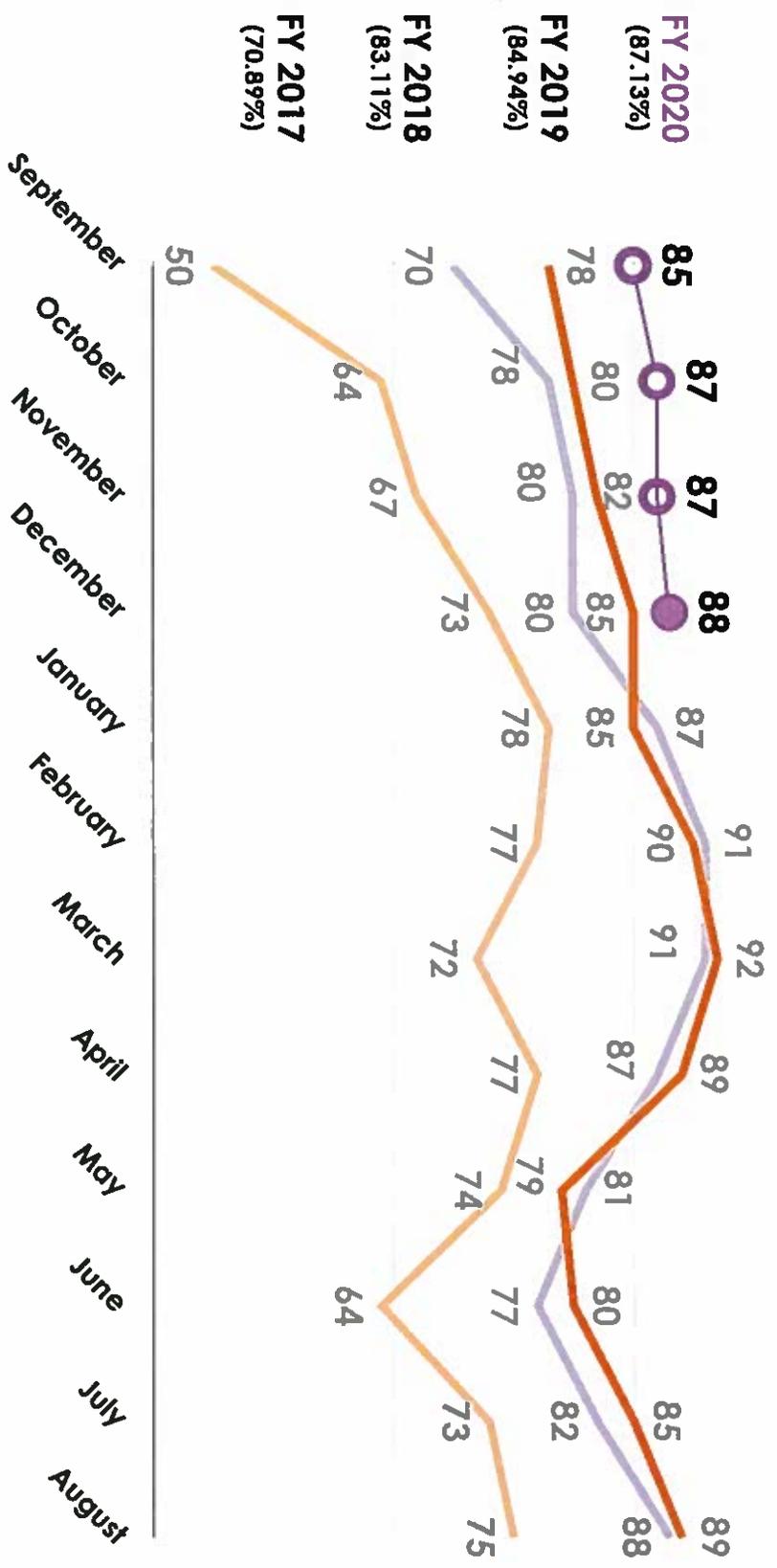
El Paso Animal Services, December 2019 – Live Release Rate Comparatives

CALENDAR YEAR



El Paso Animal Services, December 2019 – Live Release Rate Comparatives

FISCAL YEAR



# El Paso Animal Services, December 2019 – Shelter Animals Count

Print Date: Wednesday, January 1, 2020  
 Site: All  
 Date From: 12/1/2019 12:00:00 AM  
 Date To: 1/31/2020 11:59:00 PM

Species By Age (Date: 12/1/2019)	Canine			Feline			Total
	Adult	months	Unknown	Adult	months	Unknown	
<b>Live Intake</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1369</b>
B - Stray / At Large	16	32	0	12	13	1	74
C - Relinquished by Owner	10	0	0	1	0	0	11
D - Owner Intended Euthanasia	1	3	0	1	0	0	5
E - Transferred in from Agency	16	30	0	119	20	0	185
F - Other Intake	883	232	26	336	163	24	1844
<b>G.1 - TOTAL LIVE INTAKE</b>	<b>1121</b>			<b>523</b>			<b>1844</b>
<b>G.2 - TOTAL LIVE INTAKE</b>	<b>1121</b>			<b>523</b>			<b>1844</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>months</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>months</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
H - Adoption	288	74	2	91	217	1	673
I - Returned to Owner	313	7	6	7	0	0	333
J - Transferred to another Agency	111	91	4	8	5	1	220
K - Returned to Field	0	0	0	267	31	3	301
<b>M.1 - Subtotal: Live Outcomes</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1527</b>
<b>M.2 - Subtotal: Live Outcomes</b>	<b>896</b>			<b>631</b>			<b>1527</b>
<b>N - Died in Care</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>
O - Lost in Care	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
P - Shelter Euthanasia	106	5	3	10	9	8	143
Q - Owner Intended Euthanasia	8	0	0	1	0	0	9
<b>R.1 - Subtotal: Other Outcomes</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>R.2 - Subtotal: Other Outcomes</b>	<b>152</b>			<b>43</b>			<b>185</b>
<b>S.1 - TOTAL OUTCOMES</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1722</b>
<b>S.2 - TOTAL OUTCOMES</b>	<b>1048</b>			<b>674</b>			<b>1722</b>
<b>T - Ending Shelter Count</b> (Date: 1/31/2020)		<b>1321</b>			<b>535</b>		<b>1856</b>

Dog LRR: 87.06%      Cat LRR: 91.95%      Live-Release Rate: **88.62%**  
 CV 2019 LRR: 86.75%      FYTD LRR: 87.13%      Euth Rate: 8.70%

# El Paso Animal Services, December 2018 – Shelter Animals Count

Print Date: Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Site: All

Date From: 12/1/2018 12:00:00 AM

Date To: 12/31/2018 11:59:00 PM

Species By Age	Adult	Canine		Unknown	Adult	Feline		Unknown	Total
		Up to 5 months	Up to 5 months			Up to 5 months	Up to 5 months		
<b>A - Beginning Animal Count</b> (Date: 12/1/2018)	589	189	10	56	421	9	1274		
<b>Live Intake</b>									
B - Stray / At Large	880	233	25	214	135	21	1508		
C - Relinquished by Owner	48	25	0	24	8	0	105		
D - Owner Intended Euthanasia	16	1	0	2	0	0	19		
E - Transferred in from Agency	1	1	0	0	0	0	2		
F - Other Intake	42	28	0	83	22	1	176		
<b>G - TOTAL LIVE INTAKE</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1810</b>		
<b>Outcomes</b>									
H - Adoption	316	105	0	60	256	1	738		
I - Returned to Owner	337	11	14	5	0	0	367		
J - Transferred to another Agency	123	70	0	7	3	1	204		
K - Returned to Field	0	0	0	223	43	3	269		
<b>M - Subtotal: Live Outcomes</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1578</b>		
N - Died in Care	11	8	1	3	14	3	40		
O - Lost in Care	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		
P - Shelter Euthanasia	163	13	4	21	8	13	222		
Q - Owner Intended Euthanasia	22	1	0	2	1	0	28		
<b>R - Subtotal: Other Outcomes</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>289</b>		
<b>S - TOTAL OUTCOMES</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1867</b>		
T - Ending Shelter Count (Date: 12/31/2018)	603	289	16	58	261	10	1217		

FYTD LRR: 81.70%  
CYTD LRR: 84.46%

Dog LRR: 84.26%

Cat LRR: 87.77%

Live-Release Rate: 85.26%  
Euth Rate: 12.27%

El Paso Animal Services - PawCast

# PawCast