

Department of Animal Services



MAYOR
Dee Margo

**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 12, 2020**

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexsandra Annelo

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

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 6:15 p.m. by Chair Edith Prado.

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

Animal Services staff present: Paula Powell, Maribel Karisch, Ramon Herrera, Michele Anderson, Adan Parra and Ana Schumacher
Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

2. Approval of Minute

Discussion and action on the approval of the December 11, 2019 and January 8, 2020 minutes.

Celeste Varela motioned to accept the December 11, 2019 and January 8, 2020 minutes; 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-January's update**

Paula Powell – Director
Department of Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso, TX 79906
O: (915) 212-7297 | Email: ESDAS@elpasotexas.gov



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Regina Wagner gave an update on the two factors to a successful TNR program. She explained that cats are territorial animals and form strong bonds within the location they inhabit and adapt to the local conditions. Dumping cats at a different location is cruel and their death sentence. Furthermore, relocating cats to another area won't clear the area of unwanted cats due to the vacuum effect. Secondly, she explained that there is a misconception when people are told not to feed the cats and they will just go away. It does not work. The problem is, unless there is another food source, they won't leave. Cats are extremely territorial and will not wonder far in search of food, on the contrary they will risk getting closer and become dependent on humans for food. They will even start fights over scraps of food in desperation. They will go through trashcans, knocking them over which results in more complaints from people that were not bothered by them before. People do not want to see sick and starving cats. Additionally, a cat can go without food and continue reproducing. Trying to starve cats can result in hungry and unhealthy cats and still reproducing. Which might have seemed like a simple solution, it can result in a worse situation. When free roaming cats become dependent on their caregivers for food and the feeding is abruptly stopped, this is cruel and can lead to their death. The cats will not disappear because compassionate caregivers can no longer legally feed them.

B. Foster Program Report for 2019

Valentin Garcia, Foster Program Coordinator, and Crystal Herrera gave a presentation on the Foster Statistics for 2019. Valentin explained that fostering helps save lives and will help Animal Services reach the 90% live release rate by 2020. The program started in 2016 with a small group of Animal Services staff and rescue groups. The program consists of finding homes for sick or injured animals, any animal under the age of 8 weeks, provides healthier animals for adoptions and rescue groups, reduces euthanasia and gives animals a break from stressful shelter environment. In 2017, the program had 5,182 fostered animals, 5,941 in 2018 and increased to 6,267 in 2019. Fosters are staying longer in one home, rather than bounced around, Valentin added. He also introduced the new Neonatal Foster Orientation, which was credited to Michele Anderson. The main reason for the video is to offer information to existing and new fosters on how to give proper foster care and help them thrive. Dr. Causey inquired whether fosters are required to watch the video before fostering. Valentin explained that they are training on a one-one basis and then follow-up with an email containing contact information, guide sheets and the link to the video. Dr. Causey will find out whether promotional flyers on fostering can be posted at veterinarian offices. Valentin also explained that if the foster prefers to have the pet spayed or neutered at a veterinarian office, it can be done with the Animal Services veterinarian's approval first. The foster will have to present proof of the procedure and then proceed with the adoption process. Valentin

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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES

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explained that the number of fosters in his report includes fosters from the Finder to Foster program which has helped tremendously in keeping these animals out of the shelter before being reclaimed and/or adopted. The usual stay of a foster is 3 to 6 weeks. The foster can also become an animal ambassador, keeping the animals longer while trying to find a forever home. Valentin added that they administer the rabies vaccination to pregnant dogs that are over 12 weeks with veterinarian approval. Paula Powell added that the foster program leads the country in the total number of fosters.

C. Humane Society Report for 2019

Julie Rutledge gave a 2019 report for the Humane Society. She explained that their adoptions for 2019 were 4,108 which were a little below their goal of 4,250. Their goal for return adoptions was 8%. Both 2018 and 2019 had the same with 7%; however, the number of returns for 2019 was less with 278 compared to 291 in 2018. The Humane Society does not transfer out many animals, but the ones they do transfer, are to rescue groups. They had 214 died-in-care in 2018 and 204 for 2019. The dies-in-care included 125 neonate kittens, 69 pups, 9 dogs and 1 cat. The intake was 4,106 with 63% of those animals (2,588) were transferred in from Animal Services in 2019. Julie added that they made some policy changes between 2016 and 2017, which resulted in increased adoptions from over 3,400 to over 4,000 after the changes. Animal Services' transfers to the Humane Society increased from 898 in 2016, to 2,150 in 2017, then to 2,481 in 2018 and to 2,588 in 2019. The huge increase between 2016 and 2017 was due to the changes made in support of Animal Services' no kill efforts. Those changes included transferring neonate kittens when they opened their nursery. Julie also explained that transferring parvo cases from Animal Services was something new that they started between 2018 and 2019. They transferred 104 cases in 2019 in which most of them were puppies. Out of those, 63 were cleared, 39 died-in-care and two were euthanized. They were able to save about 60% of those animals that would have been otherwise euthanized. The Humane Society is excited that they have been working alongside Animal Services in support of their no kill efforts.

D. Department of Animal Services Center-Update on January's Statistics

Paula Powell gave an update of the January's statistics. The intake for January was 1,927, which was a slight increase from last year's at 1,903 and below the intake from 2017 at 2,063. The stray was the largest number at 1,538 and the owner requested euthanasia at 10. The outcome comparatives were at 1,916, with adoptions at 655 a slight increase from last year. The return to owner were at 333 a decrease from 415 in 2019. There were 299 animals transferred out compared to 375 last year. There was 433 spay/neuter return. The shelter euthanasia was at 137 compared to 240 in 2019. There are currently 763 fosters out that is approximately the same number of animals at the shelter. The community is practically providing

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another shelter for all these animals, Paula added. The euthanasia history consists of 53 for behavior, 33 infectious, 32 trauma and 19 non-infectious. The died-in-care breakdown was 19 in foster and 20 in shelter. Paula expressed in excitement over the LRR of 90.53% for January. The LRR was 5% over last year. The calendar year LRR was 90.53% and the fiscal year is at 87.81%. The Shelter Animal Count LRR was at 90.53% with euthanasia at 7.11% compared to 85.73% LRR and 12.6% euthanasia rate in 2019. She also gave an update of the Drive-Thru vaccination clinic that was held on February 9, 2020. She mentioned that there were 398 dogs and 28 cats vaccinated, 297 microchips administered and 125 microchips checked. The next clinic is scheduled for March 8, 2020 at the Cohen Annex parking lot and a meeting will be held to discuss the details.

4. Call to the public

None

5. Main Agenda

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

A1. **Discussion and action on ASAC Annual Report to City Council**

Edith Prado, chair, prepared the Annual Report with the assistance of Ken Margherio. There were several concerns regarding the entire report that were brought up by Regina Wagner. Ana Schumacher explained that the deadline for content recommendations, per the by-laws, was in December and there were none. The committee can either discuss and make amendments, approve as per content, or approve/disapprove as is. Regina Wagner explained that the report does not represent the ASAC and made several suggestions to amend which included: there are too many *I's* and *In my opinion*, the report is too long and the shelter inspections can not be verified. After much discussion, it was agreed to make the following amendments: verify veterinarian inspection reports and make corrections or strike the organization(s) there are not able to provide proof to Edith Prado, rewording Critical Steps Going Forward in 2020 to *Considerations for 2020*, on the Marketing paragraph, delete the last two sentences, under the Shelter Capacity, delete the last portion of the first sentence, under Veterinary Support paragraph, delete the last two sentences and add a sentence in regards to Animal Services veterinarian statistics with citations and completely remove the Intake paragraph. Edith Prado asked whether everything that was discussed in the meetings is supposed to be included in the report. Ana explained the per the by-laws, the report can be composed of both the statutory and non-statutory duties. Dr. Causey suggested having an orientation for members on preparing the annual report moving forward.

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Edith Prado mentioned that she will finish the report with the amendments in spite of her resignation and Celeste Varela volunteered to help with the rewriting.

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District 1
Peter Svarzbein

Celeste Varela motioned to add citation footnotes throughout the report, fixing grammatical errors, strike what cannot be verified and number in references; Julie Rutledge seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.

District 2
Alexandra Annelo

Julie Rutledge motioned to in regards to all content items that Ana Schumacher mentioned and make the changes in regards to content and bring back in March; Celeste Varela seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

Celeste Varela motioned to postpone vote as to content for this month and to bring back next month for final approval; Sandy DiFrancesco seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.

District 4
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5
Isabel Salcido

**A2. Discussion and action on amending the time allotted for the Call to the Public in the by-laws.
Item was tabled**

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

**A3. Presentation on ASAC's duties pursuant to Section 7.28.060 of the El Paso Municipal Code.
Item was tabled**

District 7
Henry Rivera

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Cissy Lizarraga

**B. Promote Education and Engagement of Animal Health and Welfare
B1. Discussion and action on the Surrat Farms donating land to County for animal welfare purposes.
Celeste Varela mentioned that no one has approached the County regarding the Surrat Farms donation.**

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**B2. Discussion and action on how to increase public awareness of the need to clean after your dog.
Item was tabled.**

Julie Rutledge motioned to table the remaining items; Dr. Jayne Causey seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.

**6. Future Agenda Item
None**

Paula Powell – Director
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Department of Animal Services

CITY CLERK DEPT
2020 MAR 13 PM1:47

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7. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM

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Julie Rutledge 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 cursive script that reads "Julie Rutledge".

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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



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.

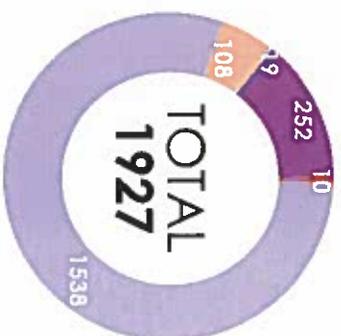
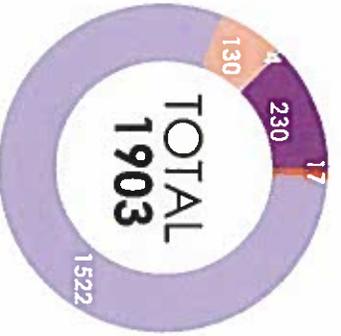
Goal 6

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

El Paso Animal Services, January 2020 – Intake Comparatives



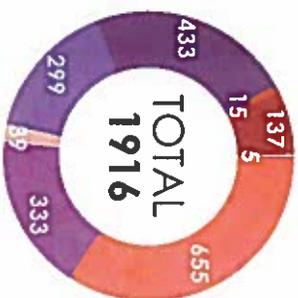
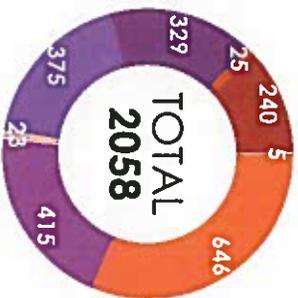
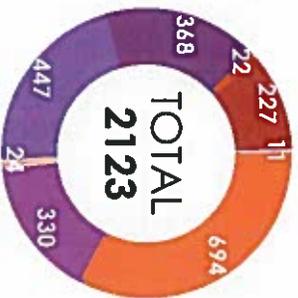
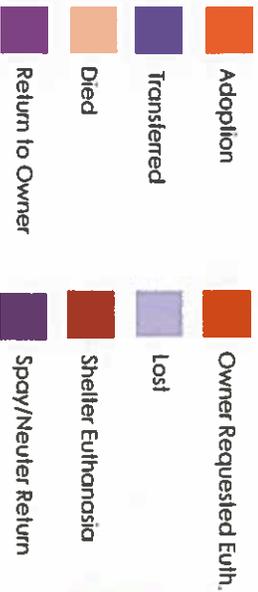
	2018		2019		2020	
	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat
Stray / At Large	1206	470	1198	324	1160	378
Owner Surrender	96	49	77	53	86	22
Owner-Requested Euthanasia	21	2	17	0	10	0
Transferred In	10	5	1	3	19	0
Other (DOA/Born in Care>Returns)	46	158	70	160	19	233
TOTAL	1379	684	1363	540	1294	633
		2063		1903		1927



El Paso Animal Services, January 2020 – Outcome Comparatives



	2018			2019			2020		
	Dog	Cat	Total	Dog	Cat	Total	Dog	Cat	Total
Adoption	459	235	694	443	203	646	386	269	655
Return to Owner	318	12	330	408	7	415	325	8	333
Transferred Out	358	89	447	329	46	375	256	43	299
Spay/Neuter Return	-	368	368	1	328	329	-	433	433
Died	9	15	24	15	8	23	29	10	39
Lost	4	7	11	4	1	5	5	0	5
Owner-Requested Euth.	20	2	22	25	0	25	15	0	15
Shelter Euthanasia	180	47	227	203	37	240	99	38	137
TOTAL	1348	775	2123	1428	630	2058	1115	801	1916



El Paso Animal Services, January 2020 – Foster Numbers



Started

Completed

Currently Out

65

418

127

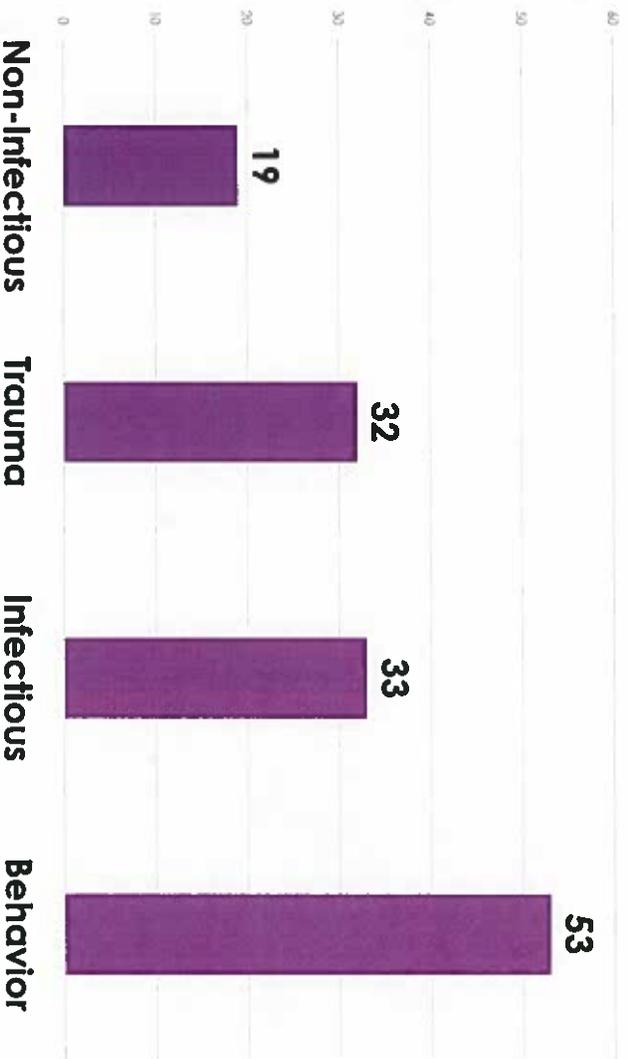
315

763



El Paso Animal Services, January 2020 – Euthanasia

Euthanasia History

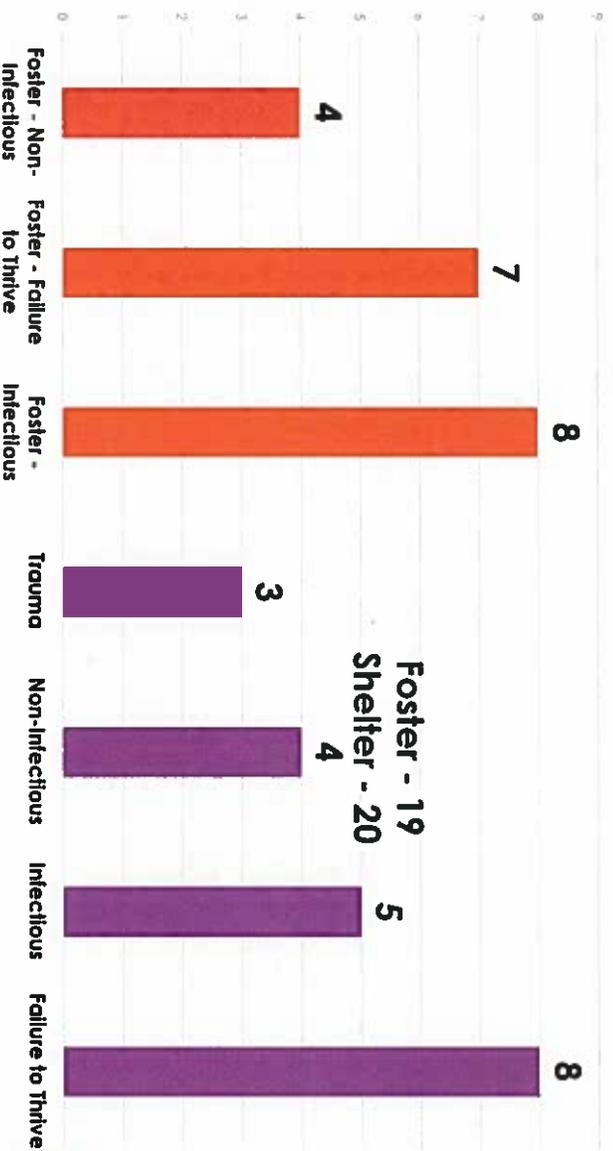


*MHD – Medical Health Declining
 *NRT – Not Responding to Treatment

	Cat	Dog	Total
Behavior		38	38
Behavioral Health Declining		15	15
Cancer		2	2
Diaphragmatic Hernia	1		1
Distemper		2	2
Failure to Thrive		2	2
Lymphoma Suspect	2		2
MHD - Infectious		1	1
MHD - Non Infectious	4	6	10
Neurologic	4	1	5
NRT - Infectious	1	4	5
NRT - Non Infectious	1		1
Panleukopenia	1		1
Parvo (Canine)		2	2
Trauma	22	10	32
URI	2	8	10
URI/Distemper Suspect		8	8
Total	38	99	137

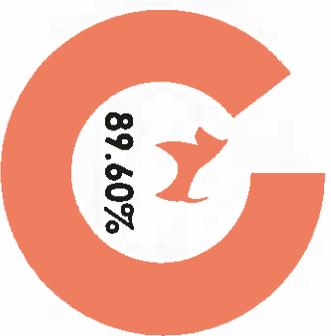
El Paso Animal Services, January 2020 – Died Breakdown

Died in Care Breakdown

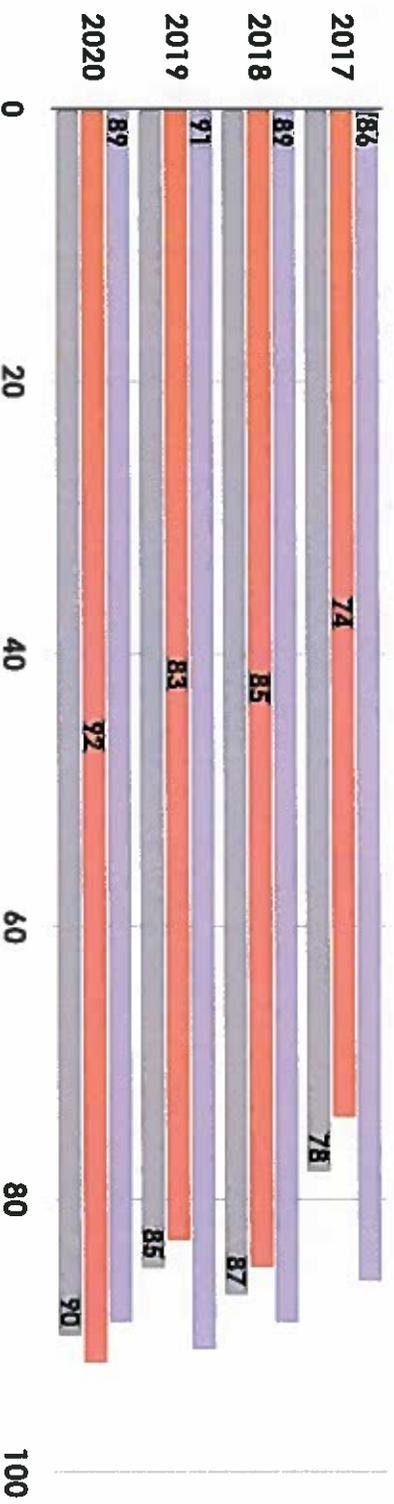


	Cat	Dog	Total
Failure to Thrive	1	7	8
Foster - Failure to Thrive	5	2	7
Foster - Infectious	1	7	8
Foster - Non-Infectious	2	2	4
Infectious Disease		5	5
Non-Infectious Disease		4	4
Trauma	1	2	3
Total	10	29	39

El Paso Animal Services, January 2020 – Live Release Rate Comparatives

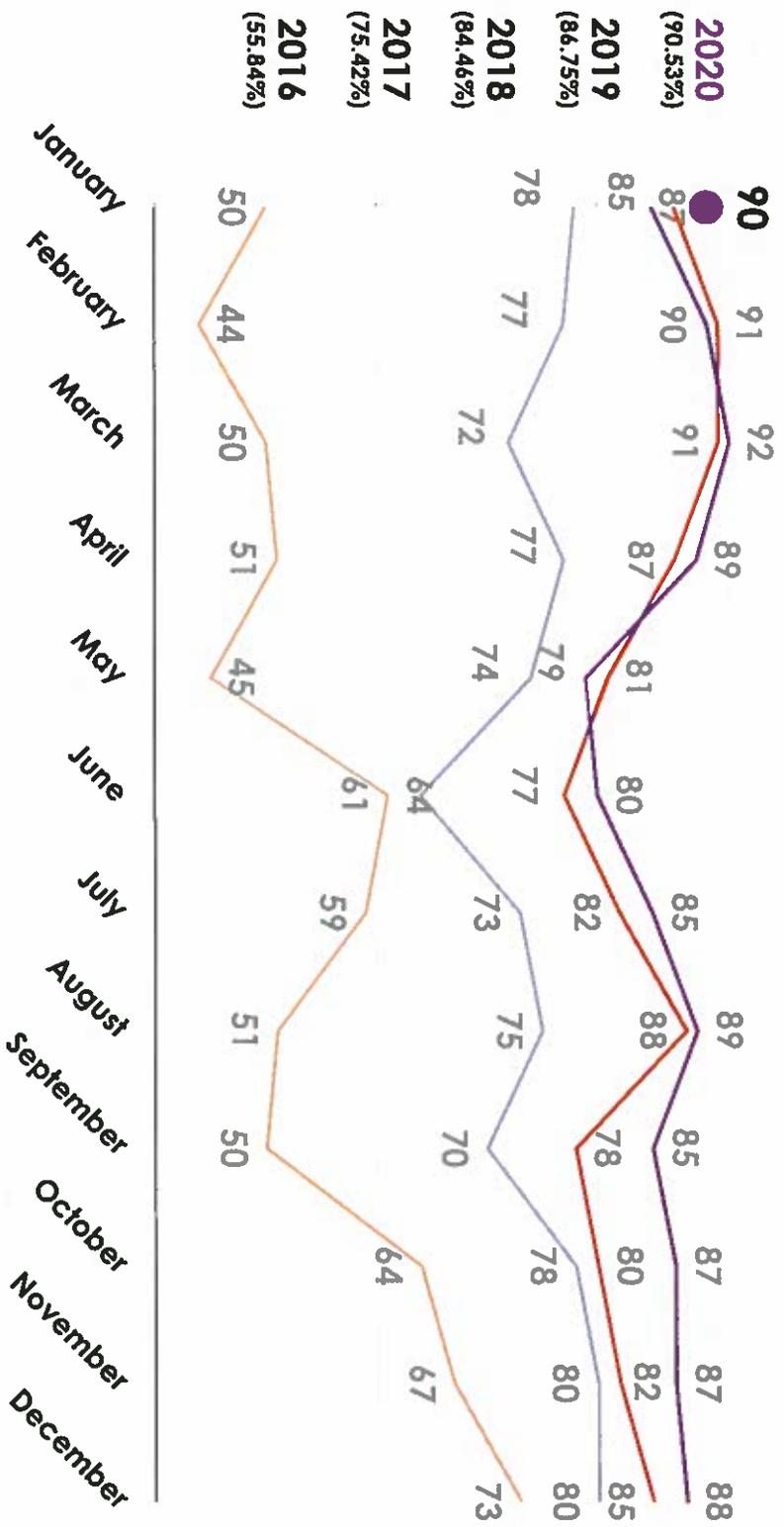


LIVE-RELEASE COMPARATIVES



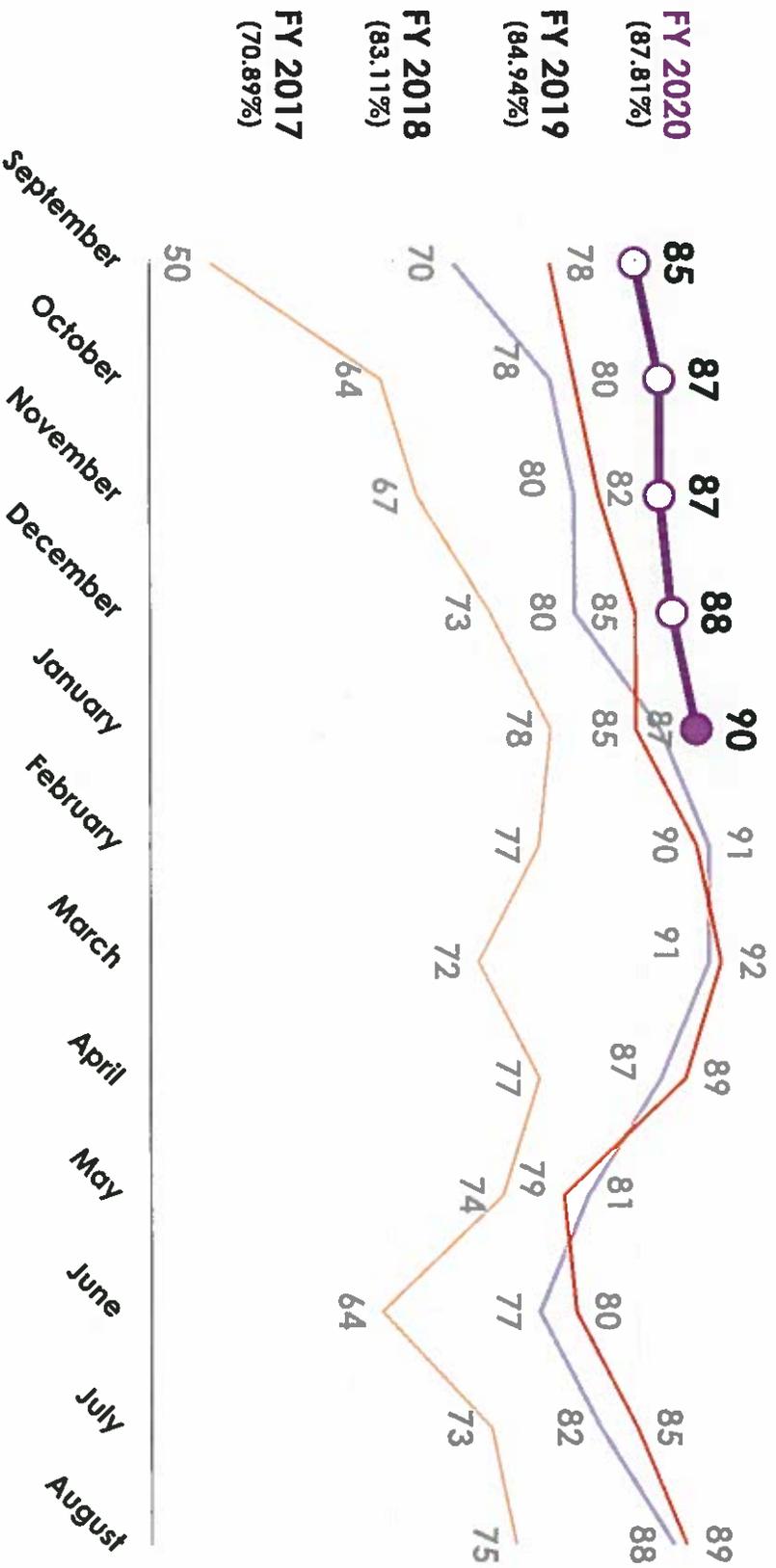
El Paso Animal Services, January 2020 – Live Release Rate Comparatives

CALENDAR YEAR



El Paso Animal Services, January 2020 – Live Release Rate Comparatives

FISCAL YEAR



El Paso Animal Services, January 2020 – Shelter Animals Count

Print Date Saturday, February 1, 2020

Site: All

Date From: 1/1/2020 12:00:00 AM

Date To: 1/31/2020 11:59:00 PM

Species By Age	Canine	Feline	Total
A - Beginning Animal Count (Date: 1/1/2020)	1314	528	1842

Live Intake	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	Total
B - Stray / At Large	854	285	21	282	85	11	1538
C - Relinquished by Owner	26	60	0	21	0	1	108
D - Owner Intended Euthanasia	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
E - Transferred in from Agency	9	7	3	0	0	0	19
F - Other Intake	12	7	0	209	21	3	252
G.1 - TOTAL LIVE INTAKE	911	359	24	512	106	15	1927
G.2 - TOTAL LIVE INTAKE		1294			633		

Outcomes							
H - Adoption	301	85	0	115	154	0	655
I - Returned to Owner	299	15	11	7	1	0	333
J - Transferred to another Agency	128	124	4	22	20	1	299
K - Returned to Field	0	0	0	391	38	4	433
M.1 - Subtotal: Live Outcomes	728	224	15	535	213	5	1720
M.2 - Subtotal: Live Outcomes		967			753		

Outcomes							
N - Died in Care	8	21	0	2	8	0	39
O - Lost in Care	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
P - Shelter Euthanasia	95	4	0	28	4	6	137
Q - Owner Intended Euthanasia	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
R.1 - Subtotal: Other Outcomes	123	25	0	30	12	6	196
R.2 - Subtotal: Other Outcomes		148			48		
S.1 - TOTAL OUTCOMES	851	249	15	565	225	11	1916
S.2 - TOTAL OUTCOMES		1115			801		

T - Ending Shelter Count (Date: 1/31/2020)	1493	360	1853
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Dog LRR: 89.60% Cat LRR: 92.41% Live Release Rate: **90.53%**
 CYTD LRR: 90.53% FYTD LRR: 87.81% Euth Rate: 7.11%

El Paso Animal Services, January 2019 – Shelter Animals Count

Print Date: Friday, February 1, 2019

Site: All

Date From: 1/1/2019 12:00:00 AM

Date To: 1/31/2019 11:59:00 PM

Species By Age	Canine			Feline			Total
	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	
A - Beginning Animal Count (Date: 1/1/2019)	604	266	13	61	258	7	1209

Live Intake	Canine			Feline			Total
	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	
B - Stray / At Large	908	255	35	234	74	16	1522
C - Relinquished by Owner	49	25	3	33	17	3	130
D - Owner Intended Euthanasia	15	1	1	0	0	0	17
E - Transferred In from Agency	1	0	0	1	2	0	4
F - Other Intake	46	24	0	139	19	2	230
G - TOTAL LIVE INTAKE	1019	305	39	407	112	21	1903

Outcomes	Canine			Feline			Total
	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	
H - Adoption	330	113	0	75	128	0	646
I - Returned to Owner	360	9	19	7	0	0	416
J - Transferred to another Agency	156	173	0	28	15	3	375
K - Returned to Field	1	0	0	301	24	3	329
M - Subtotal: Live Outcomes	867	295	19	411	167	6	1765

N - Died in Care	10	5	0	2	5	1	23
O - Lost in Care	2	2	0	0	0	1	5
P - Shelter Euthanasia	169	31	3	23	6	8	240
Q - Owner Intended Euthanasia	23	1	1	0	0	0	25
R - Subtotal: Other Outcomes	204	39	4	25	11	10	293
S - TOTAL OUTCOMES	1071	334	23	436	178	16	2058

T - Ending Shelter Count (Date: 1/31/2019)	552	237	29	32	192	12	1054
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FYTD LRR: 82.50%
CYTD LRR: 85.73%

Dog LRR: 83.41%

Cat LRR: 91.48%

Live-Release Rate: 85.73%
Euth Rate: 12.61%

El Paso Animal Services

Drive Thru Vaccination Clinic Update

398 dogs

28 cats

297 microchips

125 microchip checks

Next Drive Thru Clinic: March 8, 2020

El Paso Animal Services - PawCast

PawCast