

## SPCA for Monterey County Cat & Dog Sheltering Statistics January 1 - December 31, 2019

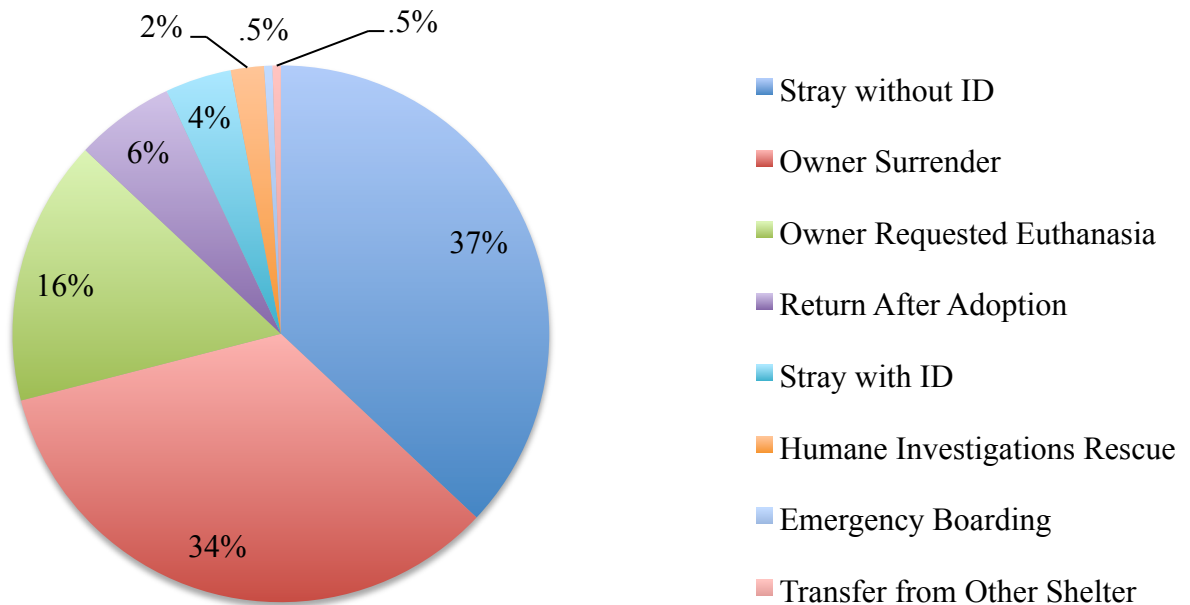
### INTAKE

	Dog & Puppy	Cat & Kitten	Total
<b>All</b>	2543	2563	5106

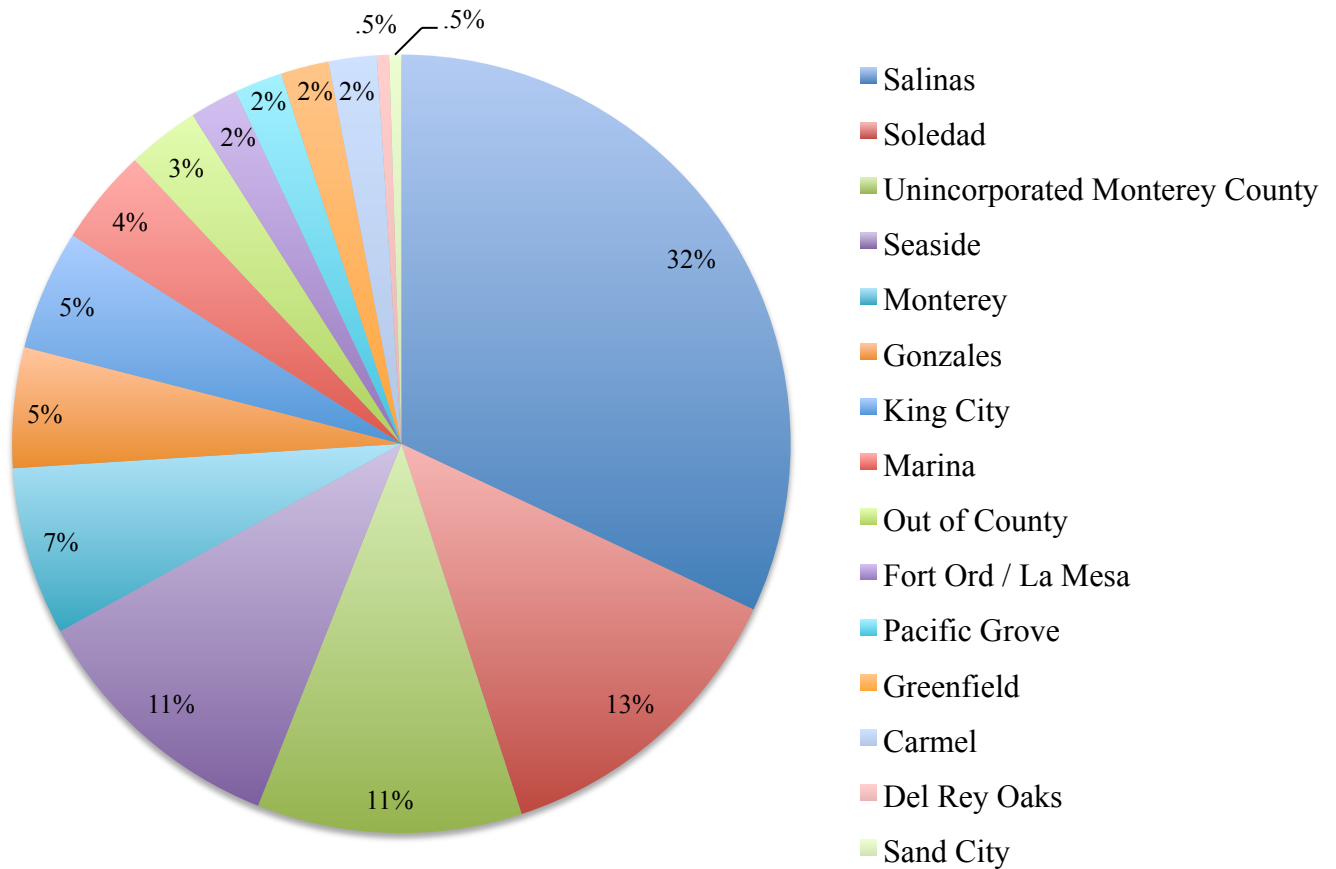
Your SPCA is the only open-admission shelter in Monterey County. We do not turn away pets that owners can no longer care for regardless of breed, age, physical health, or temperament. In addition, because some neighboring counties have adopted managed or limited admission policies, we receive hundreds of animals each year from outside our county who have nowhere else to go. Sadly, many of these pets are too sick or unsafe to rehome. We also accept all strays from [jurisdictions in our county that contract with us for state-mandated animal sheltering services](#).

These statistics include all cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens entering our shelter. While our doors are open to all animals who need us, [we also offer numerous programs](#) to keep pets in their homes with their families or to prevent them from ever becoming homeless.

**How Pets Arrived at the SPCA**



**Where Pets Arrived From**



Salinas is still the city we receive the largest number of pets from, despite the city operating their own shelter. Most of the pets coming to us from Salinas arrive as owner surrenders, which Salinas Animal Services does not accept. Because of this, your SPCA began a focused, extremely low-cost Spay and Neuter program targeting pets owned by residents of Salinas and Seaside. We also funded SNIP Bus Clinics in those areas and collaborated with the Big Fix Mobile Spay/Neuter to help reach even more pet owners. Through these programs and our already low-cost Veterinary Clinic, we performed or funded 7,042 spay and neuter surgeries in Monterey County in 2019 alone.

Three percent of the pets who need us come from owners outside Monterey County. Owners tell us that their local shelters will not accept their pets due to limited or managed intake and they have nowhere else to turn.

## **ADOPTIONS**

	<b>Dog &amp; Puppy</b>	<b>Cat &amp; Kitten</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Healthy</b>	569	714	1283
<b>Rehabilitatable</b>	418	587	1005
<b>Chronic Conditions</b>	137	80	217
<b>Unhealthy/Untreatable</b>	1	208	209
<b>Total</b>	1125	1589	2714

Your SPCA makes every attempt to find loving homes for the pets in our care. We do not put time limits on animals and will often keep pets for weeks or months until they find their new, forever homes. Thanks to the compassionate support of our donors, over 1,500 of pets suffering from health or behavior issues received rehabilitation, major surgery, or other lifesaving care in order to become adoptable. The unhealthy pets in this section were adopted by volunteers who understood the pets' serious health or behavior issues, or feral/unsocialized cats adopted into to barn homes. Please see the end of this document for the category definitions. We invite you to visit our Adoption Center or sign up for our Pet Alert Program (sign up at [SPCAmc.org/pet-alert-program](https://SPCAmc.org/pet-alert-program)) to meet your new pet.

## **TRANSFERED TO OTHER AGENCIES**

<b>Dog &amp; Puppy</b>	<b>Cat &amp; Kitten</b>	<b>Total</b>
159	241	400

This includes pets who were transferred to other shelters or rescue groups. The SPCA works with rescue groups to help find homes for pets who are not thriving in a shelter environment.

## **RETURNED TO OWNER**

<b>Dog &amp; Puppy</b>	<b>Cat &amp; Kitten</b>	<b>Total</b>
322	55	377

It is a thrilling day when lost pets are reunited with their owners! Every pet that enters our shelter is scanned for a microchip and their information is posted on

our website to assist owners looking for their lost pet. As you can see from the chart above, the vast majority of strays arrive with no microchip, collar, or tag.

## **EUTHANIZED**

	<b>Dog &amp; Puppy</b>	<b>Cat &amp; Kitten</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Healthy</b>	0	0	0
<b>Rehabilitatable</b>	1	6	7
<b>Chronic Conditions</b>	32	58	90
<b>Unhealthy/Untreatable</b>	895	521	1416
<b>Total</b>	928	585	1513
<b>Requested by Owners</b>	(639)	(183)	(822)
<b>Total Euthanasia</b>	289	402	691

The SPCA does not euthanize based on how long an animal has been in our care and once pets are made available for adoption they can stay with us as long as it takes (sometimes weeks, months, or even years) to find them new, loving homes. But sometimes, the most humane service we can provide is a painless ending. We will euthanize an animal that is suffering from an injury or illness that cannot be treated to assure the animal's long-term health and comfort. We may also choose humane euthanasia when an animal exhibits serious aggression towards other animals or towards people. While it is our mission to find loving homes for animals in need, it is also our responsibility not to adopt animals that pose a danger to other pets or people.

Please understand that we are a true open admission shelter. We accept owner-surrendered animals from both inside and outside our county, many of whom are brought to us by owners turned away from rescues and shelters with limited or managed admission policies. These owners have no place else to turn. The animals are often not adoption candidates due to their temperament, history of aggressive behavior, and/or physical health or condition. Still, their owners are grateful that we choose to accept their pets.

For dozens of years, we have a 100% success rate rehoming physically and behaviorally healthy, fully-weaned cats and dogs. While we sometimes euthanize pets with rehabilitatable or chronic conditions, every day your SPCA is mending broken bones, healing wounds, providing long-overdue veterinary care, or working to socialize anxious pets. Euthanasia decisions are never made lightly, and the treatable and chronic categories are the euthanasia areas we are working hard to reduce to zero. Please see the end of this document for the category definitions.

### **LIVE RELEASE RATE**

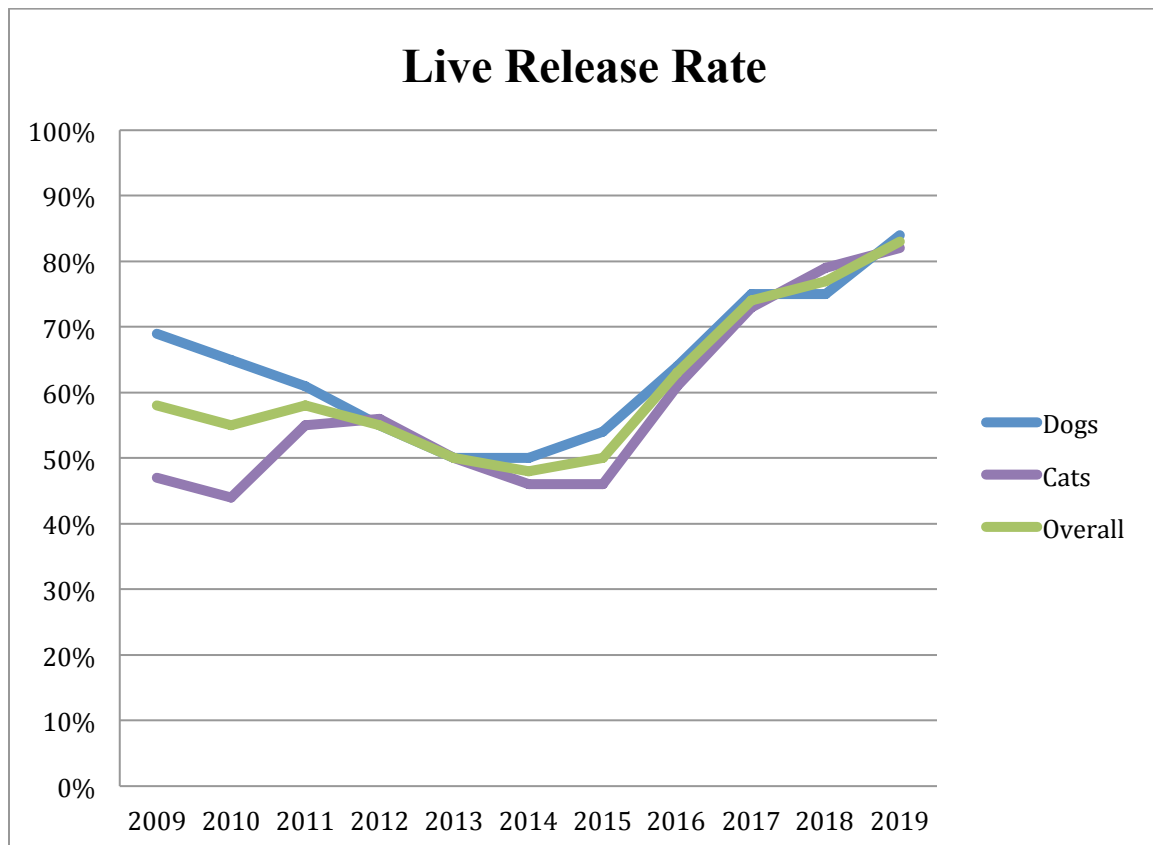
Below, you can see the SPCA's Live Release Rate for several years and the dramatic improvement the past four years. Our Live Release Rate (also called a Save Rate) is calculated consistently with shelters and communities across the country. We take the percentage of animals for which we've created a positive outcome -- ones we've adopted, returned-to-owners or transferred -- from the total number of animals received. And, as is a standard practice, we don't include animals surrendered by their owners with a request for euthanasia in the calculation, if they are indeed unadoptable.

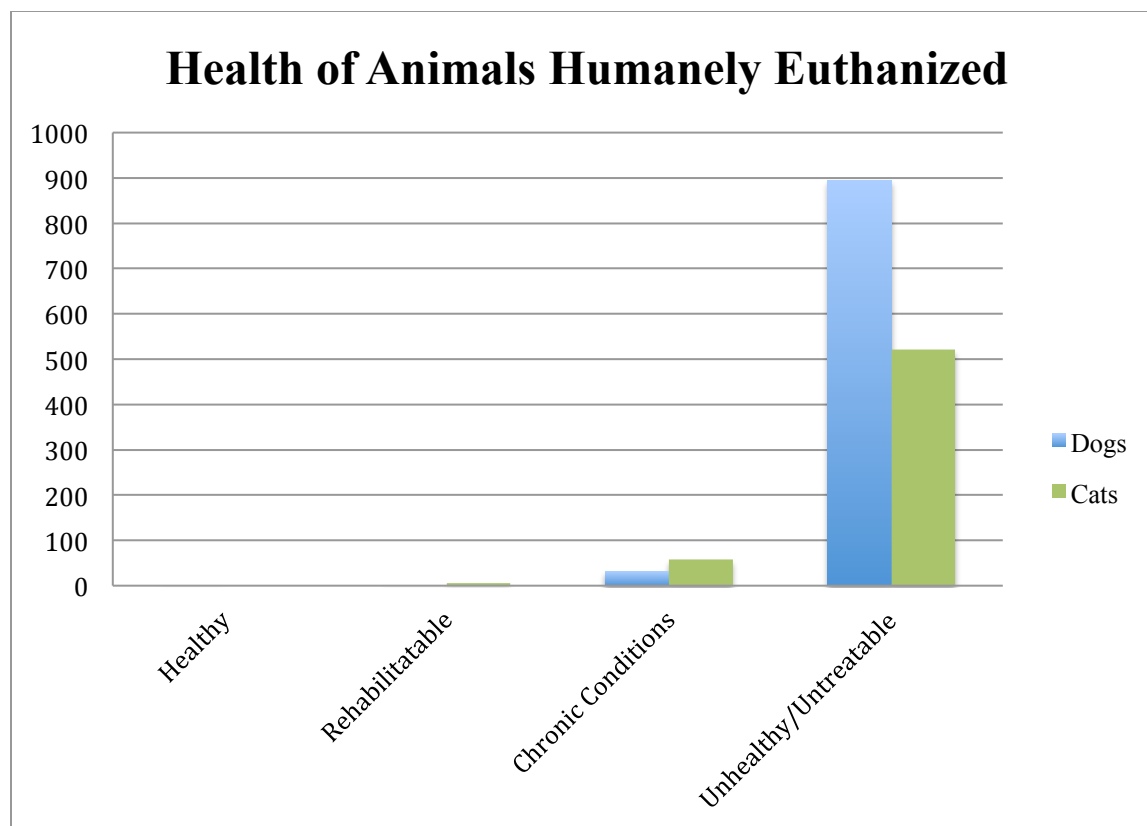
There are many factors that can impact a shelter's Live Release Rate. Building a new facility, improving customer relations, devoting more medical and behavioral resources to treatable animals, changing adoption requirements, developing robust transfer or foster programs, providing low-cost spay/neuter and education.

And, there are simple ways of impacting Live Release Rates that we would argue don't reflect positive changes and artificially change the percentage. A shelter, can, for example, stop accepting owner-surrendered animals they feel they cannot easily adopt. Live Release Rates can be informative or meaningful, or they can be neither, yet are often used as an end all tool or the only way to measure a shelter's work or compare one shelter to another. Looking at a chart of shelters or communities and their Live Release Rates, one could find a shelter with a 95% save rate and assume that shelter is doing far better work than one with a 70%

save rate. But, what's unknown is this: what kinds of animals do both shelters accept? How many do they turn away and never count in their statistics? Do they take on animals with challenging behaviors or medical conditions and make them well?

In the end, statistics are important to the SPCA as a measure of how we are doing now compared to how we did last year or the last few years. We make them available to the public, but not without this critical context. The SPCA is an open-admission shelter, meaning we turn no owner-surrendered animals away and accept the task of caring for and making well animals that need medical care or behavioral attention (both, in some cases, and often a significant amount) before they can be rehomed. Our admissions also include hundreds of animals, each year, from residents living outside Monterey County who were turned away from their local shelter. Our live release rate for 2019 was 83%. If we were to remove out of county animals from our equation this would positively impact our live release rate, but leave hundreds of animals with nowhere to go.





## OTHER

The year began and ended with many animals in our loving care. Sadly, a small number of animals died of natural causes while in shelter or foster care.

## DEFINITIONS

Each of these categories refers to both the medical and behavioral health of an animal. These are not our definitions; they are defined by the Asilomar Accords and used by shelters across the nation.

**Healthy:** all dogs and cats eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

**Rehabilitatable:** all dogs and cats who are not healthy, but who are likely to become healthy if given medical, foster, behavioral, or other care equivalent to the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners. For example: a dog with a broken leg, a cat with an upper respiratory infection, or a puppy with minor resource guarding issues (these are often pets who can be rehabilitated and adopted).

**Chronic Conditions:** all dogs and cats who are not healthy and who are not likely to become healthy regardless of the care provided but who would likely maintain a satisfactory quality of life if given medical, foster, behavioral, or other care, including long-term care, equivalent to the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners. This does not include any dog or cat who is determined to pose a significant risk to human health or safety or to the health or safety of other animals. For example: a senior pet with a heart murmur or a cat with FIV. These are often pets who are adopted by a small number of caring people willing to provide a home for a pet with a long-term health condition. You can use our [Pet Alert Program](#) or [adoptions website](#) to search for a special needs pet.

**Unhealthy/Untreatable:** dogs and cats who, at or subsequent to the time they are taken into possession have a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that poses a health or safety risk or otherwise makes the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and are not likely to become healthy or treatable even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners. While it is our mission to find loving homes for animals in need, it is also our responsibility not to adopt animals that pose a danger to other pets or people. Also, pets who are suffering from a disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the animal's health or is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future, and are not likely to become healthy or treatable even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable



and caring pet owners. For example: a dog with serious aggression towards pets or people, a cat with malignant cancer, or a pet with a serious traumatic injury that has a poor prognosis for recovery.

**Barn Cat:** a barn cat is a feral or severely unsocial cat that cannot safely or humanely live as a house pet. We ask adopters to provide a safe barn, shed, or other structure where a cat can be safe and seek protection from the elements and provide food and veterinary care. This program is only for feral or severely unsocial cats - we will not adopt cats to barn homes when they are used to being house pets. Learn more about our [barn cat program](#).