



WACO CITY COUNCIL

ANIMAL SHELTER UPDATE

September 3, 2024

PURPOSE

Today's presentation will provide a comprehensive look at Animal Services operations historically and into the future.

The City has contracted with the Humane Society of Central Texas since 2012 for their provision of positive outcomes at the Animal Shelter. On Friday, August 23, 2024, the City and HSCTX signed a mutual termination agreement to end the most recent five-year contract (signed in 2022) and allow HSCTX to exit their operations at the Animal Shelter by September 6, 2024.

At the August 27, 2024, City Council meeting the Council approved the FY25 budget, which included the addition of positions to the Animal Services division to provide for the continuation of those services at the Shelter.



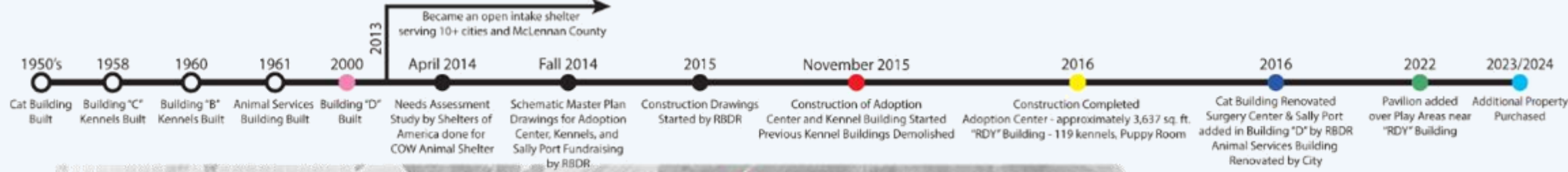


OUTLINE

- ANIMAL SHELTER HISTORY & OVERVIEW
- WACO ANIMAL SERVICES BUDGET HISTORY, CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, & PLANNED INVESTMENTS
- ANIMAL SHELTER OPERATIONS – BY THE NUMBERS
- HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT UPDATE
- TRANSITION PLAN & NEXT STEPS

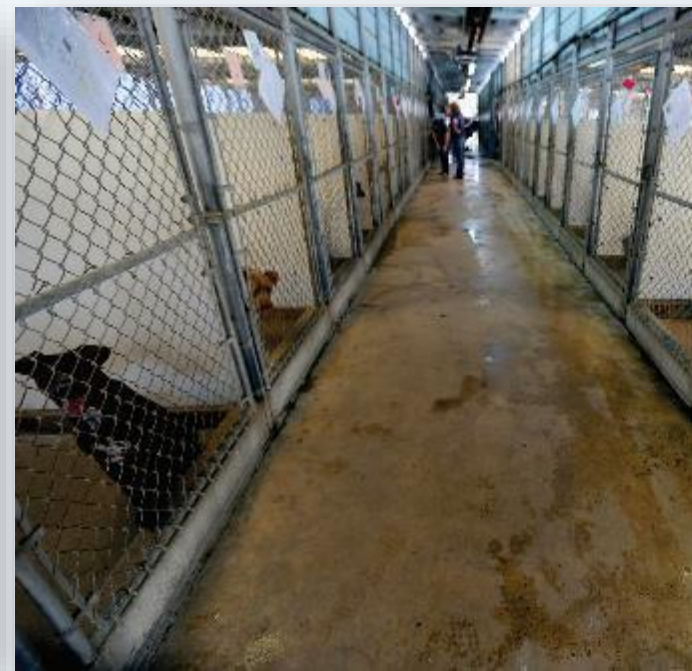


ANIMAL SHELTER HISTORY & OVERVIEW



rbdr PLLC - Architects
Waco Texas





BEFORE RENOVATION





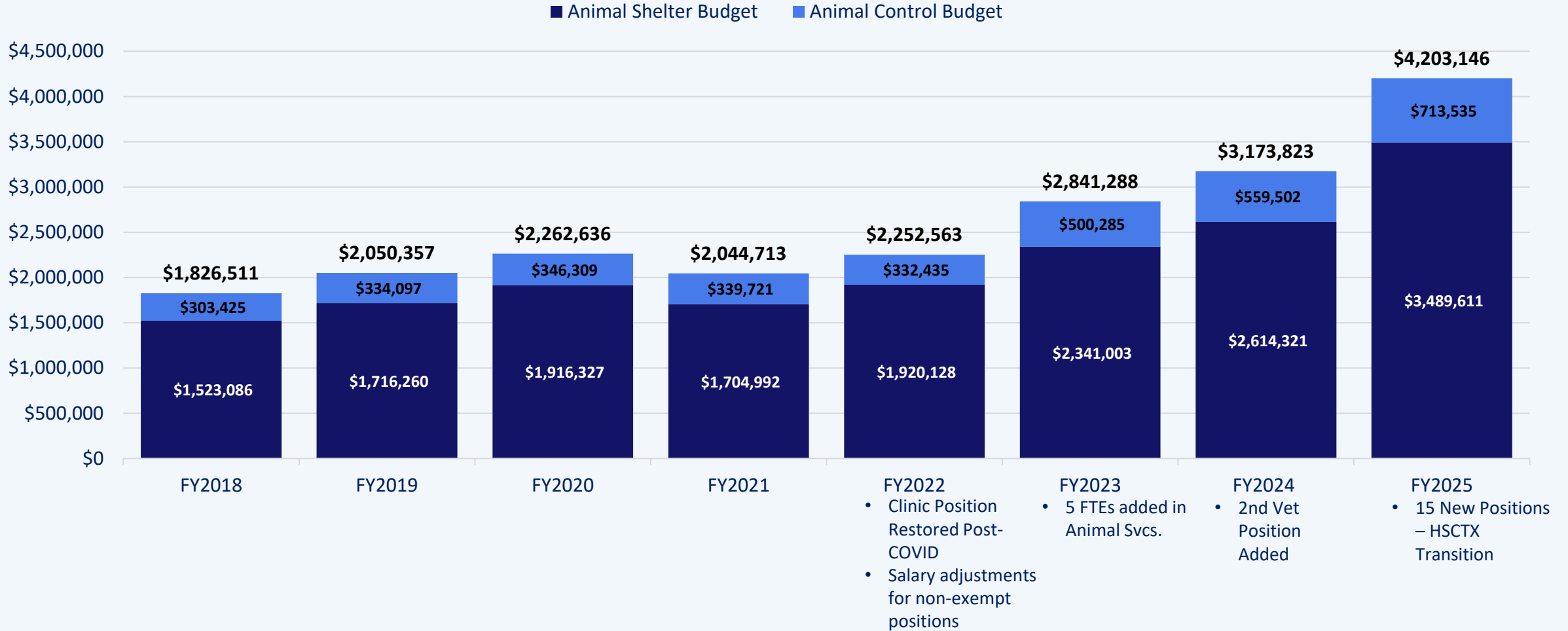
AFTER RENOVATION





ANIMAL SHELTER BUDGET HISTORY & PLANNED INVESTMENTS

Animal Shelter – Operational Funding



FACILITY UPGRADES: 2022-2024

Date	Description	Cost
8/16/2022	Replace RDY HVAC	\$1,216,424
11/15/2022	2101 S. 23rd Acquisition	\$163,000
12/6/2022	2020 Circle Rd. Acquisition	\$409,159
5/1/2023	Replace Play Yard & Cover	\$180,000
11/9/2023	RBDR Master Plan	\$23,675
3/19/2024	RDY Floor Re-coat	\$142,958
6/4/2024	2000 Circle Rd. Acquisition	\$232,840
8/6/2024	RBDR Clinic Design	\$323,000
10/1/2024	CIP Commit for Clinic	\$5,000,000
12/1/2024	Fire Alarm and Sprinkler	\$500,000
TOTAL:		\$8,191,056

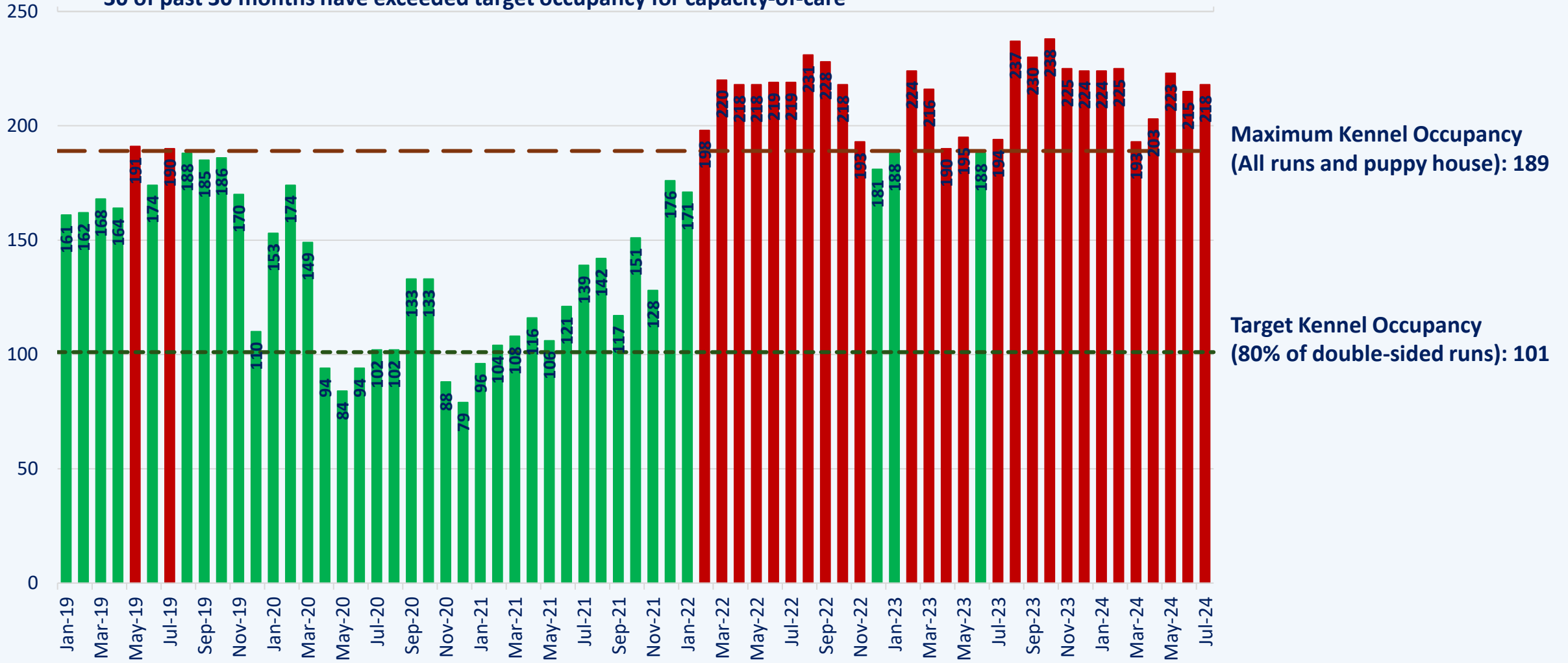




ANIMAL SHELTER— BY THE NUMBERS

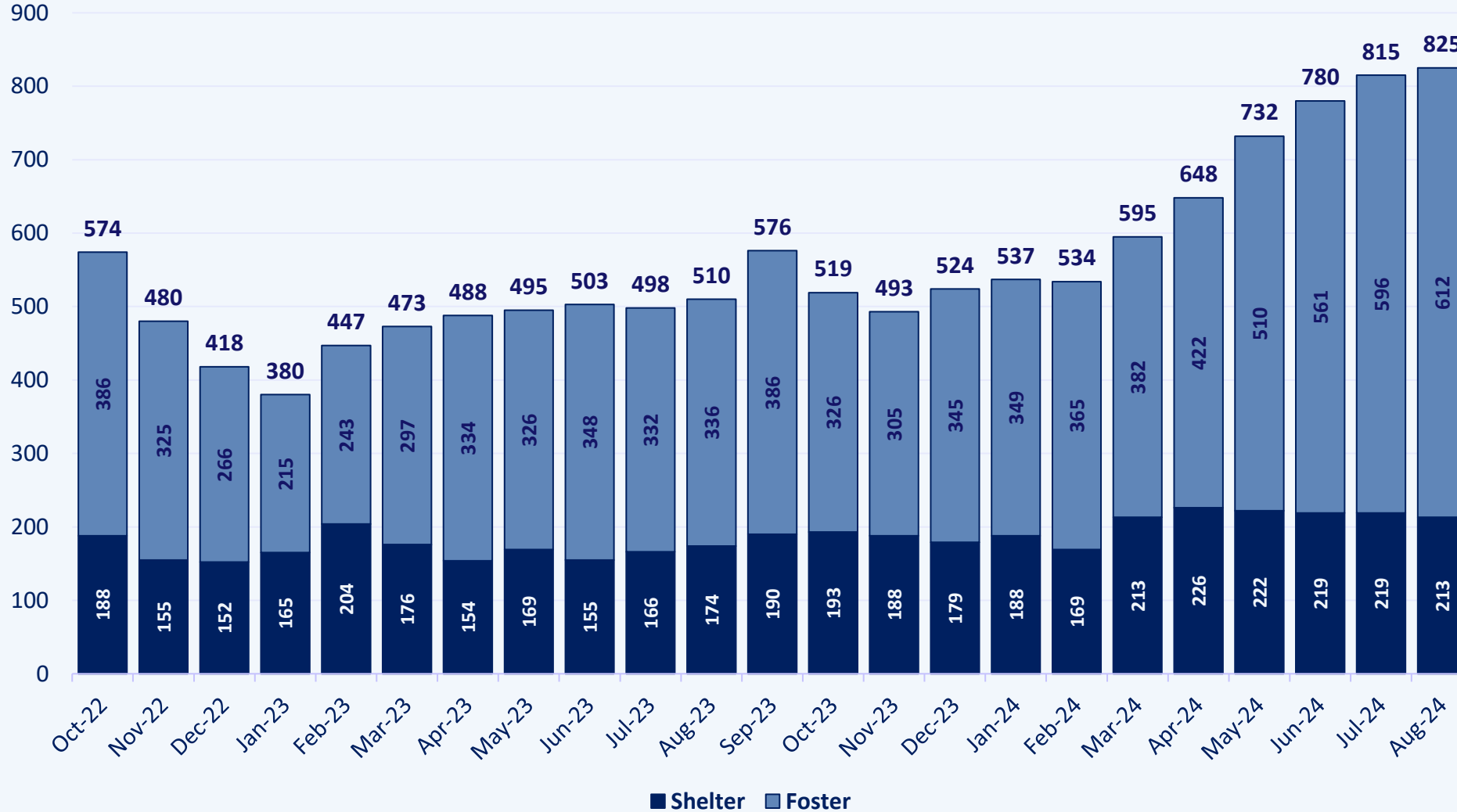
Average Monthly Kennel Occupancy (Dog)

- 27 of past 30 months have exceeded maximum kennel occupancy
- 30 of past 30 months have exceeded target occupancy for capacity-of-care



Animal Shelter Population by Location

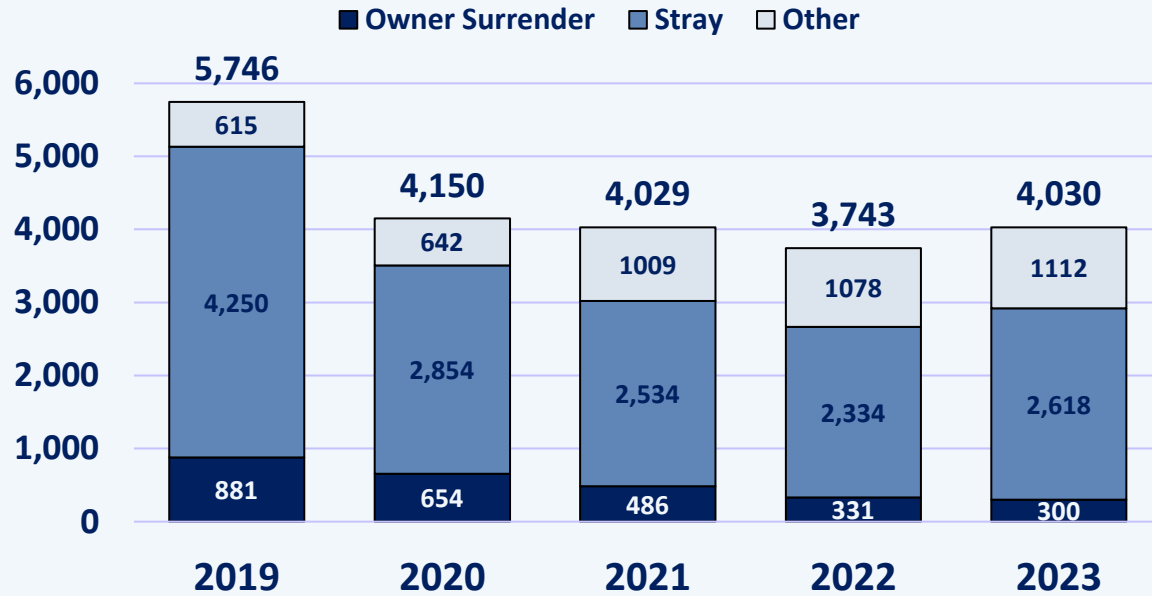
- Foster population has nearly tripled since January 2023
- 825 animals under care of Waco's two shelter veterinarians and staff



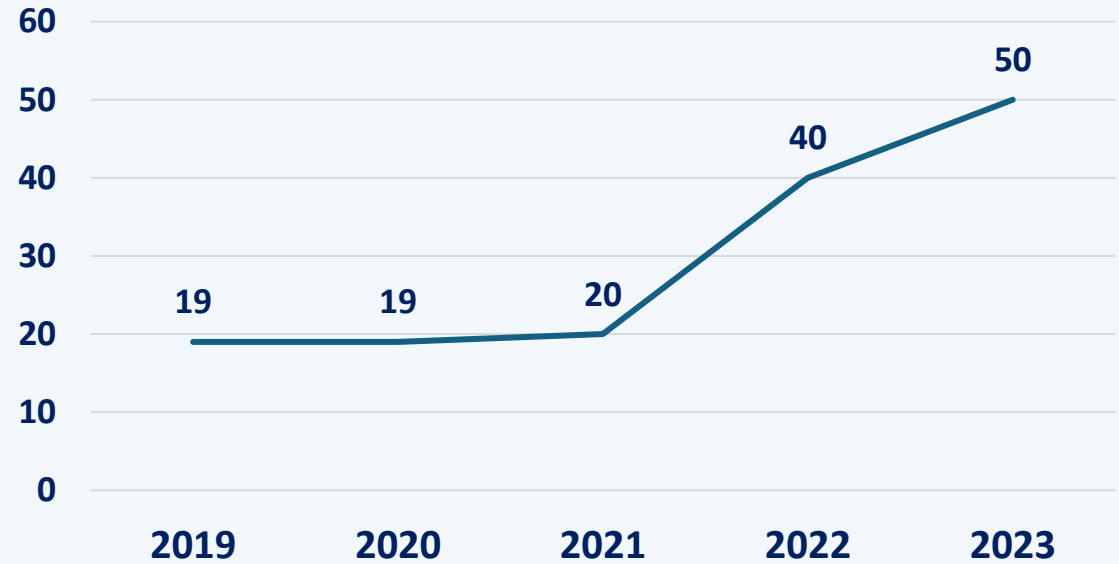
Animal Intakes vs. Average Length of Stay

- 30% decrease in Animal Intakes over last 6 years
- 163% increase in the average Length of Stay for an animal under care of the Shelter

Animal Intake

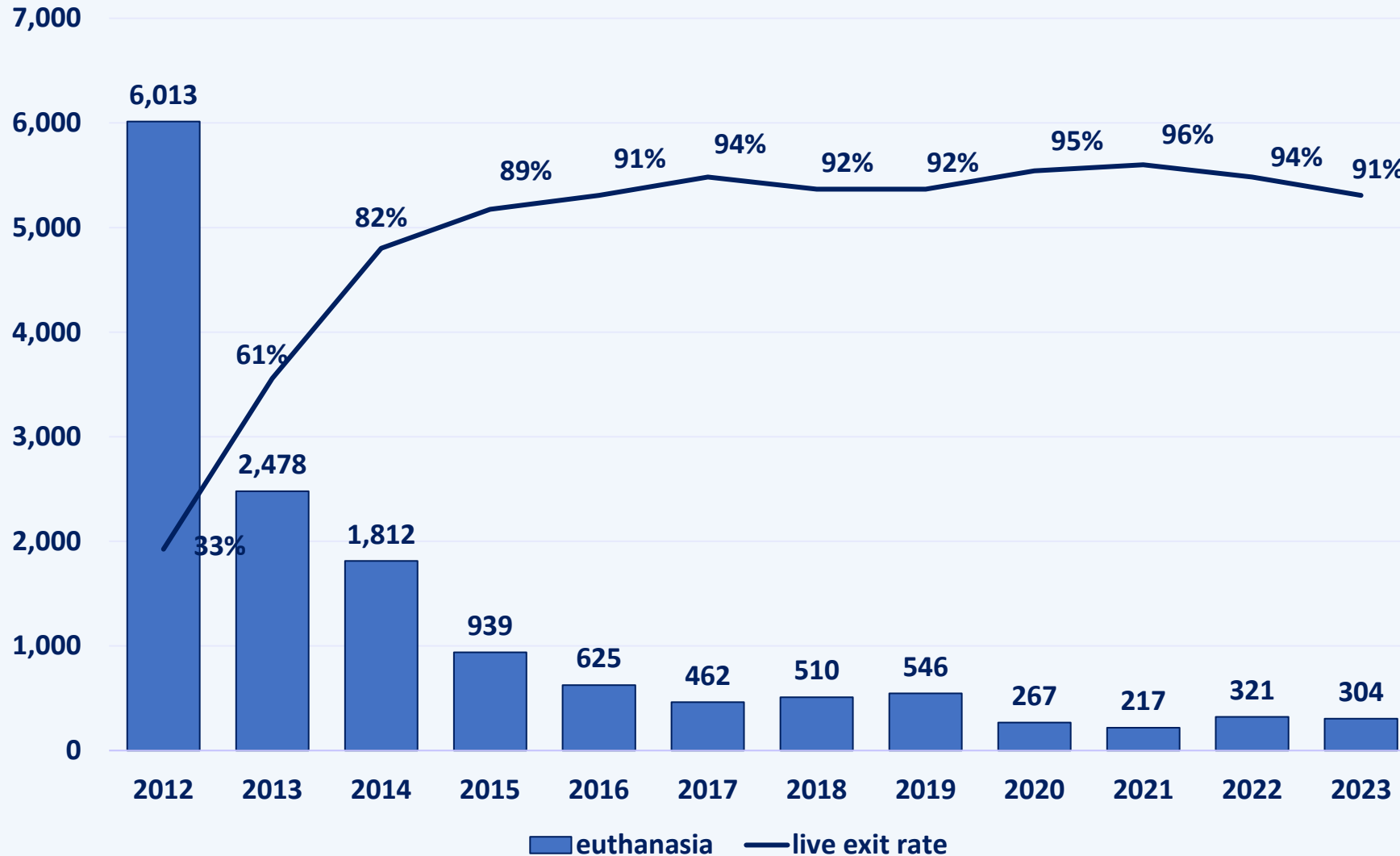


Average Length of Stay per Animal (Days)



Euthanasia and Live Release Outcomes: 2012-2023

- 95% decrease in euthanasia between 2012 and 2023
- 90% or more live-exit rate achieved and maintained since 2016



Animal Intake by City

	FY23			FY24			ACO - Field % Change	Total Intake % Change
	Total intake	OTC	ACO - Field	Total intake	OTC	ACO - Field		
Bellmead	135	100	35	193	95	98	180%	43%
Beverly Hills	88	59	29	53	33	20	-31%	-40%
Hewitt	197	153	44	185	145	40	-10%	-6%
Lacy Lakeview	136	94	42	102	94	8	-81%	-25%
Lorena	43	37	6	92	88	4	-33%	114%
Mart	20	19	1	46	44	2	100%	130%
McGregor	87	38	49	135	56	79	61.22%	55%
McLennan County	580	487	93	645	516	129	38.71%	11%
Moody	9	8	1	21	12	9	800%	133%
Riesel	24	18	6	26	19	7	16.67%	8%
Robinson	171	93	78	199	104	95	21.79%	16%
West	22	16	6	28	21	7	16.67%	27%
Woodway	62	51	11	105	84	21	90.91%	69%
Waco	2,191	646	1545	2218	730	1488	-3.69%	1%
Total:	3,765	1,819	1,946	4,048	2,041	2,007	3.13%	8%

*OTC - "Over the counter" includes owner surrender and public drop offs of any kind.

STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING SHELTER INTAKE IN COMMUNITIES

- Consider increased funding for spay/neuter and microchipping resources to decrease strain on Animal Control & Shelter resources
- Trap-Neuter-Release Programs
- Think before taking an animal to the Animal Shelter
 - “Lost” vs. “Stray”
 - Behavior Dogs
- Most pets found close to home
 - Underserved communities with limited educational resources and financial resources are more impacted. Less likely to turn to shelter to find a lost pet.
 - Can be deterred by fees (or expectation of fees)
 - Can be deterred by not understanding reclaim process or thinking it is too complicated



A stylized globe composed of various shades of blue, with segments of different colors and orientations, creating a geometric, faceted appearance. The globe is centered in the background.

HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT UPDATE

HSCTX Contract Timelines

1983-2012	HSCTX is primary operator of Animal Shelter
2012-2017	HSCTX transitions to facilitating outcomes from Animal Shelter on annual contract basis
5/10/2017	First 5-Year contract between COW and HSCTX executed
6/19/2018	Contract amended to authorize COW to reimburse 50% of cost for spay/neuter through contract vets
4/25/2022	Contract extended to 08/10/2022 to facilitate further contract renewal discussion
8/10/2022	Contract renewed for 5-years with financial reopener to allow finance-specific negotiations within the 5-year contract term
6/5/2023	City and HSCTX meet for first contract negotiations under financial reopener
11/15/2023	HSCTX sends contract revisions seeking control of operations beyond financial negotiations
1/24/2024	City offers new contract financial terms to replace all fees and provide \$\$ incentives for certain Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
2/20/2024	HSCTX Issues letter to vacate unless demands are met for \$1.2M/year and no KPIs
3/13/2024	City responds demands cannot be met
4/11/2024	COW has remitted to HSCTX under contract \$134,010 to this point
4/19/2024	Waco Trib Article #1 - HSCTX president resigns, says City wants to kick them out and that no contract exists
4/27/2024	Waco Trib Article #2 - COW provides all documents showing HSCTX threat of vacating and ongoing contract
5/23/2024	City and HSCTX meet to negotiate- HSCTX denies validity of existing contract, seeks outside counsel
6/26/2024	HSCTX affirms existing contract, seeks personnel request outside of financial discussions - mutual dissolution agreement discussed
8/23/2024	Dissolution agreement executed between HSCTX and COW
9/6/2024	HSCTX last day on Animal Shelter campus



NEXT STEPS

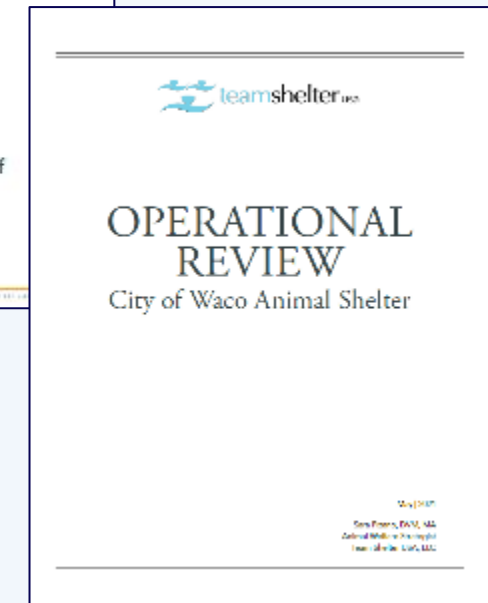
STAFFING AND PROCESS PLAN

- Adoption Program
- Rescue/Foster Program
- Community Outreach
- Customer Service
- Volunteer Program
- Behavioral Evaluation Program
- Animal Health



Informed Decision Making

- Dr. Sara Pizano
 - Team Shelter USA
- Dr. Cynda Crawford
 - Shelter Medicine Program University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine
- Dr. Valerie Tynes
 - Diplomate American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, Diplomate American College of Animal Welfare Shelter Veterinary Behaviorist; SPCA of Texas



Statutory Guidelines



- Texas Health and Safety Code §822 - Regulation of Animals
 - Dangerous Dogs
- Texas Health and Safety Code §823 - Animal Shelters
- Texas Health and Safety Code §825 - Predatory Animals and Animal Pests
- Texas Health and Safety Code §826 - Rabies
- Texas Health and Safety Code §828 - Dog and Cat Sterilization
- Texas Health and Safety Code §829 - Animal Control Training
- Texas Agriculture Code §142 - Estrays
- Texas Administrative Code
- Texas Penal Code
- Texas Code of Criminal Procedure
- Texas Occupations Code
- Texas Government Code
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Code
- DEA Controlled Substances Regulations
- City of Waco Code of Ordinances Chapter 5

Known Challenges



Rising number of animals in foster care



Increasing animal Length of Stay in Shelter care



Extended duration of above maximum dog kennel capacity



No recovery of costs



Community saturation



Austin's Animal Shelters Struggle to Uphold No-Kill Reputation in the Face of Overcrowding

How overcrowding and mismanagement of Austin Animal Center and Austin Pets Alive! have them struggling to keep up



A dog waits to be adopted at Austin Animal Center on July 29 (Photo by Jane Brinkman)

For more than a decade, Austin was the largest city to designate itself a **no-kill sanctuary** for animals. That came to an end in 2021 when Los Angeles joined the club, but the animal services system in Austin still prides itself at its save rate of over 95%. To achieve that level of performance, the partnership at its system's core – between the city-owned and -run Austin Animal Center and its nonprofit partner Austin Pets Alive! – needs to operate seamlessly and without friction, as it sustains the work of hundreds of volunteers and makes connections with scores of community partners.

That's not happening right now. As Austin rebounds from the pandemic, policy changes and staffing **ECONOMIC POLICY**

As the pandemic adoption boom cools, shelters overflow

A tough economic climate last year put a chill on animal adoptions. But though shelters are packed, the outlook is brightening.

4 min 12 12 78



Houston Humane Society animal shelter at 225% capacity. Here they're promoting pet adoptions

Story by Caroline Wilburn, Staff writer • 1w • 2 min read



Houston Humane Society animal shelter at 225% capacity. Here's how they're promoting pet adoptions. © Courtesy of Houston Humane Society

With the Houston Humane Society operating at 225% capacity, the nonprofit is hosting its annual Shelters Event, lowering the cost of adoptions.

From Aug. 10 to Sept. 10, pet adoptions will be 50% off, with adoption fees completely waived for animals in the shelter for at least three months. As of Thursday, the shelter had 479 animals in its care with 200 cats and dogs **ready for adoption.**

Houston / Community & Society

HOUSTON'S BARC ANIMAL SHELTER REACHES CAPACITY POST-STORMS, ADOPTION FEES WAIVED TO ENCOURAGE URGENT PET HOME PLACEMENTS

By Alyssa Ford Published on May 9



Dallas Animal Shelter dealing with extreme overcrowding, offers free adoptions this weekend

By Steve Kim • Updated June 1, 2024 10:07 AM CDT • 5 min • 1 photo



Dallas Animal Shelter dealing with overcrowding. The Dallas Humane Society said there's an urgent need for people to adopt or foster pets. The shelter said it could have no difference in the number of pets.

DALLAS – The Dallas Animal Shelter says there's an urgent need for people to adopt or foster pets. There are 438 dogs sharing just 300 at the shelter.

'We're inundated': Animal shelters across the U.S. are overflowing



The Inland Valley Humane Society shelter in Pomona had overflowed to housing dogs in stacked cages in its hallway. Here, animal-care technician Eric Lopez introduces a pit bull, Jiffy (left) to a dog owner, Tami (right) at the shelter in Los Angeles, Tuesday.

By Anne Thompson and Amanda E. Peck On June 5, 2024 3:44 PM PT

Surge in Unwanted Dogs Fuels 'Crisis' Across U.S. Animal Shelters

6 MINUTE READ



Dogs that are up for adoption gather together at the Humane Society of Eastern Missouri on Dec. 18, 2023. (AP Photo/Chris Wedel)

Overcrowding a major issue at many No-Kill Texas animal shelters

By Erin Jones Updated on June 6, 2024 6:40 AM CDT / CBS News



Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle More

America's animal shelters are overwhelmed. Pets - and staff - are at breaking point



Overcrowding a euthanization o

Increased costs of pet care and failure to address overpopulation at animal shelters.

By Kathy Vasa and Karla Rendon • Published 7:17 pm



Healthy, adoptable dogs are being euthanized. NBC News on April 11, 2024.

Healthy, adoptable dogs at Southern California shelters are overcrowding and shelter managers say they need more help to alleviate the issues.

As Southern California residents continue to struggle with the economic impact of the pandemic, leaders in the Southland's animal care industry are calling for more support to help surrendering their animal companions.

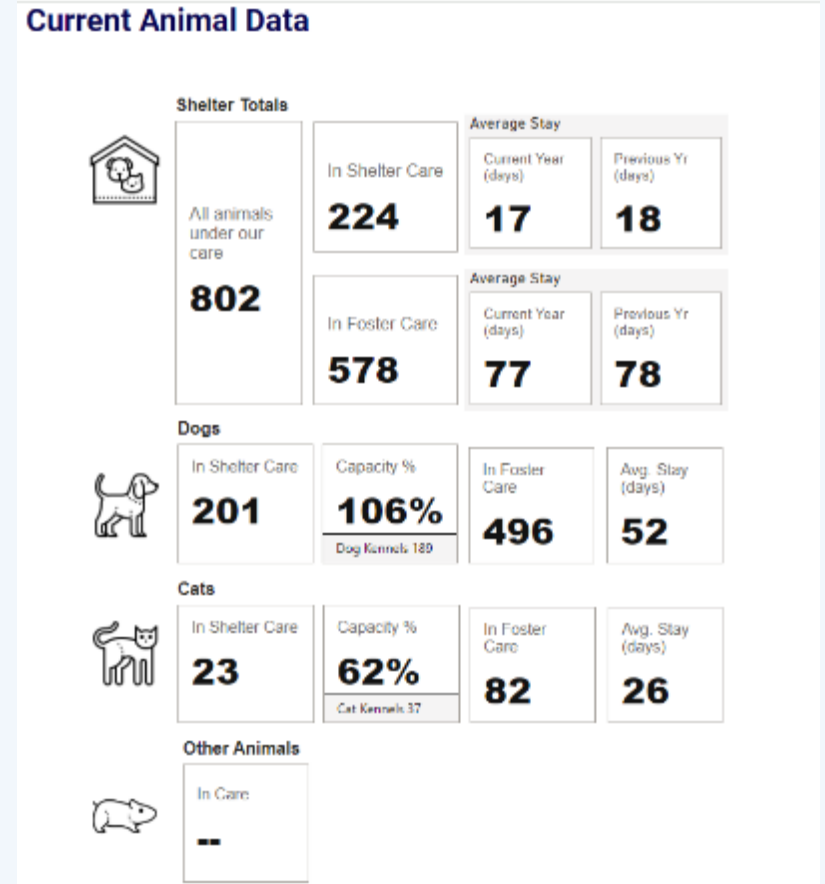
ANIMAL SHELTER REBRAND

- Objective: transition away from a typical “municipal animal shelter” to an “Animal Center”
 - Reflect a broader scope of services
 - Positive associations with a community-focused identity
 - Emphasize our ongoing commitment to animal welfare, community engagement, and educational outreach
- Timeline: in the coming weeks we will launch a multi-channel campaign and implement facility updates to reflect the new brand identity



ANIMAL SHELTER INFORMATION

- Best source of information in the coming weeks will be on City Website:
 - waco-texas.com/animal-services
 - City Social Media channels will provide updates
- Find information about Shelter hours, contact information, links to resources, view adoptable animals, ways to donate to the animal shelter, and more
- Comprehensive live dashboard of shelter statistics
- Staff will conduct direct outreach to existing volunteers and fosters



SUMMARY

- There is an incredible story to tell about the animal welfare efforts in our community over the last 12 years.
- Post-COVID trends have stressed shelter operations. We have operated at critical capacity for 2.5 years. The City has responded with increasing investments to meet the demands.
- The contract with HSCTX will end on Friday, September 6, after which the City will provide all services at the Animal Shelter.
- The Animal Shelter will continue to operate at 2032 Circle Road as a regional shelter with a steadfast commitment to animal welfare in our community.
- Stay tuned for our new look and open-house event coming soon!





THANK YOU.

