



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley



The Mission of the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley is to provide safe shelter for all lost, mistreated and abandoned animals of the Mesilla Valley and surrounding communities. The Center utilizes all avenues available to it in placing each animal into a safe, loving and permanent home whenever possible. We strive to meet the highest standards of humane animal care and husbandry, and to promote responsible pet ownership through public education and outreach.

Background

The municipal animal shelter facility located at 3551 Bataan Memorial West, in Las Cruces, NM is the only open admission animal shelter currently operating in the Doña Ana County area. The facility was built in 1985 and had been operated by a third party contractor, the Doña Ana County Humane Society (DACHS). The City of Las Cruces (City) and Doña Ana County (County) have been the primary financial supporters of this facility.

On January 29, 2008, the City and County entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to temporarily operate the animal shelter after DACHS notified the City and County that it would no longer operate the animal shelter. The City and County determined that it was imperative that they enter into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to create an independent public agency to provide animal sheltering related services. The JPA was entered into by both Parties on August 4, 2008. This new public agency is named the “Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley” (ASCMV).

The Board charged with governing this new agency consists of local officials from both the City and County. Dr. Beth Vesco-Mock was initially hired by the City to run the facility in April 2008. Upon the Board’s creation, Dr. Beth Vesco-Mock was made Chief Executive Officer (Executive Director) of the ASCMV.

This will be the seventh comprehensive annual report released by the ASCMV, comparing the progress made by the agency towards achieving the community’s euthanasia reduction goals during the past year with previous years.



Letter from the Executive Director

As we discuss the challenges and achievements of the ASCMV, I believe it is important for there first to be a distinction made between a publicly funded municipal animal shelter, such as the ASCMV, and a privately funded animal welfare group, such as a humane society. As a municipal shelter, the ASCMV is tasked with receiving any and all animals turned over to it, either directly from members of the community or through one of the local Animal Control departments. The basic function of a municipal shelter is to allow owners to reclaim their missing animals, protect the public from dangerous animals, attempt to adopt out the unclaimed animals, and euthanize any remaining animals. Under my direction and the guidance of the ASCMV Board, however, this agency has chosen to go above and beyond this limited mandate in order to save as many animal

lives as possible.

Despite many challenges, the ASCMV and its allies have made great progress in saving lives and improving the lives of the animals in this community. Across the community, momentum is propelling the ASCMV forward through the visionary leadership and programs implemented in May, 2008. Through improved and expanded programs and new initiatives, the ASCMV is ascending at a pace that is leading us toward a new level of achievement.

Highlights in 2015:

- The overall number of animals impounded at the ASCMV dropped by 16.6%, to 9,884 animals.
- The euthanasia rate continued to decrease overall by 5.8%, down to 32.6%.
- The rescue transfer program gained 2 new state-of-the-art transport vehicles.

I would like to take this opportunity to again publicly thank the ASCMV staff and volunteers who have gone above and beyond, day-in and day-out, to push forward with the plans we put in place back in 2008. I would also like to thank the tremendous public support that is given to the ASCMV as we work very hard to reach our goal of saving more lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Beth Vesco-Mock, DVM
Executive Director
Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley

Statistical Report

This report focuses on the following categories:

1. Intake Statistics

- **Methods of Intake**
- **Intake Method Comparison**
- **Monthly Intake**
- **Species Intake**

2. Outcome Statistics – Adoptions, Euthanasias, Reclaims by Owners, Rescue Transfers, etc.

- **Overall Outcomes**
- **Adoptions**
- **Rescue Transfers**
- **Live Release Rate**
- **Euthanasias**
- **Stolen/Missing Animals**

3. Public Services and Community Outreach

- **Public Attendance**
- **Affordable Pet Sterilization Surgeries**
- **Community Outreach**

4. Volunteer Program

5. Financial Overview

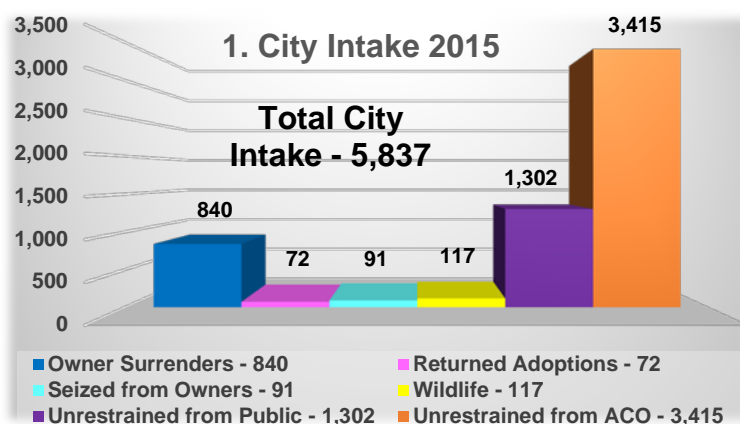
6. Capital Improvements

7. Looking Ahead

1. Intake Statistics

• Methods of Intake

Table 1: Intake from the City of Las Cruces



Animals brought in from the **City** accounted for approximately **19%** more of the **Total Intake** than those brought in from the **County** for the year of **2015**.

Table 4: Jurisdictional Breakdown

4. Jurisdictional Breakdown - 2015

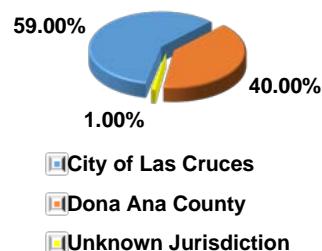


Table 2: Intake from Doña Ana County
Including Animals from the City of Sunland Park, Village of Hatch, Town of Mesilla, City of Anthony, and the NMSU Campus)

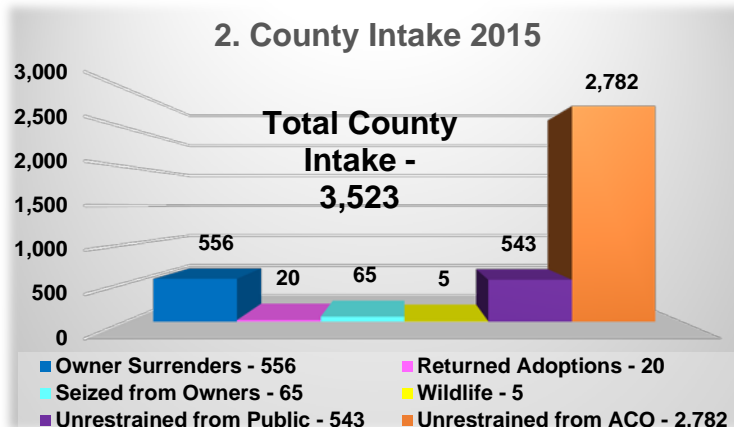
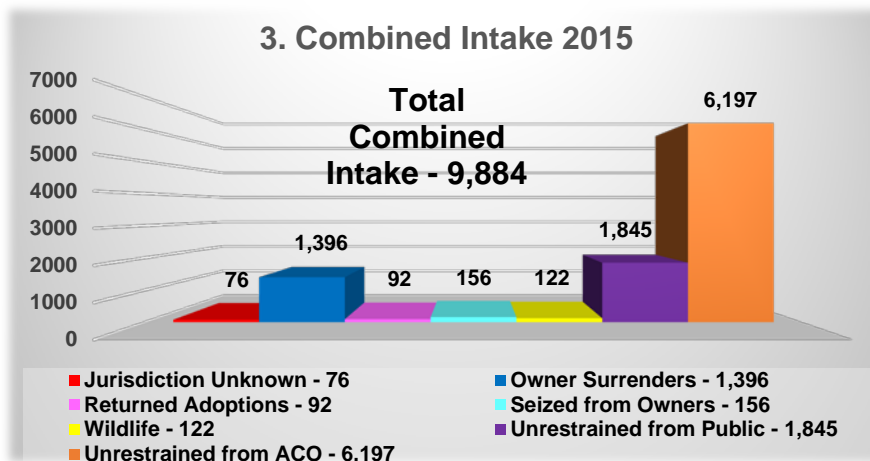


Table 3: Total Intake from the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, and Unknown Jurisdiction



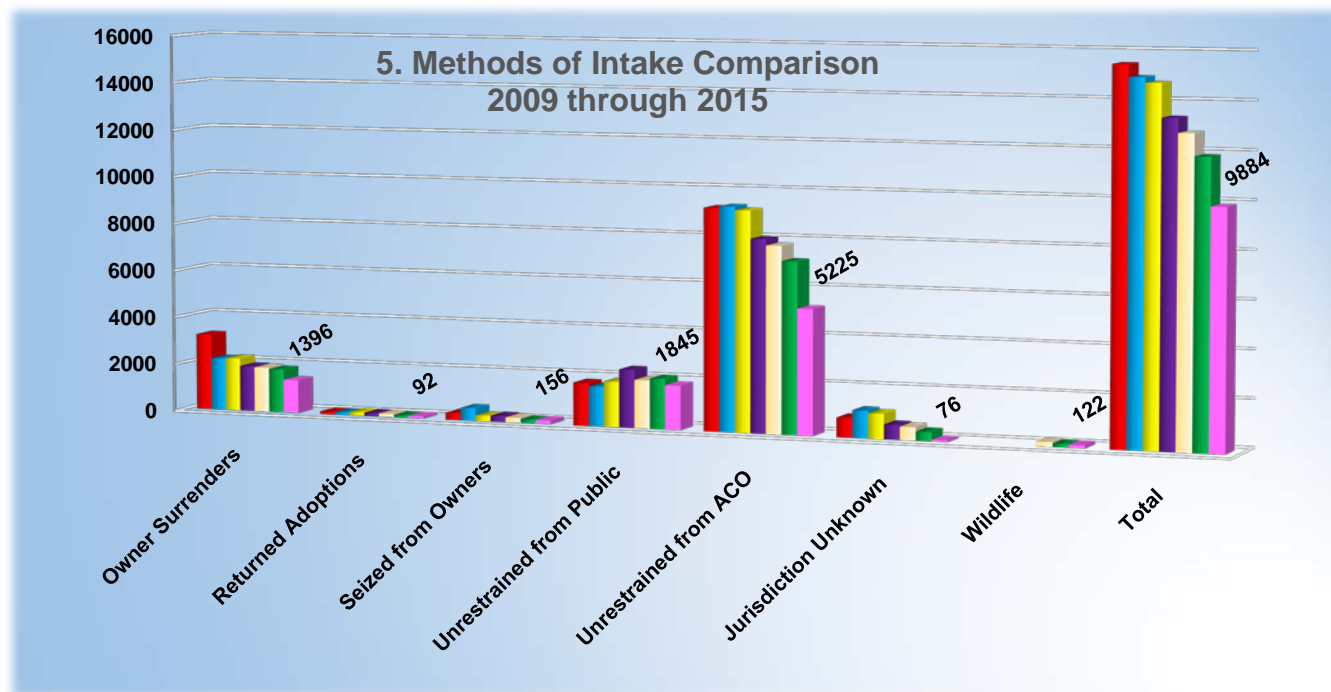
76 animals were received by the **ASCMV** for the year of **2015** which could not be attributed to either the **City** or the **County**.

These animals were typically left at the ASCMV facility **after-hours** with no notification by the delivering party as to the animal's origin. With the removal of the night drop-off cages in **2015**, this number dropped by **304**.

• Intake Method Comparison

Once again, the overall ratios of the **Methods of Intake** stayed pretty consistent in relation to each other in **2015**. There was a general drop seen throughout most intake methods, with the smallest decreases occurring in the **Returned Adoptions** and **Seized from Owners**.

Table 5: Methods of Intake Comparison



	Owner Surrenders	Returned Adoptions	Seized from Owners	Unrestrained from Public	Unrestrained from ACO	Jurisdiction Unknown	Wildlife	Total
2009	3199	113	297	1799	9253	813		15,474
2010	2190	116	525	1665	9325	1140		14,961
2011	2222	151	240	1895	9189	1049		14,746
2012	1908	134	255	2425	8033	612		13,367
2013	1877	137	212	2013	7777	555	203	12,774
2014	1825	96	157	2102	7155	380	143	11,858
2015	1396	92	156	1845	5225	76	122	9,884

With the removal of the drop off cages, **Jurisdiction Unknown** animals decreased by **80%**, which helps to know more accurately where animals are coming from. **Unrestrained from Public** did start on a downward trend again, but was still greater than 6 years ago. The largest **decrease** from known jurisdictions was **Unrestrained from ACO**, which dropped by **1,930** animals in 2015 – a **27%** decrease. The overall number of animals impounded at the **ASCMV** from **2014** to **2015** dropped by **1,974** animals; a **16.6%** decrease, which was more than what was seen from 2013 to 2014.



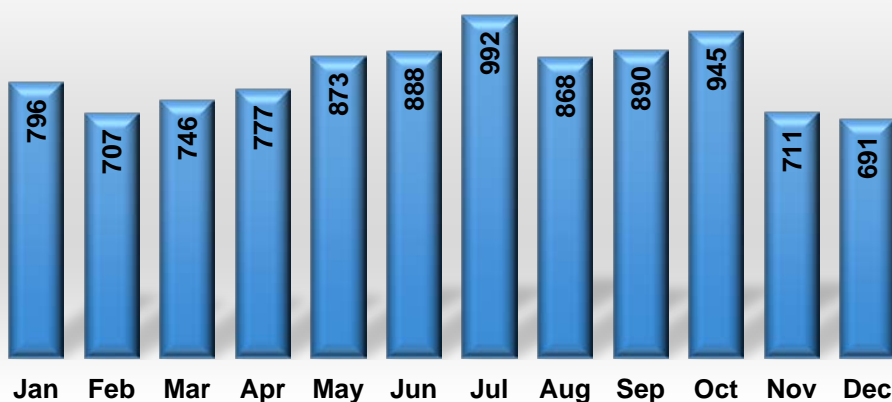


• Monthly Intake

A clear seasonal pattern continues to be seen in the **monthly intake** numbers over the course of the year. The **highest** intake numbers are typically during the **summer** and **fall** months and the **lowest** during the **winter** months.

Table 6: Monthly Intake

6. Monthly Intake - 2015



With an annual intake of **9,884** animals, an average of more than **27** animals was received by the ASCMV **each day**. This number only **decreased** from **32**, a **15%** decrease from 2014, but must be **greatly** reduced so that the **Live Release Rate** can be increased, meaning more lives are saved.

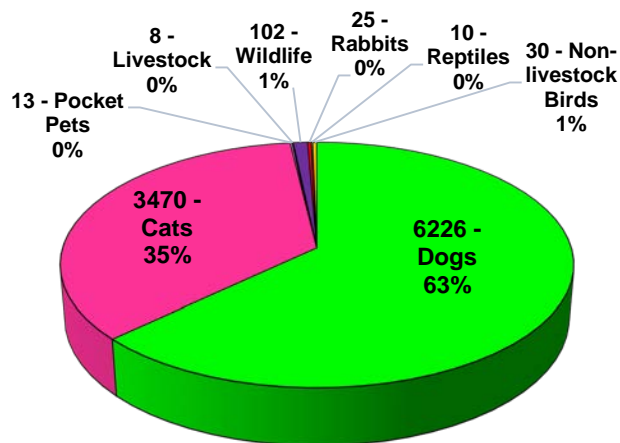
• Species Intake

Dogs and **cats** are still the main source of intake for the **ASCMV**. The **overall** intake **ratios** remained nearly the same from **2014** to **2015**, with wildlife decreasing about **1%** and dogs increasing by about **1%**.

There was a **15.4% decrease** in the **actual number** of **Dogs** received by the ASCMV; from **7,363** in **2014** to **6,226** in **2015**.

There was a **15.6% decrease** in the **actual number** of **Cats** received by the ASCMV; from **4,109** in **2014** to **3,470** in **2015**.

Table 7: Species Intake



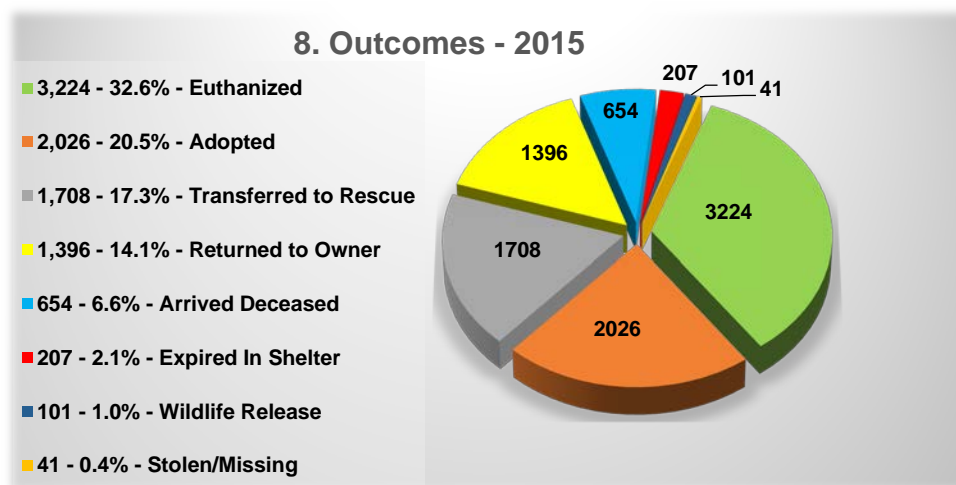
7. Species Intake - 2015

2. Outcome Statistics – Adoptions, Euthanasias, Reclaims by Owners, Rescue Transfers, etc.

There are 4 basic potential **Dispositions** for each animal received by an animal shelter. The most preferable being: **Reclaimed** by the Original Owner (which would arguably include releasing wildlife to their original habitat). Second and third being: **Adopted** or **Transferred** to a reputable Rescue Organization. The last and least preferable: **Death** (which would include Arriving Deceased, Expiring in the Shelter, and Euthanasia).

• Overall Outcomes

Table 8: Overall Outcomes



The **Percentages** shown in this graph are relative to the year's overall **Outcome** or **Disposition** numbers. The standard calculation for an Animal Shelter's official **Euthanasia Rate** is calculated relative to the year's overall **Intake** numbers, which comes out to **32.6%** for **2015**.

The numbers of **Adoptions**, **Reclaims** and **Rescue Transfers** unfortunately all **decreased** from 2014. Their total combined numbers dropped from **5,579** in 2014 to **5,130** in 2015, a decrease of **8%**. The total number of **Euthanasias** had a decrease of **5.8%**, from **38.4%** in 2014 to **32.6%** in 2015.

• Adoptions

Table 9: Adoption Comparisons

From **2014** to **2015**, the number of animals **Adopted** from the ASCMV again dropped, **decreasing** by **152** animals, from **2,178** in **2014** to **2,026** in **2015**.

This was a **7.0%** decrease from **2014**, a slightly higher decrease than the previous year.

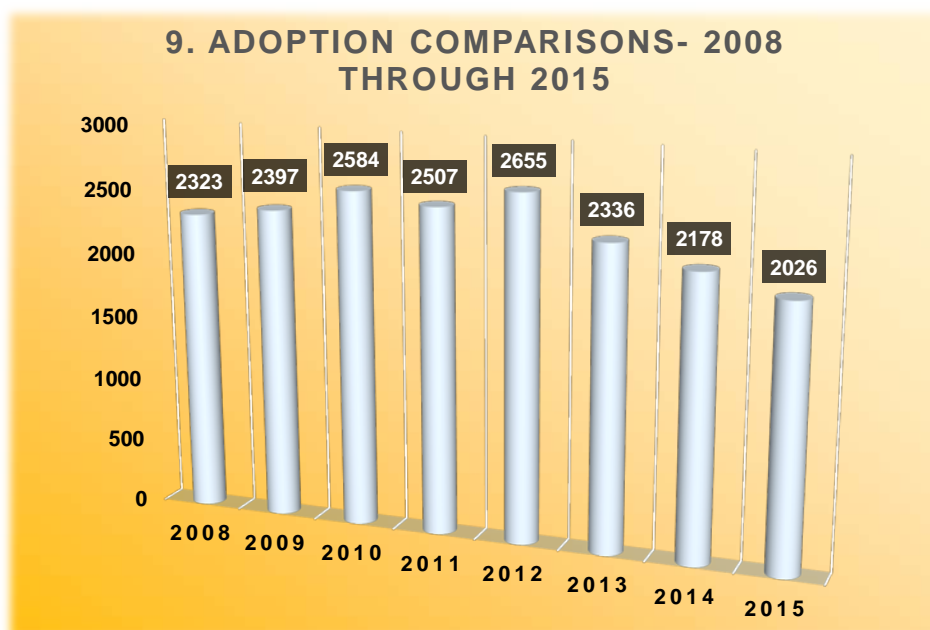
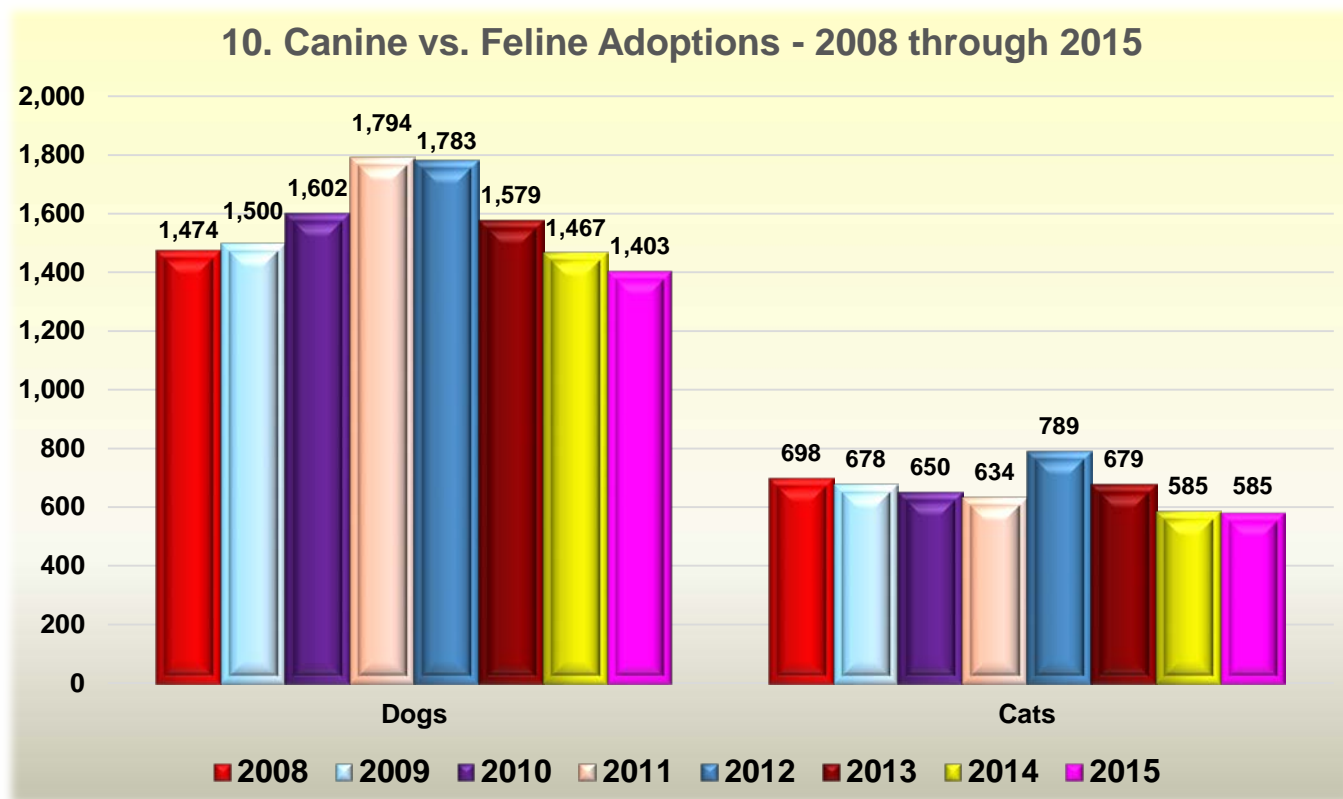
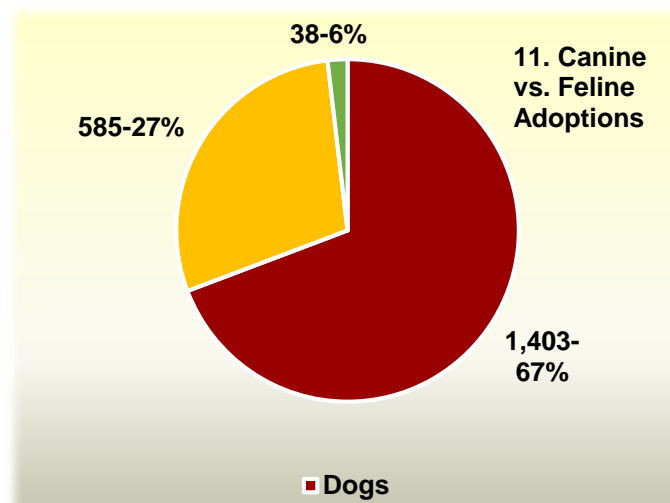


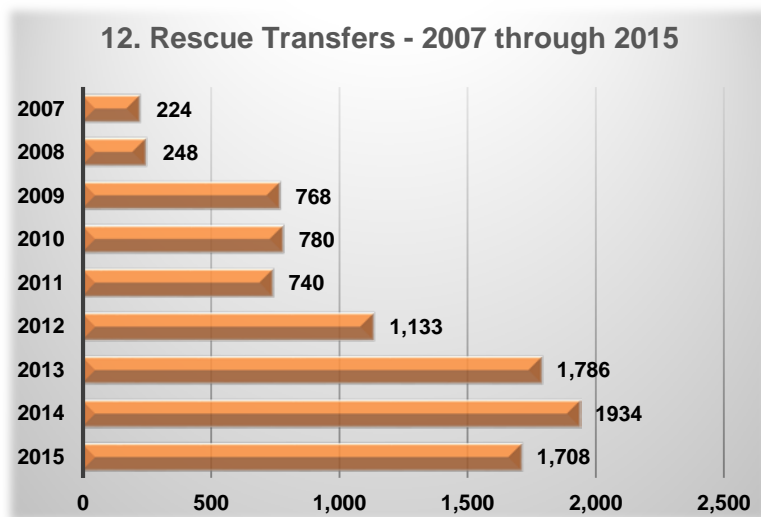
Table 10: Canine vs. Feline Adoptions

As you can see, there are always far more **Dog Adoptions** than **Cat Adoptions**. Unfortunately, the adoption number for **dogs** decreased, and for cats remained the same as in the previous year. This was once again the **lowest** adoption rate since **2008**.

**Table 11: Adoption Percentage**

• Rescue Transfers

Table 12: Rescue Transfers

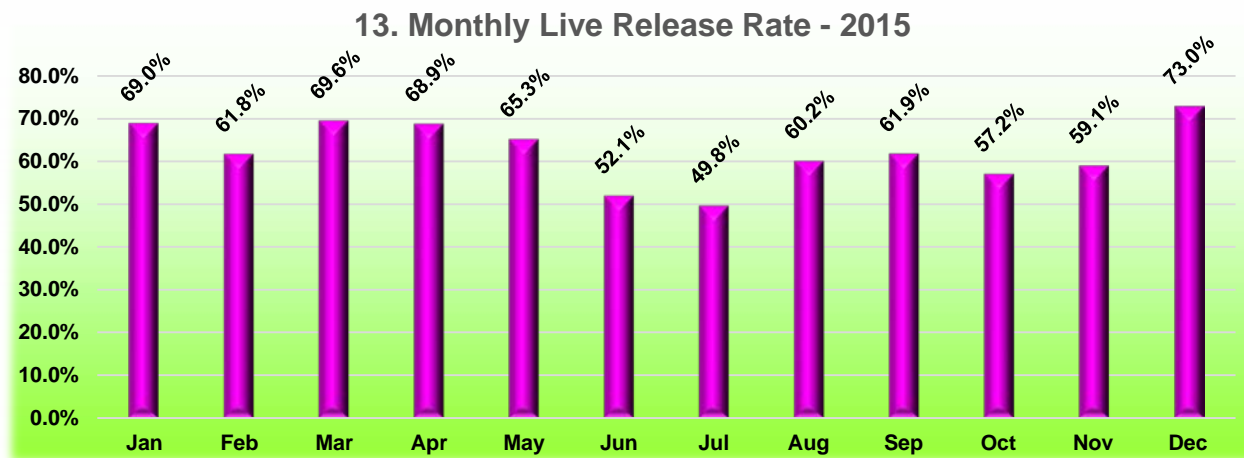


Although the ASCMV continues to **add** new transfer partners reaching from **coast to coast**, the number of animals transported through the **ASCMV Rescue Transfer Program** decreased in **2015**, possibly due to the lack of a proper transport vehicle until May of 2015. **1,708** animals were transferred out, a **decrease of 226** animals from 2014.

• Live Release Rate

In February of **2014**, the ASCMV began reporting the **Live Release Rate (LRR)** along with the euthanasia numbers in order to give the community a more **positive** outlook on the lives of the animals coming in and out of the shelter. The **Live Release Rate** at the ASCMV fluctuated throughout the year, and correlates to the monthly intake: the higher the intake, the lower the Live Release Rate.

Table 13: Monthly Live Release Rate

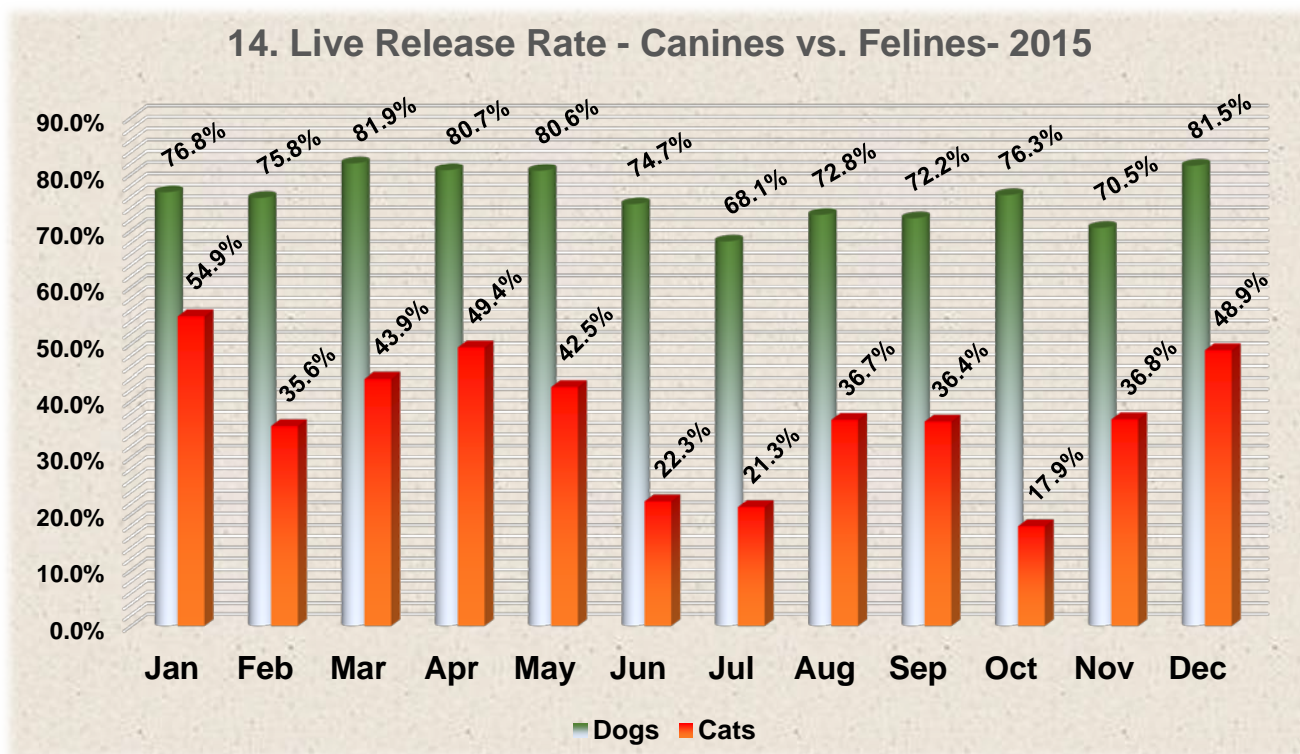


The overall LRR **increased** by **6.2%** from **55.7%** in **2014** to **61.9%** in **2015**.

$$\text{LIVE RELEASE RATE} = \frac{\text{Adoptions} + \text{RTOs} + \text{Transfers} + \text{Wildlife Releases}}{\text{Total Outcomes} - \text{Missing} - \text{Died} - \text{DOA} - \text{QR Euth.}}$$

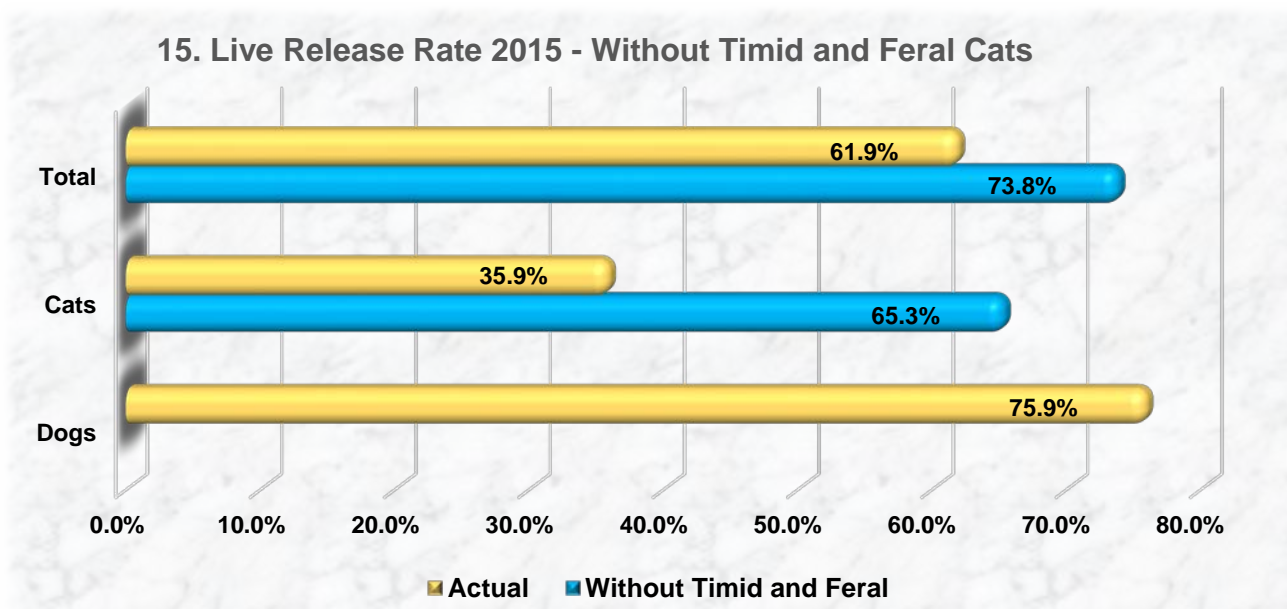
The **Live Release Rate** for **dogs** is consistently **higher** than for **cats**.

Table 14: Canines vs. Felines LRR



However, if the ASCMV did **not** have to euthanize the **timid** and **feral** cats, these numbers would be **reversed**, and the cat LRR would surpass the dog LRR. This would increase the overall Live Release Rate to nearly 75%.

Table 15: LRR Without Timid and Feral Cats

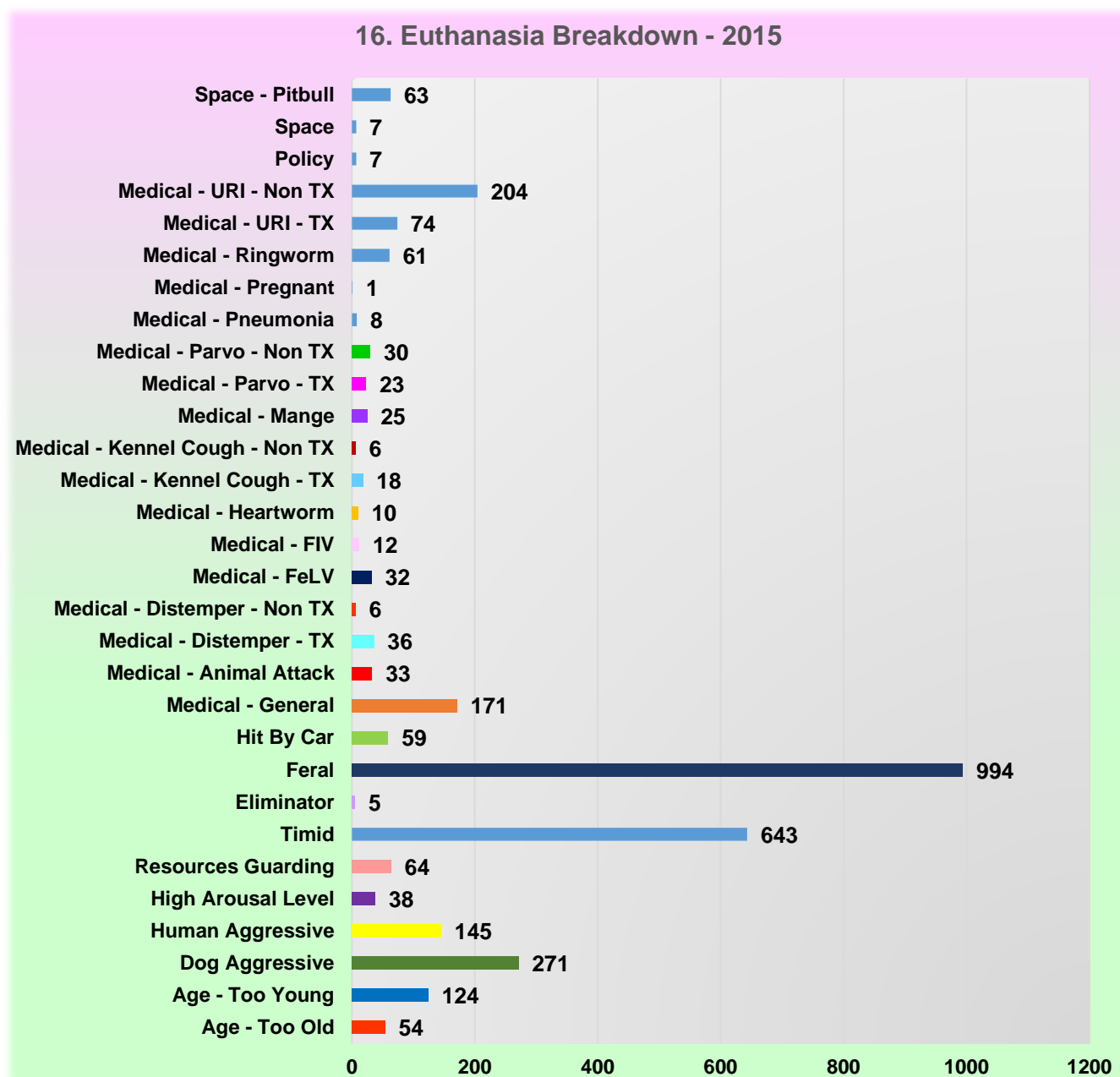


• Euthanasias

The **particular reason** for each decision to **Euthanize** an animal at the **ASCMV** is always determined and documented. Depending on the severity of an illness, injury, or temperament issue, the **ASCMV** will isolate and treat such animals, as long as there is space and staff available for such care and treatment. As the animal **intake decreases**, the availability of such **care increases**, and more attention could be given to treating some of the euthanasia reasons below.

In **2015**, more **categories** were added to the euthanasia breakdown for two reasons. First, it is important that the ASCMV continue its reporting **transparency**. Second, this helps the staff better serve the animals by knowing **why** animals are being euthanized.

Table 16: Euthanasia Breakdown

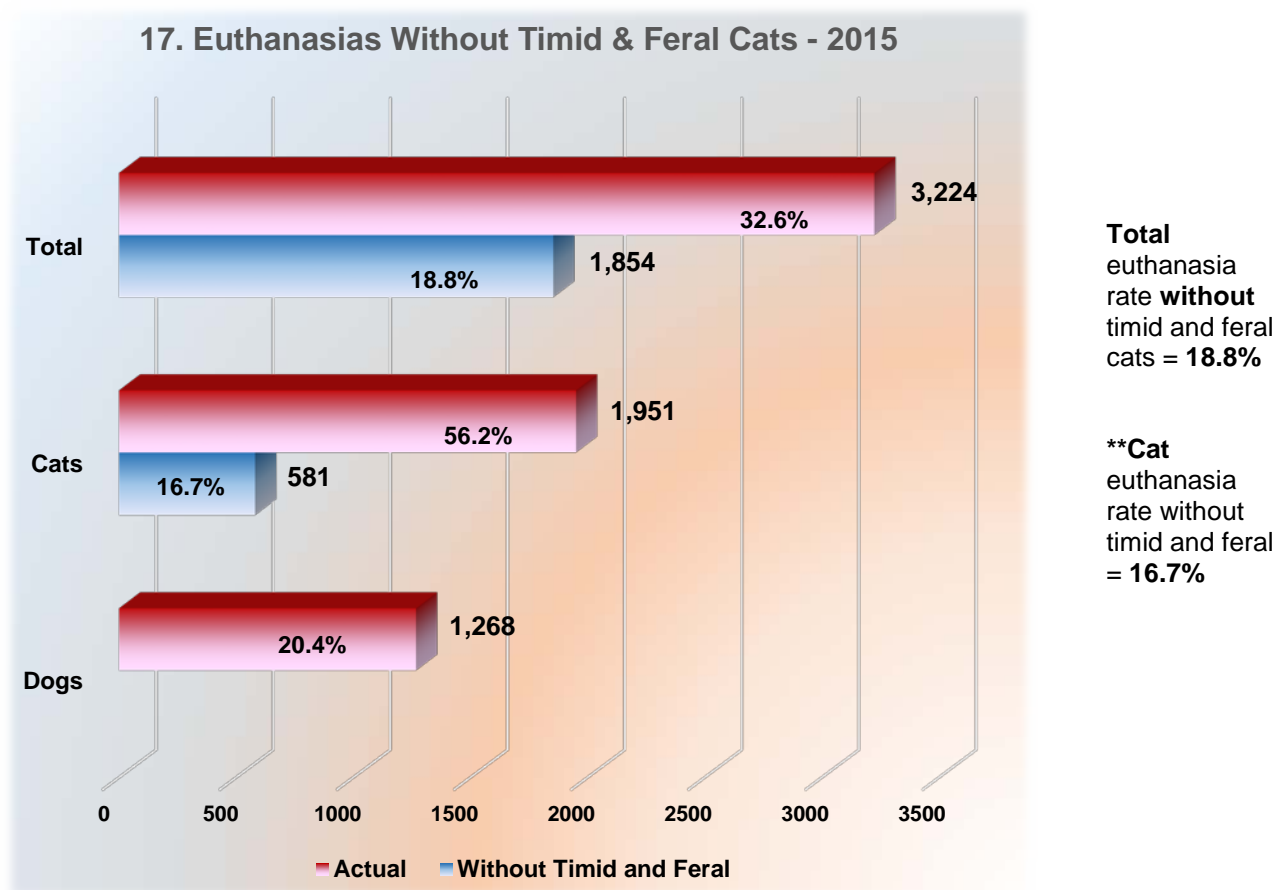




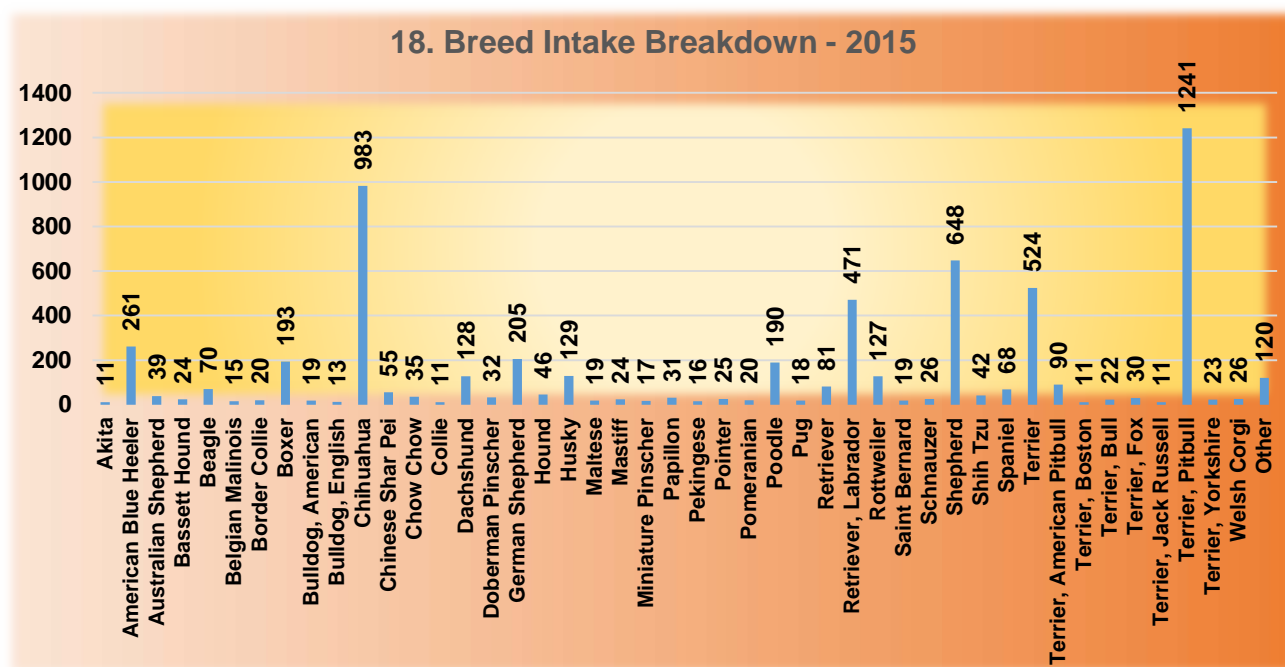
Animals that were **Euthanized** at the **ASCMV** due to an apparent **Feral** temperament continued to be the biggest reason for euthanasia in **2015**, the majority being feral cats. Though the number of incoming cats **decreased** by over 600, the **percentage** of feral cats euthanized accounted for over **half** of all **Euthanasias** in **2015**.

As you can see below, if the feral and timid cats are removed from the euthanasia statistics, this would **lower** the total euthanasia rate by almost **14%** and the cat euthanasia rate by almost **40%**.

Table 17: Euthanasias Without Timid and Feral Cats

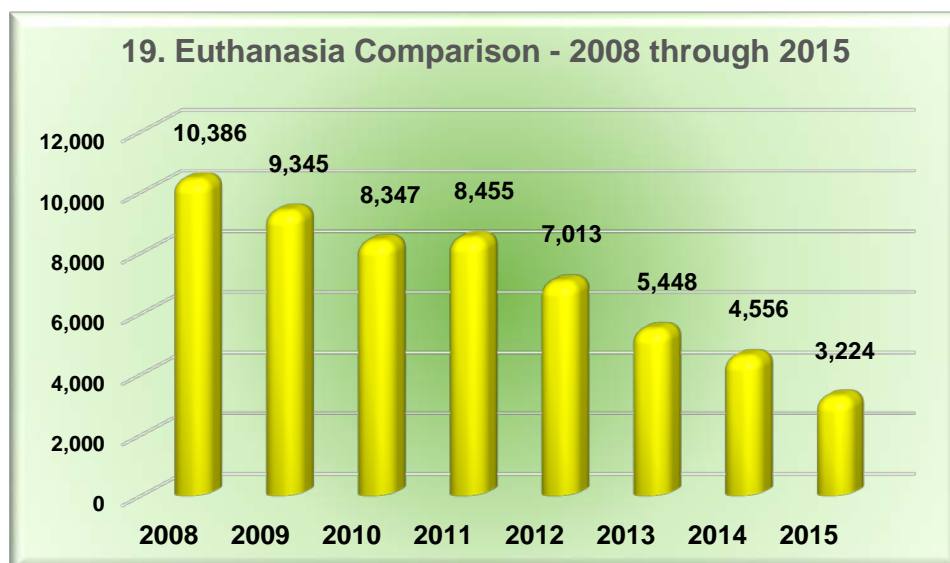


Timid animals accounted for nearly **20.0%** of all euthanasias, which was a **2% increase** from 2014.

Table 18: Breed Intake Breakdown

Pitbull and **Chihuahua** mixes continued to account for the highest number of breeds received at the ASCMV. **Pitbull** mixes accounted for **20%** and **Chihuahua** mixes accounted for **16%** of all the dogs that were impounded in **2015**. But due to the continued efforts of the staff, increased exposure and increased adoption and rescue efforts, dogs that were euthanized due to **Space-Pitbull** continued to account for only **2%** of all euthanasias in **2015**.

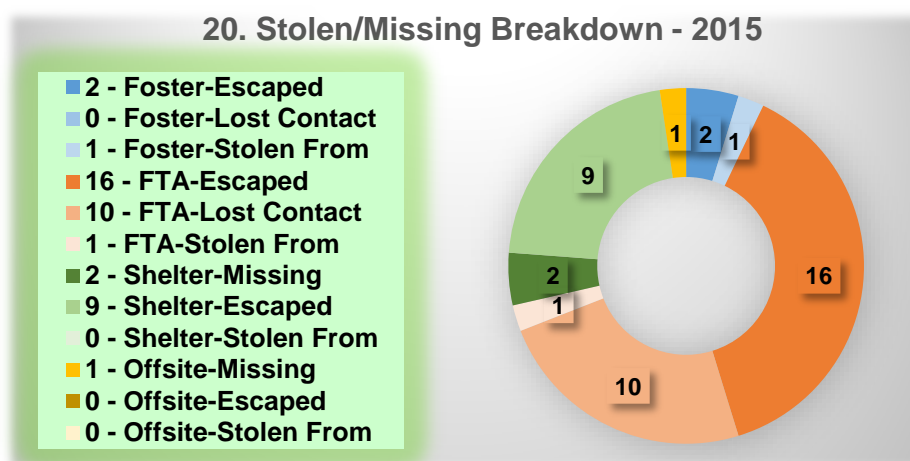
The percentage of animals **Euthanized** out of the **Overall Intake** numbers **decreased** by approximately **5.8%**; from **38.4%** in **2014** to **32.6%** in **2015**.

Table 19: Euthanasia Rate Comparison

The actual number of animals **Euthanized** decreased by **29.2%**; from **4,556** in 2014 to **3,224** in 2015; for a total of **1,332** less animals **Euthanized**. That's **7,162** less animals **Euthanized** in **2015** than in **2008** when the ASCMV was first created.

• Stolen/Missing Animals

Table 20: Stolen/Missing Animals



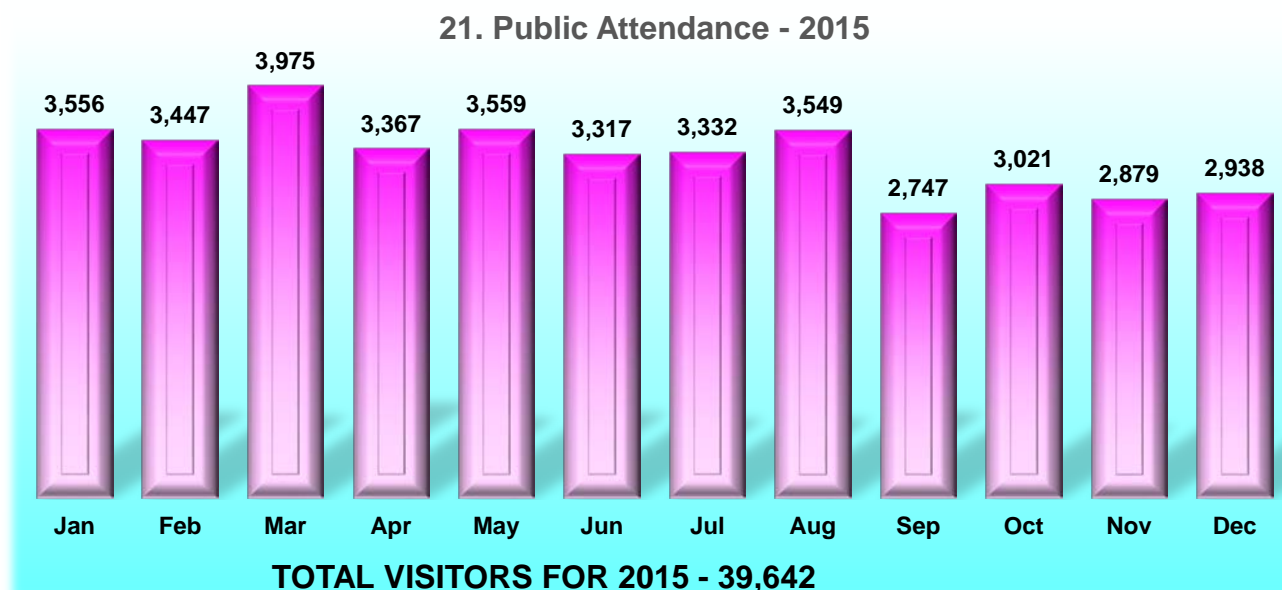
The number of animals **Stolen/Missing** from the ASCMV increased slightly, from **30** animals in **2014** to **41** animals in **2015**. The number of **Stolen/Missing** animals from the ASCMV accounted for **less than one half** percent of the total Outcomes for **2015**. Virtually all shelters have a small number of Stolen or Missing animals. Most shelters bundle these numbers together with the animals that have passed away while under shelter care, which also occurs at virtually all animal shelters, private and municipal.

3. Public Services and Community Outreach

• Public Attendance

The ASCMV averaged approximately **110** visitors through the facility each day in **2015**, which was about **10 less** per day than in **2014**. **Public Attendance** was highest in **March** with **3,975** visitors and lowest in **September** with **2,747** visitors. These numbers do not include the attendance of members of the public at off-site adoption events and other events not held at the ASCMV facility.

Table 21: Public Attendance



• **Affordable Pet Sterilization Surgeries**

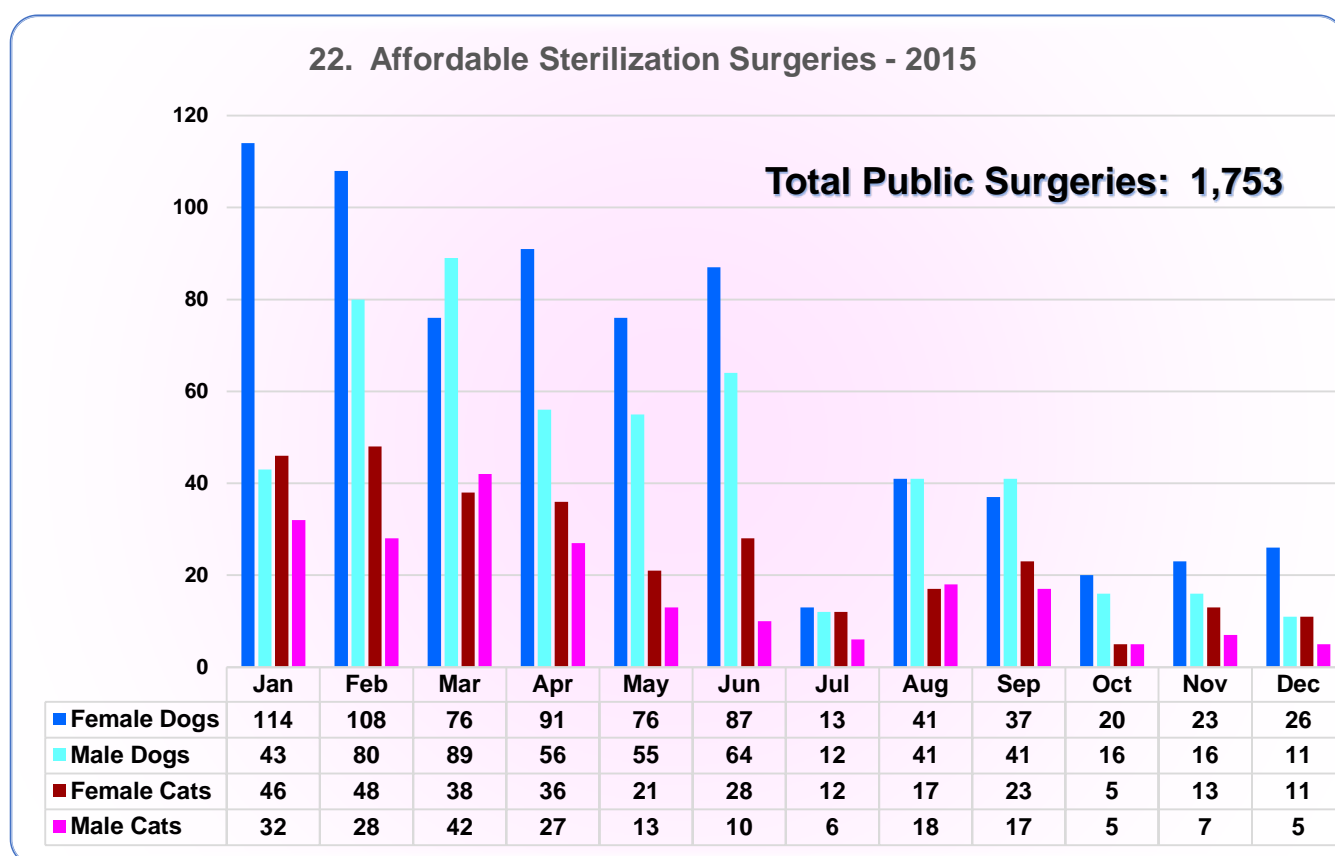
In **July** of 2015, **2** of the veterinarians that assisted with shelter surgeries left for various reasons. Despite the drawback, the **ASCMV's** Medical Team still performed a total of **3,576** surgeries in **2015**. **37** were non-sterilization surgeries, which included several **amputations**, **eye enucleations**, **mass removals**, **hernia repairs** and several others necessary for the animal's welfare.

1,753 were **Affordable Sterilization Surgeries** for the general public and private rescue organizations, which dropped by **471** from 2014. **9** of these public spays were rabbits.

16 of those public Surgeries were performed in association with the local **Spay and Neuter Action Program** (SNAP). **58** were performed in association with **Action Program for Animals** (APA). And **104** were performed in association with the **Coalition for Pets and People**.

734 of the public Surgeries performed were **Neuters** and **1,019** were **Spays**.

Table 22: Affordable Sterilization Surgeries



The ASCMV also continued to offer **vaccinations** to members of the public for those animals which underwent sterilization at the ASCMV's Medical Facilities. Over **1,000** of the animals that came in for public surgeries were not previously vaccinated.

The ASCMV also continued to offer **Affordable Pet Identification Implantations** and **Pet Licensing** to all members of the public. Over **1,500 microchips** were implanted on animals that came in for spaying or neutering alone. Over **5,000 Pet Licences** were issued at the ASCMV in 2015, with **two thirds** being issued for the **city**, and **a third** for the **county**. Near the end of 2015, the ASCMV contracted with **PetData**, a Pet Licensing company, to assist with increasing Pet Licensing throughout Dona Ana County.

- **Community Outreach**

Pet-of-the-Week:

In order to promote **Pet Adoptions**, the ASCMV continues to send out ***Pet-of-the-Week*** information to all local media (newspapers, radio, and television), and posts a bio of the ***Pet-of-the-Week*** online at **ASCMV.org** and on the ASCMV **Facebook** page. In addition, the ***Pet-of-the-Week*** is introduced at **Las Cruces City Council** meetings each Monday, and bimonthly at the **Doña Ana County Commission** meetings. The City and County Information Officers receive the ***Pet-of-the-Week*** bios and distribute the information through their respective channels as well.

**Radio:**

Local radio stations **KSNM 570AM**, **KVLC 101Gold**, **KMVR Magic 105**, and **KXPZ 99.5 FM Zia Country** continue to host regularly scheduled spots for the ASCMV to come in and discuss the ***Pet-of-the-Week*** and other happenings at the ASCMV. **KKVS 98.7FM**, the Spanish station for Radio of Las Cruces, ran a Spanish ad campaign through part of the year. The Executive Director periodically guests on the **KSNM 570AM** Thursday evening **Bulletin on Radio** with Todd Dickson and **Speak Up, Las Cruces** with Keith Whelply.

Publications:

The **Sun-News** continues to publish a biweekly section on Fridays called **Critter Corner**. The ASCMV provides pictures and bios of adoptable animals for each edition. The ASCMV Executive Director submits a bimonthly article for this section concerning **Pet Ownership Responsibilities**.

The **Bulletin** continues to publish a weekly promotion for the ***Pet of the Week***. We have also been fortunate to have the **Bulletin** publish wish lists on our behalf.

Both papers have assisted in providing remarkable coverage of ASCMV events whenever needed.

Television:

ABC, **FOX**, **NBC**, and **CLC TV** news crews frequently respond to and cover ASCMV press releases for special events or special needs animals. And a Spanish ad regarding the Affordable Sterilization Program at the ASCMV continued to run the first part of **2015** on **KVIA Azteca 7.4**, an all-Spanish television station.

Online:

The ASCMV continued to maintain a **Facebook** page, which promotes, not only our ***Pet-of-the-Week***, but also our **Off-Site Adoption Events**, **Special Adoption Events**, **Rescue Transfers**, **Special Needs Animals**, and **News Articles** related to **Pet Ownership Responsibilities**. Volunteers also posted information about **lost and found** pets to help reunite animals with their owners. The page has also become a great avenue for keeping in contact with the local radio stations. Some of the local DJs follow the page and even talk about us on the air, using the information gleaned from the **Facebook** page.



Special Adoption Events and Programs:

The ASCMV hosted and participated in numerous events such as the **New Year** adoption event (all adoptions for \$20.15); **Free Spay/Neuter** event in honor of **World Spay Day**; **Adopt a Furry Valentine** event (all adoptions for \$14); **It's Cuter To Neuter** (\$14 neutering for the month of February); **Lions Club Gun Show** adoption event; **Wal-Mart** adoption event; **St. Patrick's Day** adoption event (all adoptions for \$17); **Mutt-Show** adoption event; **Red Hawk 5K Run**; **Cinco De Mayo** adoption event (all adoptions for \$18.62); **Chihuahua De Mayo** (\$18.62 spays and neuters for Chihuahuas); **County Building** adoption event; **Street Legends Car Show** adoption event; **Spirit of 1776** adoption event (all adoptions for \$17.76); **Tax-Free Weekend** adoption event (free adoptions all weekend); **October Pitbull Awareness Month** (adoptions of all Pitbull dogs for free, any dogs with us more than 6 months free, all adult dogs for \$50); **El Paso** adoption event; **Black Animal** adoption and microchipping event (all black animal adoptions free, and all microchipping for black animals free); **NMSU Volleyball** adoption event; **Unsettled Gallery** adoption event; **Black Friday** adoption event (all black animals free and everything else half-off); and **Home for the Holidays** free adoption event sponsored by DACHS.

The ASCMV participated in several **off-site microchipping** events in coordination with other agencies.

The ASCMV participated in the **DACHS Senior Program**, which completed approximately **145** free adoptions to seniors with adoptable dogs and cats.

The ASCMV continued to host 3 permanent **offsite** adoption centers at **Petco**, **Pet's Barn** and the **County Government Center**.

Education:

The ASCMV participated in the **ACES Program**, sponsored through Dona Ana County.

The ASCMV attended **Career Day** at the **Conlee** and **Hillrise Elementary Schools**.

The ASCMV participated in the **Job Shadow** and **Excel** programs offered through the public schools, the **Bridge Program** through **Oñate High School** for students 18-21 years of age, **Reading with Canines**, and a special tour for the **Lynn Middle School Gifted Program**.

The ASCMV participated in a **Volunteer Faire** at the **Branigan Cultural Center** and the **WSMR** Glover Rover Fitness Walk & Dog Show.

The ASCMV director spoke at **Vista Middle School**, **Centennial High School**, **Rio Grande Prep**, and an English class for Animal Science majors at **NMSU** to share educational information.

The ASCMV participated at a special microchipping event at **La Union Elementary**.

The ASCMV director held a sit down interview with **KRWG TV**.

The **P.A.W.S.** (Prisoners and Animals Working for Success) Program has continued to be a wonderful program at the **Southern NM Correctional Facility**, with several dogs finding their forever homes through the program.

The ASCMV director was the guest speaker at the **Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition** Annual Membership dinner.

The ASCMV director participated in a special **interview** with Steve Hartman from **CBS Evening News**.

The ASCMV director held an interview with a **Boy Scout** to assist with earning badges.

The ASCMV director spoke at the February **Chaparral Community Meeting**.

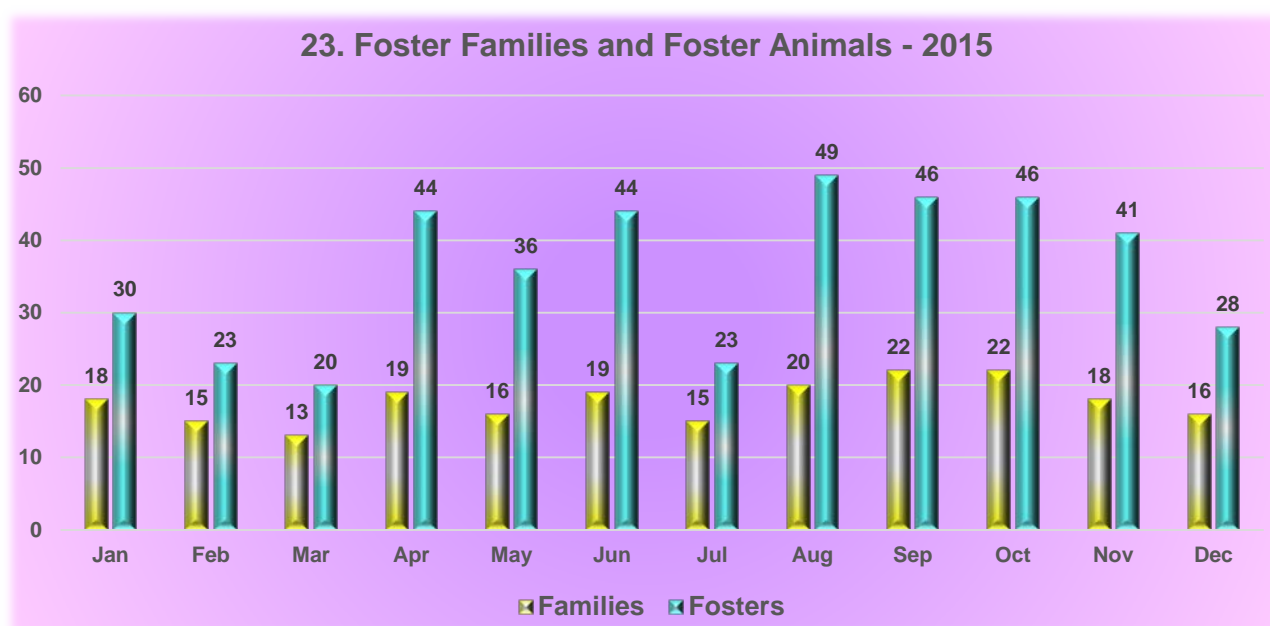
The ASCMV participated in the **Humane Society of the United States** (HSUS) **International Internship Program**. Special guest Dr. Katuritsa Dauson Sadyoya was from **Tanzania**.

4. Volunteer Program

The ASCMV Volunteer Program continues to support Dona Ana County and the City of Las Cruces communities through services such as **pet/animal education, special events** and **community support**. Dedicated volunteers, staff and community leaders continue to encourage our community with positive and fulfilling engagement.

Our steady volunteers continue to be strong, and additional volunteers from NMSU and other educational organizations perform outreach in our community. In **2015**, volunteers provided over **7,000** volunteer hours with shelter and community projects. Activities such as photography, laundry, dog walking, dog and cat enrichment, office assistance, vet assistance and transporting happen every day at the shelter. Off-site events such as **Petco** and **Farmer's Market** happen every weekend, and several others occur throughout the year. Several different organizations such as schools, groomers and churches give of their time, and hold fundraising events for the benefit of the shelter. With a common life-saving mission in mind, ASCMV and local and national organizations work together to help our community.

Table 23: Foster Families and Animals



An indispensable part of the Volunteer Program is the **ASCMV's Foster Program**. Under the Foster Program many volunteers are able to remove an animal from the shelter environment and temporarily place him or her in their own home, while the animal recovers from an injury or illness, or often just until the animal can find his or her new forever home. Many of these Foster Parents are able to not only provide these animals with the additional time and care they need and deserve, but are also often able to promote these animals and actively seek their new **forever home**. This not only helps those animals placed in Foster Homes, but allows ASCMV staff to focus on and care for other animals as well. The ASCMV has also been working on promoting the **Surrender to Foster program**. Instead of surrendering their animals and leaving them at the shelter, the owners agree to foster the animals, and the ASCMV provides the assistance needed to help get them adopted to other families.

We would like to commend our volunteers for their continued **support** and **dedication**. Since the ASCMV was without a Volunteer Coordinator since mid-April 2015, their perseverance was encouraging to those at the ASCMV as they continued to help **raise awareness** for **pet owner responsibility** and the need for microchipping, licensing, vaccinating, and promoting spaying and neutering.

5. Financial Overview

Since the ASCMV is a JPA, most of the operating funds are from the city and the county. The ASCMV is fiscally responsible in their handling of all monies received. All expenses are carefully evaluated, and there are many: Personnel, utilities, food for the animals, vaccinations, medicines, etc. In **2015**, the ASCMV spent nearly **\$1.9 million** and served over **12,000** animals. That came out to about **\$155** spent **per animal served**.

6. Capital Improvements

The **ASCMV** made some great improvements through capital outlay this year. To name just a few:

- Received capital outlay money for the re-design of the ASCMV front office renovations.
- Added a new sign at front of building advising of new drop-off policy
- Installed a new commercial dish washer.
- Took delivery of two new transport vehicles.



7. Looking Ahead

Table 24: Intake Rate Per 100 Citizens

Although the ASCMV has come a long way since its inception in 2008, there are still many challenges facing our community. First and foremost, the number of unwanted or unclaimed animals produced by this community continues to manifest itself in the number of animals that enter the shelter. A community's **intake rate per capita** is the number of animals brought into the shelter per each person in the community.

With a population of **213,853** in 2015, the per capita rate for

Dona Ana County is 0.046, or **4.6** animals per every **100** persons in the county. Yavapai County had a population of **215,133** in 2015. With just over one thousand people more than Dona Ana County, their per capita rate was almost **75% less**. Dona Ana County unfortunately has one of the **highest** intake rates in the **nation**.

24. Intake Rate per 100 Citizens - 2015

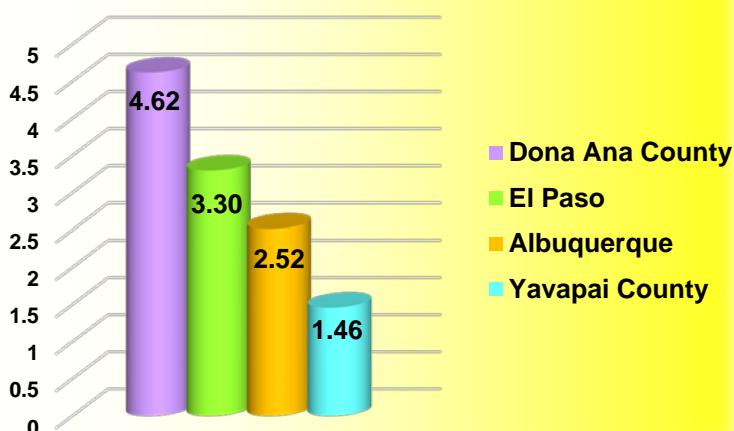
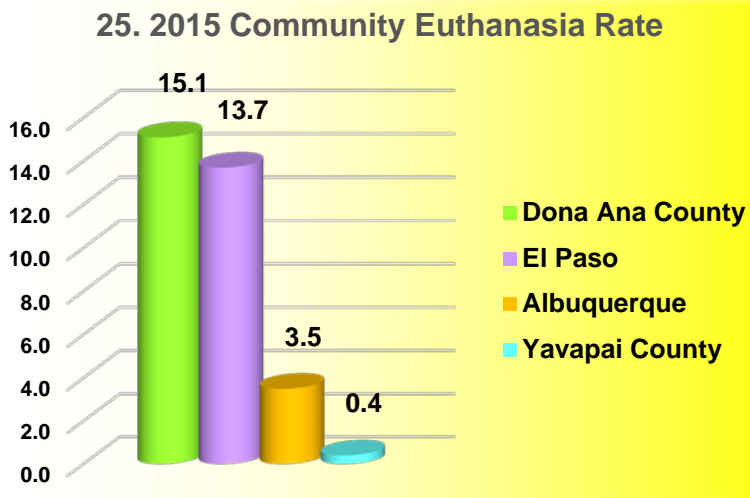
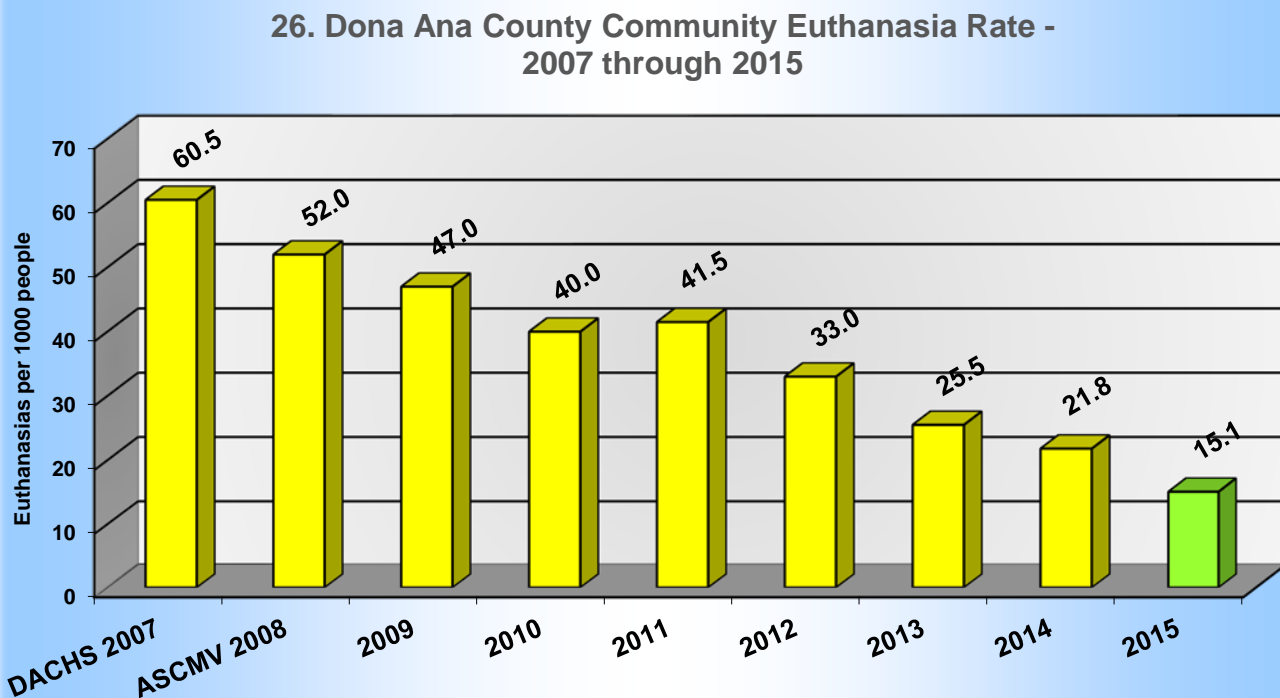


Table 25: 2014 Community Euthanasia Rate

Second, compared to many other communities we are, in a sense, an island. We do not have a large nearby urban center surrounded by dense, affluent suburbs. This means not only a smaller pool of potential adopters, but also fewer and smaller private animal welfare agencies available to help address the enormous number of unclaimed animals.

The industry standard for calculating a **Community's Euthanasia Rate** is the number of animals **killed** per every **1,000 residents**. The graph above compares the **Community Euthanasia Rate** for **Dona Ana County** with the rates of **El Paso, TX**; **Albuquerque, NM**; and **Prescott, AZ**. In **2015** the **ASCMV** euthanized approximately **15** animals for every **1,000 residents** of **Doña Ana County**. As you can see, our community surpasses all three in euthanasias.

However, despite all of the challenges this community faces, as you can see in the following graph, the tide **IS** changing. Our **Community's Euthanasia Rate** has dropped by **75%**, which is more than **45** animals per 1,000 citizens in the last **8** years.



We at the ASCMV are beginning to see some signs that the efforts by the citizens of Dona Ana County and the **Coalition for Pets and People** are beginning to have an effect, particularly in regards to the intake at the ASCMV via animal control. It appears that in several regards, influence by the Coalition has resulted in the local Animal Control departments becoming more on-track with progressive enforcement tactics, such as **Returns to Owners in the Field**. These successes and others give us hope for the “**Zero in Seven**” campaign, and we will continue to encourage that all animal related agencies in the community focus on:

- **The Promotion of Pet Ownership Responsibility,**
- **The Promotion of Pet Retention,**
- **The Promotion of Affordable Sterilization Surgery, and**
- **The Promotion of a TNR (Trap, Neuter and Return) Program for community cats.**

Which should, in turn, keep even more of our precious animals in **Doña Ana County ALIVE**.