

Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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 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 public agency is named the “Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley” (ASCMV).

The Board charged with governing this 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 eighth 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 innovative 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 2016:

- The euthanasia rate continued to decrease overall by 4.3%, down to 28.3%.
- The Live Release Rate of felines passed the 75% mark once, and canines passed the 80% mark 5 different times in 2016, neither of which had ever been achieved before.
- The rescue transfer program broke the 2,000 ceiling for the number of animals transferred out in a year.

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 innovative and passionate vision 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 black ink, appearing to read "Beth Vesco-Mock". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

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

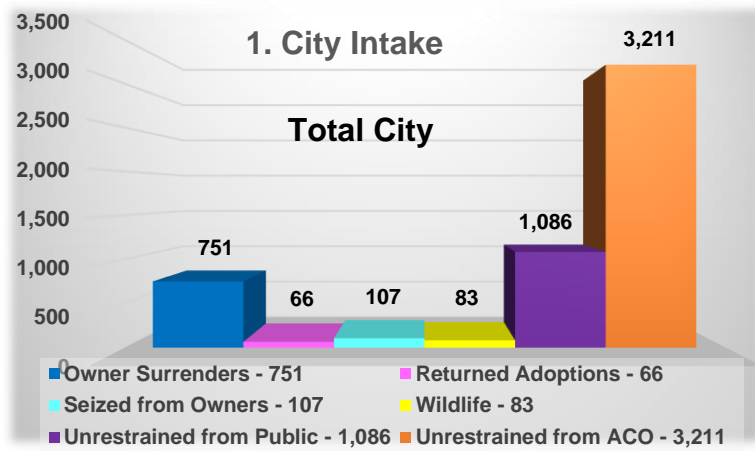
7. How Do We Compare?

8. Moving Forward

1. Intake Statistics

• Methods of Intake

Table 1: Intake from the City of Las Cruces



Animals brought in from the **City** accounted for approximately **7.6%** more of the **Total Intake** than those brought in from the **County** for the year of **2016**.

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)

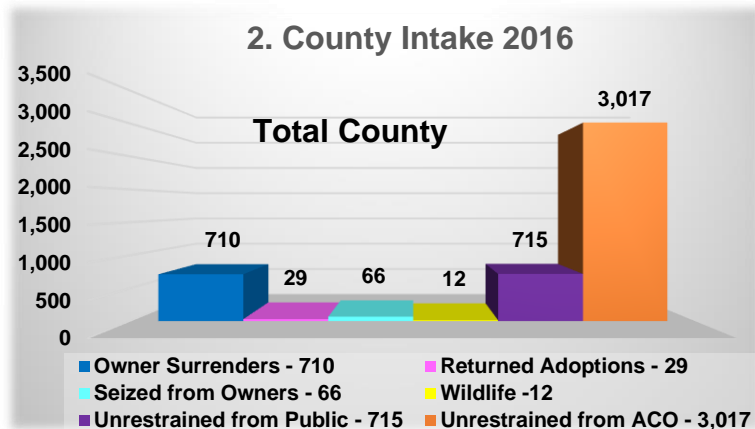


Table 4: Jurisdictional Breakdown

4. Jurisdictional Breakdown - 2016

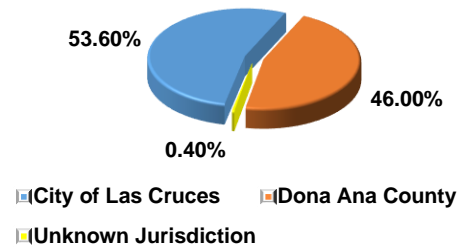
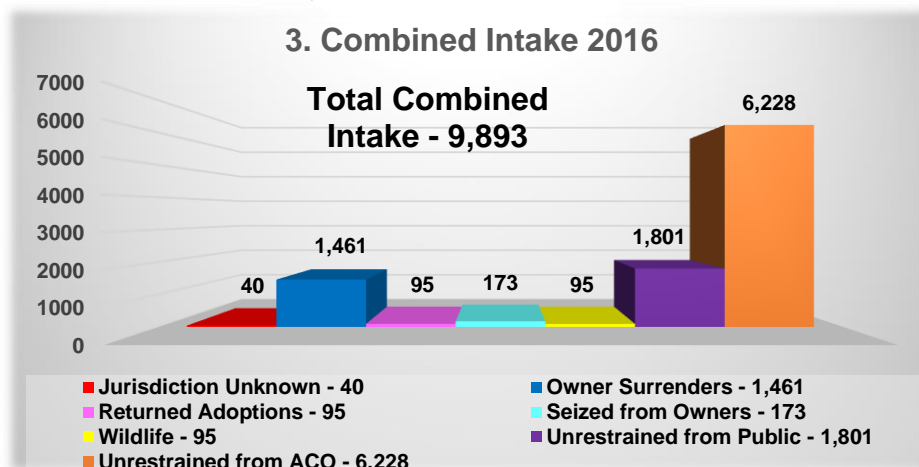


Table 3: Total Intake from the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, and Unknown Jurisdiction



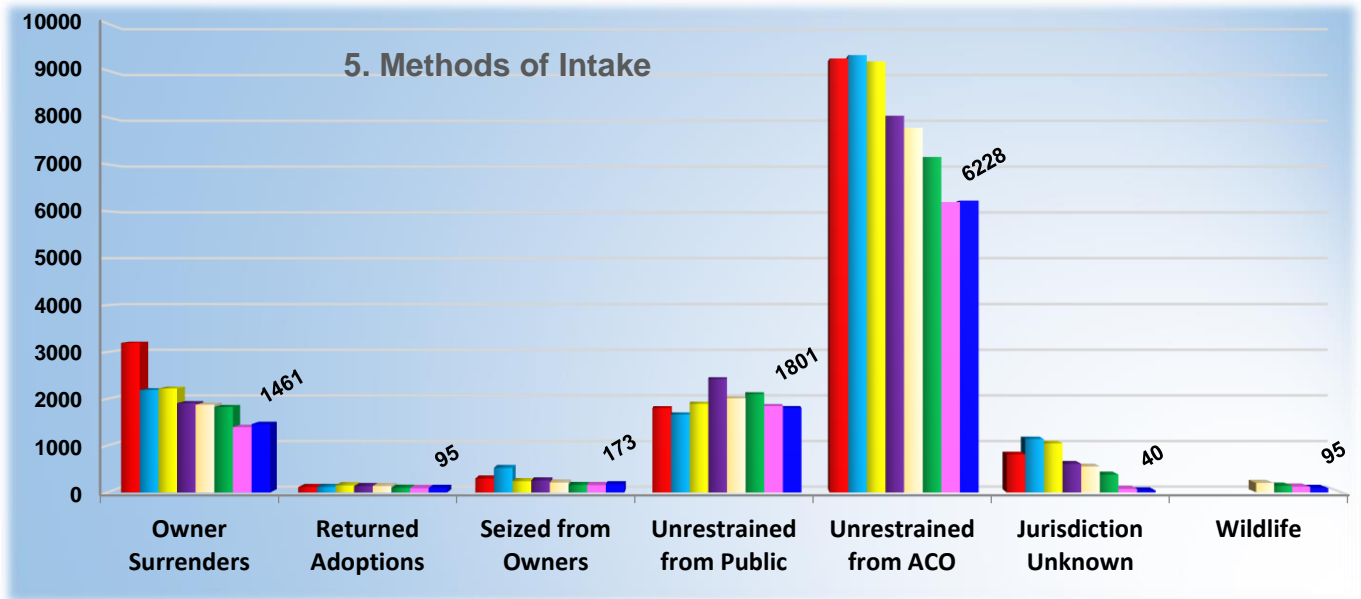
40 animals were received by the **ASCMV** for the year of **2016** which could not be attributed to either the **City** or the **County**. These animals were typically left at the ASCMV facility **after-hours** with no notification by the delivering party as to the animal's origin.

• **Intake Method Comparison**

2016 unfortunately saw an **increase** in most of the **Methods of Intake**. This resulted in a slight **increase** in the total number of **intakes**, from **9,884 in 2015** to **9,893 in 2016**.

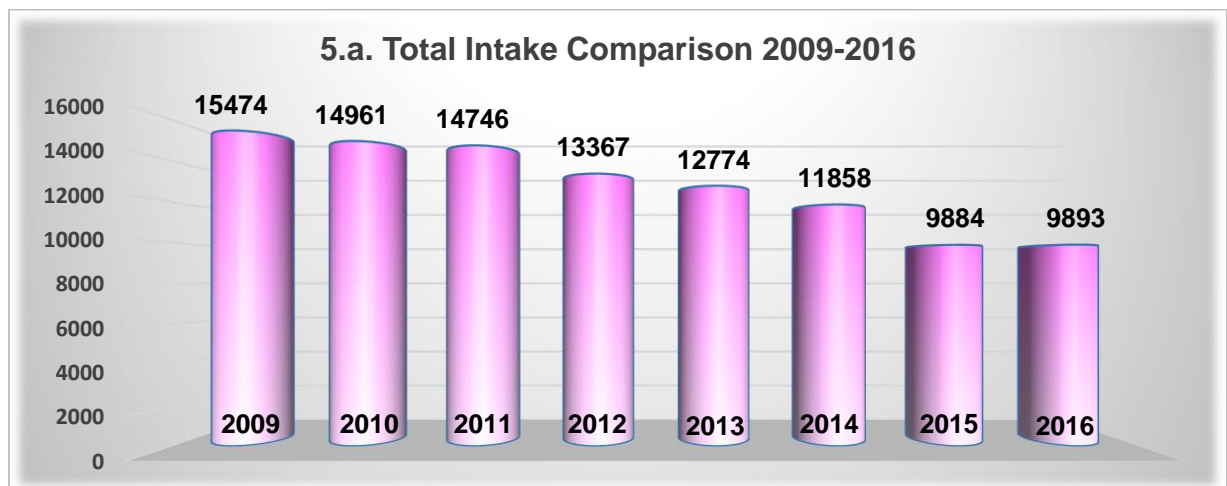
Unrestrained from Public did decrease slightly, but was still greater than 7 years ago.

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 | 6197 | 76 | 122 | 9,884 |
| 2016 | 1461 | 95 | 173 | 1801 | 6228 | 40 | 95 | 9,893 |

Table 5a: Methods of Intake Comparison Totals

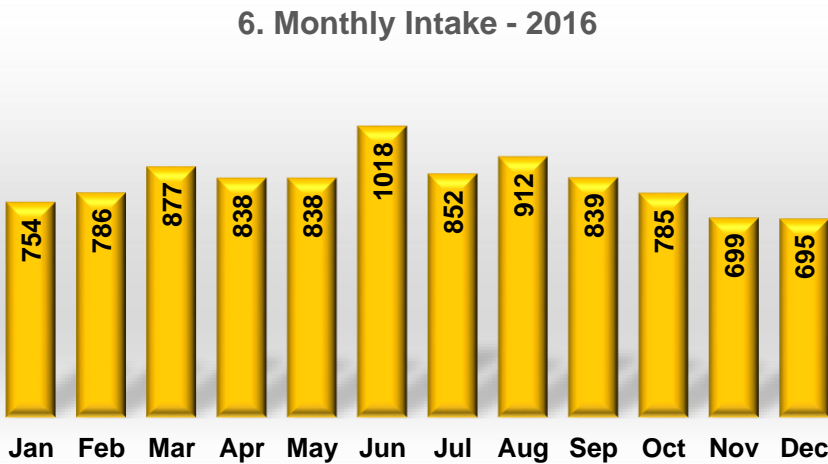




• **Monthly Intake**

A 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



With an annual intake of **9,893** animals, an average of more than **27** animals was received by the ASCMV **each day**. This number did not decrease from the previous year, and must be **greatly** reduced to increase the **Live Release Rate** in order to save more lives.

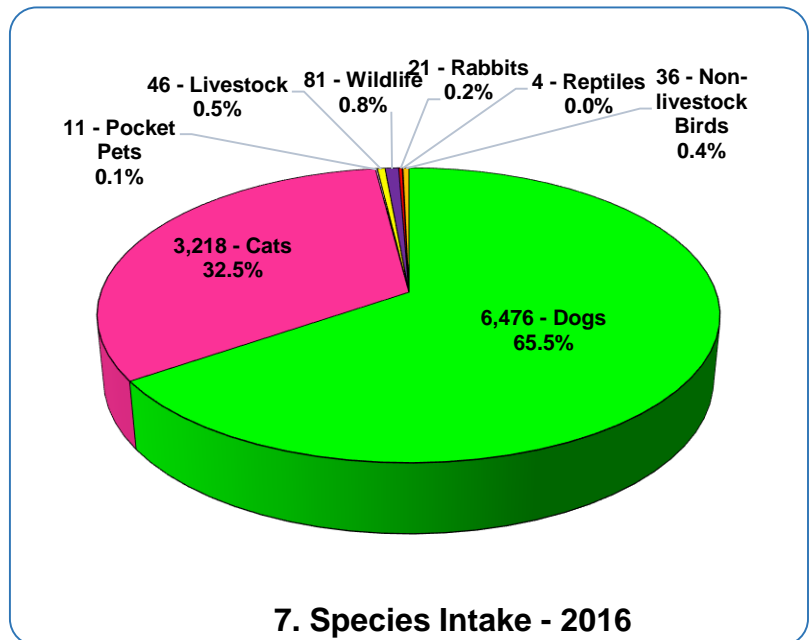
• **Species Intake**

Dogs and **cats** are still the main source of intake for the **ASCMV**. The **overall** intake **ratios** remained nearly the same for other species from **2015** to **2016**.

There was a **2.5% increase** in the **number** of **Dogs** received by the ASCMV; from **6,226** in **2015** to **6,476** in **2016**.

There was a **2.5% decrease** in the **number** of **Cats** received by the ASCMV; from **3,470** in **2015** to **3,218** in **2016**.

Table 7: Species Intake

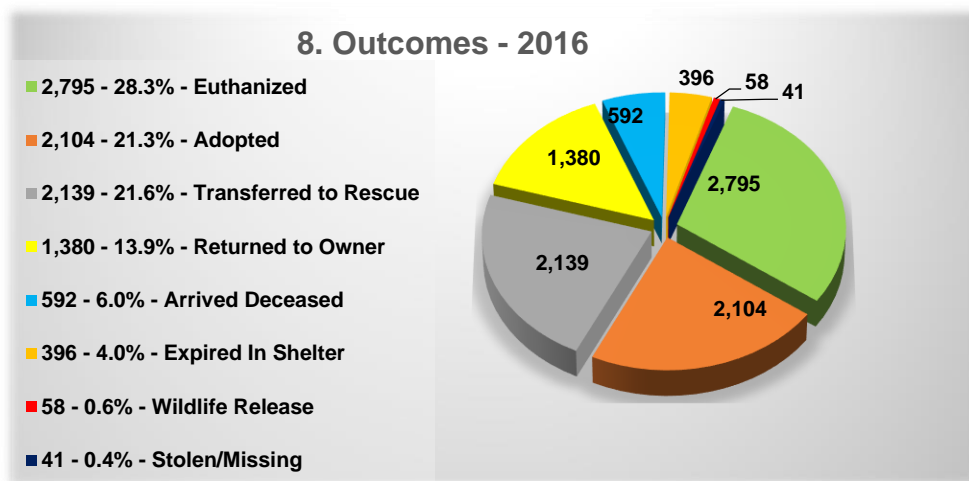


2. Outcome Statistics – Adoptions, Euthanasias, Reclaims by Owners, Rescue Transfers, etc.

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 **28.3%** for **2016**.

The number of **Reclaims** and **Euthanasias** both **decreased** from 2015. The total number of **Adoptions** and **Rescue Transfers** both had **increases** in **2016**. Although the number of **Adoptions** increased slightly, this was still the 2nd lowest number of Adoptions since **2008**.

• Adoptions

Table 9: Adoption Comparisons

From **2015** to **2016**, the number of animals **Adopted** from the ASCMV went up slightly, **increasing** by **78** animals, from **2,026** in **2015** to **2,104** in **2016**.

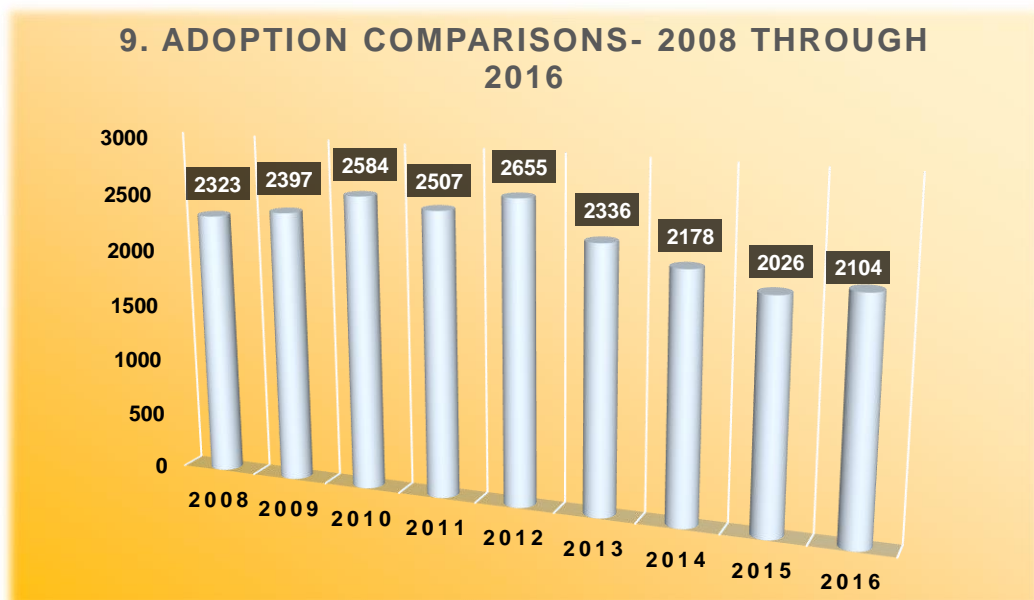
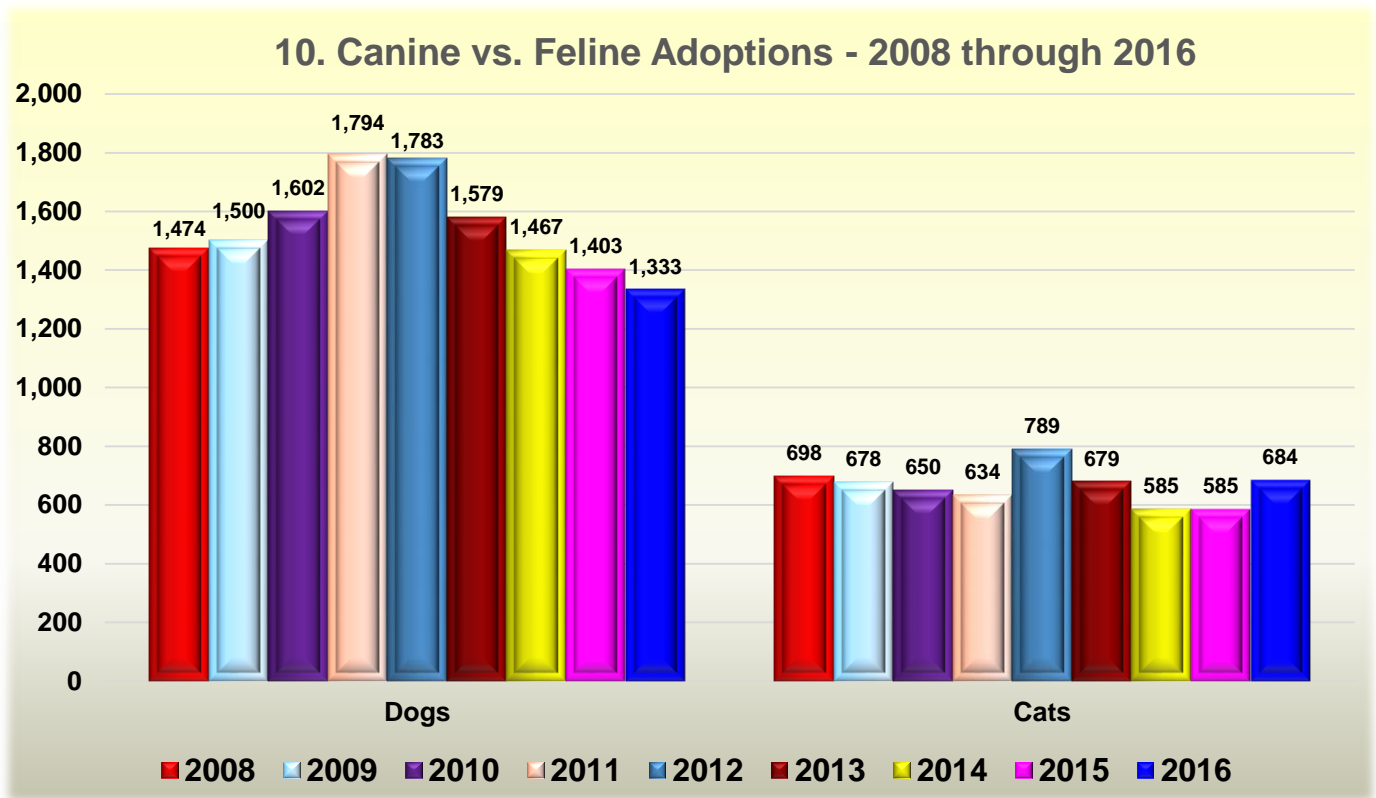


Table 10: Canine vs. Feline Adoptions

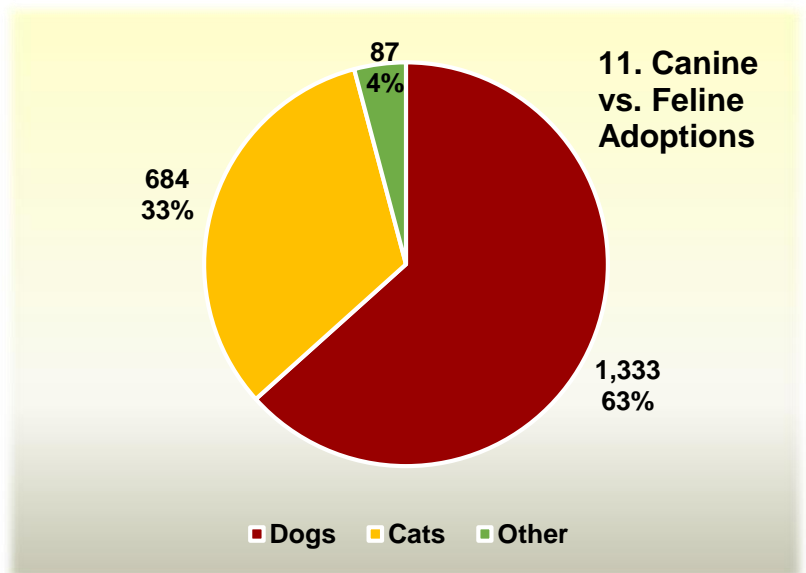


As you can see, there are always far more **Dog Adoptions** than **Cat Adoptions**. Unfortunately, the adoption number for **dogs** decreased. Once again this was the **lowest** adoption rate for dogs since **2008**.

Cat Adoptions fortunately **increased** by 14%, a welcome change from the downward trend.



Table 11: Adoption Percentage



• **Rescue Transfers**

Table 12: Rescue Transfers

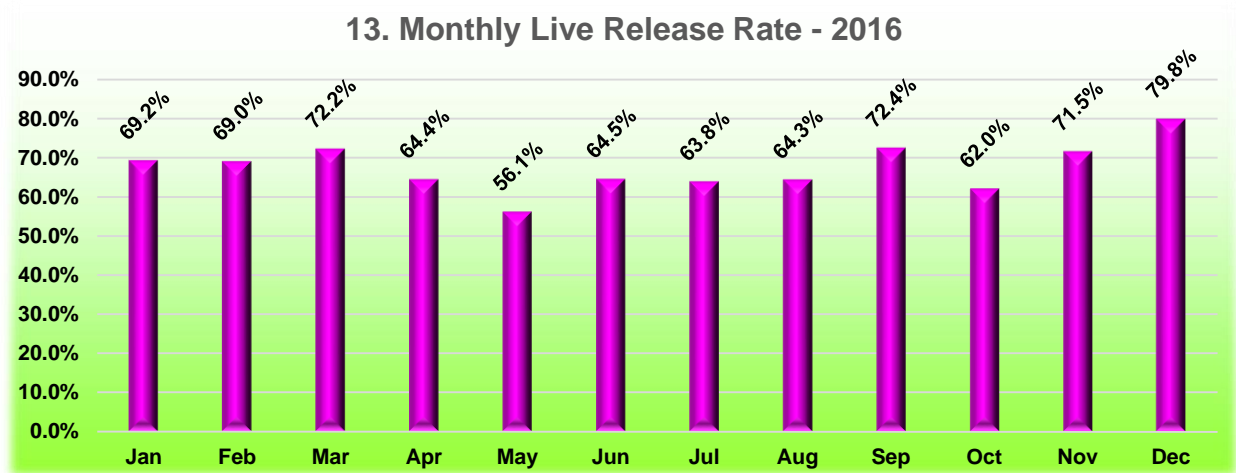


The ASCMV continues to **add** new transfer partners reaching across the country, and with the addition of the new transport vehicles in 2015, the number of animals transported through the **ASCMV Rescue Transfer Program** **increased** in **2016** by over **400** animals. **2,139** animals were transferred out, and as you can see, neither rain nor sleet nor **snow** gets in the way of the dedication of the ASCMV staff!

• **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 continues to fluctuate throughout the year, and correlates to the monthly intake.

Table 13: Monthly Live Release Rate

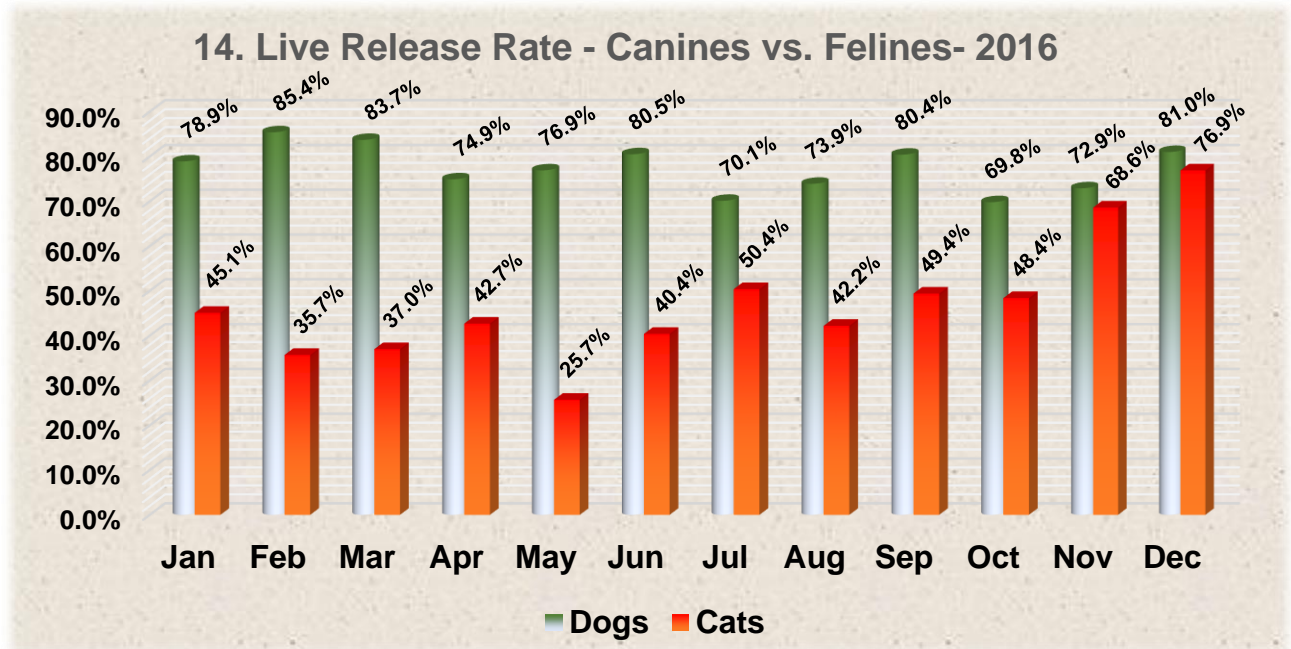


The overall LRR **increased** by **5.1%** from **61.9%** in **2015** to **67.0%** in **2016**.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{LIVE RELEASE RATE} &= \\
 & \text{Adoptions} + \text{RTOs} + \\
 & \text{Transfers} + \text{Wildlife Releases} \\
 & \div \\
 & \text{Total Outcomes} - \text{Missing} - \\
 & \text{Died} - \text{DOA} - \text{OR Euth.}
 \end{aligned}$$

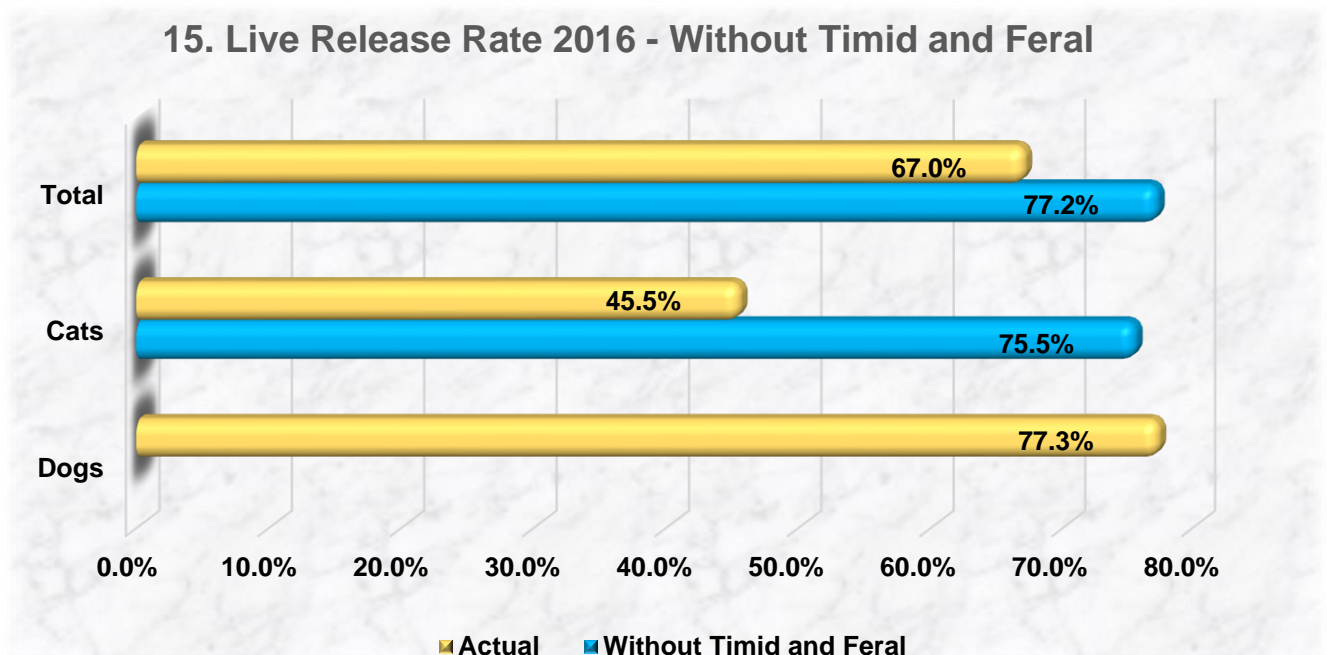
- The **Live Release Rate** of felines passed the **75%** mark once, and **canines** passed the **80%** mark **5** different times in 2016, neither of which had ever been achieved before.

Table 14: Canines vs. Felines LRR



The **Live Release Rate** for **dogs** is consistently **higher** than for **cats**. However, if the ASCMV did **not** have to euthanize the **timid** and **feral** cats, this would **increase** the cat and overall **Live Release Rate** to **over 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 **2016**, more **categories** were once again 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

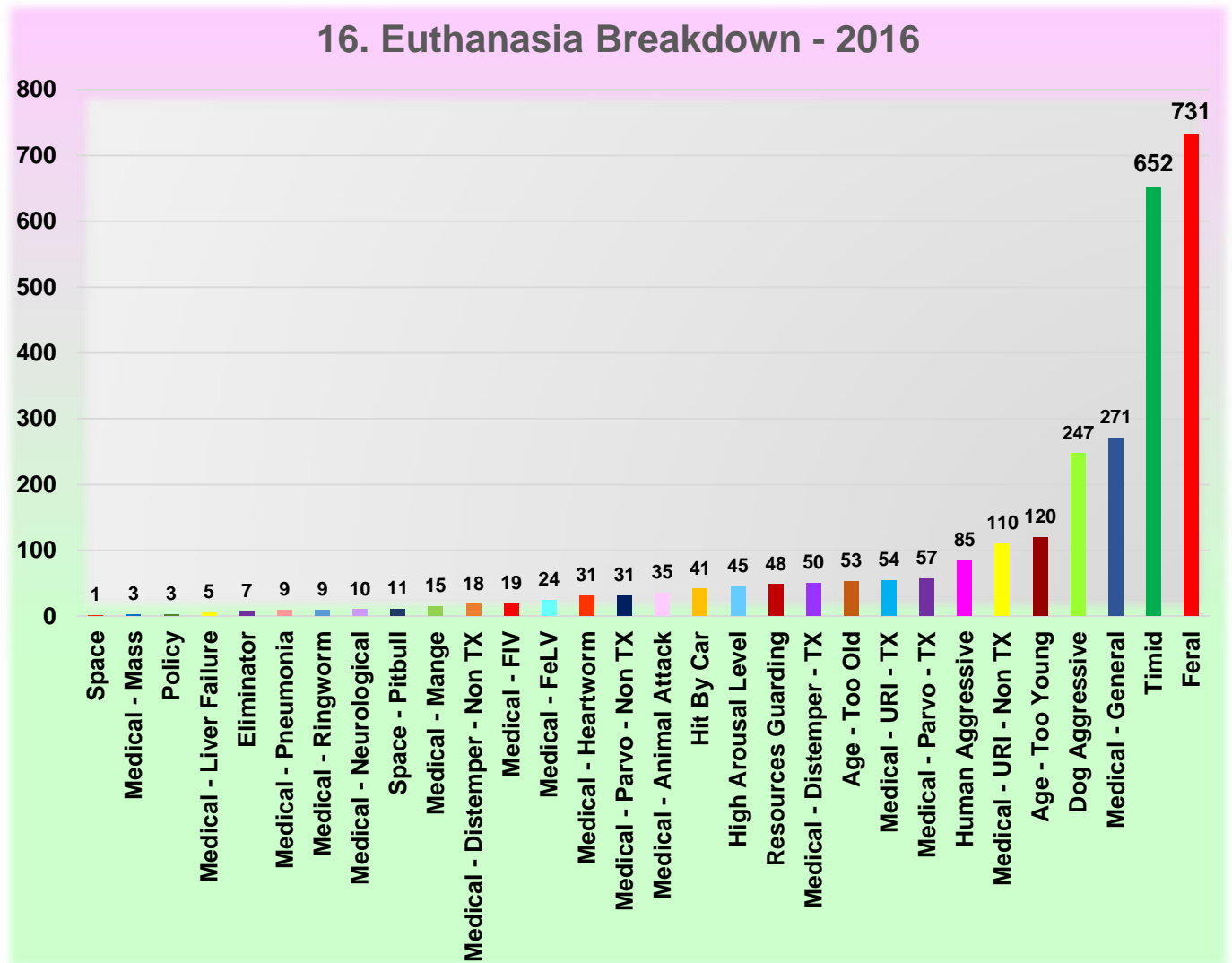
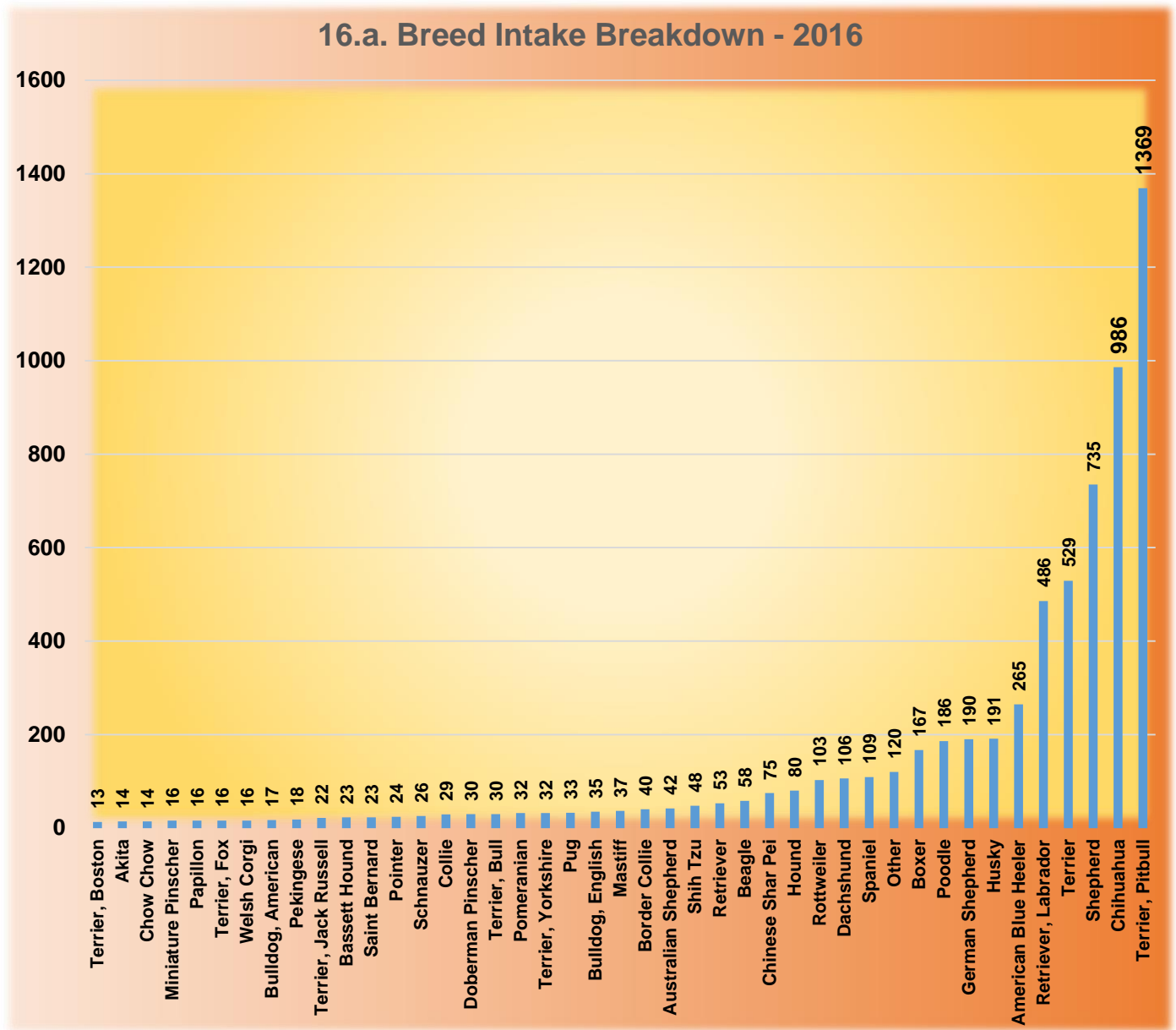


Table 18: Breed Intake Breakdown



Pitbull and **Chihuahua** mixes continued to account for the highest number of breeds received at the ASCMV. **Pitbull** mixes accounted for **21%** and **Chihuahua** mixes accounted for **15%** of all the dogs that were impounded in **2016**. This translates to a **higher** percentage of Pitbulls being **euthanized** because most transfer partners do not accept Pitbull breeds.

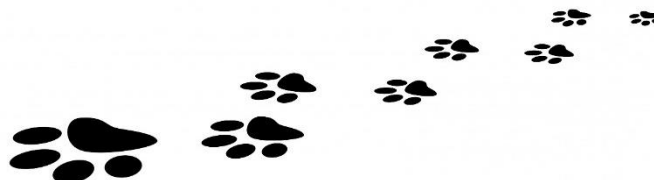
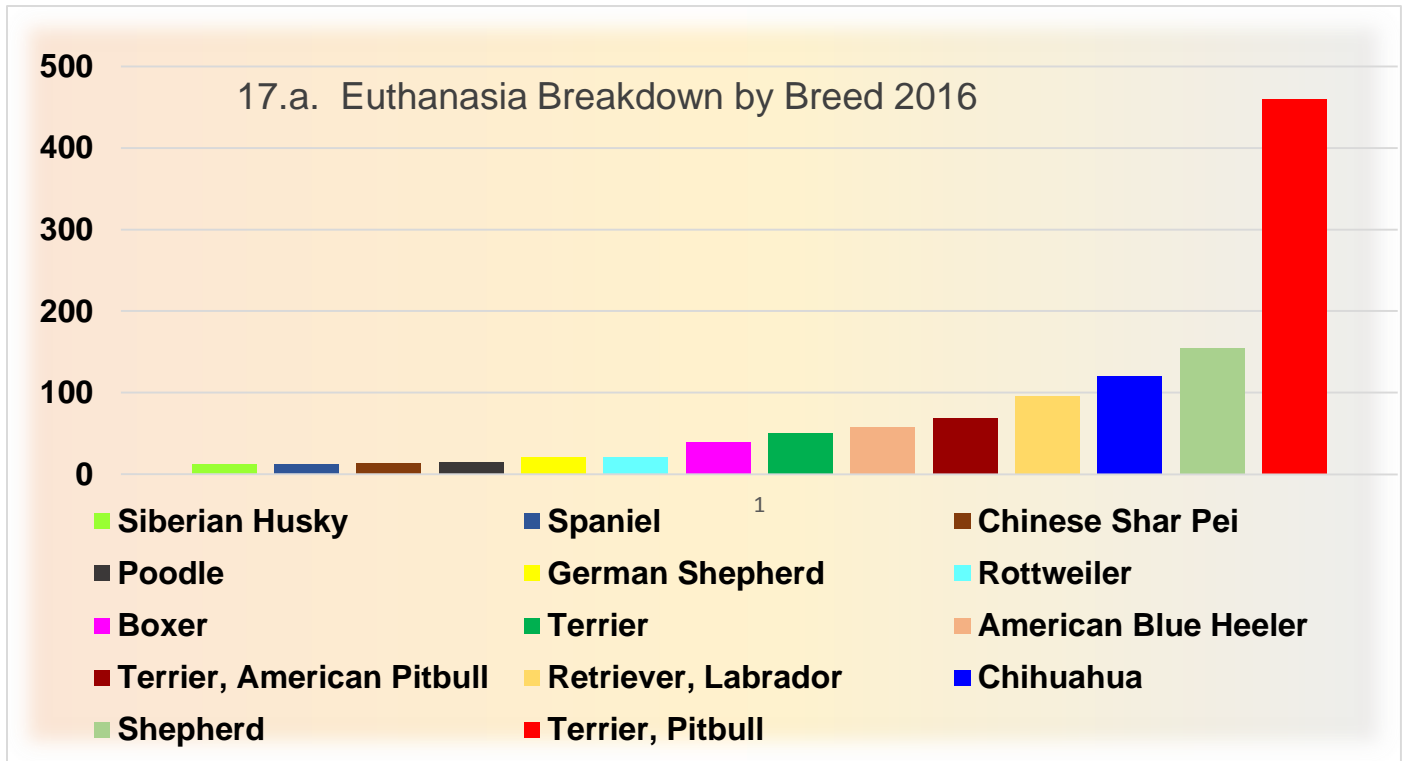
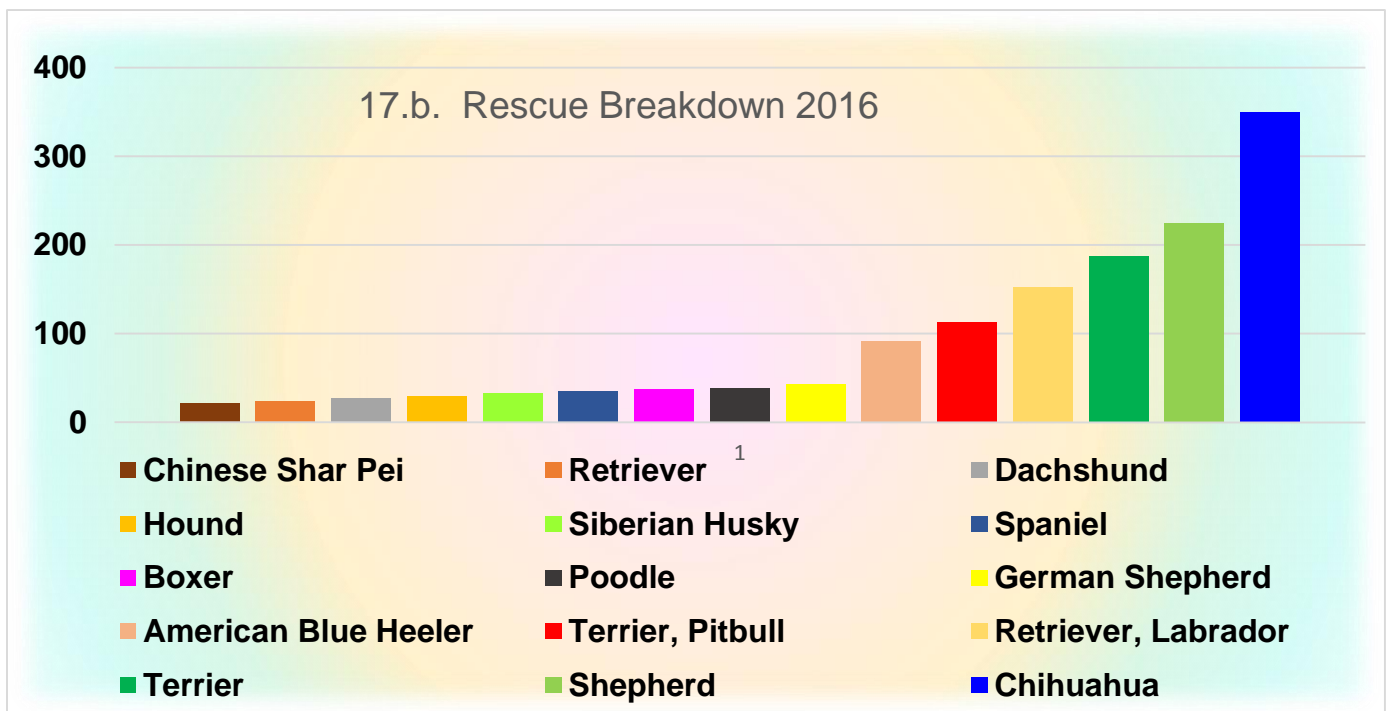


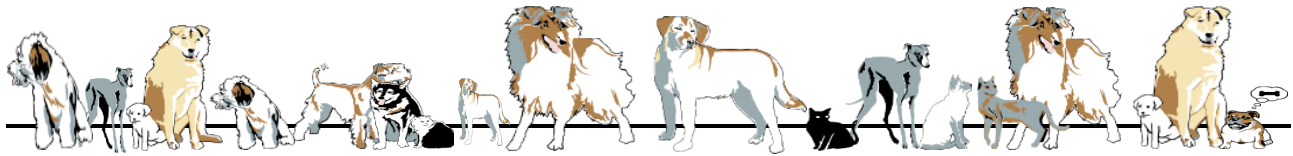
Table 17.a.: Euthanasia Breakdown by Breed



It's easy to see that it's the **Pitbulls** that are not being rescued or adopted as easily as other breeds.

Table 17.b.: Rescue Breakdown by Breed





Animals that were **Euthanized** at the **ASCMV** due to an apparent **Feral** or **Timid** temperament continued to be the biggest reasons for euthanasia in **2016**, the majority being feral cats. Though the number of incoming cats **decreased**, the **percentage** of feral cats euthanized accounted for nearly **half** of all **Euthanasias** in **2016**.

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 18: Euthanasias Without Timid and Feral Cats

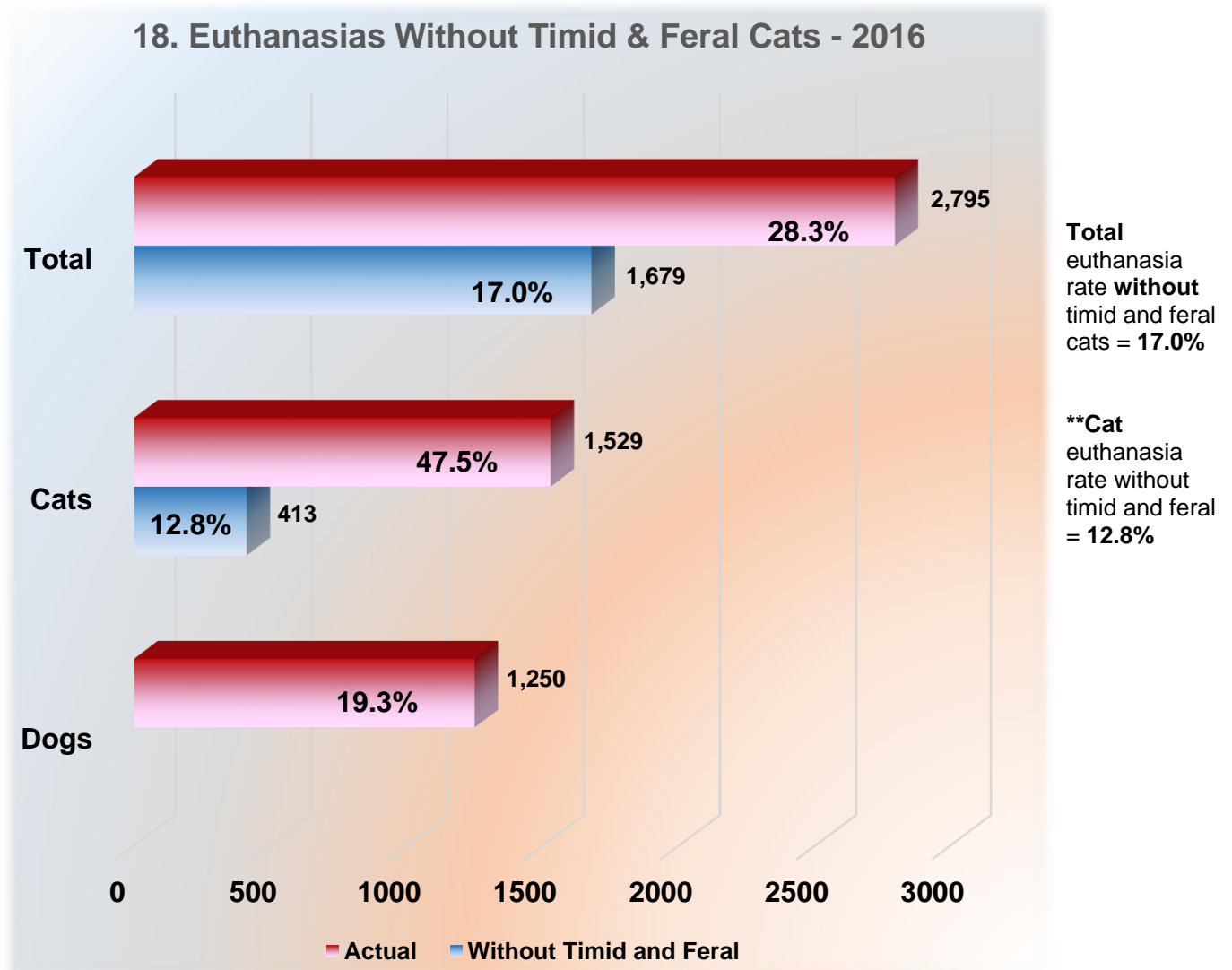
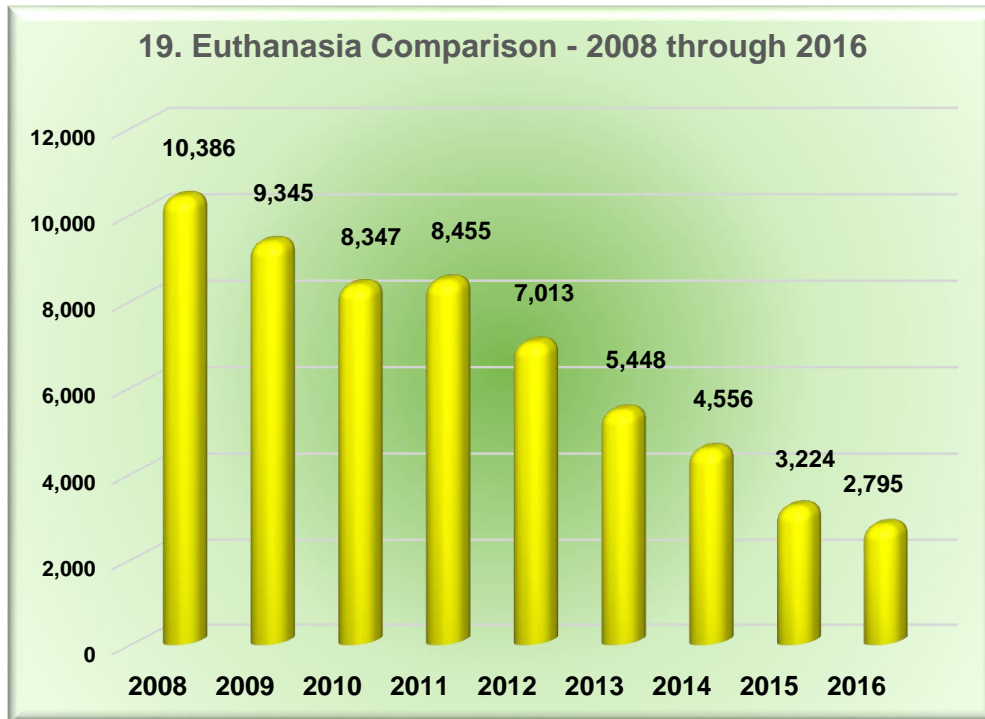


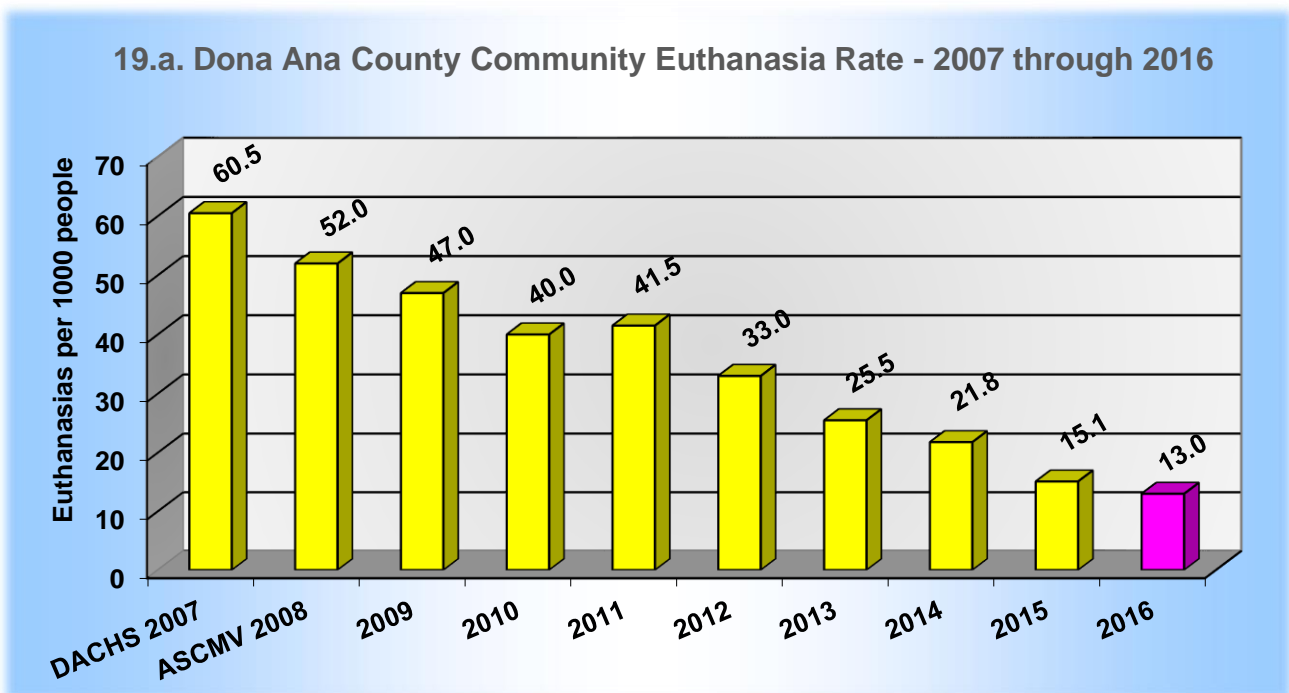
Table 19: Euthanasia Rate Comparison



The **actual number** of animals **Euthanized** decreased by **13.3%**; from **3,224** in **2015** to **2,795** in **2016**; for a total of **429** less animals **Euthanized**. That's over **7,500** less animals **Euthanized** in **2016** than in **2008** when the ASCMV was first created.

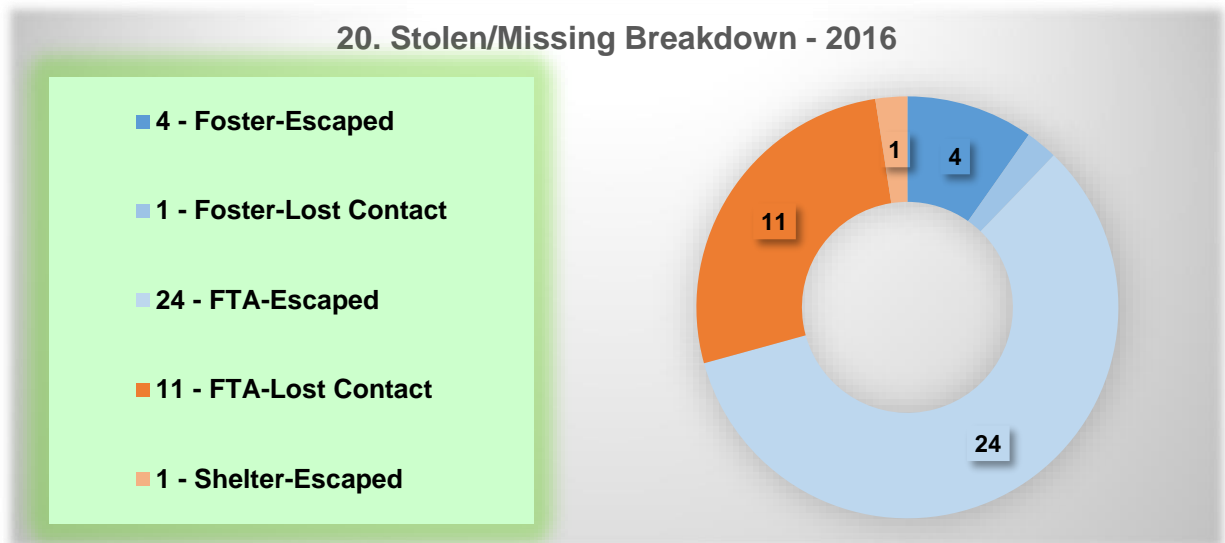
Even with all of the challenges this community faces, as you can see below, the trend continues as we strive to decrease our euthanasias. Our **Community's Euthanasia Rate** has dropped over **75%** in the last 9 years, which is more than **47** animals per 1,000 citizens.

19.a. Dona Ana County Community Euthanasia Rate - 2007 through 2016



• **Stolen/Missing Animals**

Table 20: Stolen/Missing Animals



The number of animals **Stolen/Missing** from the ASCMV remained the same in **2016**. The number of **Stolen/Missing** animals from the ASCMV accounted for **less than one half** percent of the total Outcomes for **2016**. 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.

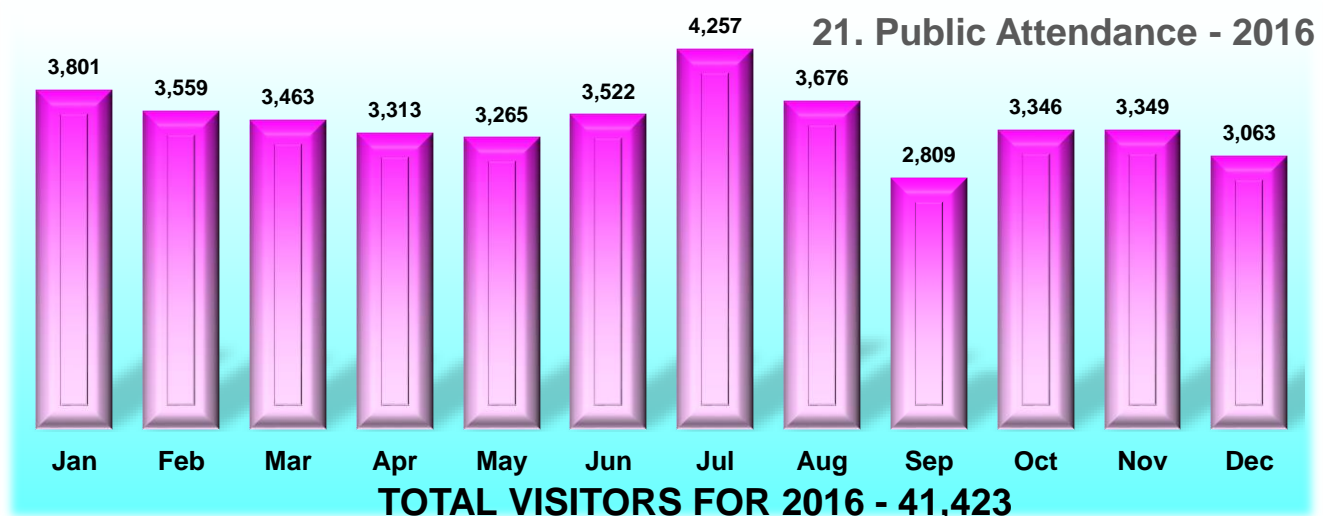
3. Public Services and Community Outreach

• **Public Attendance**

The ASCMV averaged nearly **115** visitors through the facility each day in **2016**. The total number **increased** from **39,642** in **2015** to **41,423** in **2016**; an increase of **1,781** visitors.

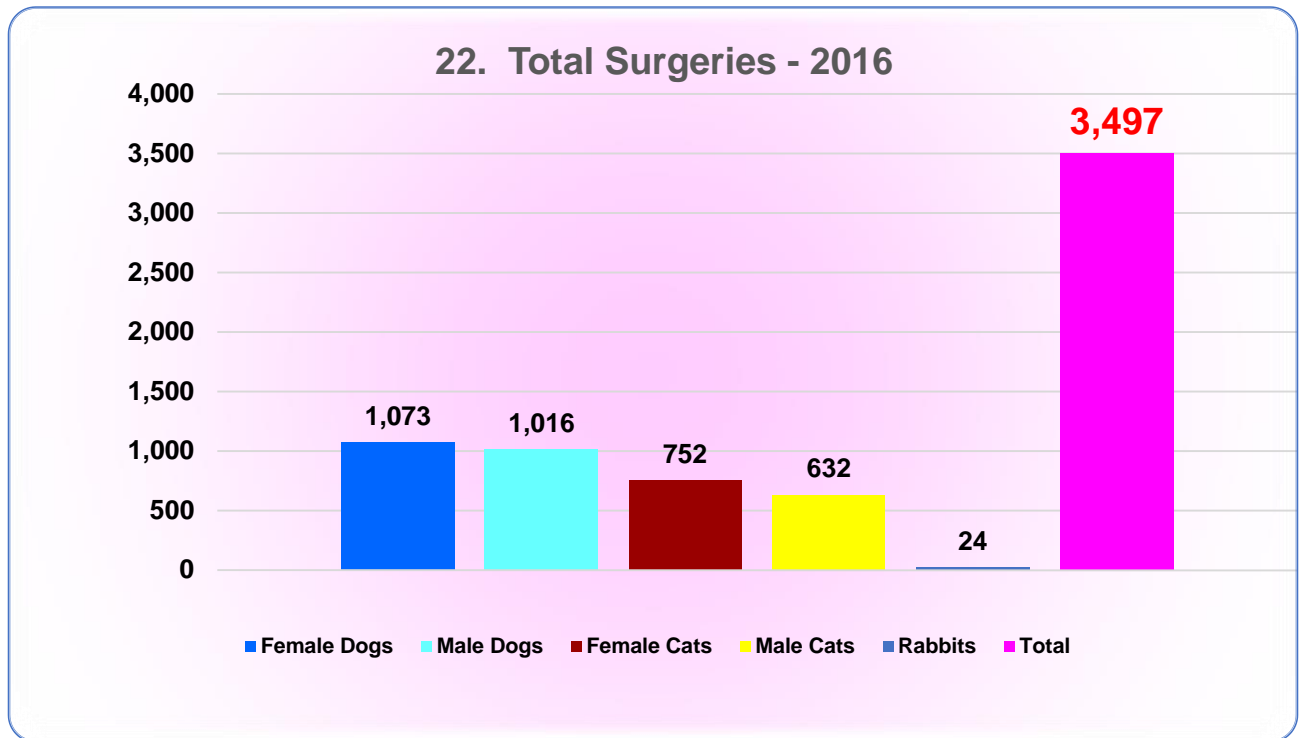
Public Attendance was highest in **July** with **4,257** visitors and lowest once again in **September** with **2,809** visitors. These numbers do not include the attendance of members of the public at off-site adoption events and other events not held at the ASCMV facility.

Table 21: Public Attendance



• **Affordable Pet Sterilization Surgeries**

The **ASCMV**'s Medical Team performed a total of **3,497** surgeries in **2016**. **89** were non-sterilization surgeries, which included several **eye enucleations, prolapses, dental extractions** and several others necessary for the animal's welfare.



1,737 were **Affordable Sterilization Surgeries** for the general public and private rescue organizations, which slightly dropped by only **16** from 2015. **24** of these public spays were rabbits, nearly **triple** the number in 2015.

11 of those public Surgeries were performed in association with the local **Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP)**. **50** were performed in association with **Action Program for Animals (APA)**. **7** were performed in association with **HSSNM**. **146** were performed in association with the **Coalition for Pets and People**. **117** were performed in association with **Broken Promises**. And **153** were performed in association with the **Community Cat Rescue Program**.

762 of the public Surgeries performed were **Neuters** and **975** were **Spays**.

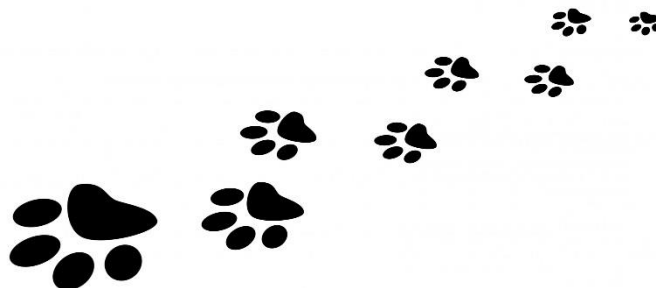
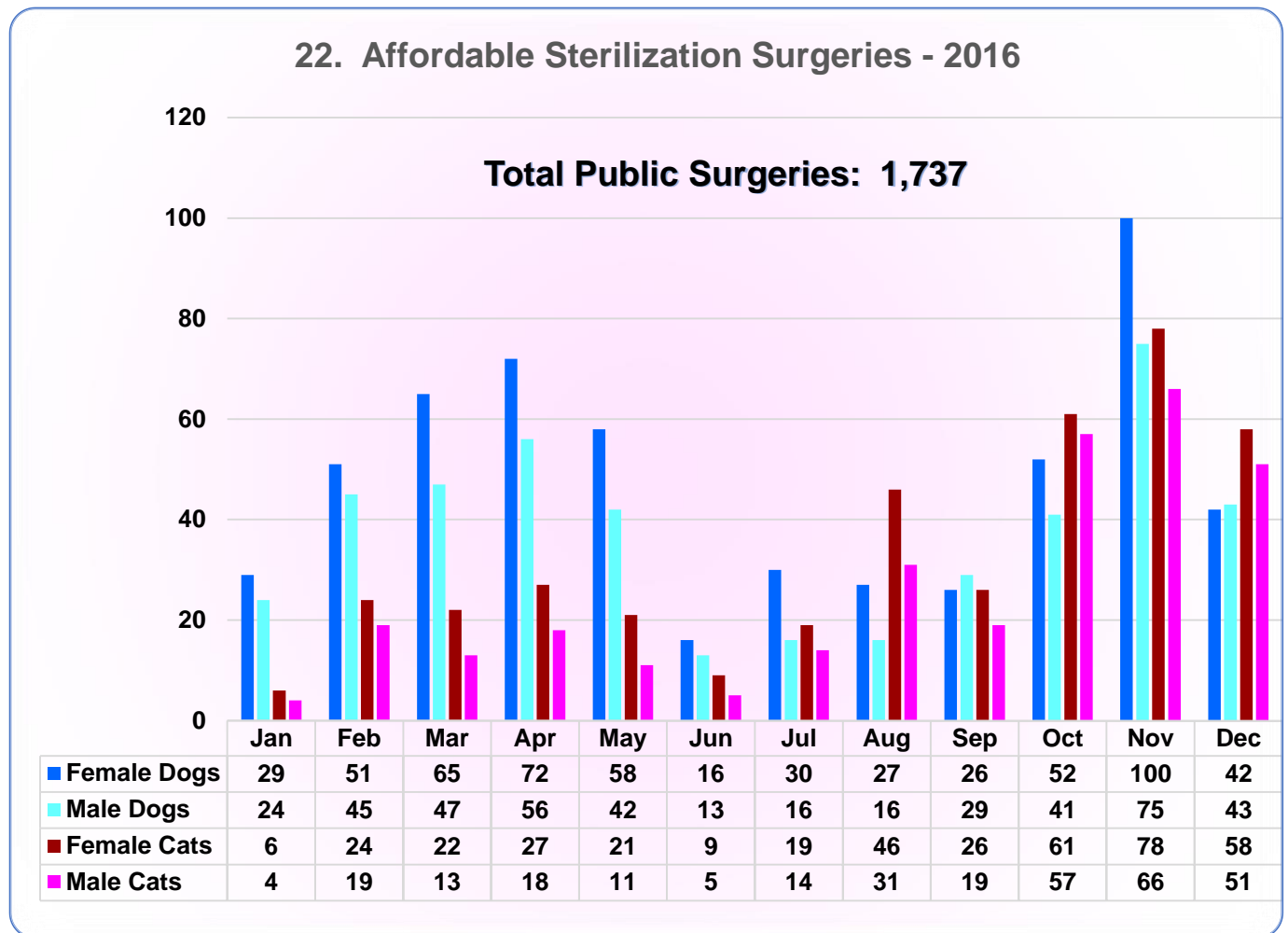


Table 22: Affordable Sterilization Surgeries



The ASCMV also continued to offer **vaccinations** to members of the public for those animals which underwent sterilization at the ASCMV’s Medical Facilities. Nearly **75%** 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. Well over **1,500 microchips** were implanted on animals that came in for spaying or neutering alone. Over **5,600 Pet Licences** were issued at the ASCMV in 2016, with **city** more than **doubling** the number than that for the **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**, **KXPZ 99.5 FM Zia Country**, **KGRT 103.9FM**, **KHQT 103.1FM** and **KINT 93.9FM (Spanish)** 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. Several **public service announcements** have also been playing in order to promote **pet responsibility**.

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.

Social Media:

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 helping **reunite pets** with their lost owners. The local publication **Dog Cruces** has teamed up with Animal Control, and posts found animals on the ASCMV and Dog Cruces **Facebook** pages.



Special Adoption Events and Programs:

The ASCMV hosted and participated in numerous events such as the **New Year** adoption event (all adoptions for \$20.16); **Free Spay/Neuter** event for cats 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); **Leap Year** adoption event (\$4 adoptions); **St. Patrick's Day** adoption event (all adoptions for \$17); **Cinco De Mayo** adoption event (all adoptions for \$18.62); **Chihuahua De Mayo** (\$18.62 spays and neuters for Chihuahuas); **Adopt-A-Cat Month** (June-adult cat adoptions free); **Microchipping Events** (\$10 microchipping); **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); **Black Weekend** adoption event (all black animals free and everything else half-off); **Race to the Right House** (\$16 adoptions); **Jolly St. Snip** (free cat spays/neuters); 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 **250** 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, reaching out to educate the community in pet ownership responsibility.

The ASCMV attended **Career Day** at several elementary schools.

The ASCMV participated in the **Job Shadow** and **Excel** programs offered through the public schools.

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

The ASCMV started a new **advertising campaign** with **Wilson-Binkley Advertising and Marketing**, reaching out to the community through **billboards, radio, direct mail, classifieds** and **social media** promoting pet responsibility.



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.

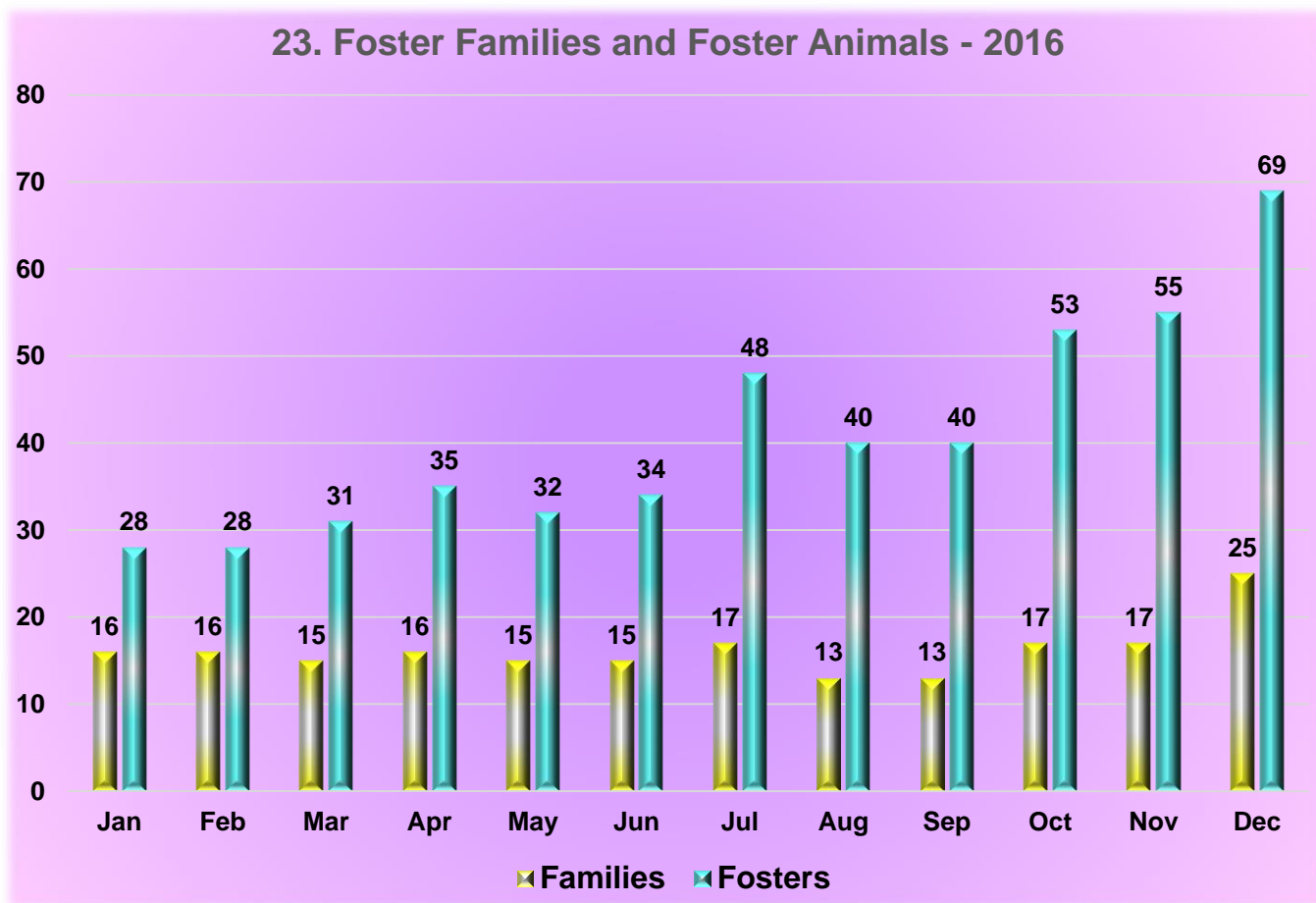


Several members of our community will not be forgotten. Their love and dedication was reflected in all that they gave to the ASCMV and to our community.



Although the ASCMV was without a Volunteer Coordinator for most of the year, our volunteers continued to be dedicated, and additional volunteers from NMSU and other educational organizations perform outreach in our community. In **2016**, volunteers provided nearly **6,000** 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.

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 continued to promote 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**. Our volunteers perseverance is encouraging to those at the ASCMV as they continue 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 **2016**, the ASCMV spent nearly **\$2 million** and again served over **12,000** animals. That averages out to about **\$160** spent **per animal served**.

6. Capital Improvements

The **ASCMV** continues to make improvements throughout the years. To name just a few in **2016**:

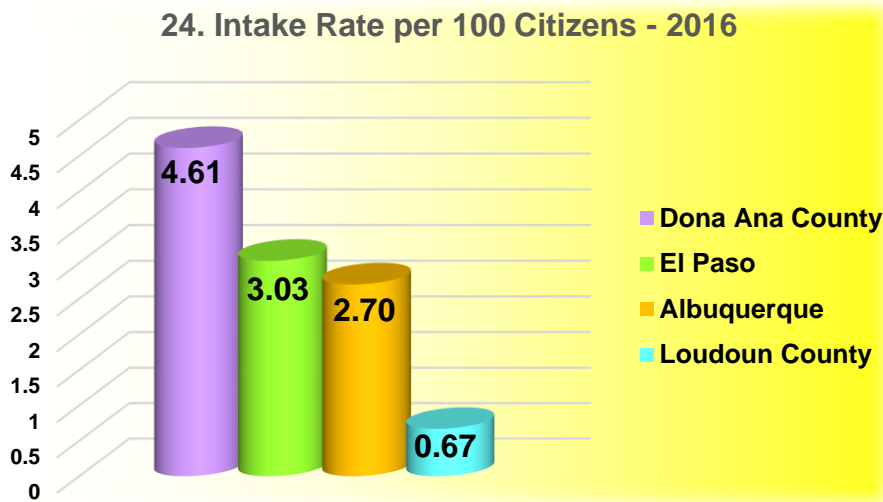
- Wrap for the new large transport vehicle
- Addition of the outside impound area kennels
- Additional shade structures
- Purchase of new vehicle for operational needs
- Began the plans for major building renovations, including a new Adoptable Cat Room



7. How Do We Compare?

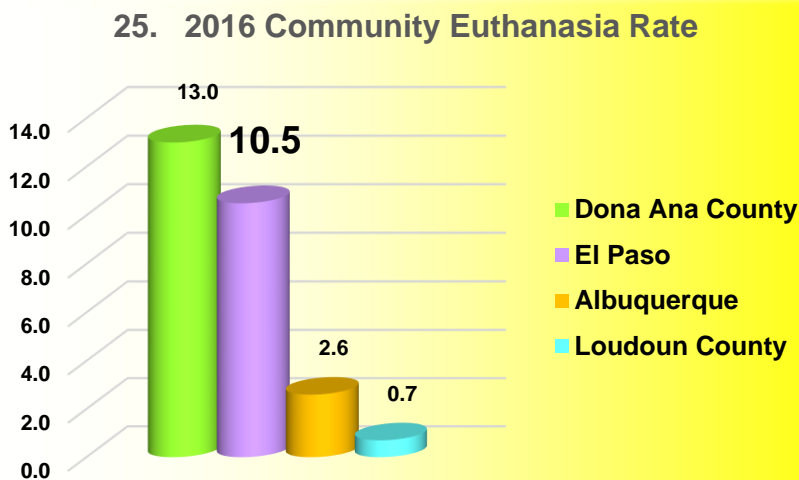
Although the ASCMV has come a long way since its inception in 2008, there are still many challenges facing our community. First and foremost, the number of unwanted or unclaimed animals produced by this community continues to manifest itself in the number of animals that enter the shelter. A community's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

Table 24: Intake Rate Per 100 Citizens



With a population of **214,295** in 2016, the per capita rate for **Dona Ana County** is 0.0461, or **4.61** animals per every **100** persons in the county. Loudoun County had a population of **360,000** in 2016. With nearly three times the population of Dona Ana County, their per capita rate was almost **7 times less**. Dona Ana County unfortunately has one of the **highest** intake rates in the **nation**.

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 **Loudoun County, VA**. In **2016** the **ASCMV** euthanized approximately **13 animals** for every **1,000 residents** of **Doña Ana County**. As you can see, our community surpasses all three in euthanasias.

So how do we move forward from here? We begin by noting there are 3 differences between ASCMV and these four communities:

1. **ONE ENTITY**
2. **PROGRESSIVE PRACTICES and**
3. **BUDGET**

1. ONE ENTITY

Since 2005, nearly all, if not all, Animal Control agencies are a department under the umbrella of Animal Services, with the major focus on pet retention and educating the community, which will make it safer for both the human and the animal population. The bottom line is that the two animals need to learn to cohabitate.

2. PROGRESSIVE PRACTICES

- A. Surrender to foster programs must be promoted
- B. Field RTO's must increase
- C. Release of ownership in lieu of citations should not be promoted
- D. Instead of focusing on catching violators, start working with owners on how to become the best owners that they can become.

3. BUDGET

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Loudoun County | \$3 million | \$1,210 per animal |
| Bernalillo County | \$11 million | \$630 per animal |
| El Paso | \$9.5 million | \$365 per animal |
| The ASCMV | \$2 million | \$160 per animal |

We at the ASCMV continue 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. But we have a long way to go. We are becoming more on-track with progressive enforcement tactics, such as:

- **Returns to Owners in the Field,**
- **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.**

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 keeping even more of our precious animals in **Doña Ana County ALIVE.**

