



2022

Annual Report



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to present this annual report highlighting Austin Animal Center's accomplishments, activities, and initiatives from the past year.

2022 felt like the Year of the Cats! We saw adoption rates for cats increase and we had two very successful kitten adoption events, including bringing back Kittypalooza after a COVID-related hiatus. Our Community Cats program served a record number of free-roaming cats, and we were selected to participate in a national study researching COVID in cats.

Our volunteers were a vital part of our successes this year. We were honored to receive the Austin Chronicle's Best Volunteer Experience Award and saw our volunteer hours surpass pre-pandemic numbers.

It was a rough year for medium/large dogs across the U.S. Nationally, average lengths of stay increased and adoption rates decreased in shelters, including ours. After reaching a crisis point of having more than 60 dogs housed in crates on our truckport, we made the difficult decision to restrict intake to emergencies only in September. Even with intake restricted, we still took in dozens of animals each day.

We held multiple adoption events highlighting medium/large dogs, including partnering with Austin Pets Alive!, Austin Humane Society, and Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter for an area-wide "Keep Austin Dogs Weird" promotion. Staff across the shelter formed a group that meets weekly to discuss longstay dogs and identify barriers to adoption.

Our top priorities at the Animal Services Office remain 1) preventing animals from entering the shelter system through education, resources, and support services; and 2) finding placement of sheltered animals through return-to-owner, adoption, or transfer to one of our rescue partners. As the City's population grows, so does the demand for services. An estimated 100 people move to the metropolitan Austin area every day, and about 70% of American families have pets according to the 2021-2022 National Pet Owners Survey.

We would not be able to maintain this level of lifesaving without help from you, our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making a difficult year successful!



DON BLAND, CAWA

Chief Animal Services Officer

ABOUT AUSTIN ANIMAL CENTER

The City of Austin Animal Services Office operates the Austin Animal Center, and is the municipal shelter for the City of Austin and unincorporated Travis County. The Animal Services Office provides sheltering, education, prevention, and enforcement services. In partnership with community organizations, Animal Services provides a safety net for lost and homeless pets and is dedicated to sustaining Austin's no-kill commitment of achieving live outcomes for at least 95% of the companion animals that enter the shelter each year.



6,425 dogs

Stray: 4,095
 Owner Surrender: 1,615
 Public Assist: 502
 Abandoned: 213



4,680 cats

Stray: 3,337
 Owner Surrender: 1,130
 Public Assist: 116
 Abandoned: 97

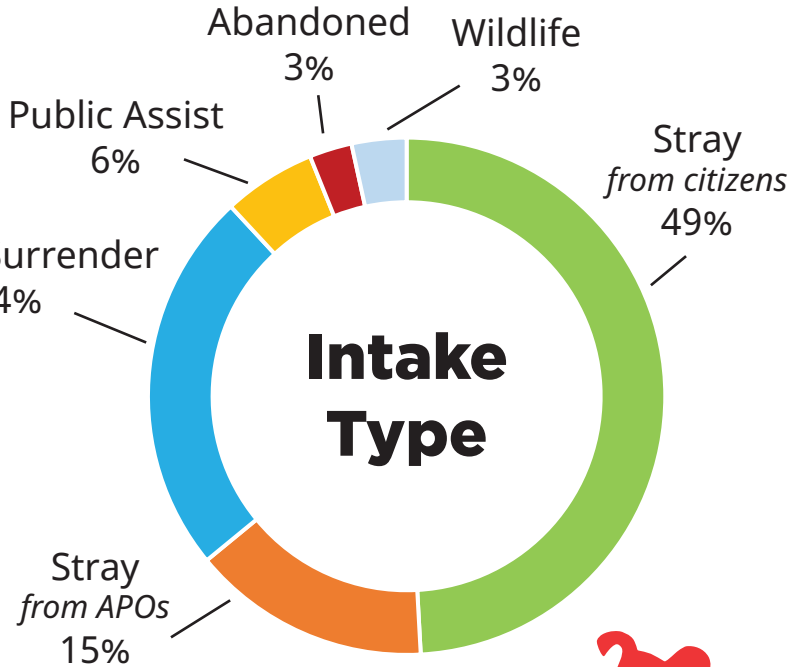


312 small animals

Stray: 141
 Owner Surrender: 98
 Public Assist: 68
 Abandoned: 5

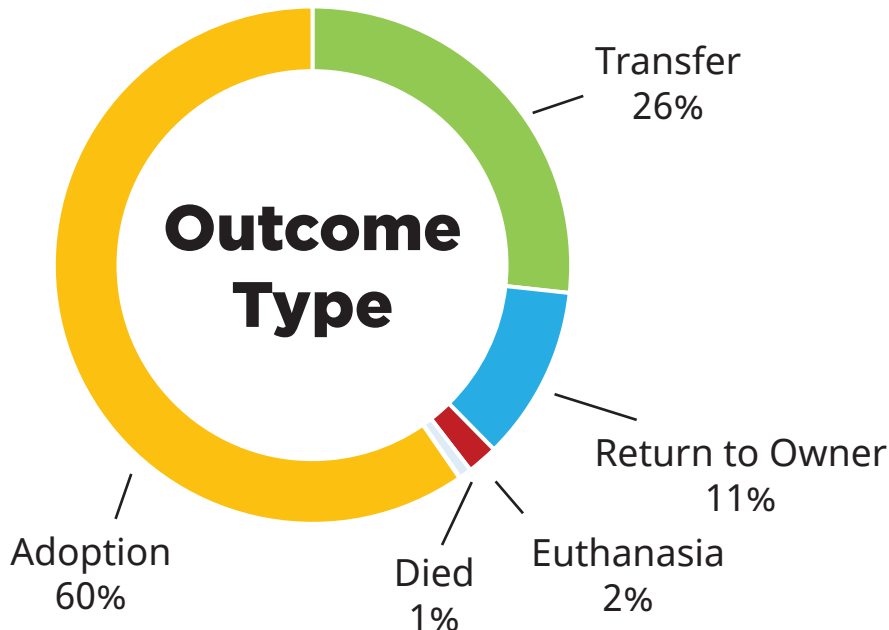


405 wildlife



DID YOU KNOW?

Public Assist includes pets whose owners are hospitalized or incarcerated, pets who require rabies quarantine, and pets who are the subject of cruelty investigations.



97.3%
 LIVE RELEASE RATE



930

owner surrender consultations

124

dogs deferred with behavioral help

707

visitors seeking resources

1,500

pets posted to Home To Home

PAW AID

The vouchers through this Friends of Austin Animal Center-funded program prevent surrender by providing financial assistance with acute veterinary needs.



Stanley, adopted from us in 2016, was a little too curious about a porcupine this spring and ended up with a face full of quills. A couple months and a couple thousand dollars later, there were still 3 quills retained in his body and surgery was recommended.

Paw Aid helped Stan's owner afford the surgery and return him to his happy, healthy self!

67 Paw Aid vouchers utilized



Animal Protection

32,563

calls received

2,209

investigations of reported neglect

1,679

injured animals impounded

2,483

bite investigations

60

Serious Bodily Injury investigations

543

calls handled about coyotes

21

game cameras used to track wildlife

28 families given fencing supplies



Vet Services



11,339
vet exams

5,736
spays & neuters

1,132
emergency
cases

380
specialty
surgeries

Journey the dog came into the shelter after being found in a park unable to walk. He received orthopedic surgery to repair his broken pelvis and spent weeks in our ICU recovering before being adopted.

Persephone the cat had two injured legs with severe infections. After lots and lots of bandage changes and TLC, she was able to go to foster and then be adopted.

Volunteer & Foster

850
foster
families



2,866
pets

765
volunteers



51,612
hours
of service

Volunteers helped with everything from dog walking and cat care, outings, offsite events, TV media spots, surgery recovery, updating adoption profiles, enrichment, and so much more.



Rescue & Transport



2,029

pets



transferred to

65

in-state partners

709

pets transported out-of-state

Neighborhood Level Program

20,671

pet supplies provided to the community



Community Outreach & Engagement



37

Pet of the Week spots

34

Spanish-language media spots

41

off-site events in the community

394

free rabies vaccines given

440

microchips implanted



Community Cats



KEEP AUSTIN TNR'D



Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the most humane and effective cat population tool available to communities. Free-roaming cats are trapped by Community Cats volunteers and sent through spay/neuter surgery with our partner Austin Humane Society. Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) is a version of TNR for found cats that come to the shelter through Good Samaritans; staff evaluate each cat to determine the best outcome.

2,475

cats served through
TNR & SNR

Community Cats is much more than “just” TNR and SNR. We also provide medical vouchers for caretakers to obtain veterinary care for free-roaming cats.

120

medical vouchers utilized



Cactus Cats

Designed to help shy or temperamental cats find homes, we define Cactus Cats like the plant they're named for: unique, beautiful, low maintenance, and perhaps a little prickly.

Cactus Cats have their own cactus-themed group room at the shelter and a set of dedicated staff and volunteers to help work on their people skills and find adopters who accept each Cactus Cat just the way they are.

33

Cactus Cats adopted



Kitten Nursery



1,563

kittens under
2 months old served

Nursery staff also put together emergency kits for Animal Protection Officers to have on hand for finders of neonatal kittens.

Dog Enrichment



With a full shelter all year, in-kennel enrichment was vital in providing dogs with physical and mental stimulation in addition to walks and playgroup. Ranging from stuffed Kongs to sprayed scents to long-lasting chew toys, our enrichment program made sure that the dogs' stays were peppered with different (and often tasty) experiences.

6,000+ enrichment items provided

Longstay Love Club

A group of employees from every shelter department formed the Longstay Love Club this year, meeting weekly to discuss the dogs who have been in the shelter the longest. They look at kennel placement, promotion efforts, and identifying individual barriers to adoption.

SUCCESS STORY

Gouda was a senior, black pittie with vague notes about dog-friendliness. The Longstay Love Club had him re-evaluated in playgroup and placed in a lobby kennel. Just one week later (and two days short of his one-year anniversary of being in the shelter), Gouda was adopted and is thriving in his new home with both human and dog siblings!



Social Media



12,684,189

people reached through
Facebook & Instagram

774%

increase in
social media reach
compared to 2021

VIRAL POSTS

Centaur had a penchant for getting in water buckets, even when a pool was available. He took the social media world by storm when we posted him in May. He embodied "Keep Austin Weird" and found an adopter who took both him and his bucket home.

In one of our strangest success stories yet, staff were able to find the owner of a 16-foot-long albino reticulated python. The snake had been roaming the Coronado Hills neighborhood for almost 6 months before being caught in November!



Dances For Dogs and People Who Walk Them

In April we were honored to partner with Forklift Danceworks, an organization that creates dances with people who may not consider themselves dancers, including fire fighters, warehouse employees, and now, shelter workers.

AAC employees, volunteers, and supporters, plus their dogs, joined together in an amazing performance in front of hundreds of community members!



Adoption Events

In a year where the shelter was at or overcapacity for the majority of the time, our teams came up with unique ways to market our adoptable animals. Here are just a few:

Shelter Dogs Cuddle Better Adoption Event: In February, we hosted a front lawn adoption event to highlight volunteer favorites.

Kittypalooza: In June, we held the 13th annual Kittypalooza event and saw over 30 kittens adopted.

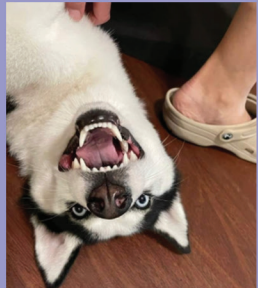
Clear the Crates: In September, we held an event on the front lawn to promote adoptable dogs being housed in crates.

Adoptober Fest: In October, volunteers and dogs (plus two kittens) worked their stuff down the runway.

KITTYPALOOZA

SATURDAY JUNE 25
8AM-1PM





Here are just a few of the pets who found homes in 2022.



THANK YOU

to our adopters,
fosters, volunteers,
rescue partners,
advocates, supporters,
and staff.

