

Regular Council Meeting

March 7, 2024

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Supplement Packet

ITEM(S)

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CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

3-A (ID 24-221)

WORKSHOP - Animal Center

Contents of Supplement: PowerPoint Presentation

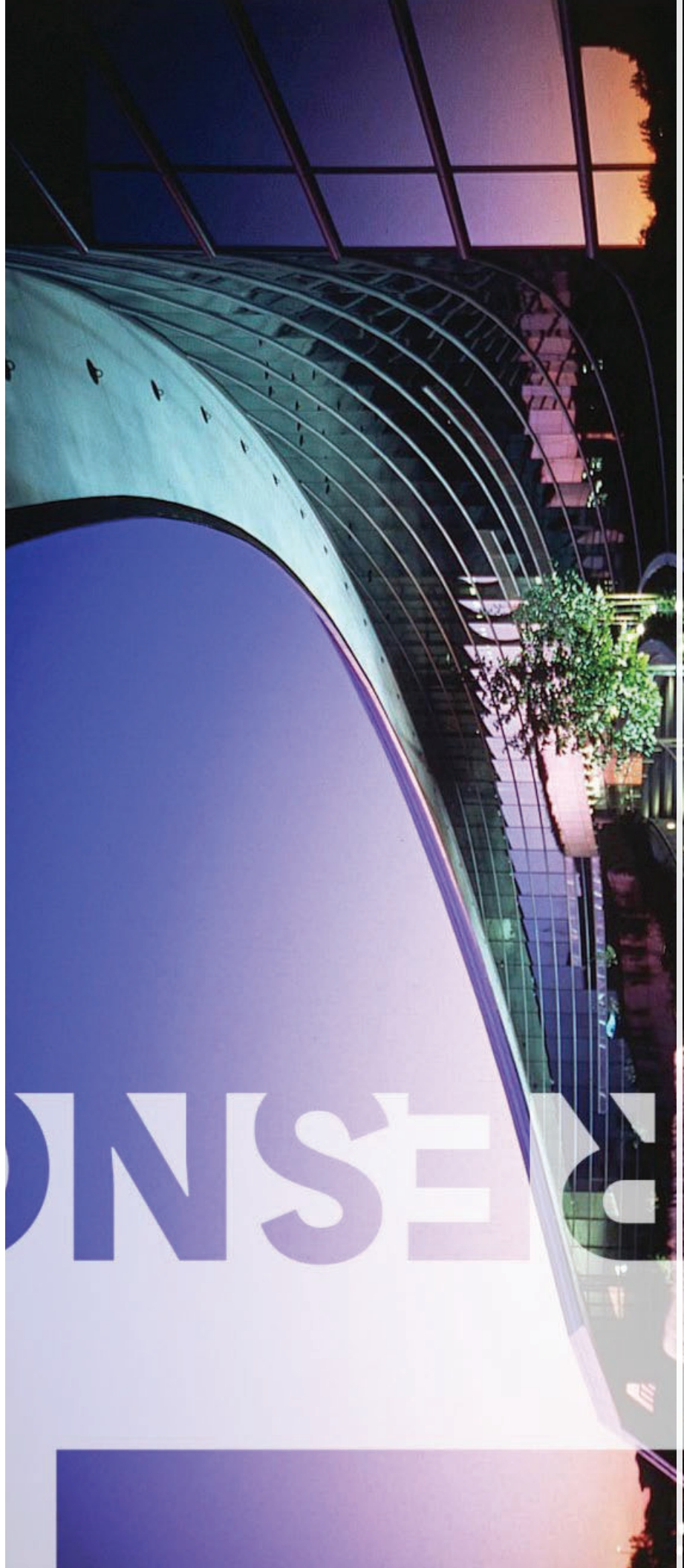
Item(s)

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

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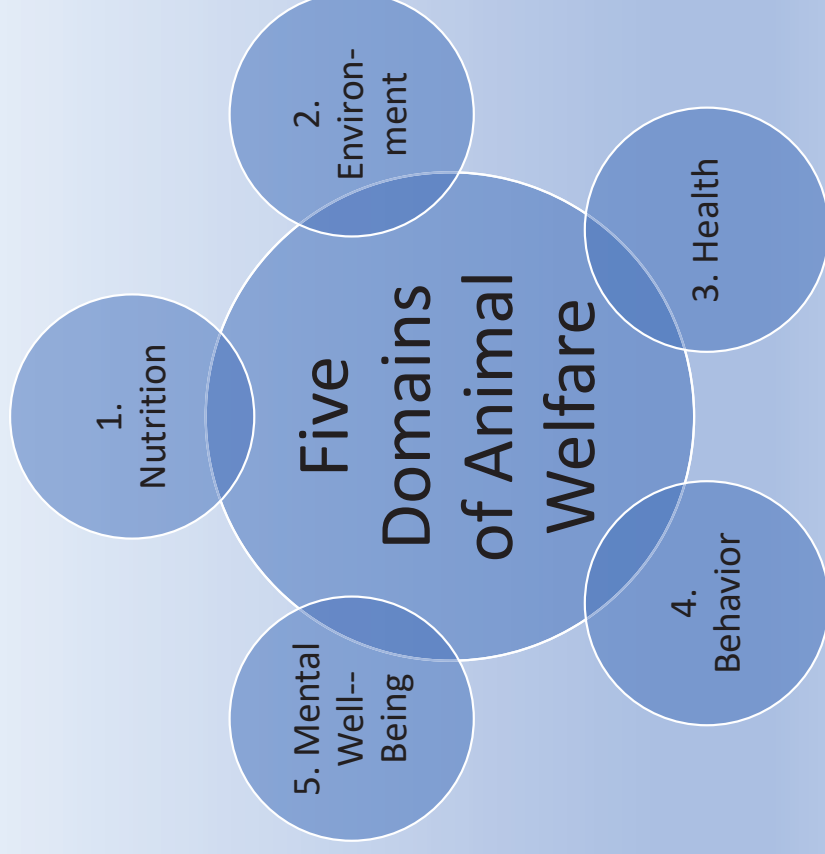
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Animal Center Workshop

Capacity for Care (C4C)

- Guidelines of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) state that “Every shelter has a maximum capacity for care and the population in their care must not exceed that level.”
- C4C is a shelter management model that helps shelters better meet the needs of the animals in their care.



Elements of Capacity for Care (C4C)

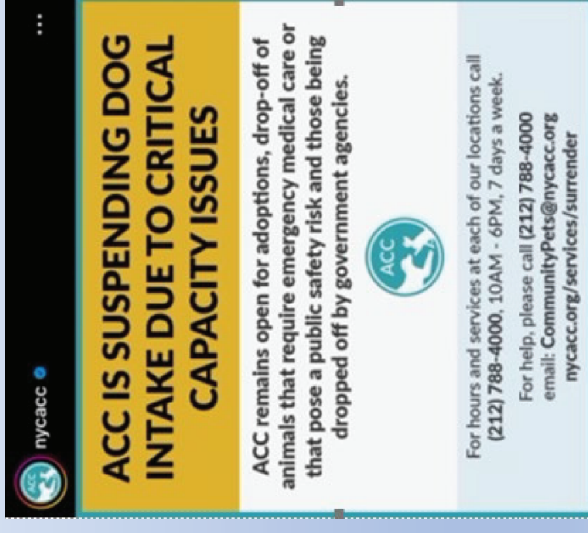
Calculating Capacity for Care considers:

- Housing capacity for Primary Flow
 - Optimal for Dogs 102
 - Optimal for Cats 60
- Required stray holding capacity
 - 72 hours or 3 days in California
- Staffing capacity for basic care
- Positive Outcome driven capacity
- Average length of stay
 - Definition of temporary housing 14 days or less

Current Trends

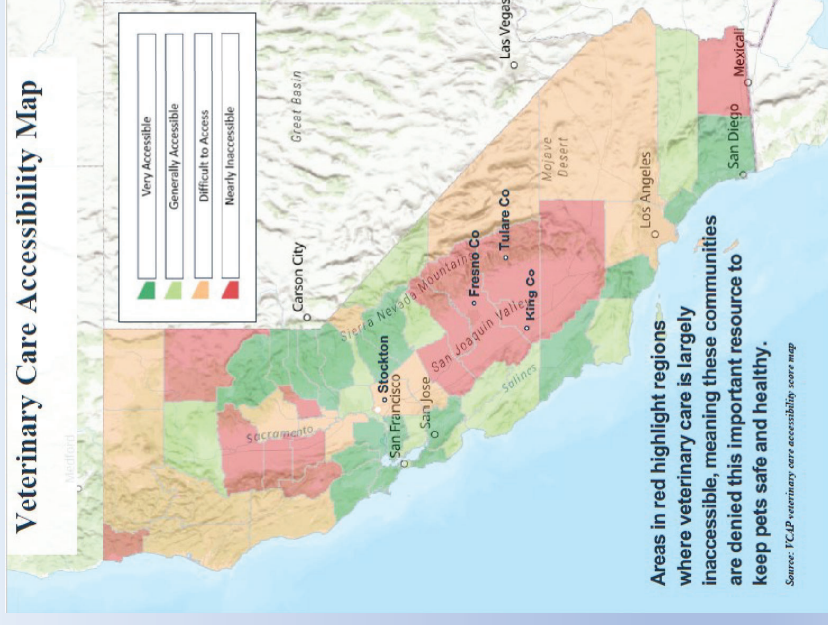
- Due to economic and subsequent challenges, shelters across the nation are experiencing increases in animal intake and decreases in adoption
- The majority of intake is made up of large breed dogs such as Huskies, Pit Bulls and German Shepherds
- Decreased out of state rescue transport options
 - Oregon raising fees on shelters based on animals rescued
- Shortage of Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians to meet the demand for affordable spay/neuter
- Limited access to affordable veterinary care

*New York Animal
Care Center*



Limited Access to Veterinary Care

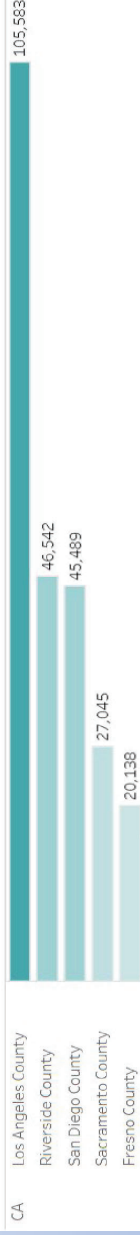
- Fresno County's Veterinary Accessibility Score on a scale of 1 to 100 was:
- 12 or Nearly Inaccessible!**
 - Veterinary employees per 1,000 pets **1.5**
 - Veterinary employees per 1,000 households **1.6**
 - Number of veterinary hospitals **57**
 - Total pet population (dogs & cats) **341,877**
 - Total pets per household (dogs & cats) **1.1**



Shelter Intake 2023

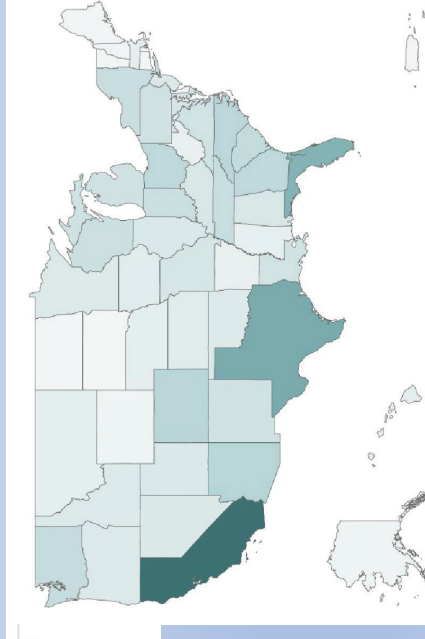


County	Cat Intake	Dog Intake	Total Intake	Population	Total intake per 1,000 residents	Dog Intake per 1,000 residents	Cat Intake per 1,000 residents
Los Angeles	52,266	53,317	105,583	10,014,009	10.5	5.3	5.2
Riverside	20,798	25,744	46,542	2,418,185	19.2	10.6	8.6
San Diego	20,617	24,872	45,489	3,298,634	13.8	7.5	6.3
Sacramento	13,316	13,729	27,045	1,585,055	17.1	8.7	8.4
Fresno	7,054	13,084	20,138	1,008,654	20.0	13.0	7.0



- Fresno County has highest dog intake per 1,000 residents when compared to the highest 5 intake counties.

* Source Shelter Animals Count



Outcomes of Open Intake

- Unchecked Admissions not balanced to positive outcomes.
- Animal intake and length of stay are leading to exceeding capacity for care (C4C).
- Crowding, stress and disease.
- Poor customer experience.
- Compromised staffing efficiency.
- Decreased operational effectiveness.
- Missed opportunity to provide targeted services.
- Continued unproductive cycle of impound, care, undesired outcomes.

Capacity for Care on Dec. 1, 2023.

Staff Training and Skill

- Majority of staff less than one year at Fresno Animal Center.

Staffing Levels

- 61 employees – 23 for kennel care, processing animal intake and other duties for a 7-day operation.

Length of Stay

- Average of 86 days from January to November 15, 2023 for Dogs

Humane Housing – Kennel Inventory (663 Total)

- 506 Dogs in Kennels vs 102 optimal or 496 percent overcapacity
- 149 cats in Cat Condos vs 60 optimal or 249 percent overcapacity

Kennel Data as of 02/29/24

Activity Summary	Dogs	Cats	Total
November 30, 2023	506	149	655
Intakes (Dec-Feb)	961	152	1,113
Adoption (Dec-Feb)	(334)	(68)	(402)
Rescue (Dec-Feb)	(570)	(88)	(658)
Return to Owner (Dec-Feb)	(132)	(4)	(136)
Euthanasia* (Dec-Feb)	(186)	(85)	(271)
February 29, 2024	245	56	301

*Majority of Euthanasia has been for severe illness, injury or behavior issues including kennel stress.

Outcomes of not crowding (C4C)

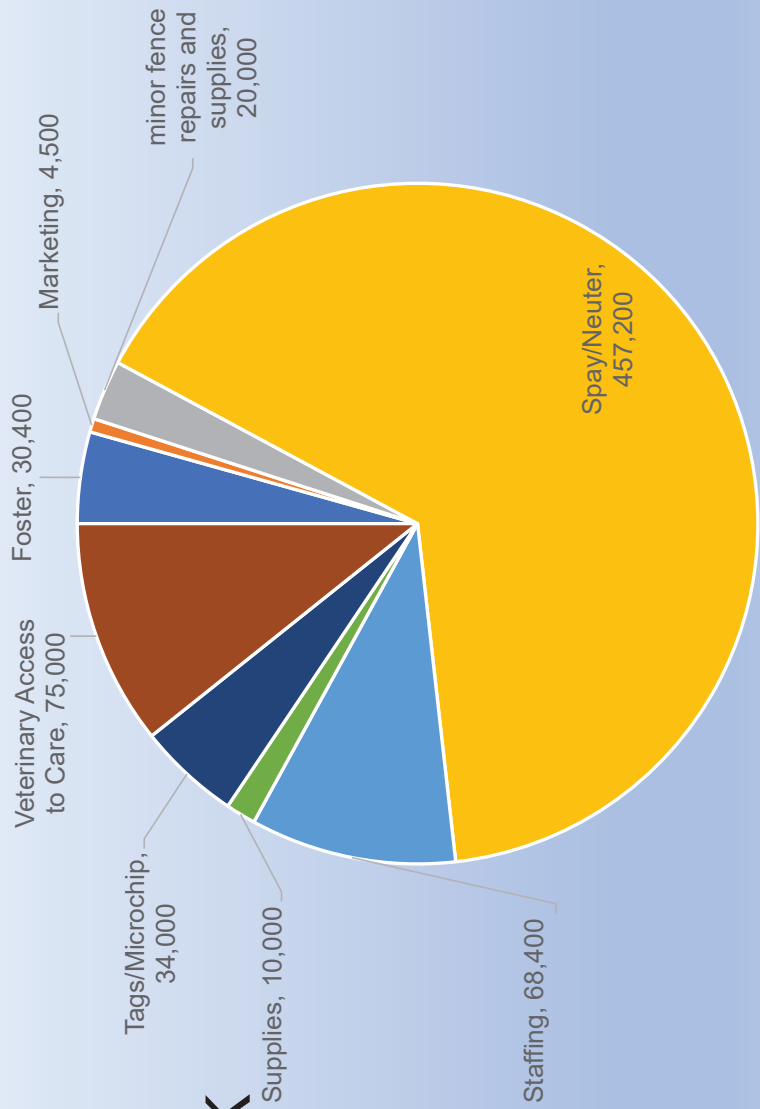
- Reduced Stress for the Animals
 - Reduced likelihood of exposure and spread of disease and
 - Reduced need for euthanasia
- Reduced risk of dog bites
- Quieter Kennels
 - Allows dogs to better cope within the shelter environment
 - Improves kennel presentation
- Reduced Stress for the Employees
- Improved staff morale and retention
- Ability to match service delivered to need
- More time to invest in reuniting lost pets with owners (the prioritized outcome)
- More community engagement and services

Goals

- To allow every animal that enters the Center, the best opportunity for a live outcome.
- By following a needs-based service model and working with community partners, help to ensure that our residents receive the assistance they request to care for their pets.
- To return lost pets home to where they are cared for.
- To support community members in easily adding a pet to their home.
- To have the resources to provide humane care to every animal who enters the Fresno Animal Center and to provide the best (most appropriate) outcome.

Grants Received

- California for All Animals
- \$5,000 Welcome Grant
- \$350,400 Balance of \$600K
- \$182,200 Animal Balance
- \$156,900 'Regreso a Casa'
- \$5,000 NACA Grant
- \$699,500 Total Grants



Foster Status as of February 29, 2024

- Working to increase Foster participation to allow animals an environment in a home rather than in kennels.
- Allows animals socialization skills that they would not receive at the shelter.

Foster Reason	Dogs	Puppies	Cats	Kittens	Total
Bottle Babies	0	0	0	2	2
Medical	2	0	0	0	2
Space	13	3	0	0	16
Total	15	3	0	2	20

Staffing

- 77 Full Time Permanent Positions Approved
 - 11 Filled Permanently
 - 10 Temporaries
 - 11 Youth Job Prep Program
 - 43 full time Limited
- 18 Recruitments Completed
 - 817 Applicants
- 1 Veterinarian Hired / 2nd Veterinarian interviews scheduled
- 95 Percent Retention Rate (Dec.1, 2023 and Feb. 29, 2024)

Volunteers

- 126 Volunteers served in:
 - Animal Balance Clinics
 - Outreach Events
 - Microchipping event
 - Walking Animals
 - Christmas Meals for Animals
 - Making Tags
 - Prepping Foster Kits
 - Prepping Support Supplies
- Implemented new Volunteer Management Software

Outreach and Marketing

- 400 Microchips Implanted during Free Microchip Drive Through
- Updated FresnoAnimalCenter.com website, continuous improvement as new resources are identified.
- Continue to grow social media following.
- Attended 59 community events since January 2023.
- Partnered with PetcoLoveLost to increase animal exposure to increase return to owner.
- Posting on local lost and found social media pages to maximize views of animals in our care.

Grants Awarded 23 at \$2,500 each

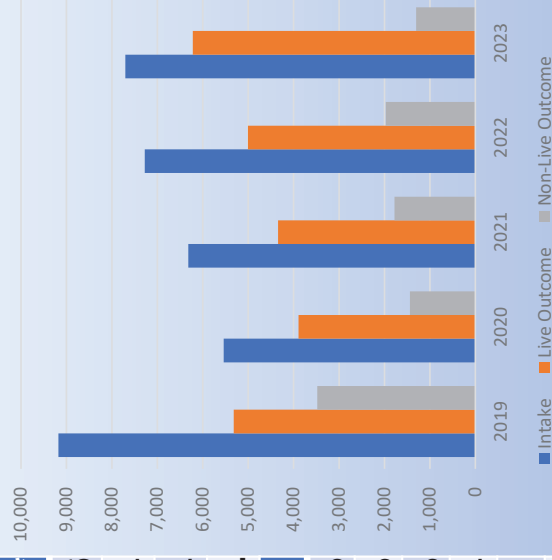
- Ally For Pets
- Animal Rescue of Fresno
- Bandit's Buddies Rescue
- Central California SPCA
- Dogwood Animal Rescue Project
- FART Foster - Adopt - Rescue - Transport
- Feral Felines of Fresno

- Fresno Bully Rescue, Inc.
- Fresno TNR
- Halo Cafe Pet Food Pantry (Halo Café Inc)
- Hella Dam Bitches n Queens Rescue Inc
- Kirkland Foundation
- Labrador Retriever Rescue of Fresno, Inc.
- Lucky Dog Rescue @ the Ranch
- Mell's Mutts

- Paw Squad559
- Sunshine Rescue Ranch
- The Cat House on the Kings
- The house of muddy paws
- Valley Animal Center
- Valley Animal Haven
- Wally Don't Bite Dog Rescue
- Westside Rescue

Historical Intake - Dogs

Intake	2019	2020	2021	2022*	2023*
Owner/Guardian Surrender ⁽¹⁾	1,409	967	1,477	1,085	326
Seized / Custody ⁽²⁾	4,019	2,329	2,227	1,233	174
Stray	3,749	2,242	2,613	4,960	7,204
Total Intake	9,177	5,538	6,317	7,278	7,704
Outcome					
Adoption	2,532	1,950	2,380	1,596	1,583
Return to Owner/Guardian	1,129	776	877	863	963
Rescue	1,658	1,167	1,086	2,546	3,673
Euthanasia	3,481	1,441	1,780	1,971	1,304
Other ⁽³⁾	377	204	194	302	181
Total Outcome	9,177	5,538	6,317	7,278	7,704
Live vs Non-Live Outcomes					
Total Live Outcomes	5,319	3,893	4,343	5,005	6,219
Total Non-Live Outcomes	3,481	1,441	1,780	1,971	1,304
Live Release Percentage ⁽⁴⁾	58%	70%	69%	69%	81%



⁽¹⁾ Owner/Guardian Surrender 2022 Total of 1085 includes CCSPCA 845, FHAS 240

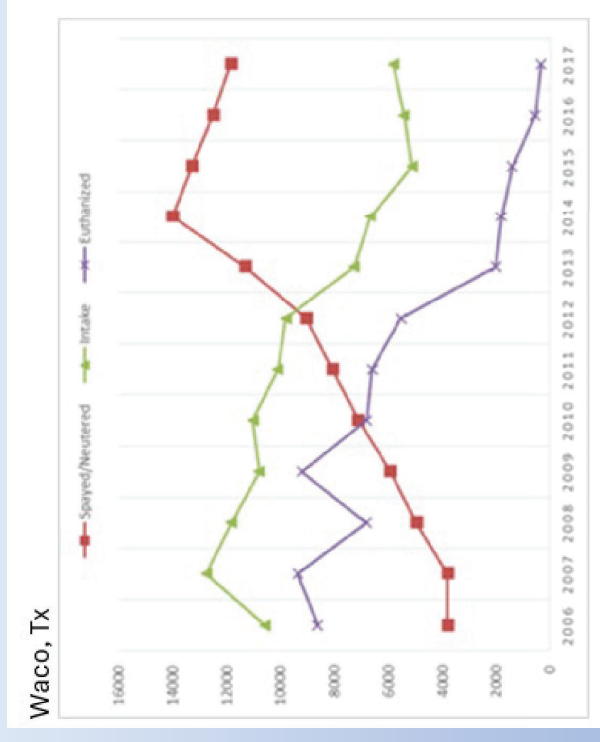
⁽²⁾ Seized Custody 2022 Total of 1233 includes CCSPCA 1196, FHAS 37

⁽³⁾ Other Category includes Administrative Missing, Died in Care, etc.

⁽⁴⁾ 90 percent Live Release is considered No-Kill

Spay/Neuter to Reduce Euthanasia

- Strong correlation between shelter intake and euthanasia rates.
- Communities with low pet sterilization rates tend to have relative high shelter intake rates.
- A report published by the Access to Veterinary Care Coalition in 2018 stated that households with income less than 138 percent of the poverty level were less likely than higher-income households to own sterilized cats and dogs

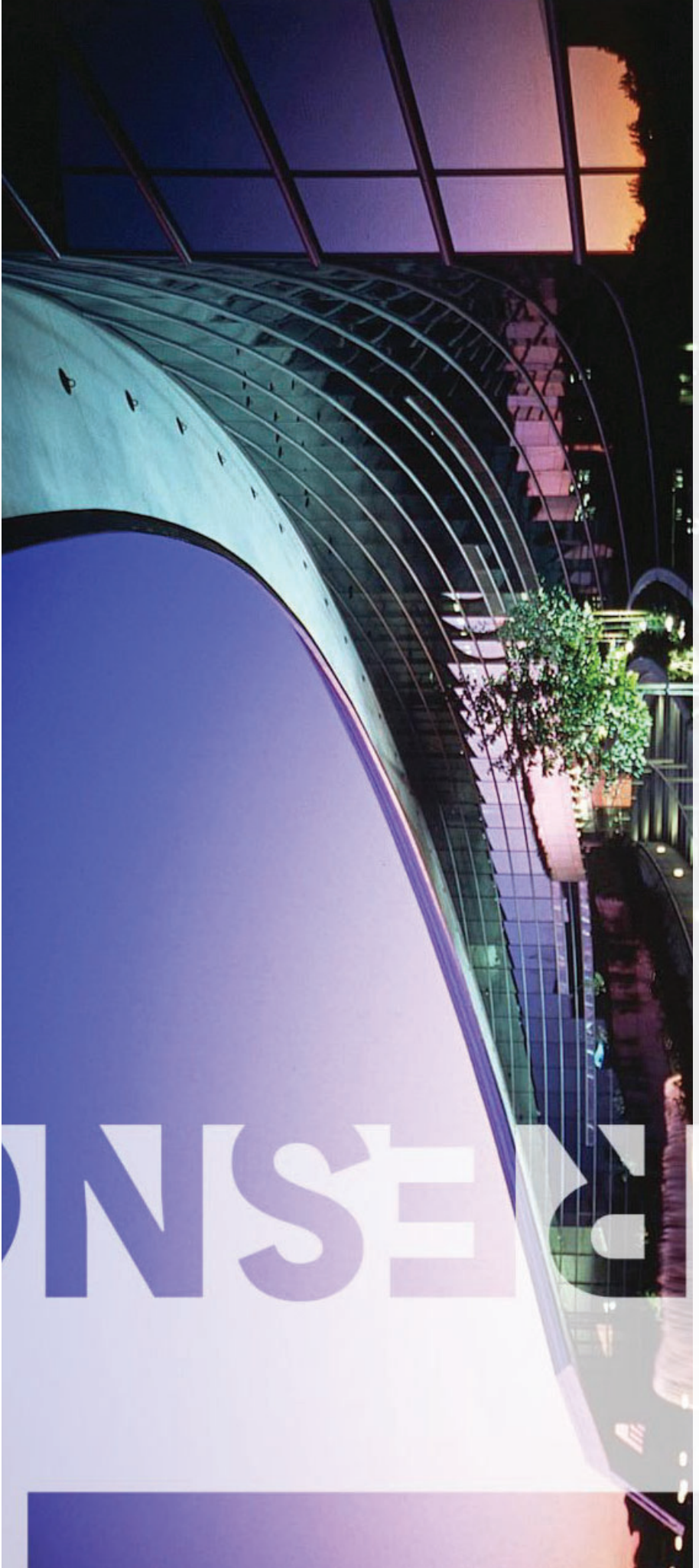


Spay Neuter Surgeries Performed

Shelter Animals	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Total
Animal Balance	183	177	33	393
SPCA	28	33	32	93
Valley Animal Center	20	42	86	148
Tulare Animal Services	0	13	14	27
Fresno Animal Center	25	78	61	164
Total Shelter Animals	256	343	226	825
Public Animals				
Local Veterinarians	41	41	42	124
Animal Balance	17	23	150	190
Total Public Animals	58	64	192	314
TOTAL ANIMALS	314	407	418	1,139

Future Spay Neuter Surgeries

- Agreements in process for low-cost vouchers with two local high volume high quality spay/neuter clinics.
- Agreements in process with California Spay Neuter
- Agreements in process with Fresno TNR
- SNIP Bus
 - 2024: April
- Animal Balance clinics transitioned to servicing Public Owned Animals
 - 2024: March, April, June, July, August, September, October, November, December
- San Francisco SPCA
 - 2024: May and working on additional
 - Grant Funds for Fresno City and County



RESEARCH

QUESTIONS