

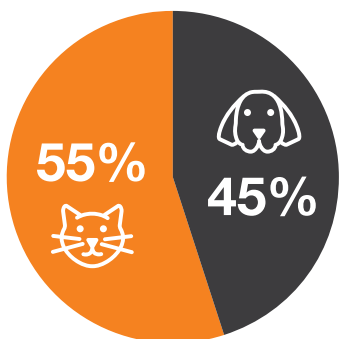
The State of U.S. Animal Sheltering

2022

National and Species Trend

Cats and dogs had significantly different trends for the first time since at least 2016. The total lifesaving gap of 378,000 in 2022, a 17.9% increase from the updated 2021 total of 321,000, was driven by increasing dog intake and stagnant dog adoption numbers. Dogs made up the entirety of the increase in lifesaving gap while cats experienced lifesaving progress.

▶ **Gap of 378,000** is 55% cats (208,000) and 45% dogs (170,000)



4.9% ▼
DECREASE

The cat lifesaving gap of **208,000** is a 4.9% decrease from 2021 and a 69.6% decrease from 2016



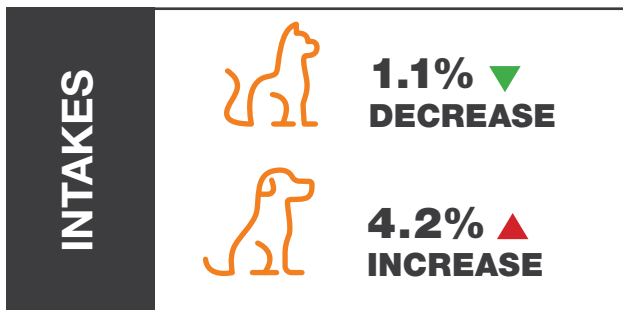
66.5% ▲
INCREASE

The dog lifesaving gap of **170,000** is a 66.5% increase from 2021 but a 50.8% decrease from 2016

▶ **4.4 MILLION ▲**

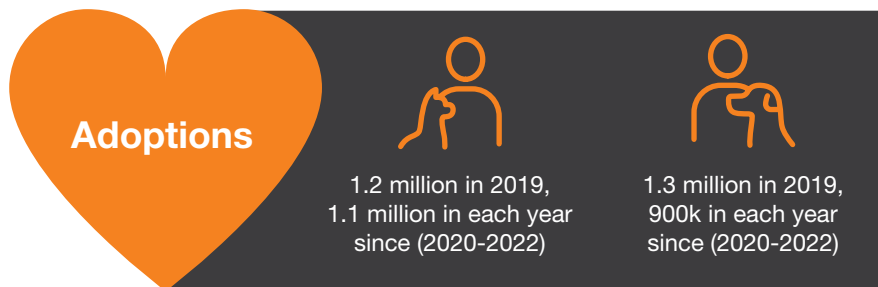
cats and dogs entered US shelters in 2022, which was a slight increase from the year prior. National intake remained 18.1% lower than it was in 2019.

The increase in dog intake was driven by strays, which comprised **49.8%** of the dog intake in 2021 and **53.6%** in 2022.



▶ **Dog adoptions** fell 27.1% from 2019 to 2020 and have remained at that level since.

Cats adoptions are slightly lower than 2019, but the drop was not as extreme as dogs

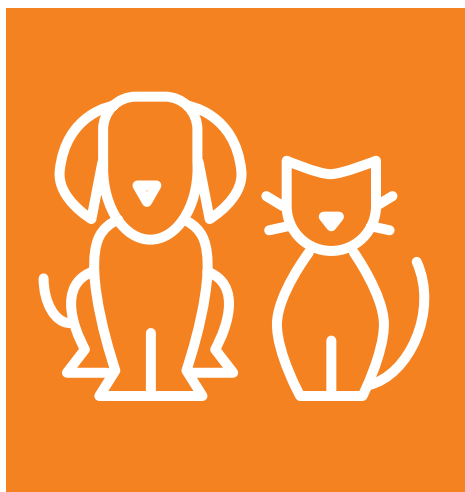


▼ 15.1%

▶ Transfers out of shelters fell by 15.1% from 2021 to 2022.

Intake and outcomes

The ways in which pets enter and leave shelters in the U.S. differ by species and highlight opportunities for improvement.



- ▶ Stray dogs and cats make up the majority of intake (54.2%)
- ▶ Adoptions are a larger driver of live outcomes for cats (58.9%) than dogs (46.3%)
- ▶ Cats are more likely to be euthanized or die in a shelter's care

Intake	Overall	Dogs	Cats
Stray at large	54.2%	53.6%	54.5%
Relinquished by owner	23.7%	22.5%	25.1%
Transferred in	11.9%	11.9%	12.2%
Other intakes	8.3%	9.5%	7.1%
Owner-intended euthanasia	1.8%	2.4%	1.1%

Live outcomes	Overall	Dogs	Cats
Adoption	52.3%	46.3%	58.9%
Returned to owner	11.3%	19.6%	2.8%
Transferred out	14.6%	16.4%	12.5%
Returned to field	3.0%	0.1%	6.1%
Other live outcome	1.7%	1.4%	2.1%

Other outcomes	Overall	Dogs	Cats
Died in care	1.8%	0.8%	2.7%
Lost in care	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Shelter euthanasia	10.5%	10.2%	10.5%
Owner-intended euthanasia	1.7%	2.2%	1.1%

Methodology: Among the 1,330 shelters that reported fully categorized 2022 data, all numbers are a share of gross intake. Note: The dog returned-to-field number is likely due to reporting errors. Dogs were not actually returned to the field.

Community differences: urban/rural and social vulnerability

Communities influence the rates at which dogs and cats enter and leave shelters in the U.S. The level at which a community is rural and socially vulnerable correlates to higher intake volumes and lifesaving gaps.

- ▶ **Intake per capita is lowest among the most urban counties** (7.8 per 1,000 population) and highest among the most rural counties (27.8 per 1,000 population).
- ▶ **Lifesaving gap per capita is lowest among the most urban counties** (0.6 per 1,000 population) and higher among all other communities (between 1.4 and 2.0).
- ▶ **Cat intake is higher relative to dogs in urban counties, but cats make up a larger proportion of the lifesaving gap in rural counties.**
 - In moderately and heavily urban counties:** Cats make up 49.2% of intake and 52.9% of the lifesaving gap.
 - In moderately and heavily rural counties:** Cats make up 46.3% of intake and 65.8% of lifesaving gap.
- ▶ **Urban counties rely more heavily on adoptions** for live outcomes (58.3% urban vs. 45.9% rural). **Rural counties rely more heavily on transferring** out pets (26.8% rural vs. 14.4% urban).
- ▶ **Social vulnerability is a significant factor in rates of intake and lifesaving gap**, impacting both rural and urban counties. Rural counties that are the most socially vulnerable have the highest per capita rates of intake and lifesaving gap by a wide margin.

Intake per 1,000	High SVI	Moderate SVI	Low SVI
Heavily Rural	32.4	25.5	26.6
Moderately Rural	25.9	22.0	17.3
Moderately Urban	20.0	17.0	13.2
Heavily Urban	10.6	7.0	6.4
Total	18.4	13.5	12.3

Lifesaving gap per 1,000	High SVI	Moderate SVI	Low SVI
Heavily Rural	3.1	0.8	0.9
Moderately Rural	3.2	2.1	0.6
Moderately Urban	2.5	1.1	0.6
Heavily Urban	1.3	0.5	0.2
Total	2.2	0.9	0.4

SVI = Social Vulnerability Index

Sources: U.S. Census data was used for designation of Urban/Rural status; CDC for Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) analyzed by categories of high (70 or higher), moderate (30-69) and low (below 30).

Sustainability of 90% save rate

Despite the reversal of national intake and lifesaving gap trends in 2021, shelters that previously met the 90% save rate benchmark overwhelmingly maintained that status.



92.5% of shelters that were at the no-kill benchmark in 2021 still had a 90% save rate in 2022 despite the tough year



Nearly all (99.5%) of shelters that had an 85%+ save rate in 2021 maintained an 85%+ save rate in 2022.



94.2% of Network Partner that were at the no-kill benchmark in 2021 still had a 90% save rate in 2022, while only 86.9% of non-Network Partners that were at the no-kill benchmark in 2021 still had a 90% save rate in 2022.



98.5% of private shelters without government contracts and 92.9% of shelters with government contracts that were at the no-kill benchmark in 2021 still had a 90% save rate in 2022; however, no kill was harder to maintain in municipal shelters, where 84.0% maintained the no kill benchmark from 2021 to 2022.