



# Proposed Department of Animal Sheltering (DAS) and Control Services Consolidation



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# Background

- Organizational Challenges
  - Organizational Review (2016)
  - Systemic issues rooted in goal conflict
- Public safety trends
- DAS/FCPD study of other jurisdictions and industry best practices
  - **The National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA)**  
"NACA believes that by unifying animal sheltering and animal control under the same leadership, agencies can foster a more comprehensive and impactful approach to animal welfare, achieve more positive outcomes, and make a lasting impact on the lives of animals and the people who care for them."

# Consolidated Model

- ACO Scope of Authority
  - Nearly the same as APPO
  - Ability to handle all CFS
- Coordination with FCPD
  - Today, FCPD assists APP with criminal investigations and that would continue
- Comparisons to other County Programs
  - APPO options

# APP Annual Calls for Service, Search Warrants, and Arrests

Year	Number of animal related calls for service	*Number of cases requiring search warrants	*Number of Custodial Arrests
2023	18,004	3	1
2022	17,845	1	0
2021	19,083	2	1

\*FCPD detectives and patrol officers currently provide support to APP for arrests and execution search warrants; therefore, the transition to ACOs would not require a procedural change.

# In 2023, Fairfax County Animal Shelter touched the lives of more than 6,400 pets.



**93%** save rate

**4,437** animals cared for



**3,857** lives saved through adoption and reunification

in-house volunteers contributed **21,388** hours, which equals **10** full-time positions



**2,985** pets served through our Pet Resource Center, including free and low-cost vet care, supplies and support



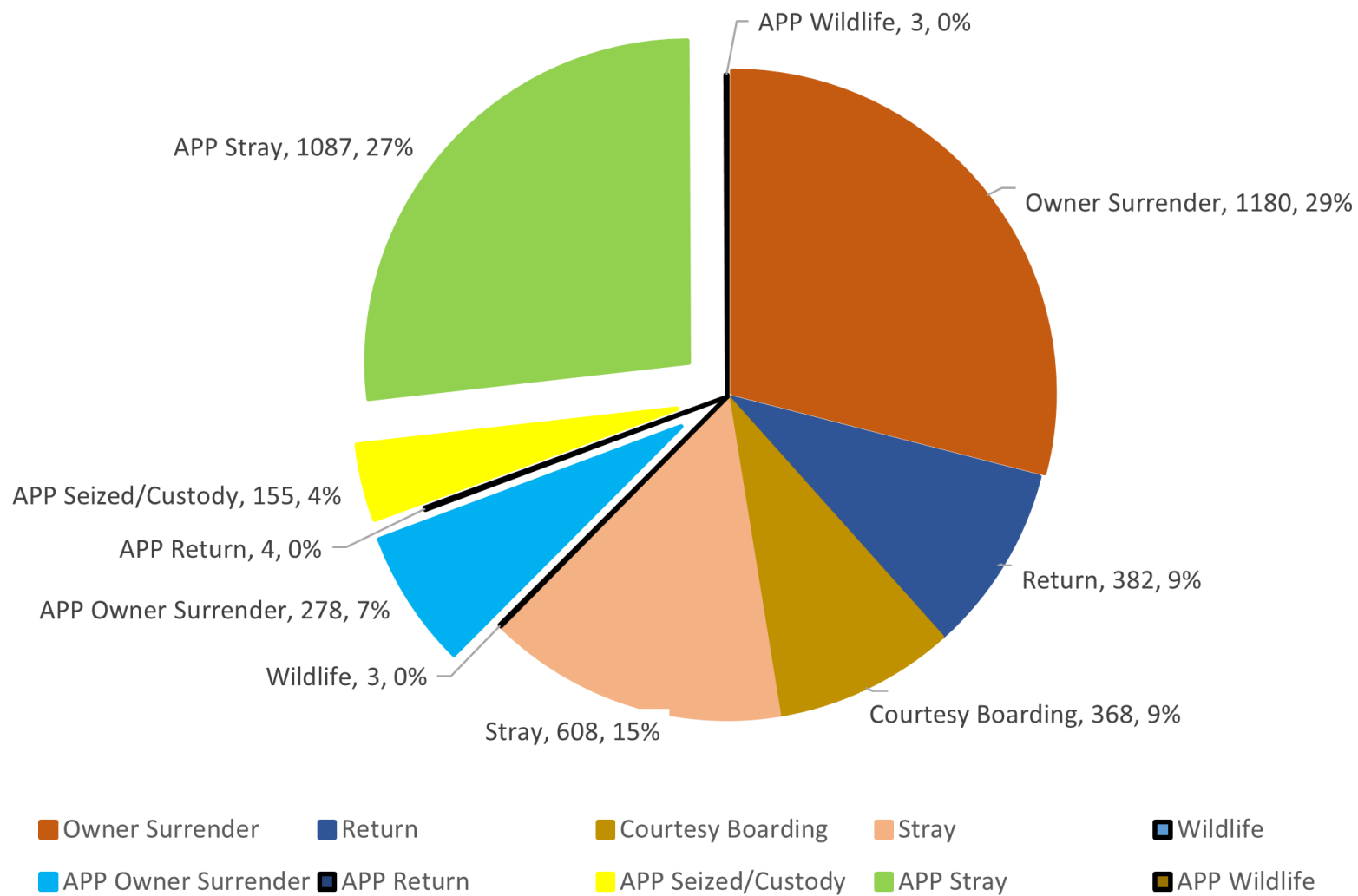
**25,016** pounds of pet food distributed to the community

**1,166** pets placed in foster homes



**630** pets received behavior and training support

### Fairfax County Shelter Intake 2023



# Public Safety

- **ACOs have full enforcement power for proper care, treatment and control of animals in Fairfax County, including:**
  - Issuing a summons, obtaining search and arrest warrants
  - Investigation of animal cruelty and neglect
  - Investigation of animal fighting
  - Investigation of animal bites
  - Response to sick, injured, or stray companion animals
  - Rabies vaccination and dog license enforcement
- Prioritize placement of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife with licensed wildlife rehabilitators
- **Most emergency calls for animal services are requests for assistance with injured, ill, orphaned or stray animals** or involve minor code violations.

# One Fairfax

The consolidated model:

- ✓ **is in alignment with** the One Fairfax Policy, considering the impact of systemic poverty and structural inequality on pet ownership,
- ✓ **results in better outcomes** for historically underserved communities, and
- ✓ **is consistent with** other County programs operated by the Community Services Board and Department of Family Services, prioritizing service provision and support.



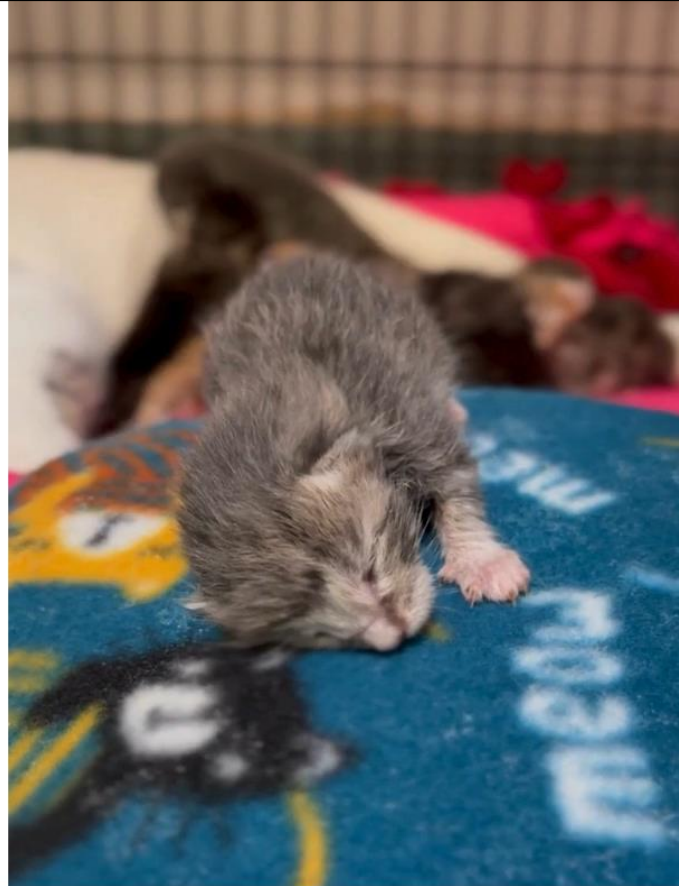
# ACO Team Structure

- Chief ACO will serve as DAS Deputy Director and provide consistency, oversee strategic and operational efficiency, and lead the ACOs in embracing industry best practices.
- The new organizational structure will create opportunities for diversification, advanced training, and growth.

# Transition & Next Steps

With BOS adoption of FY25 budget, we will:

- Assemble a transition team
  - APPO pay and retirement will be unaffected by the change
  - Survey APPOs, determine vacancies
- Hire the Chief ACO
- Evaluate future staffing requirements
- Engage community and stakeholders on changes
- Timeline: 18-24 months



**4,437 animals cared for**