



Response to Questions on the 2016 LOBs

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Relevant LOB(s): LOB #211

Question: Does the Animal Shelter track data on successful animal adoptions?

Response:

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter maintains a database, PetPoint, which tracks all animals entering the system, all medical treatments received while at the shelter, every stage or location change and disposition. The same system also records behavior notes and any history provided by previous owners or Animal Control Officers.

Through PetPoint, staff are able to track animals that are returned from an adopted home for any reason. The current best practice in animal welfare is to calculate returns in less than 30 days as adoption returns and returns after more than 30 days as owner surrenders. Research indicates that returns after 30 days are overwhelmingly due to factors in the home rather than a reflection of the success or failure of the adoption. For example, in 2015 only 165 or 5.5 percent of the 2,977 animals adopted were returned within 30 days. In addition, 257 animals were returned after 30 days for a total of 422 animals returned to the shelter. These figures indicate that the vast majority of animal adoptions are successful.

Additional detail on the reasons adopted animals were returned has been included on the following page. In addition, the 2015 yearly report submitted to the Virginia Department of Agriculture which summarizes the animals received by the shelter and the ultimate outcome of those animals has been included.

It is important to note that correlating returns and adoptions in a given year is problematic because an animal may be adopted in one year and returned to the shelter in a different year. The number of animals listed as "returns" in a given year does not necessarily reflect upon that year's adoptions and their success or lack thereof.



CY 2015 Returns:

Animals	Aggression to Animals	Aggression to People	Allergic to Animal	Behavior Issues	Bite History	Change in Lifestyle	Doesn't Like Other Pets	Escapes	Health of Animal	Health of Owner / Family	Landlord Issues	Moving	Not Enough Time	Not Housebroken / Housesoiling	Personal Problems	Too Active	Too Many Animals	Too Much Responsibility	Too Noisy	Unknown	Unrealistic Expectations	Other ¹	Total
Cat	1	7	15	15	3	2	9	1	12	7	4	6	2	10	9	0	6	2	0	1	0	4	116
Cockatiel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Cockatoo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Conure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dog	19	20	16	38	3	4	5	4	9	6	5	5	15	2	18	21	5	3	4	6	1	22	231
Domestic Rabbit	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	3	4	25
Ferret	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Finch	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Guinea Pig	1	0	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	23
Hamster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Parakeet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Parrot	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	21	28	44	53	8	12	15	8	21	18	9	17	27	13	29	22	13	6	5	10	7	36	422

¹Other includes all return reasons with 4 or less cases cited, including: Cannot Afford; Chases Animals; Death of Owner/Family; Divorce /Separation; Doesn't Like Children; Euthanasia Request; Inadequate Housing / Yard; Needs Too Much Attention; New Baby; Too Big; Too Young; Travel; Unable to Train; Unwanted; Wrong Sex; Temperament; Destructive Inside; Abandoned by Owner.



2015 Report to the State:

Received								
Species	On Hand January 1	Stray	Seized	Bite Cases	Surrendered by Owner	Received From Another Virginia Releasing Agency	Others	Total
Cats	59	343	42	48	905	70	43	1510
Dogs	60	1156	71	99	956	176	99	2617
Equine	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Hybrid Canines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Other Companion Animals	27	92	7	2	515	6	34	683
Poultry	0	6	0	0	8	0	0	14
Total	146	1597	122	149	2386	252	176	4828

Disposition									
Species	Reclaimed by Owner	Adopted	Transferred to Another Virginia Releasing Agency	Transferred by Approved Out-Of-State Facility	Died in Facility	Euthanized	Miscellaneous	On Hand December 31	Total
Cats	69	1101	34	8	22	208	0	68	1510
Dogs	994	1263	63	8	4	198	0	87	2617
Equine	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hybrid Canines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other Companion Animals	6	600	21	2	13	22	2	17	683
Poultry	0	11	2	0	1	0	0	0	14
Total	1071	2977	120	18	40	428	2	172	4828