

How Shelters Can Use Data to Save Lives

Your Presenters

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Our Agenda Today

- NFHS Metrics and Measurement Committee
- The NFHS Survey Results
- What should you track?
- The Basic Data Matrix
 - Introduction
 - Matrix Definitions



The NATIONAL FEDERATION of HUMANE SOCIETIES

Metrics & Measurement Committee

Jodi Lytle Buckman (Chair), ASPCA

Steve Putnam, NFHS

Anne Reed, Wisconsin Humane Society

Tom Van Winkle, TAILS Humane Society

Dr. Emily Weiss, ASPCA

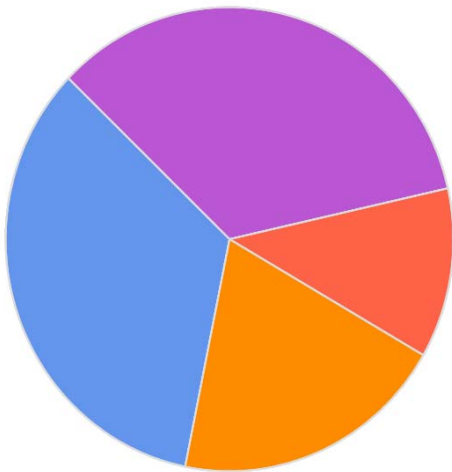
Angie Wood, Naperville Area Humane Society

www.humanefederation.org

“If you do not keep track of what you are doing how will you know if you are doing the best you can?!”



Types of Groups Responding



Government-funded shelter serving primarily stray and impounded animals	19.8%	77
Private shelter with government contract(s), serving both relinquished animals and stray/impounded animals	34.0%	132
Private shelter without government contracts, serving primarily relinquished and transferred animals	34.3%	133
We do not have a shelter building and instead use a foster home network	11.9%	46

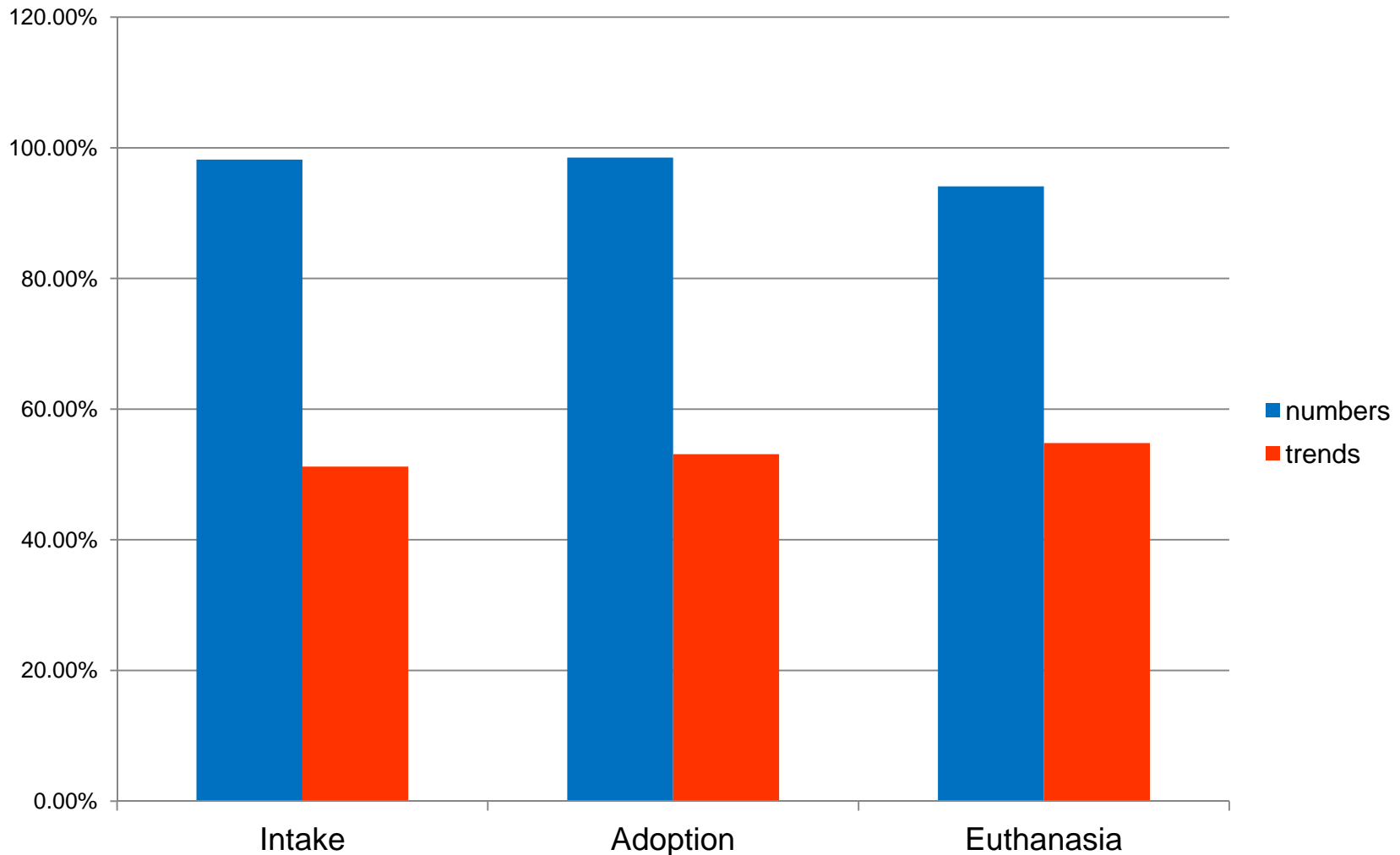
“I have learned (the hard way) it is much easier to arrive at your desired destination if you have a road map to lead you there. Data collection is a way of putting together your specific ‘road map’ that will take you to your goal quicker. Even if you ‘think’ you know the way, Data collection keeps you on the ‘main road’.”



For Those That Do Not Have a Shelter Building

- 47.2% of organizations that do not have a shelter building track euthanasia trends
- 52.9% of these organizations do not regularly track live outcome rate, save rate or similar metric
- 78.6% of these groups do not regularly track live outcome percentage
- 1 respondent of this group were able to provide information regarding their definition of owner requested euthanasia, 12 (33.3%) said that they do not track owner requested euthanasia, 23 (63.9%) provided a text response – of these text responses, 20 groups explained that they do not provide this service
- 17.1% of these groups use paper files only to track data, 36.6% use Petpoint and 46.3% use an excel spreadsheet
- None of these groups are members of the National Federation

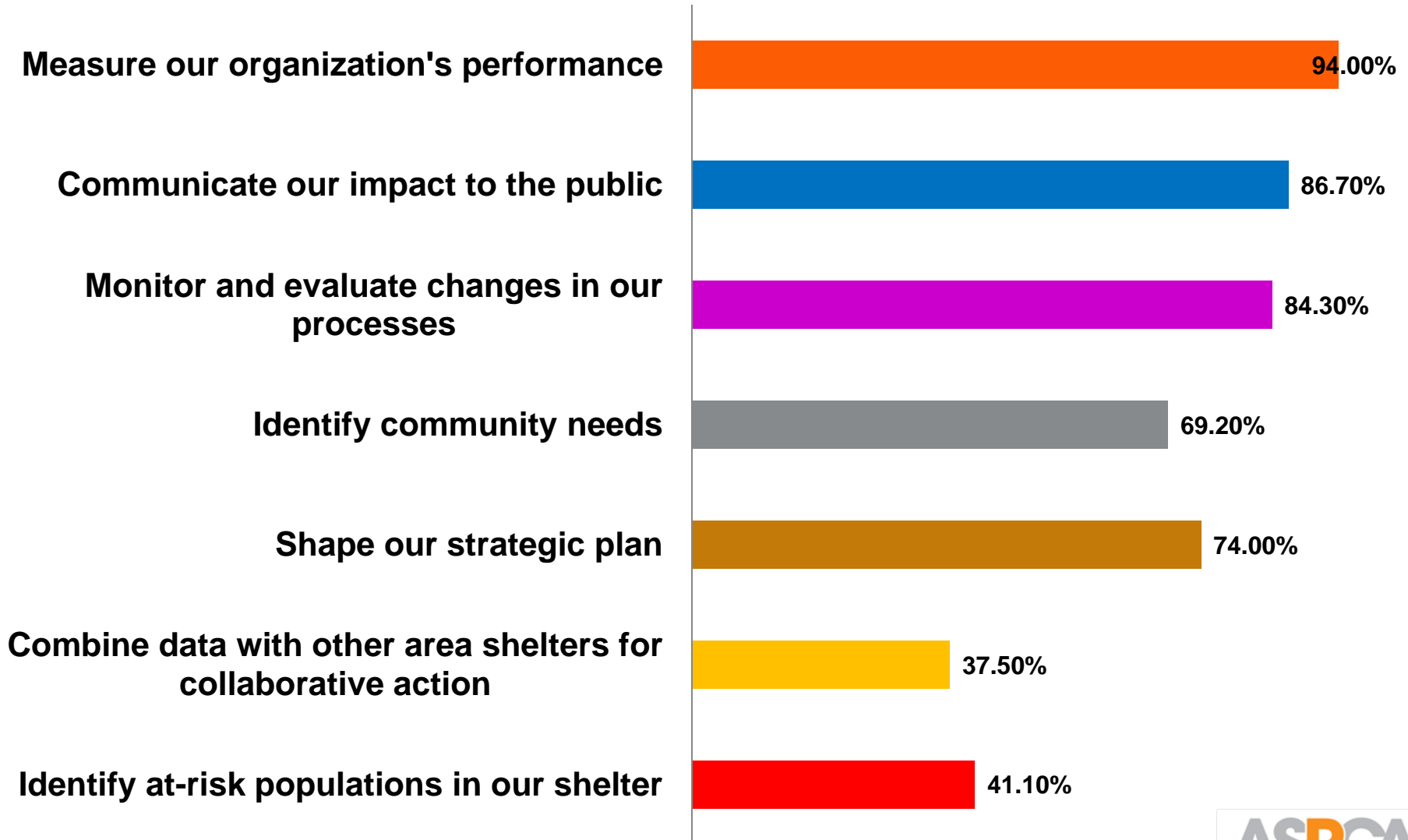
Tracking Numbers vs. Looking at Trends



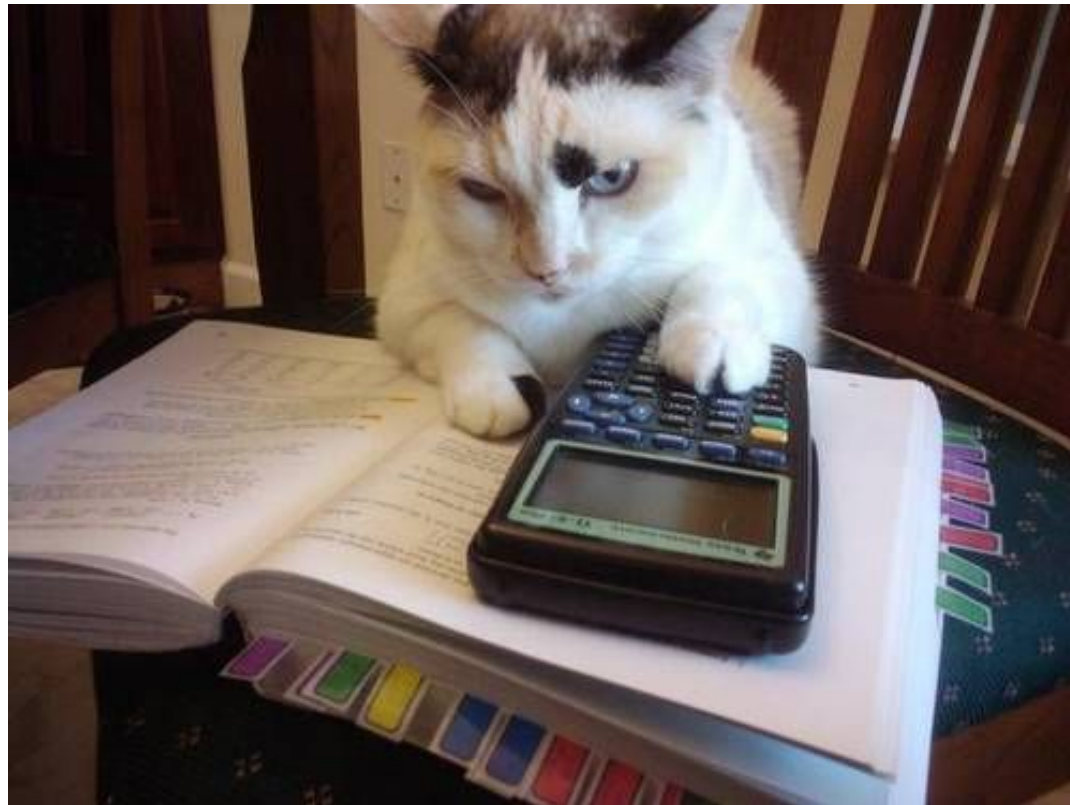
“When you start tracking the animals you rescue, you start seeing trends. When you track the trends, you notice a pattern, and it's often not good. When you can identify things like certain cats coming from a specific area are always sick, you can do something about that, which in turn helps your own organization in the long run. It's working smart, not hard.”



Our Shelter Uses Data Collection and Tracking to...



“It would be nearly impossible to receive the number of grants and opportunities that we have gotten over the years without properly tracking our intake and adoption.”



How have you used the data collected to improve your work?

Categories	Percentage	Number of responses
Increase Live Releases	38%	85
Decrease Intake	33%	74
Improve public perception – recruit	14%	32
Required by outside source (grants)	12%	27
Budgeting	7%	16
Improve medical care/disease control	5%	13
Would like to do more with data	4%	9

“It's very easy to let your daily decisions be driven by the most recent crisis or emergency that your team experienced. Effective data collection and analysis helps everyone step away from "the dance floor" and get up to "the balcony" for a bigger picture view.”



And How About Those Darn Rates...



"Just a darn minute! — Yesterday
you said that X equals **two**!"



Three Commonly Used Formulas

Save Rate

(intake minus euthanasia) divided by intake

Asilomar Live Release Rate

live outcomes divided by (all outcomes minus owner requested euthanasia)

ASPCA Live Release Rate

live outcomes divided by intake

Let's try some numbers...

Shelter Hokispokis

Intake = 1500

Live Outcomes = 500

Euthanasia = 500 (25 of which are ORE)

Calculate

Save Rate

$[\text{intake} - \text{euthanasia}] / \text{intake}$

Asilomar LRR

$\text{live outcomes} / [\text{all outcomes} - \text{ore}]$

ASPCA LRR

$\text{live outcomes} / \text{intake}$



Save Rate

$1,500 - 500 / 1,500$

(intake-euthanasia)/intake

66.6%

Asilomar LRR

$500 / 1,000 - 25$

live outcomes/(all outcomes-ORE)

51%

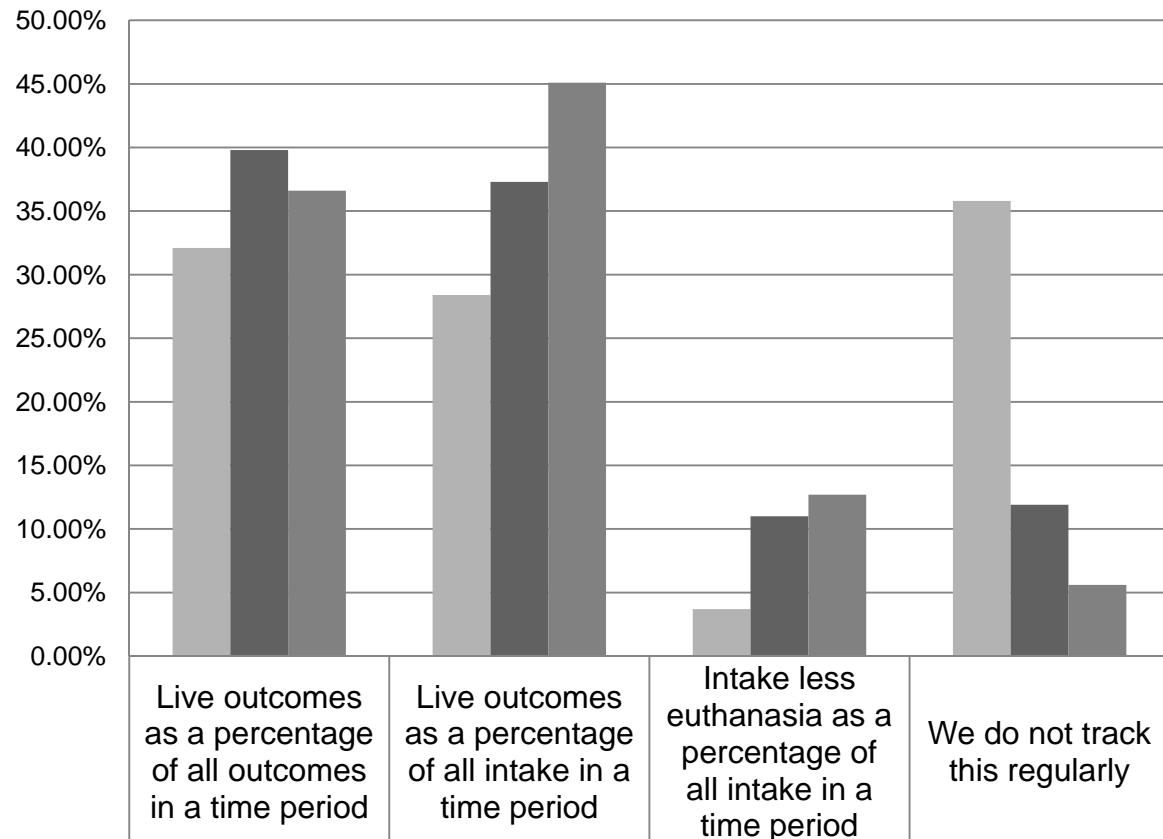
ASPCA LRR

$500 / 1,500$

live outcomes/intake

33.3%

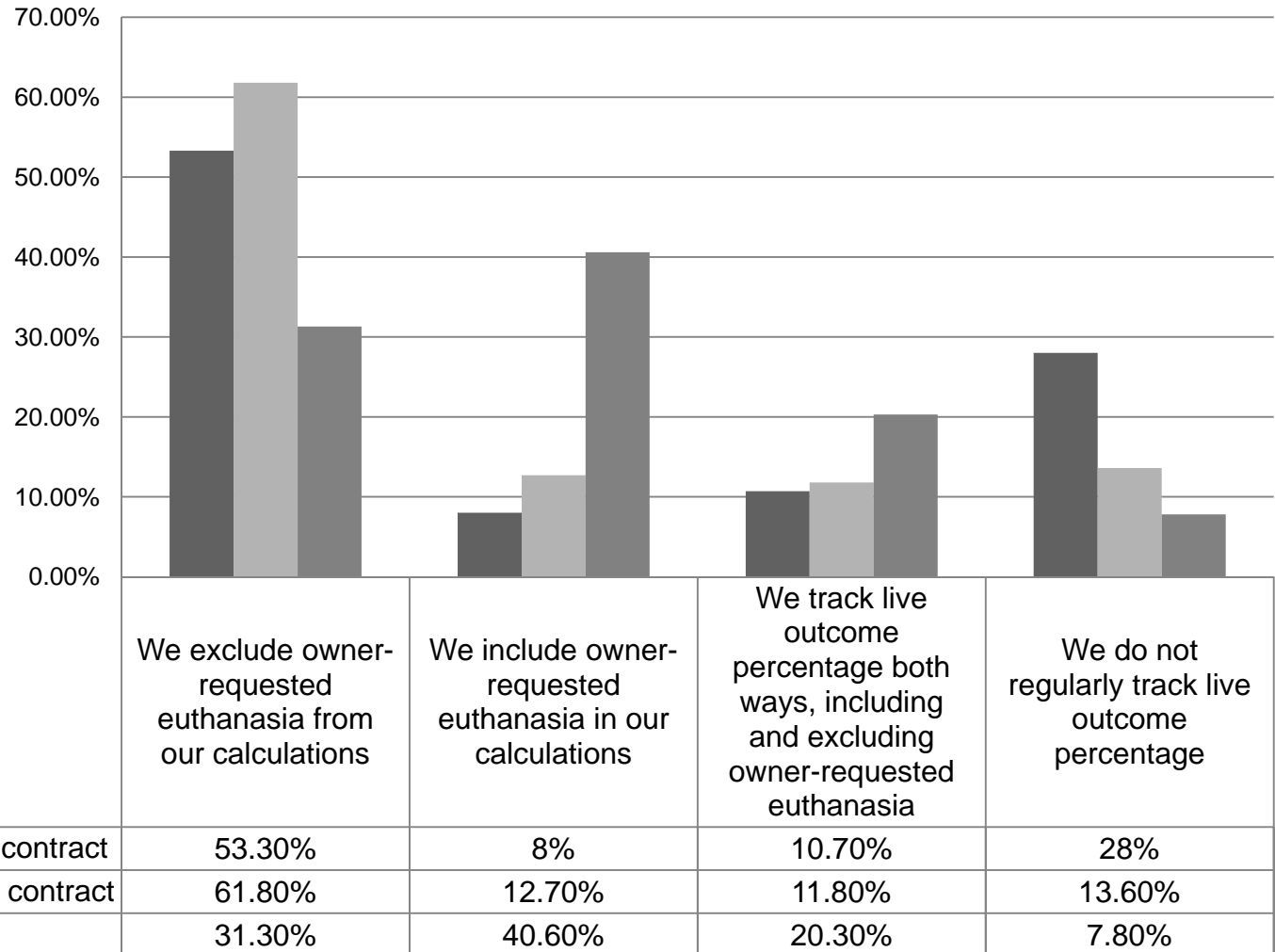
What is the primary way you calculate a lives saved rate?



■ Private Shelter w/o Govt Contract	32.10%	28.40%	3.70%	35.80%
■ Private shelter with Govt Contract	39.80%	37.30%	11.00%	11.90%
■ Govt Funded Shelter	36.60%	45.10%	12.70%	5.60%

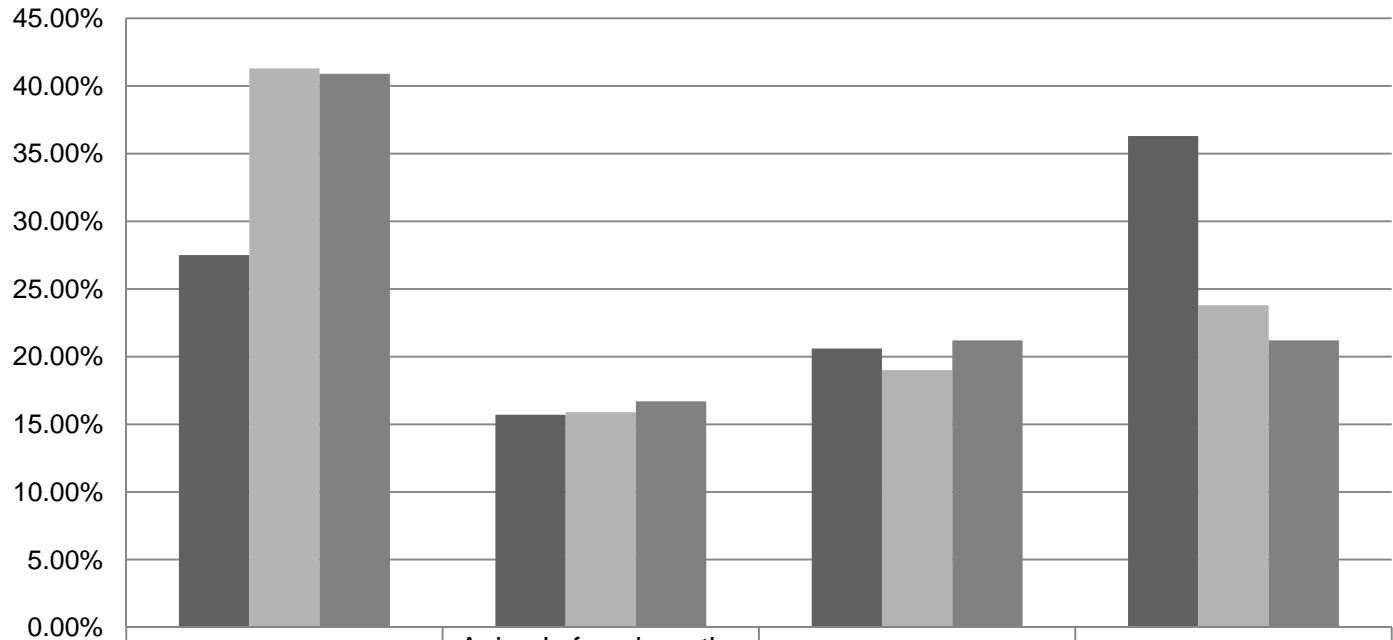


How do you treat Owner Request Euthanasia in your formula?





If you separately track ORE in any way, how do you define it?



■ Private shelter w/o Govt contract	27.50%	15.70%	20.60%	36.30%
■ Private shelter with Govt contract	41.30%	15.90%	19%	23.80%
■ Govt funded shelter	40.90%	16.70%	21.20%	21.20%

Basic Data Matrix: Owner Intended Euthanasia

Only animals whose owner brought the pet to the shelter for a euthanasia service belong in the ORE or OIE category



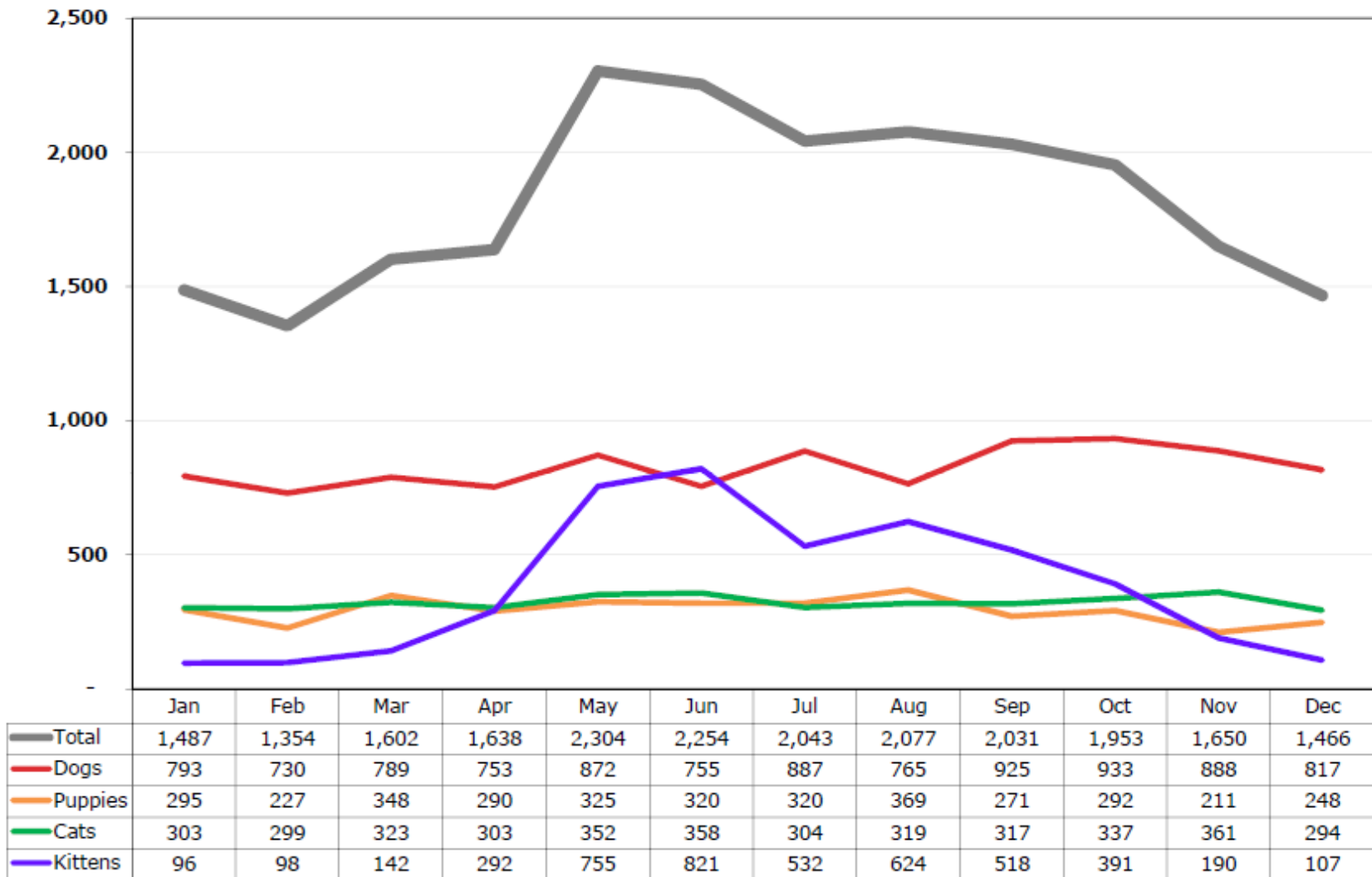
What Rates and Trends Should You Track?



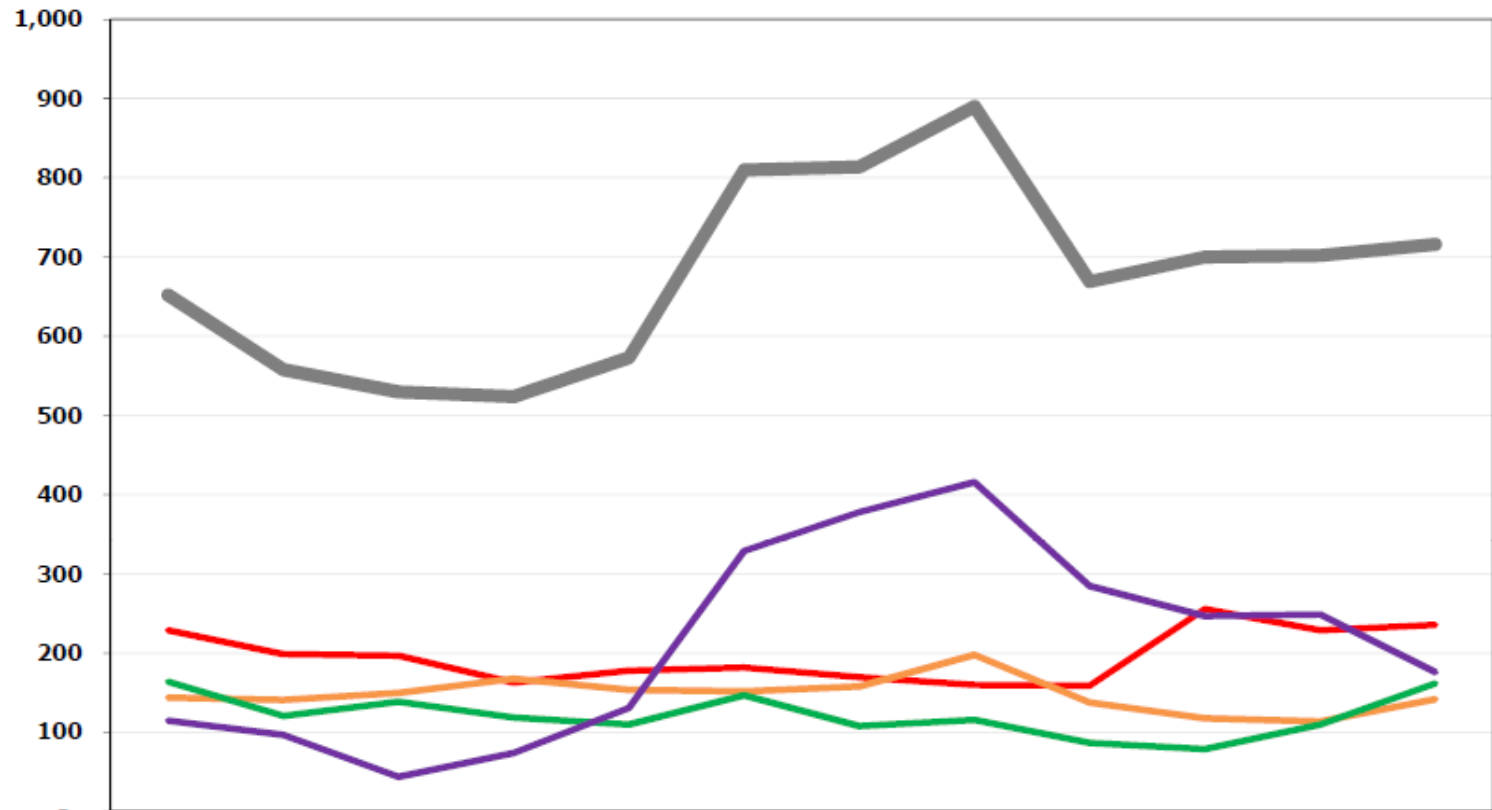
What Rates and Trends Should You Track?

- Intake by species and age group
- Adoptions and adoption rate by species and age group
- RTO and RTO rate by species and age group
- Euthanasia and euth rate by species and age group
- All other live release types by species and age group
- S/N Status at intake
- Intake and outcome by breed/breed mix
- Length of stay in each stage of sheltering
- And more...

Intake by Species and Age Group

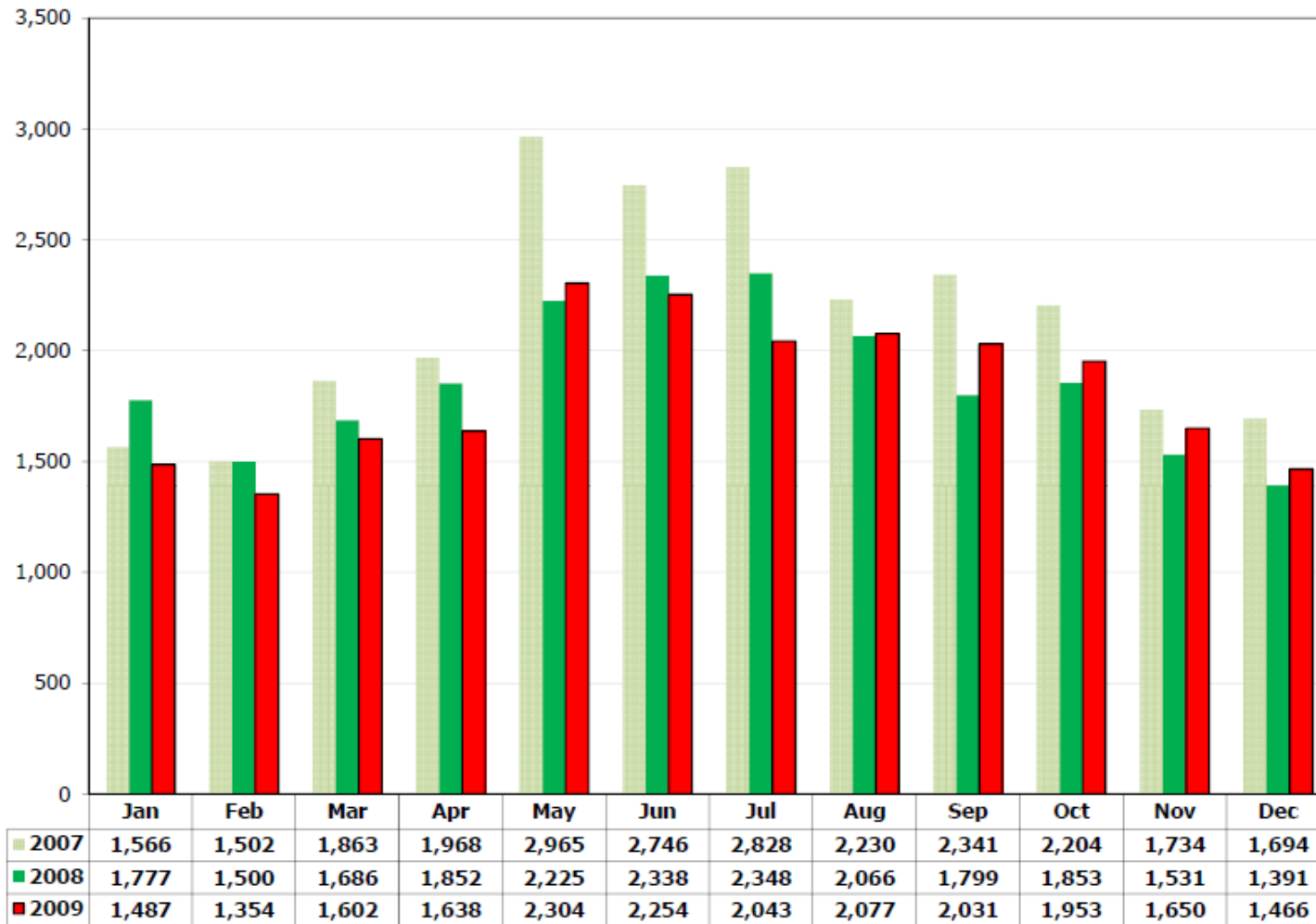


Adoptions by Species and Age Group

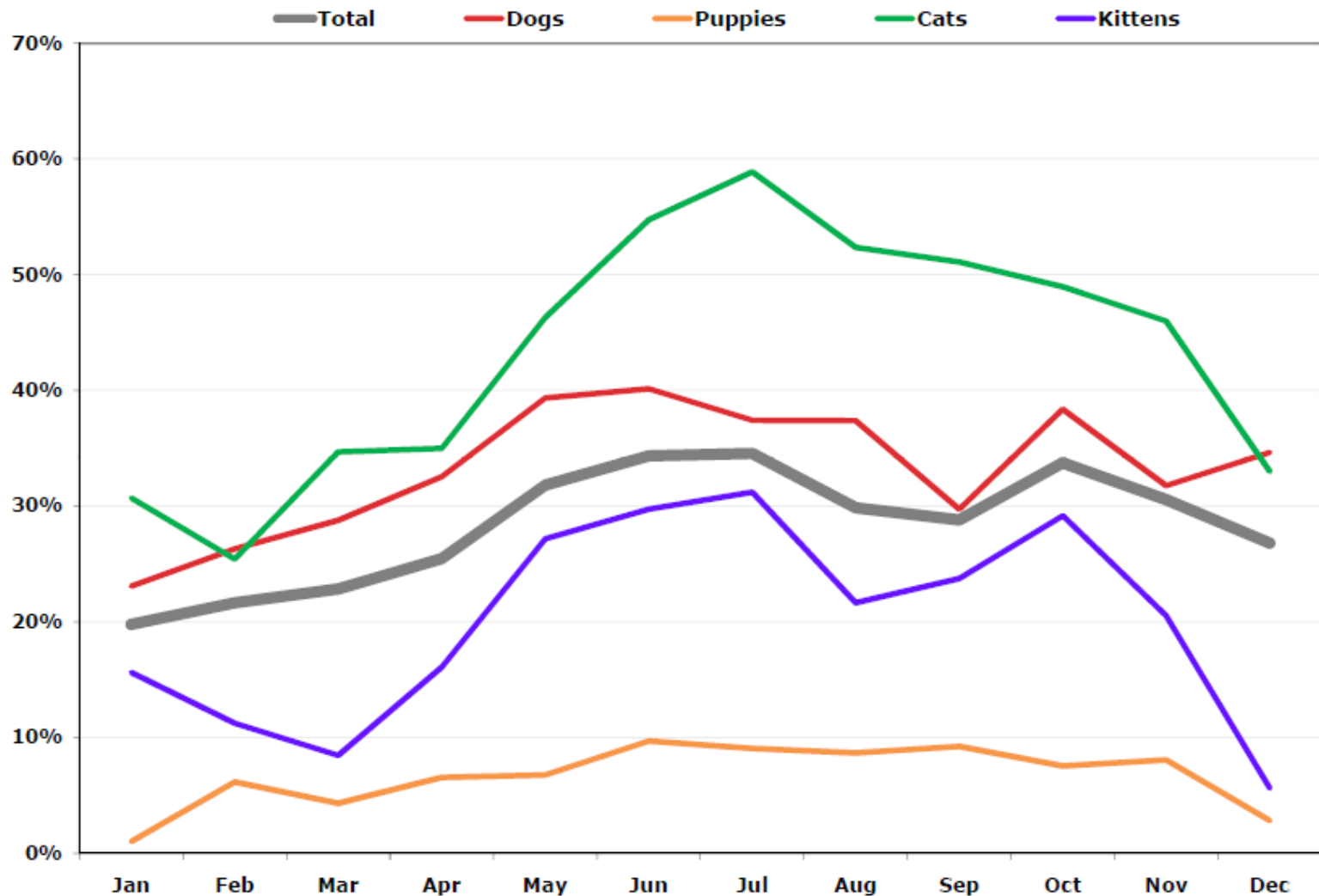


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dogs	229	199	197	163	178	182	170	160	159	256	229	236
Puppies	144	141	150	168	154	152	158	198	138	118	114	142
Cats	164	121	139	119	110	147	108	116	87	79	110	162
Kittens	115	97	44	74	131	329	378	416	285	247	249	176
Total	652	558	530	524	573	810	814	890	669	700	702	716

Intake Year Over Year



Euthanasia as a Percentage of Intake



“A commitment to data-based decision making demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement. We owe it to the animals to make the best decisions we can with the best data we have available.”



The Basic Data Matrix

- Designed to serve as a tool for basic data collection
- Accepted by many as a national norm
- Only collects data, doesn't analyze data
- Can be used for basic data collection, or as a tool to “roll-up” more complex data sets

What to Know. . .

- Basic definitions are included
- Tracks by species and age
- Reports “owner intended euthanasia”
- Tracks live admissions only
- What is possession
- “Others” aren’t there

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HUMANE SOCIETIES
BASIC ANIMAL STATS MATRIX
(vtr 10-2013)

The NFHS Basic Matrix (fillable) is posted on ASPCApro.org

BASIC DATA MATRIX (Oct 2013)

Species By Age		Canine		Feline		Total
		Adult	Up to 5 months	Adult	Up to 5 months	
A	Beginning Animal Count (date:)					0
Live Intake						
B	Stray/At Large					0
C	Relinquished by Owner					0
D	Owner Intended Euthanasia					0
E	Transferred in from Agency					0
F	Other Intakes					0
G	TOTAL LIVE INTAKE	0	0	0	0	0
Outcomes						
H	Adoption					0
I	Returned to Owner					0
J	Transferred to another Agency					0
K	Returned to Field	N/A	N/A			0
L	Other Live Outcome					0
M	Subtotal: Live Outcomes	0	0	0	0	0
N	Died in Care					0
O	Lost in Care					0
P	Shelter Euthanasia					0
Q	Owner Intended Euthanasia					0
R	Subtotal: Other Outcomes	0	0	0	0	0
S	TOTAL OUTCOMES	0	0	0	0	0
T	Ending Shelter Count (date:)					0

Age at Intake
Should include animals in shelter and animals admitted but currently in foster care or other offsite facility.

Admitted through animal control/stated to be unowned or freeroaming

Admitted by owner

Limited to this definition: Admission of pets whose owner brought the pet to the shelter with the INTENT of requesting euthanasia

An admission from another agency - for adoption, large scale seizure support, etc.

Impounds for cruelty cases & protective custody. Also, pets born while in care, and others types of admission not captured above.

Sum of B, C, D, E and F

Final adoptions only, having permanently left the Agency's possession. For example, it does NOT include animals placed in foster care or on overnight "trial" stays.

Stray or Owner Relinquished animal returned to their owner

Transferred out of the Agency's possession to another entity

Animals included in Intake, altered and returned to stray capture location as free-roaming felines

Barn cat programs, etc.

Sum of H, I, J, K and L

Animals who die while sheltered

Animals whose outcome is unknown (may have escaped the shelter, outcome was not recorded and unknown)

All euthanasia other than that performed by the definition below as Owner Intended Euthanasia.

Limited to this definition: Euthanasia of pets whose owner brought the pet to the shelter with the INTENT of utilizing euthanasia services

Sum of N, O, P and Q

Sum of M and R

Should include animals in shelter and animals admitted but currently in foster care or offsite facility

Note: To check your statistics and calculations: A plus G should equal S plus T

Total A + Total G =

0

Total S + Total T =

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L	Other Live Outcome					0	Barn cat programs, etc
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N	Died in Care					0	Animals who die while sheltered
O	Lost in Care					0	Animals whose outcome is unknown (may have escaped the shelter, outcome was not recorded and unknown)
P	Shelter Euthanasia					0	All euthanasia other than that performed by the definition below as Owner Intended Euthanasia.
Q	Owner Intended Euthanasia					0	Limited to this definition: Euthanasia of pets whose owner brought the pet to the shelter with the INTENT of utilizing euthanasia services
R	Subtotal: Other Outcomes	0	0	0	0	0	Sum of N, O, P and Q
S	TOTAL OUTCOMES	0	0	0	0	0	Sum of M and R
T	Ending Shelter Count (date:)					0	Should include animals in shelter and animals admitted but currently in foster care or offsite facility

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What are your questions?

