



# Monthly Report on License Agreements 2022 - 09 September

This report is in agreement with the terms outlined in Section 8.4 of the License Agreement between the City of Austin and Austin Pets Alive! with a focus on APA!’s impact on Travis county through our partnership with Austin Animal Center.

Summary: Austin Pets Alive! (APA!) continues to be the city of Austin’s largest partner in lifesaving. APA! takes animals that have medical and behavioral issues that require a higher cost per animal than the average healthy animal in care. APA! focuses on these animals in an effort to have a measurable effect on the live release rate at AAC.

**APA! Intakes transferred from AAC:**

175 animals were transferred out of AAC to rescue partners in September. 79 of those were transferred to APA!, and another 6 were born in APA!’s care to pregnant animals sent from AAC. Additionally, APA! took in 30 pets directly from owners within Travis county through the PASS program that may have otherwise entered AAC.

AAC - Cat Behavior	3
AAC - Cat Bottle Baby	31
AAC - Cat Maternity	1
AAC - Cat Medical	22
AAC - Cat Space	0
AAC - Dog Behavior Large/Medium	4
AAC - Dog Behavior Small	0
AAC - Dog Bottle Baby	0
AAC - Dog Maternity	6
AAC - Dog Medical	11
AAC - Dog Parvo Transfer	1
AAC - Dog Space Large/Medium	0
AAC - Dog Space Small	0
<b>TOTAL DIRECT</b>	<b>79</b>
AAC - Cat BIC	6
AAC - Dog BIC	0
<b>TOTAL AAC</b>	<b>85</b>
Travis - PASS	30
Travis - Parvo OS/PASS	0
<b>TOTAL TRAVIS</b>	<b>115</b>

**Operations Comparison**

APA and AAC serve the community in tandem and our combined efforts impact the live release rate across the city, county and surrounding areas. For September 2022:

	<u>Intake</u>	<u>S/N at the Shelter</u>	<u>In Foster*</u>	<u>Adoptions</u>
AAC	715	410	276	679
APA!	935	516	1,029	776
TOTAL	1,650	926	1,305	1,455

*\*Single day snapshot 10/6/22*

**APA! Intakes from AAC % of Prior Fiscal Year-To-Date**

AAC Dog and Cat Intake FY21	10,327
APA! Intake from AAC FY22	1,433*
APA! Intake from Travis County	459
APA! Intake as a % of prior FY AAC Intake	13.88%
APA! Travis Intake as a % of PFY AAC Intake	4.44%

*\*Number does not include BIC (211) or PASS/Travis Cty*

**APA! Intakes from AAC % of Current Fiscal Year-To-Date**

AAC Dog and Cat Intake	11,990
APA! Intake from AAC	1,433*
APA! Intake from Travis County	459
APA! Intake as a % of CFY AAC Intake	12%
APA! Travis Intake as a % of CFY AAC Intake	3.8%

*\*Number does not include BIC (211) or PASS/Travis Cty*

**Survival Rates of AAC Medical Transfer Pets**

This looks at the outcomes of pets transferred from AAC to APA! as medical cases (including parvo/panleuk and bottle babies) in the month prior to the month of the report. These are pets that AAC veterinarians deemed they were unable to treat and may otherwise have been euthanized.

Total Medical Cases Transferred (Aug 2022)	105
Adopted	48
In Foster	42
In Shelter	2
Deceased	13
Survival Rate	87.6%

**APA! Animal Matrix and LRR for ALL Animals From Shelter Animals Count  
September 2022**

	Canine		Feline		
<b>Beginning Animal Count</b>	<b>1009</b>		<b>1011</b>		
September 1, 2022					
	Adult	Up to 5 Months	Adult	Up to 5 Months	Total
<b>LIVE INTAKE</b>					
Stray	0	0	0	4	4
Relinquished by Owner	55	23	44	22	144
Owner Intended Euthanasia	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred in from Agency	167	167	148	305	787
Other Intakes	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL LIVE INTAKE</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>935</b>
	Adult	Up to 5 Months	Adult	Up to 5 Months	Total
<b>OUTCOMES</b>					
Adoption	173	137	181	285	776
Returned to Owner	2	1	0	0	3
Transferred to Another Agency	61	33	13	3	110
Returned to Field	0	0	0	0	0
Other Live Outcome	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL LIVE OUTCOME</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>889</b>
Died in Care	6	15	1	10	32
Lost in Care	0	0	1	0	1
Shelter Euthanasia	4	11	7	1	23
Owner Intended Euthanasia	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL OF OTHER OUTCOMES</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTCOMES</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>945</b>
<b>END ANIMAL COUNT</b>	<b>979</b>		<b>1029</b>		
September 30, 2022					
<b>LIVE RELEASE RATE</b>	<b>91.87%</b>		<b>96.02%</b>		<b>94.07%</b>

**APA! Animal Matrix and LRR for ALL Animals From Shelter Animals Count  
Fiscal Year 2022 (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022)**

	Canine		Feline		
<b>Beginning Animal Count</b>	<b>1263</b>		<b>1459</b>		
October 1, 2021					
	Adult	Up to 5 Months	Adult	Up to 5 Months	Total
<b>LIVE INTAKE</b>					
Stray	1	0	9	14	24
Relinquished by Owner	726	414	607	321	2068
Owner Intended Euthanasia	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred in from Agency	1943	2136	1715	3189	8983
Other Intakes	128	309	99	254	790
<b>TOTAL LIVE INTAKE</b>	<b>2798</b>	<b>2859</b>	<b>2430</b>	<b>3778</b>	<b>11865</b>
	Adult	Up to 5 Months	Adult	Up to 5 Months	Total
<b>OUTCOMES</b>					
Adoption	2802	1760	2813	3020	10395
Returned to Owner	32	16	4	7	59
Transferred to Another Agency	580	173	167	132	1052
Returned to Field	0	0	0	0	0
Other Live Outcome	0	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL LIVE OUTCOME</b>	<b>3414</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>2984</b>	<b>3159</b>	<b>11507</b>
Died in Care	31	169	50	220	470
Lost in Care	5	0	12	0	17
Shelter Euthanasia	41	86	80	15	222
Owner Intended Euthanasia	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL OF OTHER OUTCOMES</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>709</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTCOMES</b>	<b>3491</b>	<b>2205</b>	<b>3126</b>	<b>3394</b>	<b>12216</b>
<b>END ANIMAL COUNT</b>	<b>979</b>		<b>1029</b>		
September 30, 2022					
<b>LIVE RELEASE RATE</b>	<b>94.17%</b>		<b>94.22%</b>		<b>94.20%</b>

## **Follow-up to September presentation by Dr. Jefferson**

### **High level summary:**

Animal welfare organizations tend to gravitate towards the rationale that existed 20-30 years ago in every city in America, namely that there are not enough families wanting to adopt pets, so the kindest thing we can do with pets in shelters is euthanize them. That landscape has dramatically changed with information being released, with increasing frequency, from top animal welfare and research organizations across the country. The research clearly shows that there are plenty of homes for pets, including in Austin, and that shelters employing business-like activities regarding marketing and customer service can find a home for every pet in their care and beyond.

When the city shelter operates around the anecdotal, unevidenced, belief that there are not enough homes in a city that has a 95% live release ordinance, warehousing will inevitably result. I would hope that this information can help the commission move towards conversations and solutions that are in line with the evidence-based belief that there are plenty of homes for all sheltered pets. That shifts the work towards driving hard work to match homes to shelter pets and inevitably will result in all pets placed in homes year over year.

***In short: there is no shortage of homes wanting pets (including in Austin), and shelters need to use that fact to inform lifesaving decision-making in accordance with Austin's No Kill values while developing new solutions to better connect pets with the people who want them. I, as the President and CEO of Austin Pets Alive!, a 25 year resident of Austin and a recognized leader in animal sheltering nationally, hope to see the commission support Austin Animal Center in realizing the very attainable and evidence based goals of 95% live release, zero space crises and increased local adoptions and foster home usage by tracking data that aligns actions to goals (such as the number of local adoptions should equal X% of animals taken in every month or the number of big adult dogs going into foster homes should equal the number of big adult dogs entering the center every month).***

### **Studies:**

**Pet Supply and Demand in the US-** Dr. Andrew Rowan, Dr. Sue Neal, Dr. Kevin Horecka- to be published late 2022/early 2023

- Preliminary results indicate that Texas shelters can only supply 25% of the pets that are acquired every year into homes in Texas.
- Preliminary results indicate that shelter pets that are perceived to be more challenging to adopt, such as large breed dogs and senior animals, have a higher success rate (10% and 25% respectively) for adoption when advertised by their original owner on platforms such as Rehome.com than when entering a shelter. This may be due to shelters not giving enough information about how a pet lives in a home or not giving more challenged pets enough time.
- **Key Takeaway:** Texas as a whole is not "overpopulated" with pets. More rural communities have a higher intake per capita than large metropolitan cities that have more adopters and fewer sheltered pets. As a whole, TX has four times more adopters than sheltered pets.

**HABRI-Petsmart Charities Dog Supply and Demand Presentation** from Chicago Summit 2022 (attached)

- Shows 6M gap between demand and supply in animal welfare organizations across the US.
- 49% of people who did not get a pet from the source they intended, wished they had gotten them from a shelter or rescue group.
- Shows that acquisition from animal welfare organizations has dropped from nearly 40% pre-pandemic to about 20% post pandemic, suggesting that while animal welfare organizations have become inaccessible post-COVID, due to decreased open hours, decreased customer service, and less marketing, breeders (the largest growth category) have turned to online sales and fast delivery.
- Also shows that adopters/acquirers have not decreased year over year.

- **Key Takeaway:** most people want to adopt shelter animals. There are many times more adopters than sheltered pets. Other sources of pets are getting smarter about connecting pets and people. Shelters should be proactive to keep filling homes with sheltered pets.

**Travis County Adoption Capacity Analysis**- Harvard Student, Rachel Moon, and Dr. Kevin Horecka (attached)

- Concludes that in the “lowest extreme case” of dog acquisition in Austin, where only a portion of pet owners who have lost a pet due to death will acquire a new one and no new dog owners appear in Travis County, there were more than enough homes in Austin/Travis County for the dogs in both shelters (APA! and AAC) in 2019.
- This study has not been redone to determine “reasonable case” numbers but other national studies have been conducted in the meantime that show that “the lowest extreme case” is very far off of reality. Other studies point to a number of potential adopters that is many magnitudes higher.
- **Key Takeaway:** in the worst possible case scenario (which is not likely to ever happen), Austin has enough adopters for all sheltered pets.

**Sources of Pets in Austin, Texas: A Pilot Study of the Pet Acquisition Questionnaire** - Sloane M. Hawes, Josephine Kerrigan, Tess Hupe and Kevin N. Morris, Institute of the Human Animal Connection (IHAC) 2019

- Findings revealed that pet ownership may be much more common in the city of Austin, relative to national data, with 83% currently owning a pet.
- An overwhelming majority, 95% of study participants, indicated they would be interested in adopting a future pet from an animal shelter or rescue organization.
- 21% adopted their current pet from a local shelter in Austin
- **Key takeaway:** Austin is outperforming other cities when it comes to the intention of pet adoption from shelters

**AdoptaPet Supply and Demand Presentation\***- April Huntsman, Adoptapet.com (attached)

- Top three breeds typed in and searched in [adoptapet.com](http://adoptapet.com) website are chihuahuas, german shepherds and pitbulls
- \*Not in the presentation but shared verbally in a Chicago Animal Welfare Supply/Demand Summit (hosted by Petsmart Charities) by a representative of Adoptapet: pets in foster homes have more views than pets in shelters. The assumption is that the foster home takes better photos (better backdrop, better lighting, less stress) than a shelter can.

**Key takeaway:** adopters want the dogs that animal welfare organizations anecdotally believe they do not. This means that we have to correct whatever is happening between the search for a pet and the conversion to adoption. That points to the need for a heavy emphasis on customer service and marketing.

**Petfinder.com Supply and Demand search data tool**- will be released at end of September for organizational accounts

- When this was being demonstrated for me by PetFinder so that our team could play with the platform before it fully launches, we looked up the number of searches in Austin for pets. It was 7,000 searches for dogs and cats IN AUSTIN during the week before the demo.
- **Key Takeaway:** there are thousands more people trying to interface with pets who are up for adoption. If we are not seeing huge numbers of adoptions, we need to do a deep dive into why people are not adopting our shelter pets. Again, this points to investing in marketing, customer service and online adoption support.

**American Veterinary Medical Association Pet Owner Statistics** and common sense calculation

*Web address: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/reports-statistics/us-pet-ownership-statistics>*

- In 2018, American Pets Alive! reached out to the AVMA to see if they would release the paywalled pet ownership by region information on their website to help shelters estimate the number of possible adopters in their counties.
- Using their calculation, anyone can calculate that Travis County has:

- 500,000 households (approximately from census)
- $500,000 \times .586 = 293,000$  pet-owning households
- $293,000$  pet owning households  $\times 1.6$  pets per household =  $468,900$  pets
- Common sense: if the average lifespan is 10 years, we can assume that **46,890 pets will need to be replaced with new pets.**
- That does not include people moving to Austin which increases the number of adopters or those who travel to Austin to adopt.
- **Key Takeaway:** there are more than enough homes becoming available in Travis County every year. It is incumbent on shelters to market and employ good customer service in order to fill as many of those homes as possible with shelter pets.

#### **HABRI/Petco DEI Adoption Study** - TBD release date

- At the Animal Welfare Administrators Association Conference in June 2022, HABRI and Petco Love shared preliminary results of the study they conducted around DEI and shelter adoptions.
- 1 in 5 nonwhite pet owners had been unsuccessful in acquiring a pet from another source (most often an animal shelter) than where they eventually acquired one.
- 22% of black pet parents have had a bad experience at an animal shelter
- 21% of black pet parents trying to adopt said they felt discriminated against due to race/ethnicity
- **Key Takeaway:** before assuming no one wants the pets in the shelter, a focused effort needs to be made to welcome nonwhite adopters and train staff on inclusivity and equity.

#### Initial results from **Travis County Community Values Survey**- release date end of 2022

- Survey of Travis County residents using a firm that randomly selects survey takers to prevent biased sampling and ensures statistically relevant responses come from each zip code, council district, race, age, gender and income bracket, which means the results can be reliably extrapolated to represent the entire Travis County community.
- 22% adopted a pet from a rescue or shelter in the last 12 months (translates to a whopping 110,000 pets across Travis County population!)
- The majority believe that pets in the shelter deserve shelter funded emergency care for behavioral and medical conditions and also deserve care for non emergency behavioral and medical conditions.
- The majority believe that no pet should be put to sleep when there are space or resource concerns in the shelter
- The majority believe that shelters should ensure that sheltered pets are placed in homes rather than euthanized (unless truly at end of life or has caused significant damage in the community)
- The majority believe that pets should be placed in foster homes instead of kennels while being “sheltered”
- Almost all believe that tax payer funds should be used to exercise shelter pets at least 1-4 times per day
- The majority believe that tax payer funds should be used to behaviorally train dogs in shelters at least 1-4 times per day
- **Key Takeaways:**
  - Our community expects us, the animal welfare professionals, to find ways to help animals survive and thrive through their shelter stay
    - We need to stop thinking about how to dispose of animals but start advocating for better care no matter how many there are in the shelter system
    - We need to move the vast majority of sheltered pets to foster homes
  - Our community is adopting pets at a higher rate than other cities
    - If they are not adopting from our shelters, it is incumbent on us to figure out how to connect them to our pets