

Definition of Terms

Adoption: Animals are released to new homes through a signed contract agreeing to have the animal sterilized and vaccinated for rabies.

Adoption Returns: An animal is adopted and then returned to the shelter.

After-hour calls: Calls received and completed after normal business hours.

Animal returned to the field: Animals are picked up by an animal control officer and then taken home rather than brought to the shelter.

Barking: Complaint of a dog barking for several hours, without provocation or reason.

Community service hours: Number of court-ordered community service hours performed.

Cruelty Investigation: An investigation performed to determine if an animal has been mistreated or abused.

DOA (Dead on Arrival): Animals that arrive at the shelter are deceased.

Euthanasia: The act of “mercy” killing, sick, injured, or unwanted animals in a shelter.

Age- An animal too young for adoption, or too old to be safely placed.

Aggression- An animal displaying fractious or potentially threatening behavior.

Behavior- An animal that displays traits that prevent it from being properly contained or extremely destructive. E.g. Jumps fence, barks excessively, anxiety disorders.

Feral- Any undomesticated animal.

Injured- An animal with broken bones, punctured / perforated organs, or large, open wounds.

Medical- An animal with a non-communicable disease such as heartworm or organ failure.

Sick- An animal with a communicable disease that cannot be properly housed away from other animals without potentially spreading the disease to them such as Parvovirus or distemper.

Space- The lack of cages or kennels in the shelter.

Wildlife- Any non-domesticated animal.

Fees collected: Funds are collected either from adoption fees, microchipping, vaccination, or reclamation fees.

Food donation: Animal food is given to citizens who request it due to the inability to provide food for themselves.

Fosters: An animal placed in temporary custody until ready for adoption.

Intake: Animals admitted to the animal shelter. These include animals surrendered by the general public, picked up by an animal control officer, and animals born at the shelter.

Reclaimed: Animals returned to their owners from the shelter.

Transfers: Animals are sent to a rescue group, humane society, or another shelter.

Low-cost vaccination: Vaccinations are given at a steeply discounted rate to provide access to people with a lower income.

Microchip: A small implant done under the skin to achieve permanent identification of an animal.

Multi-pet permits: Inspections and investigations are performed to be allowed to own more than four (4) animals within city limits.

Off-site adoption: An adoption event at an offsite location such as a city event, or PetSmart-type location.

Owner surrender: An animal willingly surrenders to the shelter by their owner.

Phone calls: Any incoming telephone calls to the shelter.

Rabies: A disease naturally occurring in the wild that primarily affects bats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks but can be passed onto domesticated animals as well as humans and is fatal if not detected early.

Stray and at large: An animal not confined to its' owner's property.

Total animals handled (intake): The raw number of animals brought to the shelter.

Trap request: A request put in to borrow a trap to trap a feral, stray, or wild animal.

Volunteer hours: Number of hours donated by registered volunteers.