

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HUMANE SOCIETIES
BASIC ANIMAL STATS MATRIX
(vrs 6_13_2011)

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR THE BASIC DATA MATRIX

Introduction to the Basic Matrix:

This basic matrix was designed to serve as a tool for basic data collection. It is a simple matrix containing what many (including Asilomar, ASPCA, National Federation of PetSmart Charities and HSUS) have agreed are the minimum data points (along with definitions) an organization should gather. Whether organizations already gather the basics, this matrix should facilitate the roll up or merging of data at the local, regional or national level by providing a common framework. This matrix does not calculate rates but is rather simply a tool for data collection.

Tracking by Species and Age:

The risks associated with being an adult dog, puppy, adult cat or kitten (or neonate of any kind) in a shelter environment will vary a great deal. To help shelters assess populations of animals, this basic animal stats matrix includes a break out by species and age. If tracking statistics broken out by species and age is beyond the capabilities of a shelter, a shelter would be a place to begin. This document defines puppy and kitten as under 5 months of age (see below: Determining Age). Again – given the differing level of a neonate category for both dogs and cats can also be very informative.

Determining Age:

This basic matrix utilizes 5 months as the break point between puppy/kitten and adult. At or near 5 months of age there are changes in the teeth which can help guide categorization of the animal. For cats, at 4-5 months of age permanent canines, premolars and molars are coming in (all in by 6 months of age). For dogs, at 5-7 months of age molars are coming in (all in by 7 months of age). Source: "How to . . . series" from Animal Sheltering, http://www.animalsheltering.org/resources/magazine/may_june contact the National Federation of Humane Societies for a copy of the document.

Beginning and Ending Shelter Counts:

These numbers help frame the population of the animals sheltered and cared for by the organization. We are recommending that a shelter do a walk through – physically count the organization, and not forgetting to count those animals who have been admitted but who are not currently within the shelter (foster care, in the care of a veterinarian, etc.).

Defining Owner Requested Euthanasia:

Some shelters offer pet euthanasia to the public as a service whose cost may be subsidized and therefore more affordable than local veterinary clinics, thus ensuring euthanasia should be recorded as "at the request of the owner", or not, is the subject of much discussion.

For the purposes of this document, we are choosing to define owner INTENDED euthanasia as the euthanasia of a pet whose owner brought the pet to the shelter specifically for that service – it was their intent before arriving.

Any other definition of "owner requested" euthanasia leaves much up to interpretation and therefore a great deal of variation among organizations and their reporting. This definition helps to ensure consistent application and record keeping.

Live Admissions Only

For the purposes of this matrix we are tracking LIVE admissions only, i.e. animals who are alive when they come into an agency's possession. Animals who are dead at the time of admission are a data point to track, but that information is not tracked by this matrix.

What is Possession?

"Adoption" and "Transferred to another Agency" both make reference to possession. The primary concept here is one of ownership. For example, in foster care, the animal is adopted or transferred to another Agency, possession is now with the new owner, or with another Agency.

Where are the "Others"?

This basic data matrix focuses on canines and felines. Many organizations also provide extraordinary services for other pets (pocket pets, rabbits, ferrets) and animals captured here.

Why a Basic Matrix?

This basic matrix was designed to serve as a tool for data collection. It is a simple matrix containing what many have agreed are the minimum data points an organization should gather. This basic matrix - we hope organizations will gather AT LEAST this data, or if an organization already gathers a great deal of data, that they will consider rolling up (if individual agencies are interested) data collection at a local, regional or national level, which would allow participating agencies to benchmark their work against other organizations. This matrix does not reflect any preference for the variety of live release rates used in animal sheltering and welfare. Most rates, other than full Asilomar welfare rates, are not able to be calculated from the data points included.

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BASIC DATA MATRIX

Species By Age		Canine		Feline		Total
		Adult	Up to 5 months	Adult	Up to 5 months	
A	Beginning Animal Count (date: 05/01/2018)	45	4	21	7	77
Intake						
B	Stray/At Large	213	58	51	125	447
C	Relinquished by Owner	55	9	31	41	136
D	Owner Requested Euthanasia	15	0	5	0	20
E	Transferred in from Agency	0	0	0	0	0
F	Other Intakes	21	9	3	0	33
G	TOTAL INTAKE	304	76	90	166	636
Outcomes						
H	Adoption	82	23	21	31	157
I	Returned to Owner	120	5	2	0	127
J	Transferred to another Agency	49	34	16	26	125
K	Other Live Outcome	0	0	0	0	0
L	TOTAL LIVE OUTCOMES	233	87	40	146	496
M	Died in Care	0	0	1	0	1
N	Lost in Care (Physical Inventory Adjustments)	0	0	0	0	0
O	Shelter Euthanasia	22	0	18	11	51
P	Owner Requested Euthanasia	13	0	5	1	19
R	TOTAL OUTCOMES	304	87	64	159	567
Q	Ending Shelter Count (date: 5/31/2018)	85	32	58	21	196
	SAVE RATE:	92.44%	100.00%	77.65%	93.33%	91.57%