

Colorado 2017 PACFA statistics
and
No Kill Colorado Methods

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Introduction

PACFA releases statistics every year for rescue and shelter activity. They are usually released by mid-year. 2017 statistics were released in August 2017. 2018 statewide stats will not be available until the middle of 2018.

With over 250 organizations (shelters, sanctuaries and rescues) reporting, PACFA statistics has given us a clear view of the state of homeless pet outcomes in the state for 2017. Although PACFA also tracks other species, this document will only address cats and dogs for 2017 in the graphical analysis of throughout. The term shelter system refers to all organizations whether physical shelters or not as they provide the combined effort on saving homeless pets.

PACFA statistics in Colorado are best measurement of shelter and rescue lifesaving performance from an annual view as well from an overall state view.

They are not perfect. Shelters and rescues have some difficulty getting to the precise numbers of animals entering and leaving the shelter. Although these statistics are generally accurate statewide, accuracy of individual organizations vary. But the statewide statistics have an estimated +/-1% variance on accuracy. For individual organizations, it can be higher. Most organizations have good to perfect accuracy.

Also, there are multiple ways to crunch these numbers and methods vary on how to do so. By default, we use what we call the RAW method. Counting each animal in and each animal out. The most standard method is more forgiving. This is called the Asilomar Accords. You can see the details of these Accords here:

<http://www.shelteranimalscount.org/docs/default-source/DataResources/2004aaccords5.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Although the accords provided some useful consistency to shelter statistics, it left out or did not anticipate the dramatic changes that have occurred in the past decade. For instance, cats and dogs that “are under the age of eight weeks and are not likely to become ‘healthy’ or ‘treatable,’” are considered “untreatable” which has been proved in many facilities to not be true. Also, they disregard Owner Requested Euthanasia (ORE) in their Live Release Rate(LRR) which can be abused statistically.

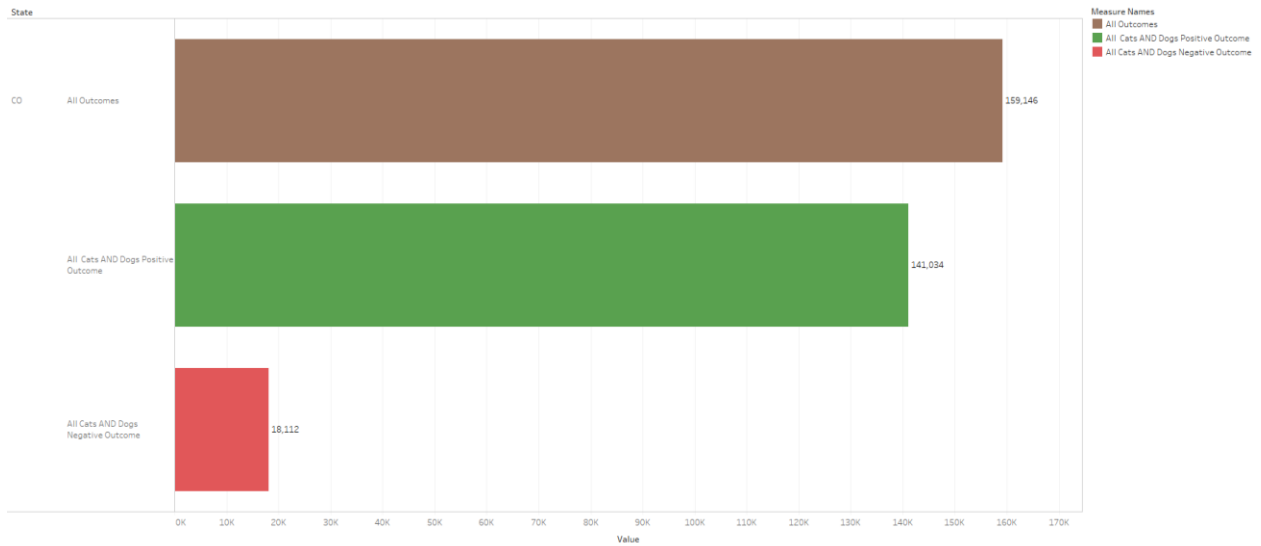
We will use both for some comparison reasons to clarify the numbers and LRR. But RAW is the default if not named.

Raw:

When using Raw, we look at all outcomes as the total number of animals handled by the organization.

In 2017, there were 159,146 total outcomes (positive and Negative). Of these 141,034 (88.62%) of ALL dogs and cats entering the shelters system had positive outcomes. That is unfortunately slightly down from 2016 (89.32%).

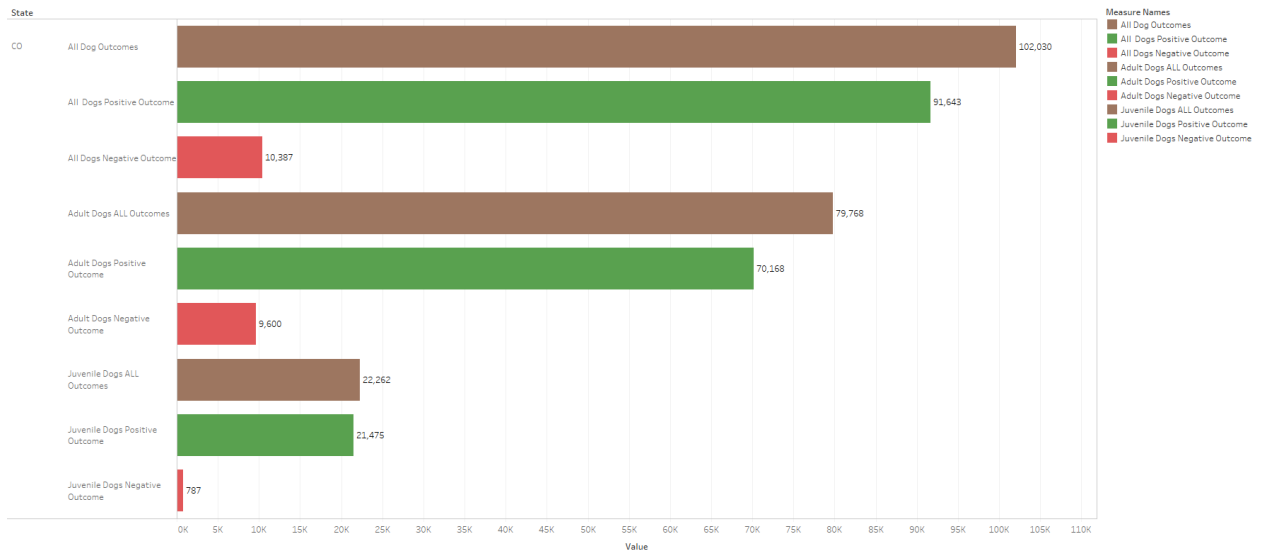
All Outcomes RAW None



All Outcomes, All Cats AND Dogs Positive Outcome and All Cats AND Dogs Negative Outcome for each State. Color shows details about All Outcomes, All Cats AND Dogs Positive Outcome and All Cats AND Dogs Negative Outcome. The data is filtered on County and Type. The County filter keeps 54 members. The Type filter keeps Rescue, Sanctuary, Sanituary and Shelter. The view is filtered on State, which keeps CO.

102,030 Dog outcomes produced 91,643 positive outcomes. A save rate of (89.82%), also down from 2015 (90.61%)

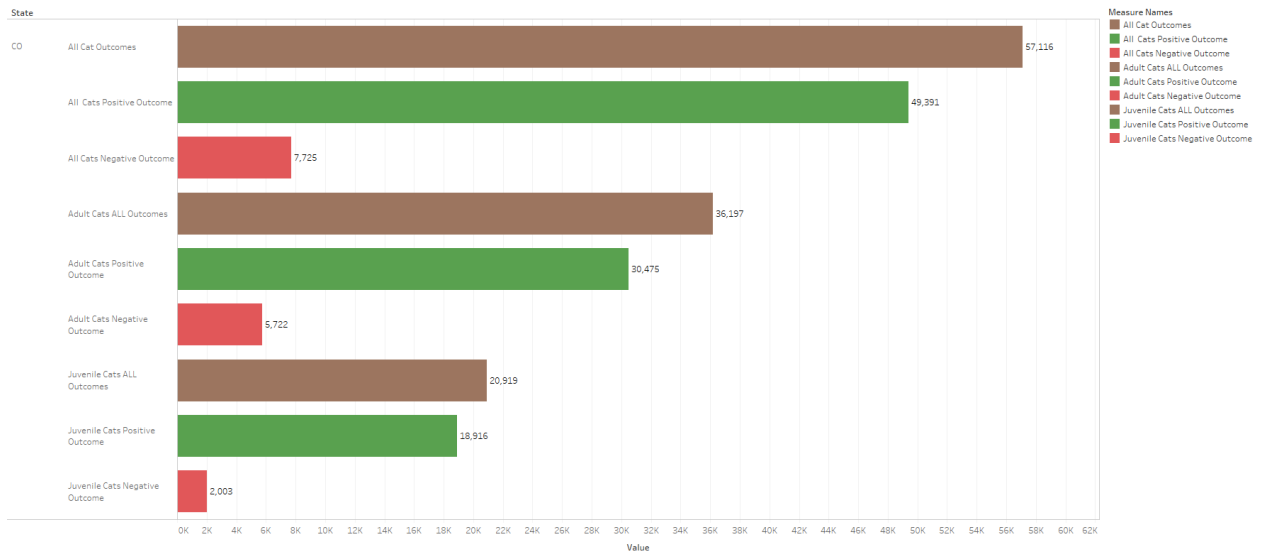
RAW Dog Outcomes 2 Blondes All Breed Rescue, 4 Paws 4 Life Rescue, 9 Lives Rescue and 271 more



All Dog Outcomes, All Dogs Positive Outcome, All Dogs Negative Outcome, Adult Dogs ALL Outcomes, Adult Dogs Positive Outcome, Adult Dogs Negative Outcome, Juvenile Dogs ALL Outcomes, Juvenile Dogs Positive Outcome and Juvenile Dogs Negative Outcome for each State. Color shows details about All Dog Outcomes, All Dogs Positive Outcome, All Dogs Negative Outcome, Adult Dogs ALL Outcomes, Adult Dogs Positive Outcome, Adult Dogs Negative Outcome, Juvenile Dogs ALL Outcomes, Juvenile Dogs Positive Outcome and Juvenile Dogs Negative Outcome. The data is filtered on County, Facility Name, and Type. The County filter has multiple members selected. The Facility Name filter keeps 274 of 274 members. The Type filter keeps Rescue, Sanctuary, Sanituary and Shelter. The view is filtered on State, which keeps CO.

57,116 Cat outcomes produced 48,391 positive outcomes. A save rate of (84.72%), also down from 2016 (87.08%)

RAW Cat Outcomes 2 Blondes All Breed Rescue, 4 Paws 4 Life Rescue, 9 Lives Rescue and 271 more

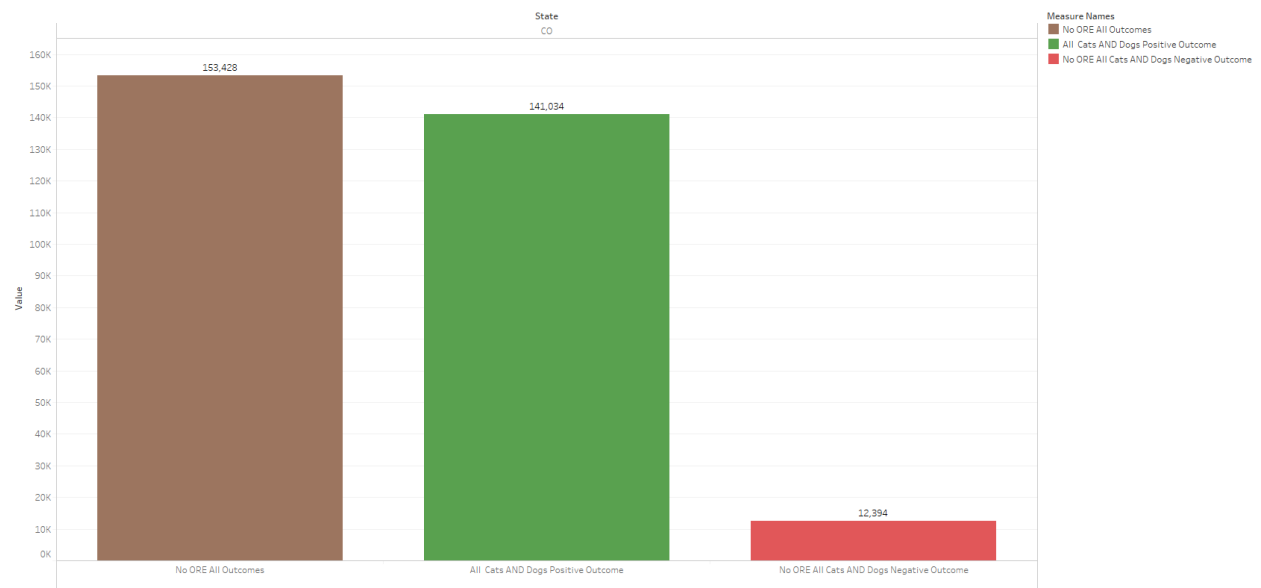


All Cat Outcomes, All Cats Positive Outcome, All Cats Negative Outcome, Adult Cats ALL Outcomes, Adult Cats Positive Outcome, Adult Cats Negative Outcome, Juvenile Cats ALL Outcomes, Juvenile Cats Positive Outcome and Juvenile Cats Negative Outcome for each State. Color shows details about All Cats Outcomes, All Cats Positive Outcome, All Cats Negative Outcome, Adult Cats ALL Outcomes, Adult Cats Positive Outcome, Adult Cats Negative Outcome, Juvenile Cats ALL Outcomes, Juvenile Cats Positive Outcome and Juvenile Cats Negative Outcome. The data is filtered on County, Facility Name, and Type. The County filter has multiple members selected. The Facility Name filter keeps 274 of 274 members. The Type filter keeps Rescue, Sanctuary, and Shelter. The view is filtered on State, which keeps CO.

Asilomar:

Because of the practice of not counting OREs will show and LRR of 91.92% for ALL (non-ore) dogs and cat outcomes. This was down from 92.34% in 2016. LRR of dogs appears to be 94.09% and 87.08% for cats.

All Outcomes Asilomar 2 Blondes All Breed Rescue, 4 Paws 4 Life Rescue, 9 Lives Rescue and 271 more



No ORE All Outcomes, All Cats AND Dogs Positive Outcome and No ORE All Cats AND Dogs Negative Outcome for each State. Color shows details about No ORE All Outcomes, All Cats AND Dogs Positive Outcome and No ORE All Cats AND Dogs Negative Outcome. The data is filtered on County, Facility Name, and Type. The County filter keeps 54 members. The Facility Name filter keeps 274 of 274 members. The Type filter keeps Rescue, Sanctuary, and Shelter. The view is filtered on State, which keeps CO.

Shelter Statistics and Data

Everyone needs to understand the statistics of the shelter they are holding accountable to fully prepare for any resistance to our request they save EVERY healthy treatable pet.

This is how we come by these numbers. We want you to understand how we get to them even if you do not do this yourself.

PACFA tracks Dogs (Juvenile and Adult), Cats (Juvenile and Adult), Small Mammals, Reptiles, Rabbits, Birds and "Other".

For this document we just analyze Dogs and Cats. These are more than 99% of the volume of animals PACFA publishes.

The Data

For each type of animal, PACFA publishes the following:

1. Intake
 - a. Beginning Count
 - b. Beginning Foster Count
 - c. Stray
 - d. Owner Relinquished
 - e. Owner Requested Euthanasia upon intake
 - f. Transfer in from another Colorado organization
 - g. Transfer in from Out of State organization
 - h. Other: TNR / Protective Custody / Returns / Disaster Relief
2. Outcomes
 - a. Adoption
 - b. Returned To Owner (RTO)
 - c. Transfer or Rescue out to another Colorado organization
 - d. Transfer or Rescue out to an Out of State organization
 - e. Other live outcomes (ie: tnr/snr)
 - f. Died
 - g. Missing / Stolen
 - h. Shelter Euthanasia
 - i. Owner Requested Euthanasia
 - j. Ending Count
 - k. Foster Count

Data Integrity

Intake and outcome numbers should match. But they don't necessarily do that. For every animal that enters the shelter, whether they leave alive or not (or are still in the care of the shelter), they should be recorded. To many shelters' and rescues' credit, - numbers match. But not all.

The first change we make to using the PACFA statistics is to ignore Intake and instead look at total outcomes. This gives us a one to one relationship on positive and negative outcomes. On an annual basis, this is an accurate measure and beginning and end counts work out on a year to year basis.

Calculating Save Rates

There are multiple methods for calculating save rates. Here we will show you the first two slightly different ways to calculate save rates.

This chart is a comparison between Asilomar statistics (the standard Live Release Rate used in most shelters) and the (RAW) method for basic analysis which includes OREs (Owner Requested Euthanasia) numbers as well as lost, stolen, missing and "Other" negative outcomes (Asilomar lets shelters ignore OREs).

(RAW) Method

Save Rate:

We calculated this by a subset of ALL the data mentioned above of PACFA Statistics as follows:

1. Total Outcomes
 - a. Positive Outcome
 - b. Negative Outcomes
2. POSTIVE Outcomes
 - a. Adoption
 - b. Returned To Owner (RTO)
 - c. Transfer or Rescue out to another Colorado organization
 - d. Transfer or Rescue out to an Out of State organization
 - e. Other live outcomes (ie: tnr/snr)
3. NEGATIVE Outcomes
 - a. Died
 - b. Missing / Stolen
 - c. Shelter Euthanasia
 - d. Owner Requested Euthanasia

Asimolar Method

Save Rate:

Asilomar can be more complicated. Although we use the single most important factor (Eliminating OREs) We still work of the total outcome model as our base for analysis.

1. Total Outcomes
 - a. Positive Outcome
 - b. Negative Outcomes
1. POSTIVE Outcomes
 - a. Adoption
 - b. Returned To Owner (RTO)
 - c. Transfer or Rescue out to another Colorado organization
 - d. Transfer or Rescue out to an Out of State organization
 - e. Other live outcomes (ie: tnr/snr)
2. NEGATIVE Outcomes
 - a. Died
 - b. Missing / Stolen
 - c. Shelter Euthanasia
 - ~~d. Owner Requested Euthanasia~~

RAW Outcomes

For RAW outcomes , we look at all outcomes, positive and negative to get a baseline for save rate numbers. RAW statistics include ORE (Owner Requested Euthanasia).

Total Outcomes of cats and dogs in Colorado for 2017 was 159.146.

- 57.116 Cats
- 102.030 Dogs

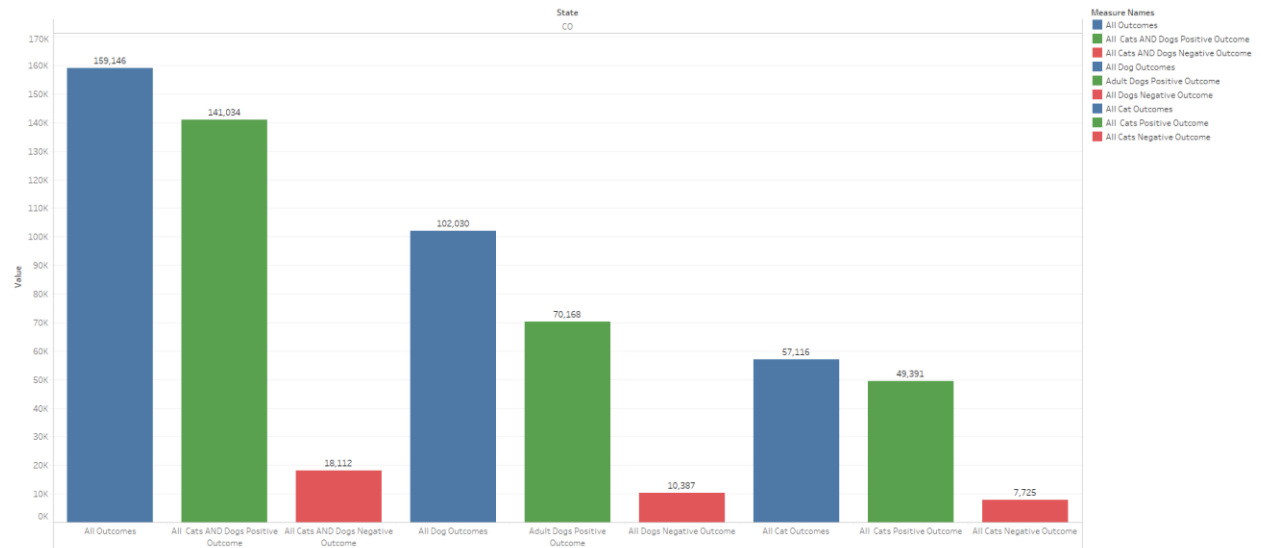
For cats

- 49,391 Positive Outcomes
- 7,725 Negative Outcomes

For Dogs

- 91.643 Positive Outcomes
- 10,387 Negative Outcomes

All Outcomes Detail 2 Blondes All Breed Rescue, 4 Paws 4 Life Rescue, 9 Lives Rescue and 271 more



All Outcomes, All Cats AND Dogs Positive Outcome, All Cats AND Dogs Negative Outcome, All Dog Outcomes, Adult Dogs Positive Outcome, All Dogs Negative Outcome, All Cat Outcomes, All Cats Positive Outcome and All Cats Negative Outcome for each State. Color shows details about All Outcomes, All Cats AND Dogs Positive Outcome, All Cats AND Dogs Negative Outcome, All Dog Outcomes, Adult Dogs Positive Outcome, All Dogs Negative Outcome, All Cat Outcomes, All Cats Positive Outcome and All Cats Negative Outcome. The data is filtered on County, Facility Name, and Type. The County filter keeps 54 members. The Facility Name filter keeps 274 of 274 members. The Type filter keeps Rescue, Sanctuary, and Shelter. The view is filtered on State, which keeps CO.

Strays

Strays make up a large portion of animals entering the shelter. The redemption of stray animals to their family is, or should be, a primary goal of all shelters.

57,813 stray cats and dogs entered shelters in 2017 in the state of Colorado.

- 23,052 Cats
- 34,761 Dogs

Returns to owner are a good indication of a shelter's commitment to the community. If for no other reason, there will always be a need for shelters because of lost animals. The return rate is an important metric to judge a shelter's productivity in serving the community. As a state, Colorado is performing well by comparative analysis.

As we can see from the chart a small percentage of cats (10%) are returned to owners. A dog's chance of being returned is about 67%. It should be noted both these numbers are higher than the national average.

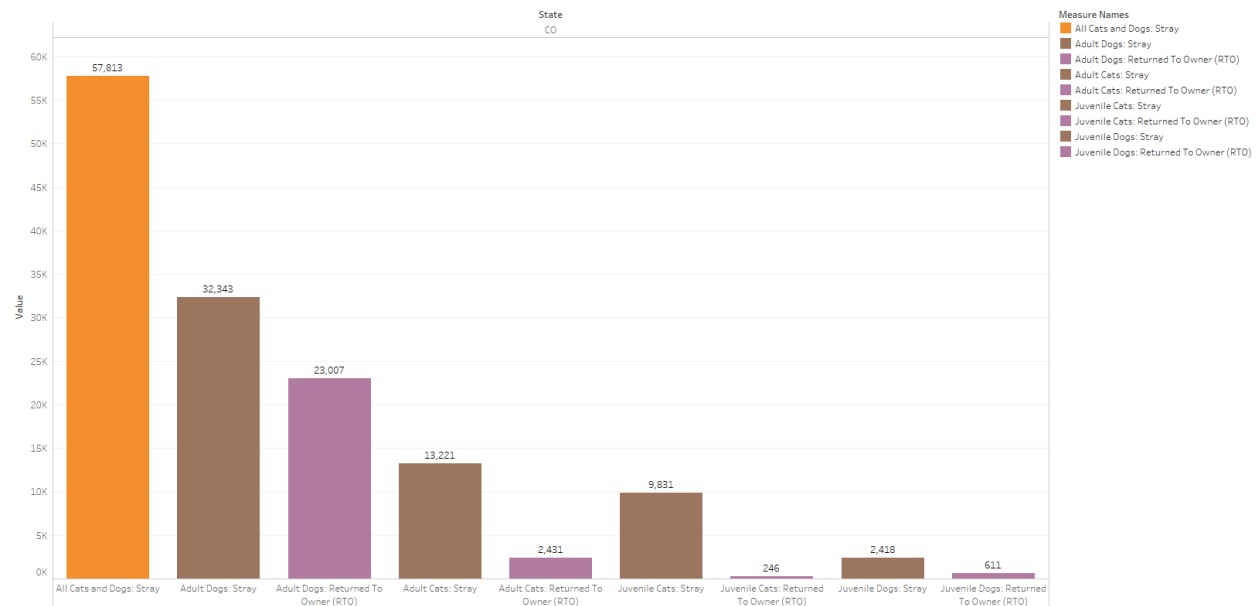
26,295 stray cats and dogs were returned to owners in 2014 in the state of Colorado.

- 2,677 Cats
- 23,618 Dogs
-

45.48% of stray cats and dogs were returned to owners in 2014 in the state of Colorado.

- 11.61% of Cats
- 67.94% Dogs

Strays

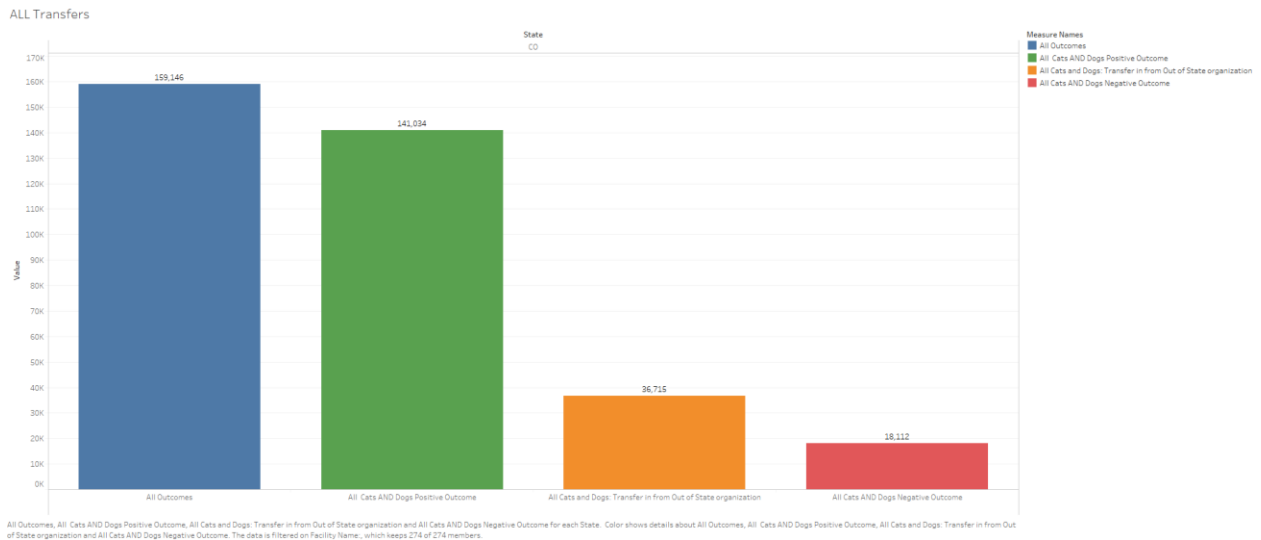


All Cats and Dogs: Stray, Adult Dogs: Stray, Adult Dogs: Returned To Owner (RTO), Adult Cats: Stray, Adult Cats: Returned To Owner (RTO), Juvenile Cats: Stray, Juvenile Cats: Returned To Owner (RTO), Juvenile Dogs: Stray and Juvenile Dogs: Returned To Owner (RTO) for each State. Color shows details about All Cats and Dogs: Stray, Adult Dogs: Stray, Adult Dogs: Returned To Owner (RTO), Adult Cats: Stray, Adult Cats: Returned To Owner (RTO), Juvenile Cats: Stray, Juvenile Cats: Returned To Owner (RTO), Juvenile Dogs: Stray and Juvenile Dogs: Returned To Owner (RTO). The data is filtered on County, Facility Name, and Type. The County filter has multiple members selected. The Facility Name filter keeps 274 of 274 members. The Type filter keeps Rescue, Sanctuary, Sanctuary and Shelter. The view is filtered on State, which keeps CO.

Transfers

Transfers from out of state to Colorado dwarf transfers from Colorado out to other states.

The transfer of animals is a useful lifesaving tool. Transferring within the state has proven useful to give people an opportunity in one part of the state to get a pet they want from another. Shelters and rescues do this daily across the state. Considering Colorado has capacity to house and adopt out pets greater than the intake of the shelter system, we should help neighboring states in lifesaving activities like transfer in state from out of state. At the same time, transferring over 36,715 homeless pets into Colorado tells us we should save every healthy or treatable pet in our state shelter system.

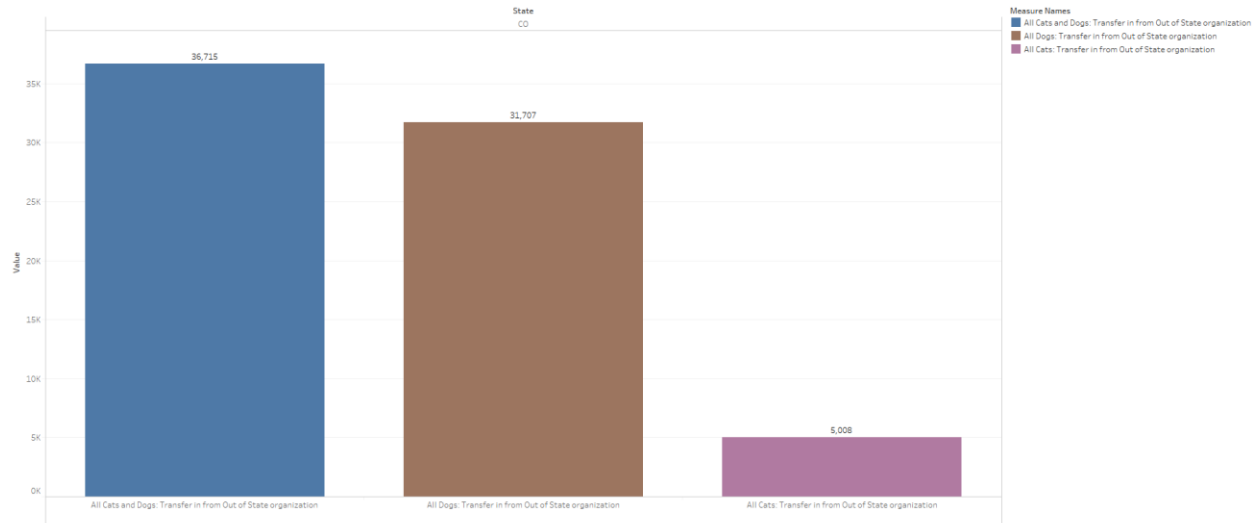


Transfers of animals from Colorado organizations to other Colorado organizations

Total Transfer of cats and dogs in to Colorado from other states for 2017 was 36,715.

- 5,008 Cats
- 31,707 Dogs

State Transfers CO Dogs Vs. Cat



All Cats and Dogs: Transfer in from Out of State organization, All Dogs: Transfer in from Out of State organization and All Cats: Transfer in from Out of State organization for each State. Color shows details about All Cats and Dogs: Transfer in from Out of State organization, All Dogs: Transfer in from Out of State organization and All Cats: Transfer in from Out of State organization. The data is filtered on Facility Name, RAW Save Rate All and sum of Adult Dogs: Transfer in from Out of State organization. The Facility Name filter keeps 274 of 274 members. The RAW Save Rate All filter ranges from 0 to 1. The sum of Adult Dogs: Transfer in from Out of State organization filter ranges from 116 to 16,772.

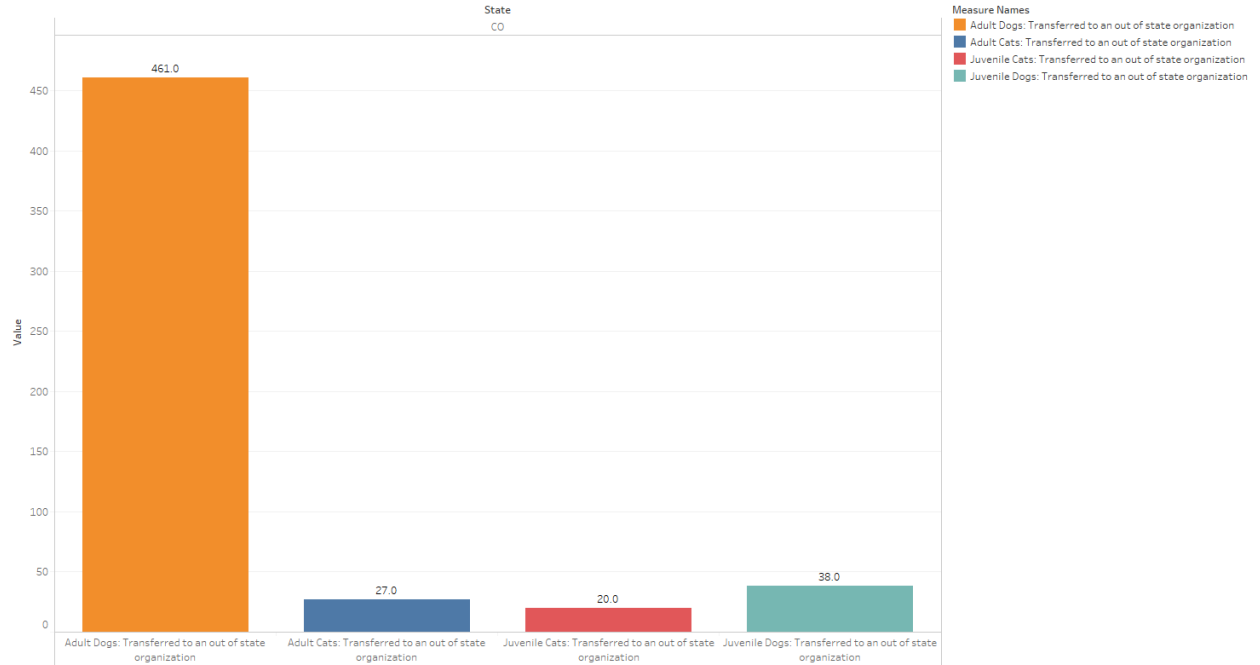
Total Transfer of cats and dogs to another state from Colorado for 2017 was 334.

- 47 Cats
- 499 Dogs

We have a net transfer of over 36,000 taken in compared to transferred out.

The difference between transfers FROM Colorado compare to TO Colorado from other states is dramatic and shows we need to show our neighbors what we are doing right and what they need to implement in order to reach our save rates.

Transfer Out



Adult Dogs: Transferred to an out of state organization, Adult Cats: Transferred to an out of state organization, Juvenile Cats: Transferred to an out of state organization and Juvenile Dogs: Transferred to an out of state organization for each State. Color shows details about Adult Dogs: Transferred to an out of state organization, Adult Cats: Transferred to an out of state organization, Juvenile Cats: Transferred to an out of state organization and Juvenile Dogs: Transferred to an out of state organization. The data is filtered on Facility Name, RAW Save Rate All and sum of Adult Dogs: Transfer in from Out of State organization. The Facility Name: filter keeps 274 of 274 members. The RAW Save Rate All filter ranges from 0 to 1. The sum of Adult Dogs: Transfer in from Out of State organization filter ranges from 116 to 16,772.

Animals Euthanized/Killed in Shelter

There were over 18,000 cats and dogs killed in the Colorado shelter system in 2017. The number of euthanasia vs. the killing of healthy treatable pets is difficult to determine.

We should adhere to a dictionary definition: “the act or practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly sick or injured individuals in a relatively painless way for reasons of mercy.” Unfortunately, that is not the way they are recorded.

Of over 18,000, we are certain many were healthy or treatable homeless pets, so euthanasia can be used to define all of these homeless pets. More than one two pets are killed every hour every day on average. More than 50 on average 365 days a year.

Although 5,763 were owner requested, there is no reason for a shelter to kill a healthy treatable pet in Colorado even if an owner requests it. Assessment of pets considered for euthanasia should be determined irremediably suffering for medical or behavior issues before euthanasia is an option.

In addition, the numbers of pets entering our shelter system as strays and owner surrenders is not greater than our capacity to save them.

Of the pets brought into the shelter, more than 1 in 10 (11.38%) homeless cats and dogs entering shelters in Colorado do not leave alive. Communities across the United States are saving over 90%, some as many as 99% of all animals entering the shelter system. Colorado is poised to lead the nation as a state that saves every healthy treatable homeless pet.

It's Not Really About the number

10.68% of all cats and dogs entering a shelter did not leave alive.

But that's not the point. The point is we should never kill a healthy or treatable pet.

But we are. And that's where the numbers help us figure that out.

Looking at large scale successes like Austin Texas, we know 90% is the low watermark.

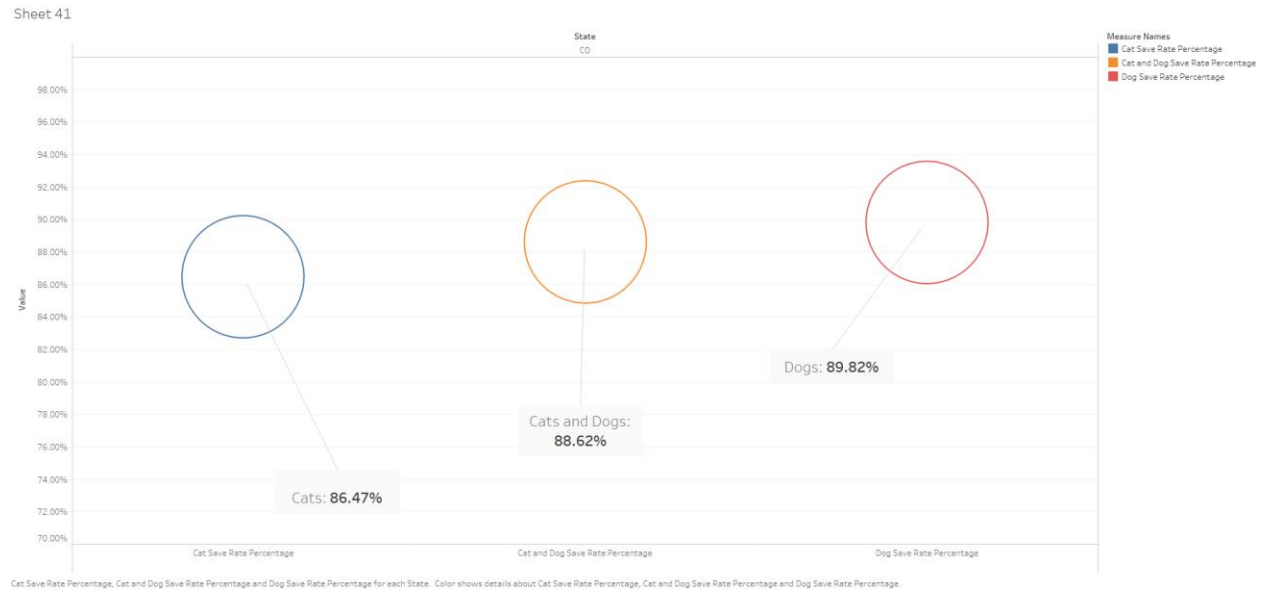
So even though No Kill is saving every healthy or treatable pet, regardless of the number, we know that number on an annual basis should never fall below 90%.

11.38% of all cats and dogs entering the Colorado shelter system did not leave alive.

Cats vs. Dogs Save Rate

Dogs fare slightly better in Colorado shelters. Looking at the save rate solely from two simple numbers (number of total outcomes from the shelter system to number of animals leaving alive) dogs will leave the shelter 89.82% of the time. Cats will leave the shelter alive 88.62% of the time.

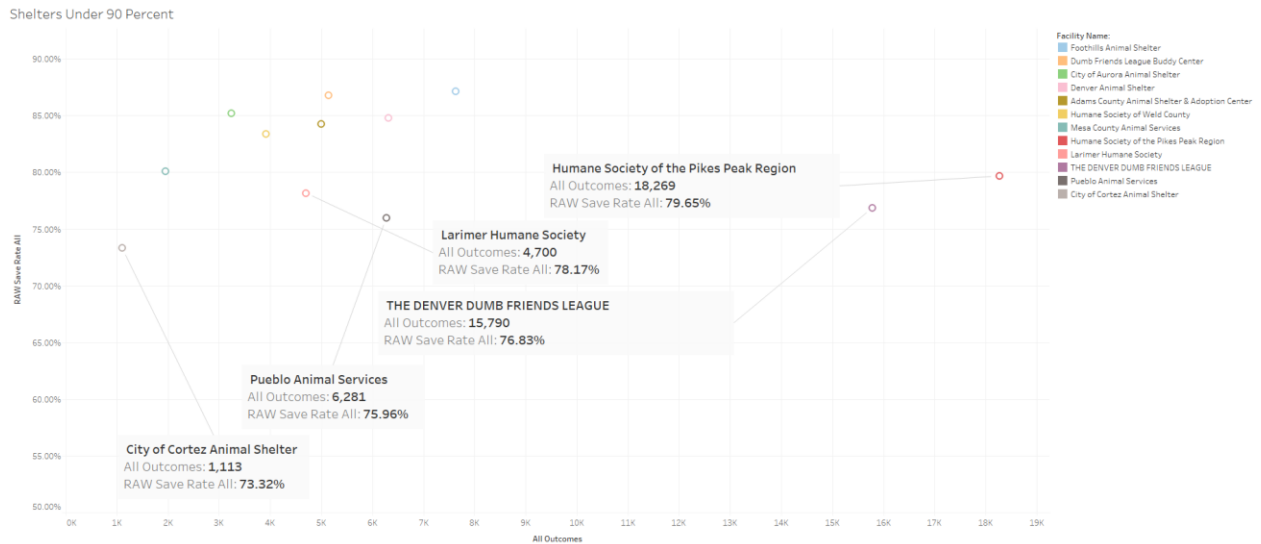
Cats are not as fortunate as dogs and adult cats have the lowest percentage of finding a home and are more likely to die in a shelter.



The Shelters to improve

There are 85 organizations licensed as shelters and sanctuaries by PACFA in Colorado. Many are open admission municipal shelters, but we also have private shelters and sanctuaries. Although we are doing well by a statistical standard state wide, we must look at the shelters that are not performing in line with the rest of the state and improve them.

This chart looks at all shelters taking in more than 1000 animals and the save rate percentage. The lowest three are called out.



Sum of All Outcomes vs. RAW Save Rate All. Color shows details about Facility Name. The data is filtered on Type, which keeps Shelter. The view is filtered on RAW Save Rate All, sum of All Outcomes and Facility Name. The RAW Save Rate All filter includes values less than or equal to 90.00%. The sum of All Outcomes filter ranges from 1,000 to 18,269. The Facility Name: filter keeps 266 of 274 members.

Conclusion:

Colorado ranks one of the safest states for homeless pets. That said, with just a little effort we could be unequivocally the leader in the No Kill movement.

With transfer coming to the state tripling transfers out, and transfers in from out of state more than doubling (perhaps quadrupling) the killing of healthy and treatable pets, we have no reason to kill a single healthy or treatable pet in Colorado.

Why do Asilomar and the RAW method differ and why do you prefer the RAW method?

Because Asilomar ignores OREs and RAW includes them in intake and negative outcomes.

Why does the RAW include Owner Requested Euthanasia numbers?

Shelters should not be in the killing business. They should never kill a pet unless that pet has a poor or grave prognosis and is irremediably suffering.

If a person brings a pet to the shelter, a shelter medical professional should assess the condition of the animal. If the animal is not irremediably suffering, the person should be able to surrender the pet to the shelter and the shelter treat it as any other homeless pet (Assess/vet/adopt out).

If the pet is truly a candidate for euthanasia (definition: "the act or practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly sick or injured individuals in a relatively painless way for reasons of mercy.") the shelter could help this animal and pet owner. But it should still be counted. Good shelters will euthanize an irremediably suffering homeless pet, and never a healthy or treatable pet.