



2020 Sheltering Report

Please Note: This data is for intake and outcome of homeless animals and does not include the thousands of community-owned pets helped by providing services so they can stay with their families. Learn more about these programs below and on page 2.

	DOGS	CATS
LIVE ANIMAL COUNT AT THE BEGINNING OF YEAR (JAN. 1, 2020)	78	146
LIVE INTAKE IN 2020:		
STRAY/RUNNING AT LARGE	950	1,487
RELINQUISHED BY OWNER	748	901
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANASIA 4	165	89
COMMUNITY CATS FOR TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN (TNR) 2	-	1,687
OTHER (ANIMAL CONTROL, IMPOUNDS, EVICTIONS, ETC.)	675	194
TOTAL LIVE INTAKE IN 2020	2,538	4,358
ANIMAL DISPOSITION/OUTCOMES IN 2020:		
ADOPTION	1,080	1,554
RETURNED TO OWNER	465	90
TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER AGENCY (RESCUE GROUP, SHELTERS) 1	488	657
COMMUNITY CATS RETURNED TO FIELD (TNR, RETURNED ALTERED & HEALTHY TO COLONY) 2	-	1,572
DIED/LOST IN CARE 3	7	25
EUTHANASIA - OWNER'S REQUEST 4	156	85
EUTHANASIA - ALL OTHER THAN OWNER'S REQUEST 5	368	398
TOTAL DISPOSITION/OUTCOMES IN 2020	2,564	4,381
LIVE ANIMAL COUNT AT THE END OF YEAR (DEC. 31, 2020)	52	123

Let's Talk About Shelter Population

Our numbers look different in this pandemic year. Here's why...

At BARCS, we believe that animal sheltering must go beyond our kennels. Our mission as an organization is not just to provide short-term care and positive outcomes for homeless, unwanted and abused animals, but also to share ongoing resources with pet owners in our community. Each year—including the 2020 pandemic year—BARCS strives to help more animals with the ultimate goal of saving all healthy and treatable animals.

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However, as intake prevention resources grow and our shelter increasingly takes in harder to place animals due to old age, medical or behavior issues, our live release rate may lower.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced BARCS to change our operations. One of these adjustments meant that we limited our intake to emergency cases only. Healthy, adoptable animals who had loving families were kept out of the shelter with the help of our Community Resource department. The animals who came into our care were in true crisis: animals with no owners, medical needs, severe behavioral issues and signs of abuse and neglect. This shift in our population is reflected in our outcome data, which has resulted in a slight decrease in our live release rate. In 2019, our save rate was 90%; in 2020, it was 88%.

It's important to keep in mind that this number, 88%, does not include the thousands of animals who were never admitted to our shelter. These pets would be adoptable; but more often than not, they come from homes where they are greatly loved and cared for. Unfortunately, their humans are in a personal crisis, which is why they reached out to BARCS. Instead of forcing these people to give up their pet only to be adopted by someone else, our Community Resource team assisted thousands of pet owners who were contemplating surrendering their animals. Solutions included low-cost veterinary options, food, crisis boarding and/or behavioral training.

By developing strategies to keep pets in their homes and strengthen the bond between families and their furry friends, we are able to promise our kenneling space and intake admissions to animals who are truly in crisis.

*Chart Notes

BARCS calculates positive yearly outcomes and follows record keeping practices as set forth by the Asilomar Accords, a universal data matrix for shelters and rescues to track and report critical data. Asilomar Accords do not include owner requested euthanasia for unhealthy or untreatable pets when calculating shelter euthanasia percentages (see chart note 4).

1) As the largest animal shelter in our state, BARCS relies heavily on our partnerships with nearby shelters and rescue groups (both locally and nationally) to aid with our high volume intake. These organizations take not only cats and dogs, but also exotic pets, farm animals and wildlife animals that come to our shelter.

2) Previously operated by Best Friends Animal Society staff, BARCS took over the Community Cat Program on July 1, 2016. As a humane way to manage the outdoor cat population, BARCS traps, vaccinates, spays/neuters and provides additional medical care as needed to outdoor cats and then returns them to their original outdoor homes.

3) BARCS is an open-admission shelter, which means that we take in and care for all animals that come to our door. Because of this, we get dozens of critically sick and injured animals daily. Our staff veterinarians and Franky Fund partner clinics work to save the lives of all treatable animals, but sometimes, despite our best efforts, they succumb to their injuries/illnesses. In addition, during the summer months, our shelter takes in hundreds of neonatal kittens. While most of these newborns are able to be saved with round-the-clock care and bottle feeding, some—despite our greatest efforts—are unable to thrive.

4) Owner requested euthanasia is a low cost public service that BARCS provides to Baltimore City pet owners in need. This program is for pets that come to our shelter that are terminally sick, suffering and unable to be treated or have a dangerous bite history. BARCS' medical team and program staff evaluate all requests for euthanasia, and if we feel those animals can be saved, they are.

5) The most common reasons for euthanasia are animals that are aggressive, animals that are seriously sick and unable to be medically treated, and animals that have reached the end of their lifespan. Also factoring into this selection is cost-to-save, foster availability and shelter space for long-term, intensive care.

BARCS saved all healthy and friendly animals again this year and continues to save more and more medical cases each year thanks to donations to our medical care funds!