



The Shelter Statistics Survey, 1994-97

This Survey, initiated in 1994, by the NCPSP gathered the names of shelters and organizations believed to be sheltering animals. Only shelters that housed more than 100 dogs and/or cats each year were included. The final list had 5,042 names. All responses were kept confidential. Information linking the names of shelters with their responses was not released.

A survey card was constructed requesting shelter name, address, contact person and phone number. In addition, data were requested for the number of dogs and cats entering the shelters through animal control, owner relinquishment or other methods, and for the number of dogs and cats exiting the shelters through adoption, owner reclamation, euthanasia or other methods. Kittens and puppies were counted in the cat and dog categories, respectively. The data card was sent to the initial list of shelters in February 1995 requesting data for 1994. Reminder cards were sent out later that year. Changes to the mailing list were continuously made in response to shelter comments. The study was repeated for 1995, 1996 and 1997. The collection of data by means of survey cards was halted due to the low percentage of response by animal shelters.

Numbers Entering the Responding Shelters

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	2,222,751	2,091,237	2,292,868	2,329,978
Cats	1,557,767	1,563,362	1,818,736	1,759,743
Unspecified	NA	409,941	206,460	246,523
Overall	3,780,518	4,064,540	4,318,064	4,336,244

Numbers Leaving the Responding Shelters

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	2,090,587	1,888,402	2,117,440	2,117,902
Cats	1,442,464	1,451,464	1,677,895	1,611,616
Unspecified	NA	366,039	360,818	279,582
Overall	3,533,051	3,705,905	4,156,153	4,009,100

Types of Responding Shelters

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Local governmental animal care and control agency	560	487	377	407
Private, non-profit shelter	232	264	228	229
Private, non-profit shelter w/ housing contract	171	188	195	185
Other	92	46	39	26
Unknown	15	86	173	161

Total Number of responding shelters

1070 1071 1012 1008

Sources of Dogs and Cats Entering Reporting Shelters (%)Submitted by Animal Control

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	57.5	45.0	42.5	42.4
Cats	46.6	35.9	31.9	33.2
Unspecified	NA	55.8	NA	37.8
Overall	53.0	42.6	36.0	38.4

Relinquished by Owner

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	25.7	26.9	25.3	27.0
Cats	32.7	34.3	30.7	35.0
Unspecified	NA	22.7	24.6	26.0
Overall	28.6	29.4	27.5	30.2

Other Sources

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	16.8	10.5	12.8	13.1
Cats	20.7	13.9	18.2	16.9
Unspecified	NA	8.7	24.4	12.8
Overall	18.4	11.6	15.6	14.7

Unknown Sources

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	NA	17.5	19.3	17.5
Cats	NA	15.9	19.2	14.9
Unspecified	NA	12.8	51.0	23.4
Overall	NA	16.4	20.8	16.8

Disposition of Dogs and Cats Entering Reporting Shelters (%)Adopted

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	23.2	25.5	25.8	25.0
Cats	21.7	23.4	24.0	24.4
Unspecified	NA	16.0	13.1	13.7
Overall	22.6	23.7	24.0	23.9

Returned to Owner

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
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Dogs	15.3	16.3	16.1	15.8
Cats	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0
Unspecified	NA	8.8	7.0	9.3
Overall	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.8

Euthanized

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	58.4	55.1	56.0	56.4
Cats	72.4	71.4	71.8	71.0
Unspecified	NA	71.8	76.3	74.4
Overall	64.1	63.1	64.1	63.6

Other

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	3.1	2.2	1.7	2.4
Cats	3.6	2.3	1.9	2.3
Unspecified	NA	2.9	3.5	2.6
Overall	3.3	2.3	2.0	2.4

Unknown

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dogs	NA	0.9	0.4	0.4
Cats	NA	0.6	0.2	0.3
Unspecified	NA	0.5	NA	NA
Overall	NA	0.8	0.3	0.4

Please note: It is not possible to use these statistics to estimate the numbers of animals entering animal shelters in the United States, or the numbers euthanized on an annual basis. The reporting Shelters may not represent a random sampling of U.S. shelters.

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