

Statement from Ann Dunn, the Director of Oakland Animal Services

You may have seen messages from me over the last several months that we have come close to having to euthanize big dogs to make space for incoming dogs. So far, we have been able to avoid that, through heroic efforts from our foster and adoption teams, the tireless work of incredible volunteers, help from our transfer partners, and because this community has stepped up to adopt following urgent calls for help. I have also shared that as our intake continue to increase, it is getting harder and harder to move dogs through the shelter quickly enough to avoid euthanizing for space.

I have made those previous calls for help when the population for big dogs in the shelter was at around 100 dogs, when we only have adequate space for 73. We started this week with 120 big dogs in the shelter and no space for incoming dogs.

To be fully transparent, we are going to be posting the dogs who are at risk for euthanasia due to space, along with their deadlines and how people can help.

Given how much intake has increased, and with the eviction moratorium on rental housing in Oakland ending on July 15, I anticipate this will be an ongoing challenge and that we will continue to need more help to prevent euthanasia of adoptable dogs.

What follows is a breakdown of our intake and outcome data. In the second and third charts, you can see the dramatic increase in intake we are experiencing in 2023, as well as increases in adoptions and the number of dogs going to foster homes.

Annual Intake/Outcome Data

As shared previously, the table below shows that intake in 2022 was nearly identical to 2019, the last full year pre-Covid. However, because of huge increases in adoptions, and the introduction of the foster program for big dogs, we achieved the lowest euthanasia rate for dogs in OAS's history. If our intake remained steady, instead of increasing as it has, we would be in pretty great shape today.

| Dogs | Intake # | Adopt # | Adopt % | Transfer # | Transfer % | Euthanasia # | Euthanasia % |
|------|----------|---------|---------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2019 | 2,808 | 399 | 14.2% | 1,333 | 47.5% | 465 | 16.6% |
| 2020 | 1,870 | 391 | 20.9% | 753 | 40.3% | 282 | 15.1% |
| 2021 | 2,297 | 907 | 39.5% | 551 | 24.0% | 166 | 7.2% |
| 2022 | 2,852 | 1,161 | 40.7% | 874 | 30.6% | 157 | 5.5% |

Year-to-Date Data (January 1-June 20)

The data below shows year-to date (January 1- June 20) intake and outcomes. In 2023, we have taken in 348 more dogs so far than last year. Where intake for 2019, the last full year pre-Covid, and 2022, were nearly identical in the chart above, year-to-date intake is 22% higher than 2022 and 17% higher than 2019.

| Dogs | Intake # | Adopt # | Adopt % | Transfer # | Transfer % | Euthanasia # | Euthanasia % |
|------|----------|---------|---------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2019 | 1,369 | 210 | 15.3% | 640 | 46.7% | 231 | 16.9% |
| 2020 | 957 | 192 | 20.1% | 402 | 42.0% | 176 | 18.4% |
| 2021 | 903 | 328 | 36.3% | 232 | 25.7% | 55 | 6.1% |
| 2022 | 1,284 | 512 | 39.9% | 415 | 32.3% | 63 | 4.9% |
| 2023 | 1,632 | 698 | 42.8% | 467 | 28.6% | 89 | 5.5% |

Dog Population as of June 20

This final chart shows the dog population on June 20 for each year. You can see that even with a growing foster program for big dogs, the shelter population (including small dogs) on June 2023 is at 50 dogs over maximum capacity.

| | Shelter | Foster | Total |
|------|---------|--------|-------|
| 2019 | 150 | 25 | 175 |
| 2020 | 44 | 20 | 64 |
| 2021 | 75 | 34 | 109 |
| 2022 | 98 | 67 | 165 |
| 2023 | 143 | 89 | 232 |

As the challenge for saving our dogs continues to grow, our resolve grows with it. We are absolutely determined to help as many dogs as we possibly can and just need more help. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at adunn@oaklandca.gov.

Ann Dunn
OAS Director
June 22, 2023