NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HUMANE SOCIETIES
BASIC ANIMAL STATS MATRIX
(vrs 10-2013)

BASIC DATA MATRIX (Oct 2013)

	Species By Age	Canine Adult	Canine Up to 5 months	Feline Adult	Feline Up to 5 months	Total	Age at Intake
A	**Beginning Animal Count (date: 01/01/2024)**					0	Should include animals in shelter and animals admitted but currently in foster care or other offsite facility.
Live Intake							
B	Stray/At Large	534		153		687	Admitted through animal control/stated to be unowned or freeroaming
C	Relinquished by Owner	26		31		57	Admitted by owner
D	Owner Intended Euthanasia	0		0		0	Limited to this definition: Admission of pets whose owner brought the pet to the shelter with the INTENT of requesting euthanasia
E	Transferred in from Agency	0		0		0	An admission from another agency - for adoption, large scale seizure support, etc.
F	Other Intakes	7		0		7	Impounds for cruelty cases & protective custody. Also, pets born while in care, and others types of admission not captured above.
G	**TOTAL LIVE INTAKE**	567	0	184	0	751	***Sum of B, C, D, E and F***
Outcomes							
H	Adoption	135		102		237	Final adoptions only, having permanently left the Agency's possession. For example, it does NOT include animals placed in foster care or on overnight 'trial' stays.
I	Returned to Owner	24		11		35	Stray or Owner Reliquished animal returned to their owner
J	Transferred to another Agency	115		13		128	Transferred out of the Agency's possession to another entity
K	Returned to Field	N/A	N/A	1		1	Animals included in Intake, altered and returned to stray capture location as free-roaming felines
L	Other Live Outcome	0		0		0	Barn cat programs, etc
M	**Subtotal: Live Outcomes**	274	0	127	0	401	***Sum of H, I, J, K and L***
N	Died in Care	40		11		51	Animals who die while sheltered
O	Lost in Care	2		1		3	Animals whose outcome is unknown (may have escaped the shelter, outcome was not recorded and unknown)
P	Shelter Euthanasia	125		17		142	All euthanasia other than that performed by the definition below as Owner Intended Euthanasia.
Q	Owner Intended Euthanasia	0		0		0	Limited to this definition: Euthanasia of pets whose owner brought the pet to the shelter with the INTENT of utilizing euthanasia services
R	**Subtotal: Other Outcomes**	167	0	29	0	196	***Sum of N, O, P and Q***
S	**TOTAL OUTCOMES**	441	0	156	0	597	***Sum of M and R***
T	**Ending Shelter Count (date: 12/31/2024)**					0	Should include animals in shelter and animals admitted but currently in foster care or offsite facility

Note: To check your statistics and calculations Y A plus G should equal S LJfdzǎ T

Total A + ¢2ǘl·f G =	751
Total S + ¢2ǘl·f T =	597

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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, American Humane, UC Davis, Maddies Fund, PetSmart Charities and HSUS) have agreed are the minimum data points (along with definitions) an organization should gather. Whether organizations already gather a great deal of data or have only gathered 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 reflect any preference in data analysis or the calculation of 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 and understand the differing risks for these 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 capacity of an agency, simply tracking statistics by species 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 risk – breaking age down further to include 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 trained staff regarding proper 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 permanent canines, premolars and 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_jun_1996/how_to_determine_age.html
> Or, 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 counting the animals sheltered within 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 veterinary hospital, etc).

Defining Owner Intended 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 access to this service. Defining when 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 for that service. In other words, the owner brought the pet in 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. We believe the simplicity of 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 when taken in to an agency's possession may be 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 agency still has possession or ownership. If 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 (wildlife), and that good work is not 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 consider gathering. By agreeing to this basic matrix - we hope organizations will gather AT LEAST this data, or if an organization all ready gathers a great deal of data, that they will consider rolling up their data into this format to help facilitate (if individual agencies are interested) data collection at a local, regional or national level, which would allow participating agencies to benchmark their work against similar agencies around their region or the nation. 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 which requires a conditions matrix, should be able to be calculated from the data points included.