



2023 Sheltering Report

Please Note: This data is for intake and outcome of homeless dogs and cats and does not include the thousands of community owned pets helped by providing services so they can stay with their families.

	DOGS	CATS
LIVE ANIMAL COUNT AT THE BEGINNING OF YEAR (JAN. 1, 2023)	153	187
LIVE INTAKE IN 2023:		
STRAY/RUNNING AT LARGE	2072	2603
RELINQUISHED BY OWNER	1690	1284
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANASIA ⁴	243	150
COMMUNITY CATS FOR TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN (TNR) ²	-	1256
OTHER (ANIMAL CONTROL IMPOUNDS, EVICTIONS, ETC.)	1298	488
TOTAL LIVE INTAKE IN 2023	5303	5781
ANIMAL DISPOSITION/OUTCOME IN 2023:		
ADOPTION	2625	2978
RETURNED TO OWNER	823	164
TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER AGENCY (RESCUE GROUP, SHELTERS) ¹	652	609
COMMUNITY CATS RETURNED TO FIELD (TNR, RETURNED, ALTERED & HEALTHY TO COLONY) ²	-	1309
DIED/LOST IN CARE ³	13	63
EUTHANASIA - OWNER'S REQUEST ⁴	238	141
EUTHANASIA - ALL OTHER THAN OWNER'S REQUEST ⁵	939	549
TOTAL DISPOSITION/OUTCOMES IN 2023	5291	5813
LIVE ANIMAL COUNT AT THE END OF YEAR (DEC. 31, 2023)	167	155

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).

- 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.
- As a humane way to manage the outdoor cat population, BARCS works with caregivers and trappers to trap, vaccinate, spay/neuter and provide additional medical care as needed to outdoor cats and then returns them to their original outdoor homes. These cats remained in BARCS care for 3 or more days.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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 fund!