

# Riverside County Department of Animal Services October 2024 Report

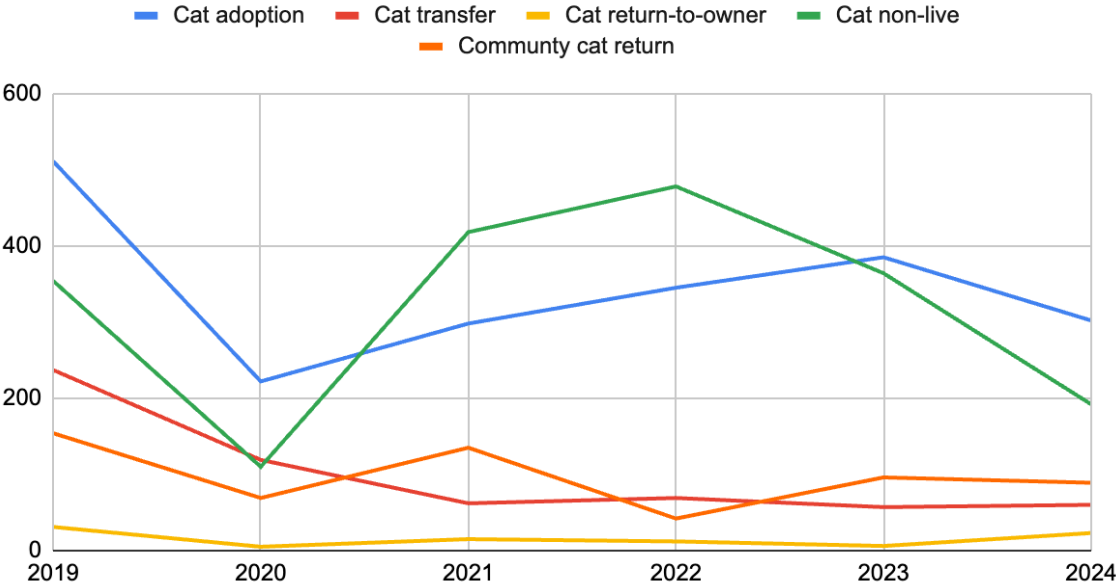
Prepared by Outcomes Consulting and RCDAS Leadership Staff

## PART 1: October Data Summary

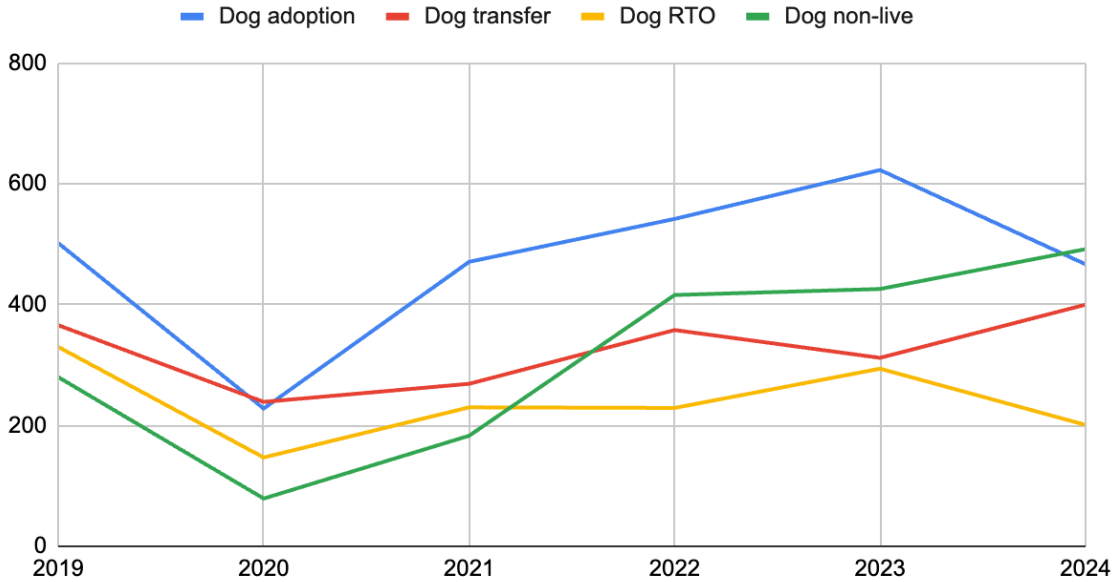
Why do we compare October 2024 to the same month over previous years? While this only gives us a partial view of the data, it allows us to look for changing trends over time. Since intakes and outcomes tend to be relatively seasonal and consistent, changes in trends can indicate the impact of a policy change, community challenge, or something else. Data sources include [the RCDAS statistics page](#) on the website and information in the shelter software system.

- October dog intakes were higher than in previous years and higher than pre-pandemic dog intakes.
- October cat intakes were higher than any year since 2019.
- Cat non-live outcomes are down while dog non-live outcomes are up.
- Cat and dog adoptions were both lower than in 2023.

### October Cat and Kitten Outcomes by Type



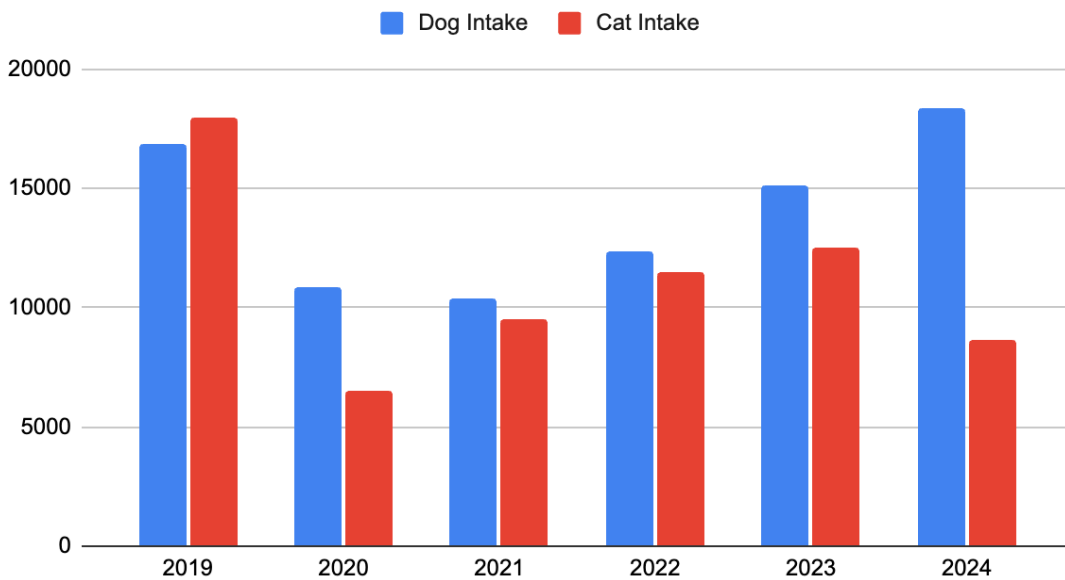
## RCDAS October Dog Outcomes by Type



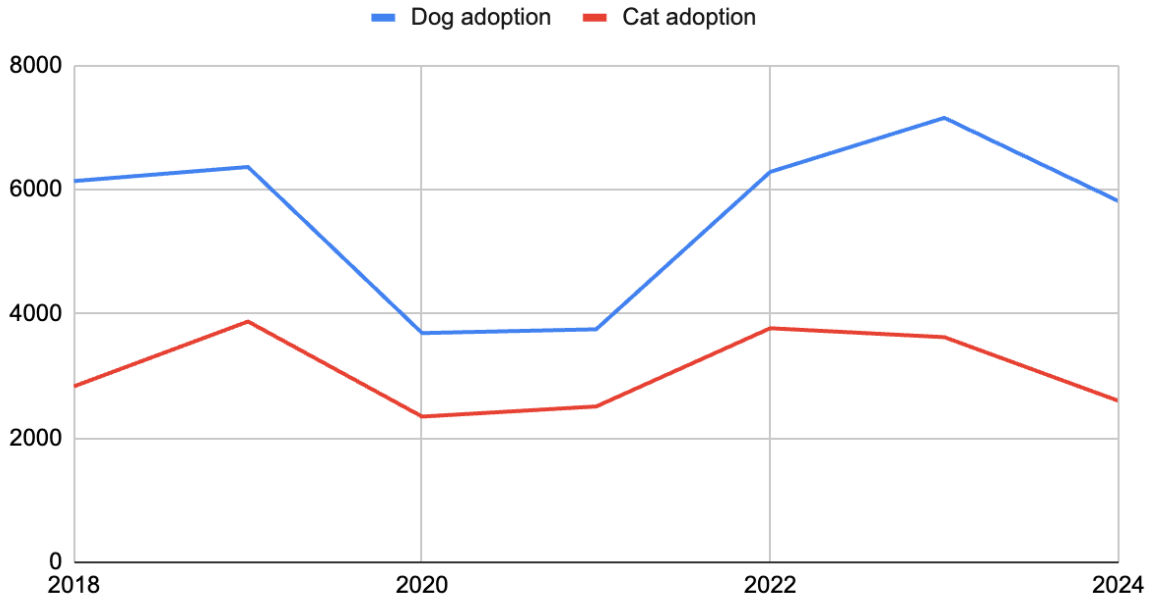
## PART 2: RCDAS Annual Trends

Note: 2024 data is year-to-date through November 1 while all other years are complete annual data. The Outcomes Consulting team is currently reviewing and analyzing comparative annual data and will provide additional year-to-date metrics in future reports.

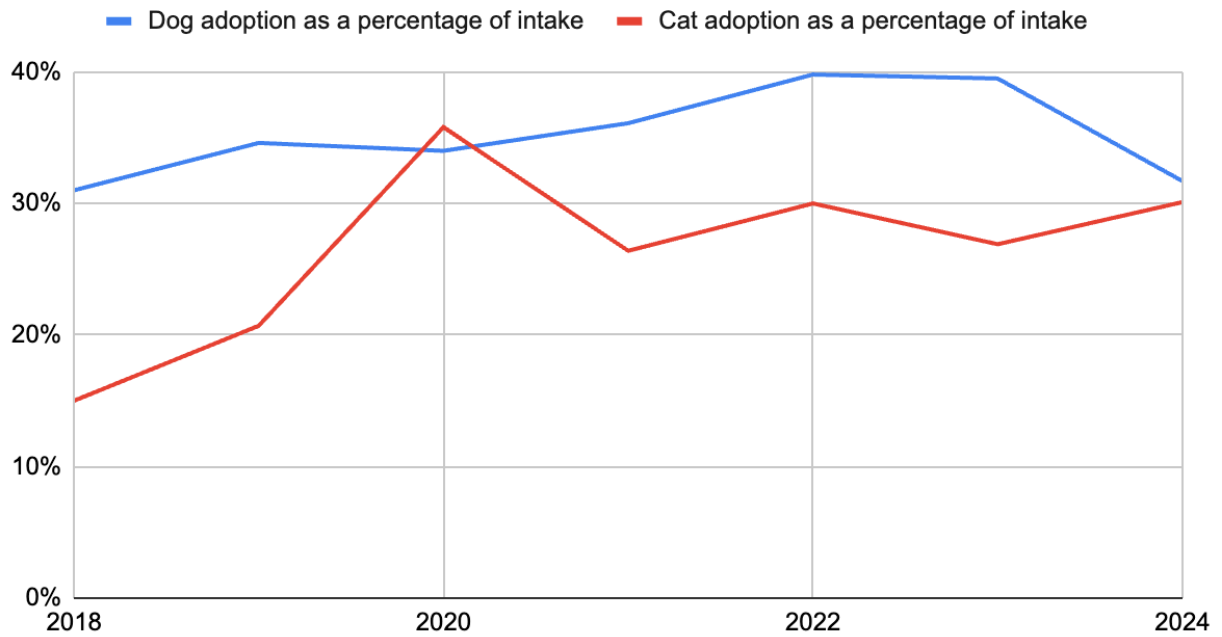
## RCDAS Dog and Cat Intake



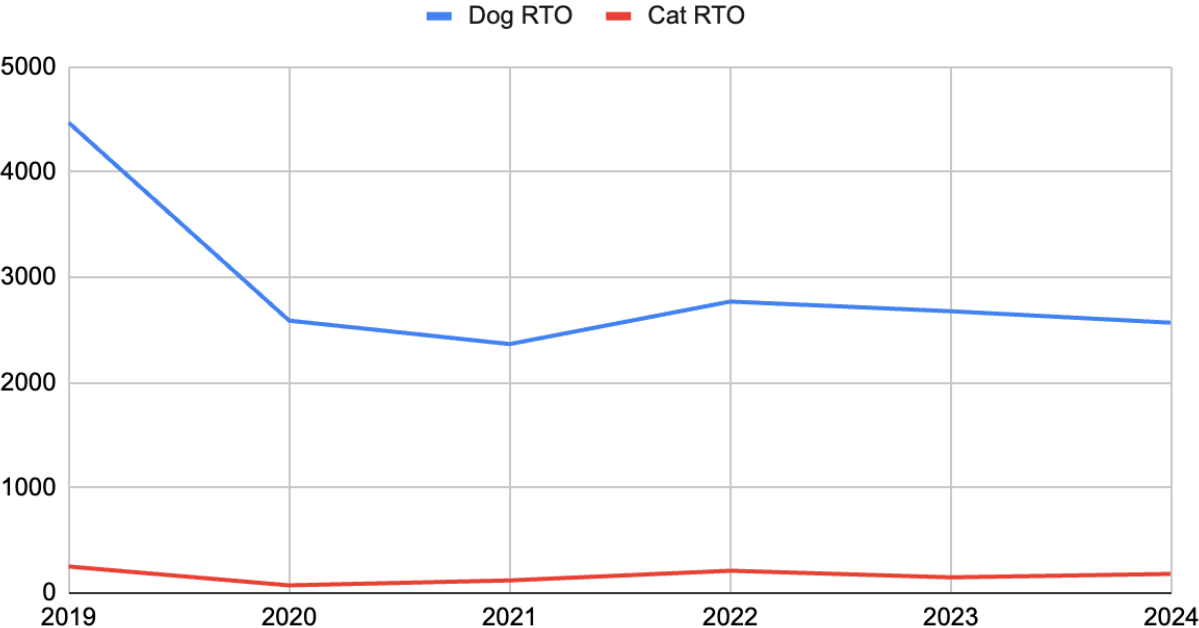
## RCDAS Cat and dog adoption (2024 is Jan 1 through Nov 1)



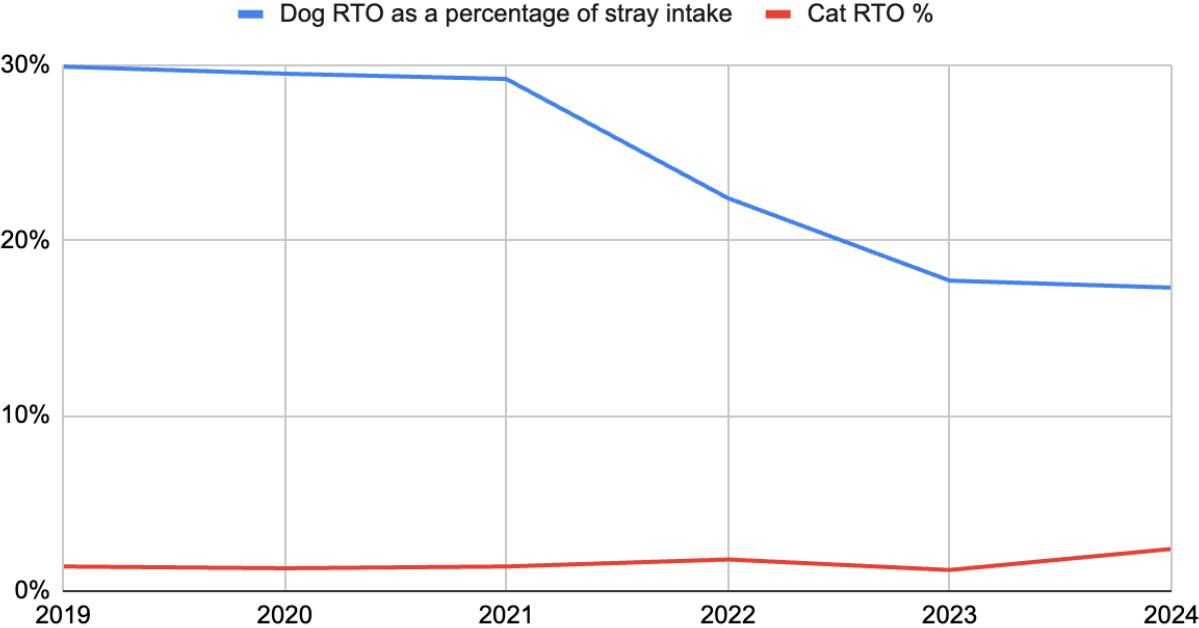
## RCDAS Adoption as a percentage of intake



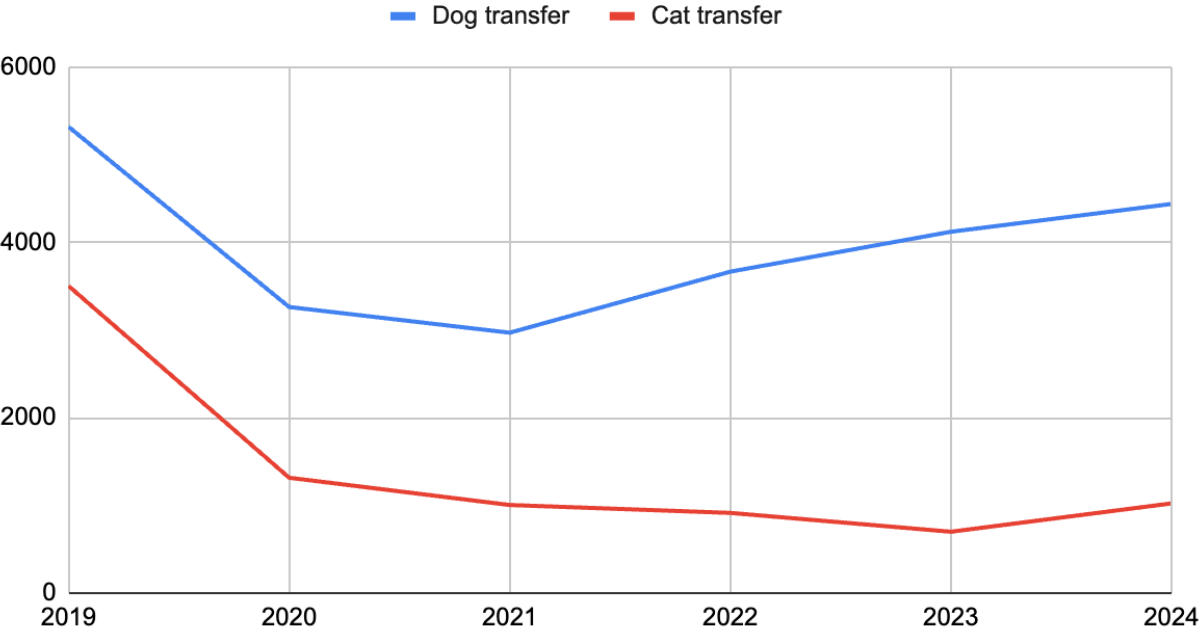
### RCDAS Cat and Dog Return-to-Owner



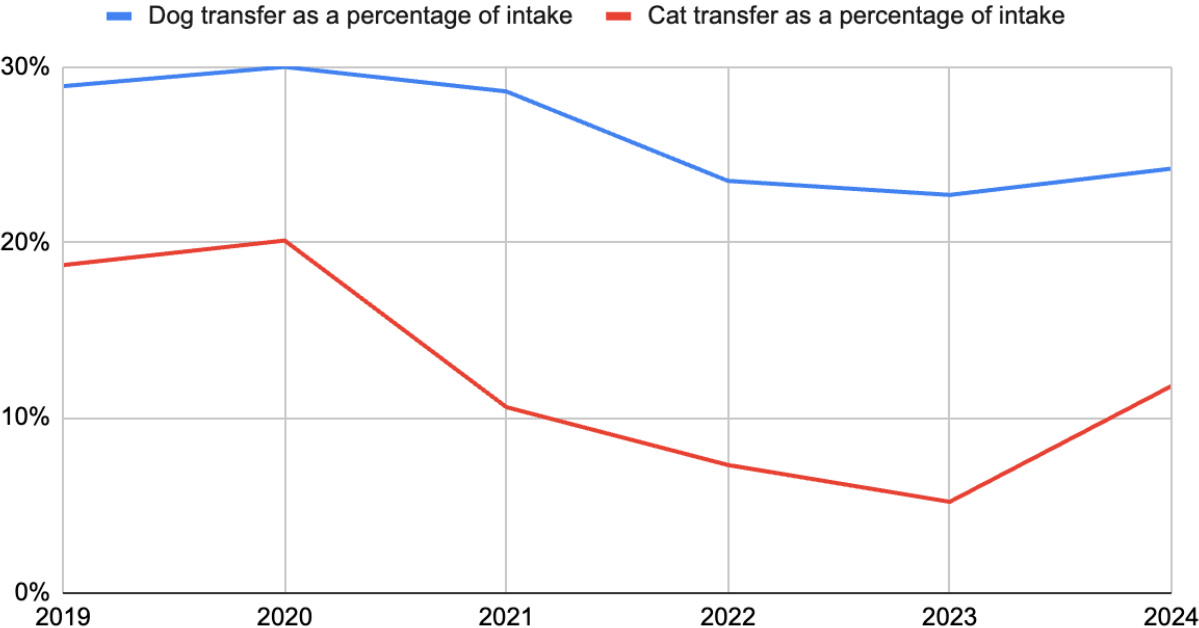
### RCDAS Return-to-Owner as a Percentage of Stray Intake



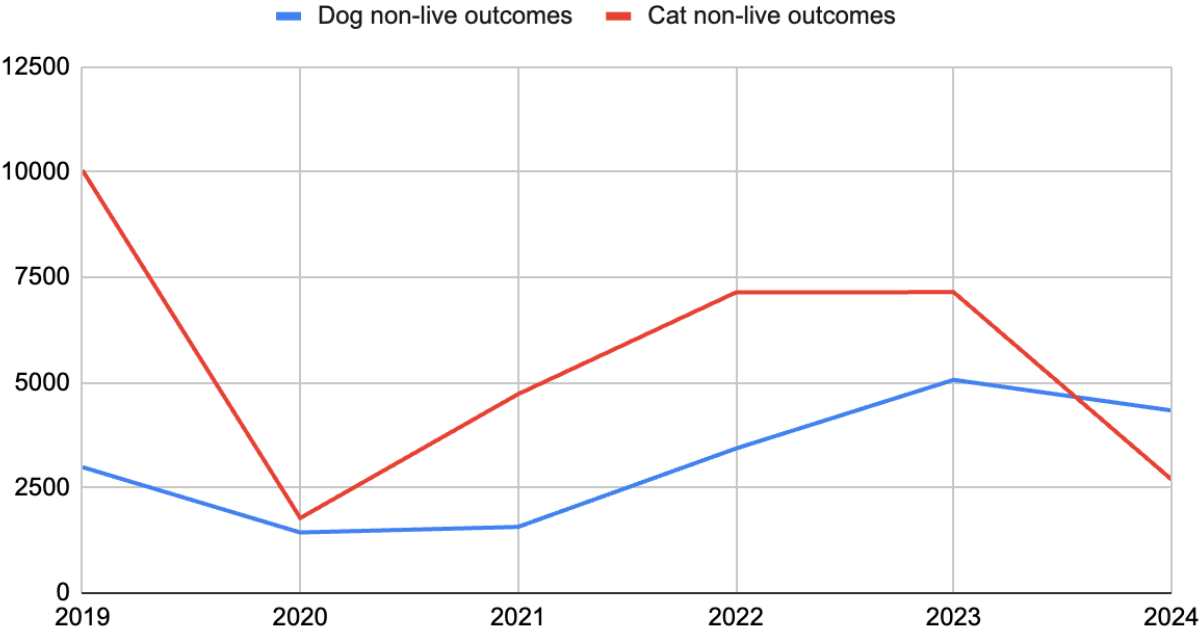
## RCDAS Pets Transferred to Rescue



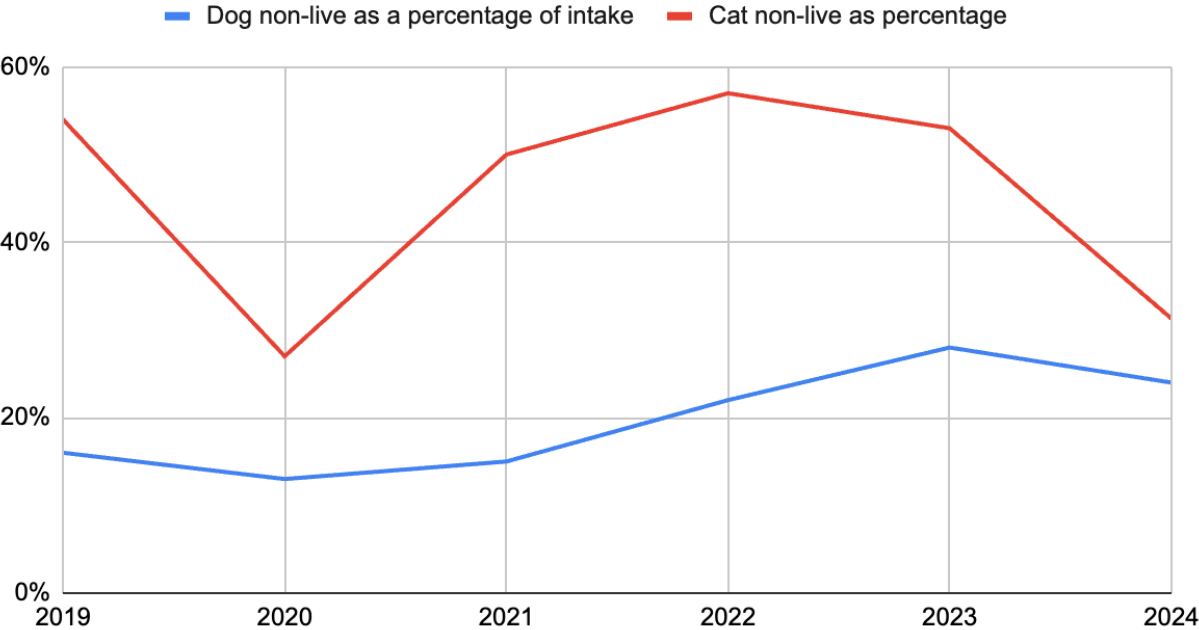
## RCDAS Transfer as a Percentage of Total Intakes



### RCDAS Non-Live Outcomes (euthanized, died, missing)



### RCDAS Non-Live Outcomes as a Percentage of Total Intake



## PART 3: NARRATIVE REPORT

### Highlights

- **Extended hours.** Three RCDAS shelters have extended their hours to be open from 10 am to 7 pm every Wednesday. Previously, the shelters were open 10 am to 4 pm Monday through Saturday. During the first five Wednesdays, with the shelters open until 7 pm, 50 additional pets were adopted, and 25 additional pets entered the shelter.
- **Expanded partnership.** RCDAS has expanded its partnership with Animal Samaritans, which enables them to use the Coachella Valley surgical suite. Animal Samaritans will provide spay and neuter services for shelter pets and community cats. With this partnership, they are doubling the number of shelter pets spayed and neutered per day from 15 to 30. Also, as a result of this partnership, the public can now bring TNR cats to the CVAC campus every Friday. Previously, this service was only available on a case-by-case basis. This program's current capacity is 25 cats each Friday and is first-come, first-serve.
- **Intra-shelter transfers.** The Blythe shelter was over capacity, so staff transferred 27 dogs to CVAC, and several of them have been adopted. While this freed some space, the shelter remained full with more dogs impounded at 31. In addition, 25 cats were transferred to Jurupa Valley to increase their chances of finding an adoptive home.
- **Strep zoo cases.** Two dogs have tested positive for Strep Zoo at Jurupa Valley, and several others have tested negative but have been symptomatic for Strep Zoo. Dogs currently housed in close proximity to symptomatic dogs are proactively being treated with antibiotics, and every dog going home through adoption or reunification is being treated with antibiotics per recommendations from shelter veterinary medicine experts.
- **Wolf-hybrid cruelty case.** RCDAS transported ten wolf-dog hybrids from the San Jacinto campus to a sanctuary in Arizona. These wolf-dog hybrids were part of a cruelty case.
- **Pet promotion partnership.** The San Jacinto campus partnered with the [Nuevo Chip Chicks](#) to publicly promote adoptable pets by taking them out on foster and using social media.
- **Proactive lost pet reunification.** Jurupa Valley is piloting a program to proactively transport lost pets back home. They are also piloting a lost pet reunification volunteer program to help reunite lost pets with their owners without being impounded.

### Volunteer Program

- 152 volunteers donated 1152 hours of service in October.
- 57 new volunteers started .
- 114 people completed a volunteer application and 33 new volunteers attended introductory volunteer orientations across three facilities.
- There were seven, volunteer-led dog-walking trainings across three campuses.
- Volunteers led 10 cat volunteer training sessions across three campuses.
- 8 students from Platt College volunteered.

- Volunteers are being trained to manage the Pawsitive Reading volunteer program which is set to launch in early 2025.
- TMI Group, Lifeworks Group, and Options for All are all bringing groups of volunteers to support window washing, watering the butterfly garden, and removing trash from the property.
- 26 volunteers provided support with professional grooming, bathing, and 17 with pet photography.

## **Foster Program**

- 157 animals went to foster homes.
- There are currently 550 animals in foster homes
- There are currently 893 active foster caregivers.
- RCDAS received a grant from Orphan Kitten Club to provide formula to kitten foster caregivers.
- Most pets in foster homes are currently foster-to-adopt. RCDAS is planning to expand foster opportunities at every campus beginning in early 2025.

## **Lost and Found Program**

- 14 animals were reunited with their owners and were not impounded.
- 17 animals did not need to be impounded due to Reporting Party receiving supplies or other resources from us to hang on to the animal and look for an owner directly.
- 1 animal was returned to their owner after we spotted an animal flyer and reached out.

## **Community Outreach and Events**

- RCDAS held a spay/neuter and wellness event in Rancho Mirage, serving more than 200 pets.
- RCDAS provided pet tags and information at the Spice of Life Health Fair.
- National Night Out Blythe - Animal Services had a booth, displayed a vehicle, and handed out educational materials.
- Halloween Event with Child Support Services - Animal Services had a booth with educational materials and handed out candy.

## **Staffing Updates**

- RCDAS currently has approximately 36 active recruitments in various stages of offers including evaluating candidates and posting recruitment for the entire department.
- One Administrative Services Officer to support the HR administrative team was hired.
- Recruiting to fill one Dispatcher position to support the field dispatch team has begun.
- Recruiting to fill one Principal Accountant position to support the fiscal team for entire Department has begun. Interviews are being scheduled in December.
- Final rounds of selecting a Public Information Officer to fill one vacancy are being completed.



- There were approximately 31 internal promotions to positions within the Department of Animal Services from March 2023 to the present.
- RCDAS is in the process of hiring three staff positions (volunteer coordinator/counselors) for the volunteer program across the main shelters (Jurupa Valley, CVAC, and San Jacinto).
- One staff temporary counselor was hired for lost pet reunification and the department is recruiting one staff temporary counselor for this pilot program.
- Multiple selections made to Animal Control Officers to support the field team at main shelters (Jurupa Valley, San Jacinto). RCDAS is currently recruiting for multiple vacancies at CVAC shelter.
- The process of hiring one full-time veterinary surgeon to support the vet services team is ongoing. Recruiting for an additional permanent veterinary surgeon for support at all shelters is ongoing.
- An offer is being made to one Per Diem Veterinary Surgeon.
- An offer is being made to fill Chief Veterinarian vacancy.
- Recruiting for multiple vacancies to support Animal Services Representatives (ASRs) for Jurupa Valley and San Jacinto is ongoing.
- An Animal Services Representative was added temporarily to track Pet Support data and triage customers to the appropriate point person.
- Interviews have been held for veterinary technicians. This will increase the number of surgeries we can provide on the bus and help the community.
- Talkspace, a free benefit mental health support service for all County employees, was promoted.

## **Vet Services**

- 1,310 animals were spayed or neutered in October. This was a combination of owned pets, shelter animals, and community cats.
- RCDAS assisted with over 20 pets for Healthy Pet Zone services this month. These procedures range from something as simple as an upper respiratory infection to something much more complicated like an amputation, which we did two of this month.
- Vet services staff visited Mead Valley, CVAC, Fantasy Springs, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Blythe, and Anza with the mobile vehicle and provided spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchips, and other wellness services.
- RCDAS assisted field services with a cruelty case involving two horses and one donkey. SoCal Equine assisted in performing physical exams. Our vet staff assisted in blood draws, cleaning, and treating wounds. We had a per diem vet come and trim hooves on a donkey.

## **Animal Control**

- Animal control officers responded to the airport fire, a wildfire incident. They assisted with evacuations and emergency housing of pets and livestock and participated in post-event assessment.
- San Jacinto Field staff made three arrests for felony animal cruelty relating to neglected horses.
- Officers responded to a case with several dumped wolf hybrid dogs in the Idyllwild area that included 137 other neglected.
- A search warrant was served on 10/30, and officers seized two horses and a Donkey from an owner allegedly neglecting them.
- Sergeant Sean Fazio presented at the Trilogy disaster preparedness meeting. He provided information about pet preparedness during evacuations, ensuring pet owners have needed medications, food for pets on special diets, etc. He also spoke about our REARS program.
- Completed a sweep of the North Shore, Mecca, and Thermal (unincorporated areas of the County) of free-roaming dogs. 38 dogs impounded and 40+ contacts with dog owners for warning/education on the importance of keeping dogs confined and preventing bites to children walking to bus stops, playing, and trick or treating on Halloween.