

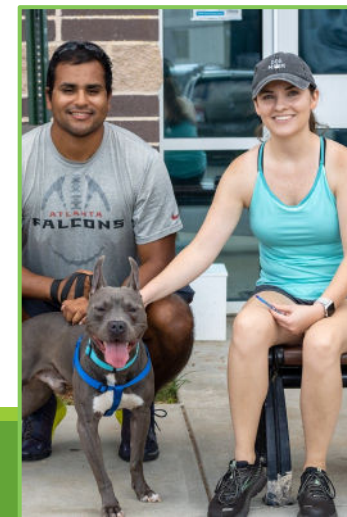
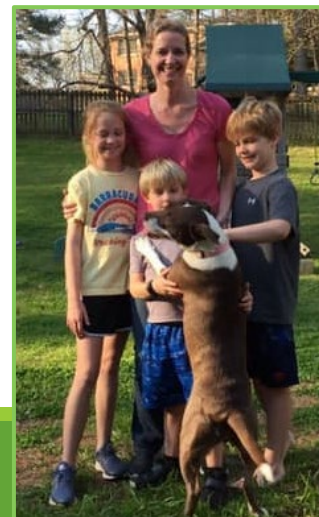


DeKalb County  
ANIMAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD



## DEKALB ANIMAL SERVICES

### FIVE-YEAR REVIEW (2018-2022) FIVE-YEAR PLAN (2023-2028)



# Dekalb County Advisory Board

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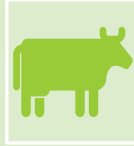


- Sonali Saindane- CEO
- Catharine Tipton- CEO
- Susan Neugent- CEO
- Sonja Williams- CEO
- Dana Gaines- District 1
- Wardell Castles- District 2
- David Kipp- District 3
- Normal Powell- District 4
- Tammy Archie- District 5
- Kate Donovan- District 6
- Robert Dennis- District 7

# DCAS Advisory Board Responsibilities



Advance humane and healthy treatment of animals.



Advise Dekalb, the Governing Authority and Animal Services on the welfare of animals.



Assist Animal Services with implementation of a long-term plan that improves practices, service delivery, efficiency, and facilities.



Identify strategies to improve the lives of animals.



Assist in securing grants and funding.



Advance cooperation and communication to create a comprehensive safety net of services, lifesaving measures, and animal population management activities.

# Recommendations



BUILD MORE SPACE



INCREASE STAFFING  
AND TRAINING



SUPPORT FAMILIES  
AND THEIR PETS IN  
NEED



PREVENT MORE  
HOMELESS PETS



REDUCE LENGTH OF  
STAY FOR COURT-  
HELD DOGS

## Contributors to Strain on Shelter Operations

Consistently high intake of animals  
and reduced number of adoptions  
and rescue transfers

Increase in the number and duration  
of stay of court-held animals

Current shelter space does not  
support county population

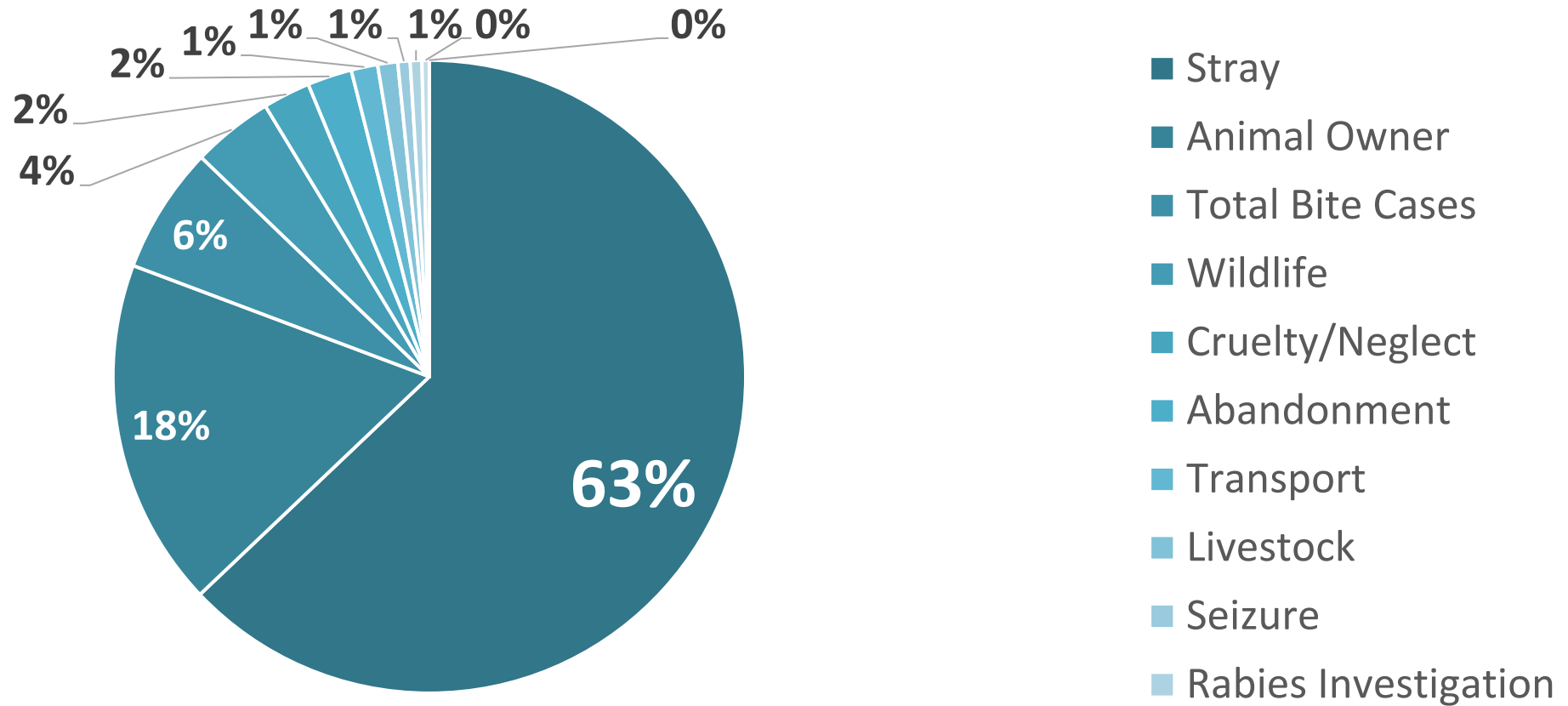


# Community Needs



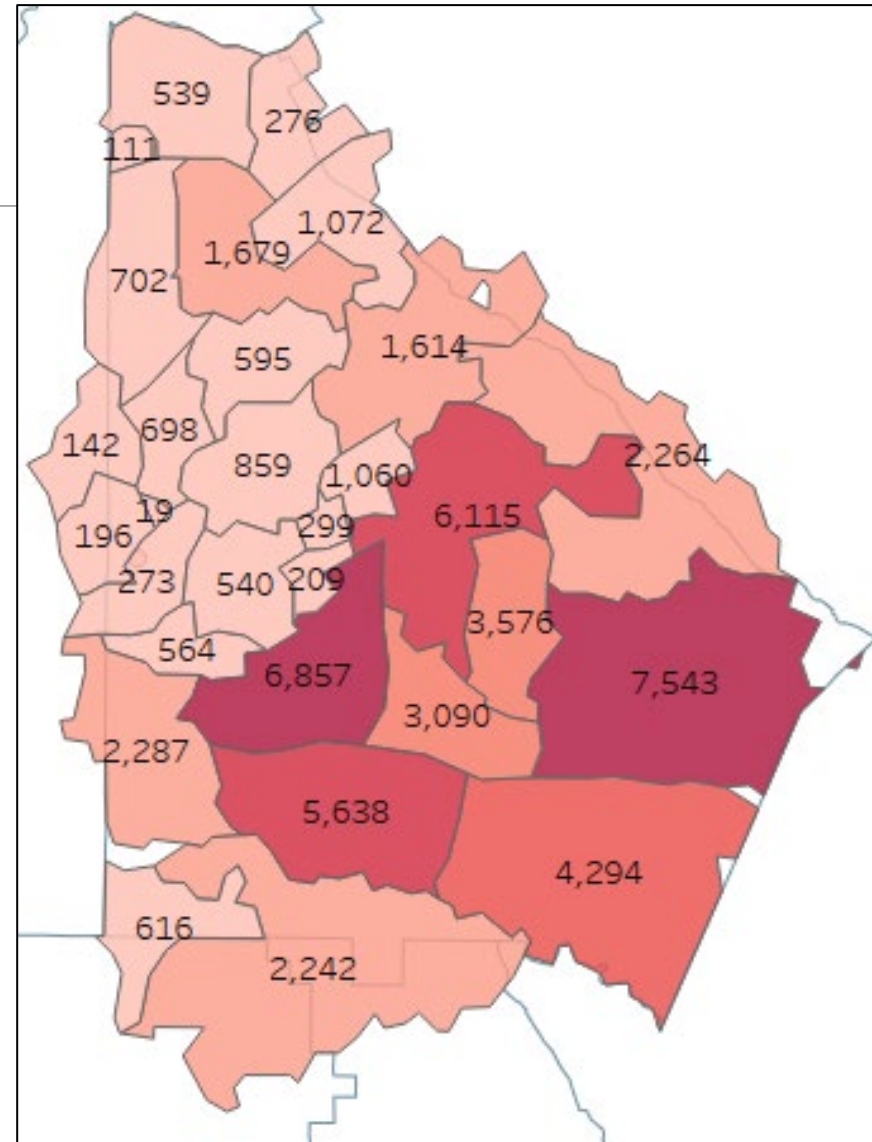
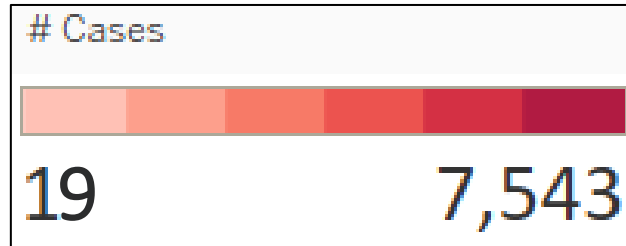
# Stray Animals Account for Most Calls for Service 2019-2022

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# Highest Concentration of Enforcement Cases 2017-2022

NUMBER OF  
ENFORCEMENT CASES BY  
ZIP CODE

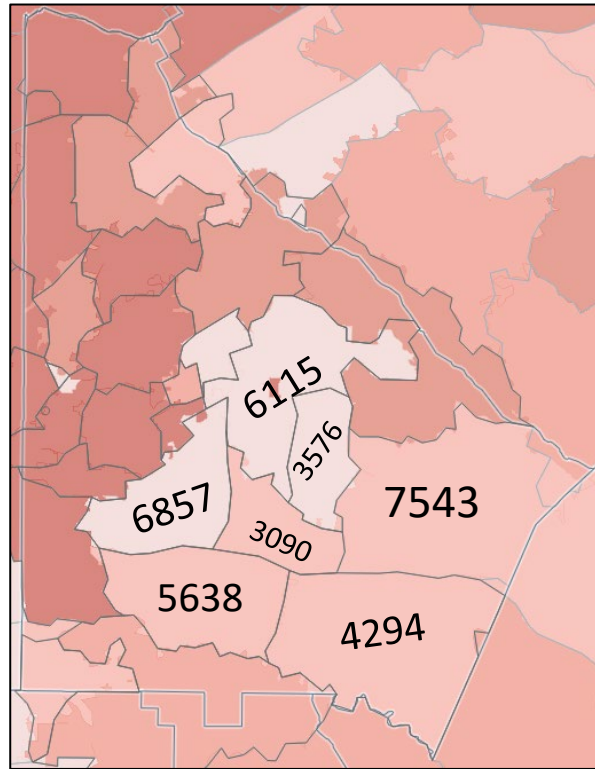




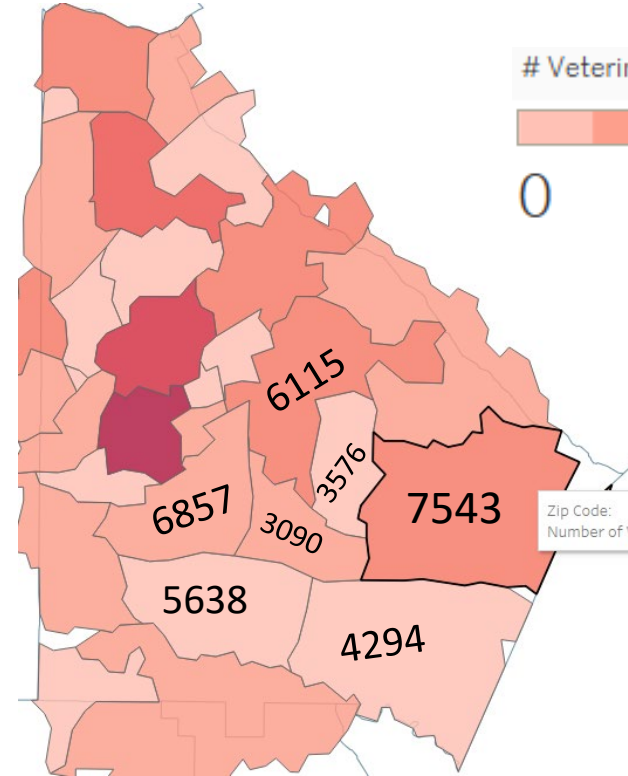
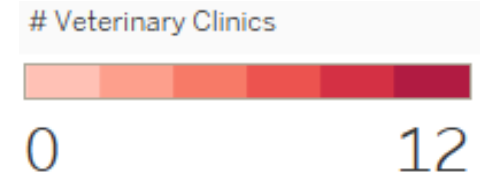
# Higher Number of Cases Related to Lower-Resourced Areas

IN RELATION TO INCOME

- 2018 Per Capita Income
- 42 to 21,100
  - 21,100 to 25,400
  - 25,400 to 29,800
  - 29,800 to 37,200
  - 37,200 to 461,000



IN RELATION TO VETERINARY CARE





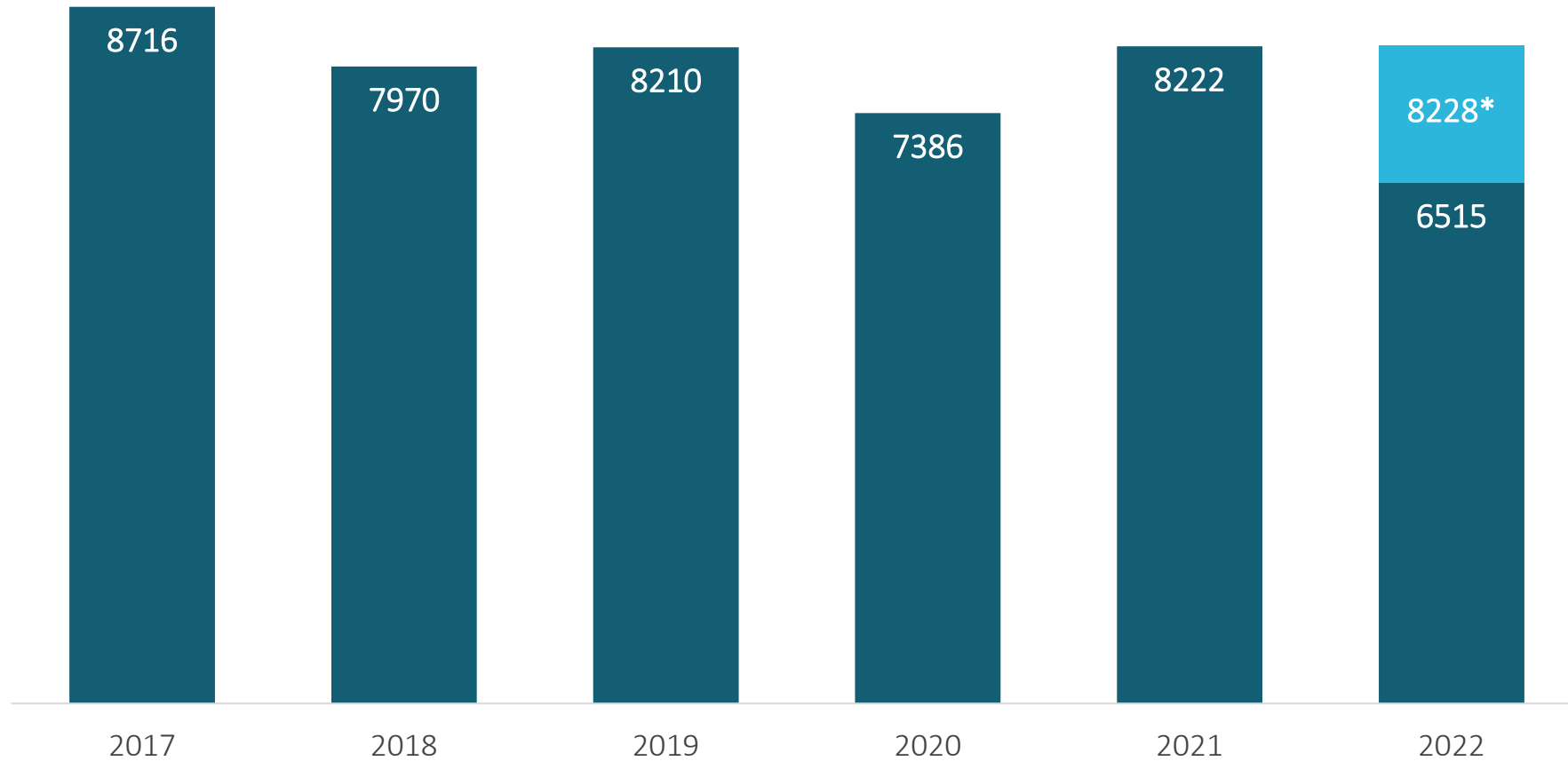
# State of the Shelter

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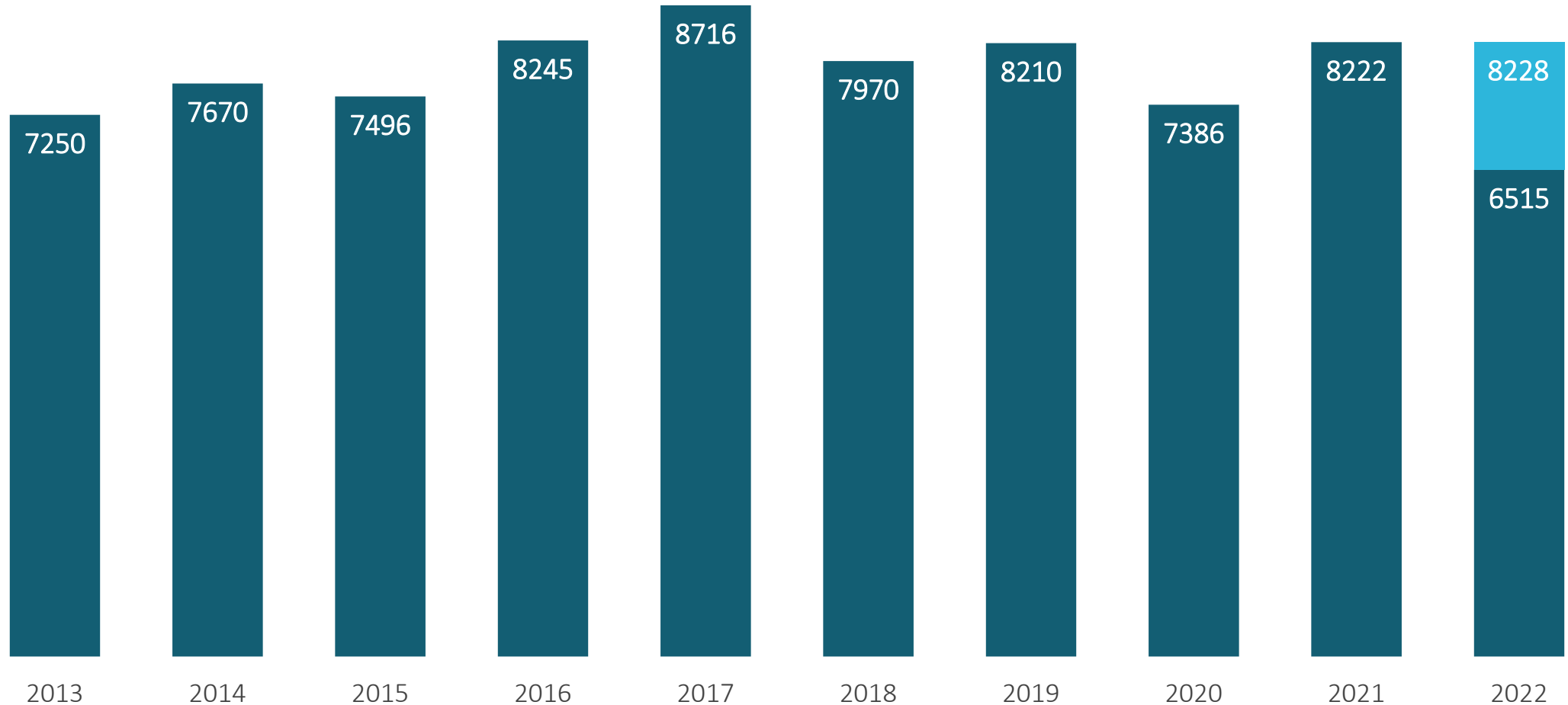
# Consistently High Shelter Intake (2017-2022)

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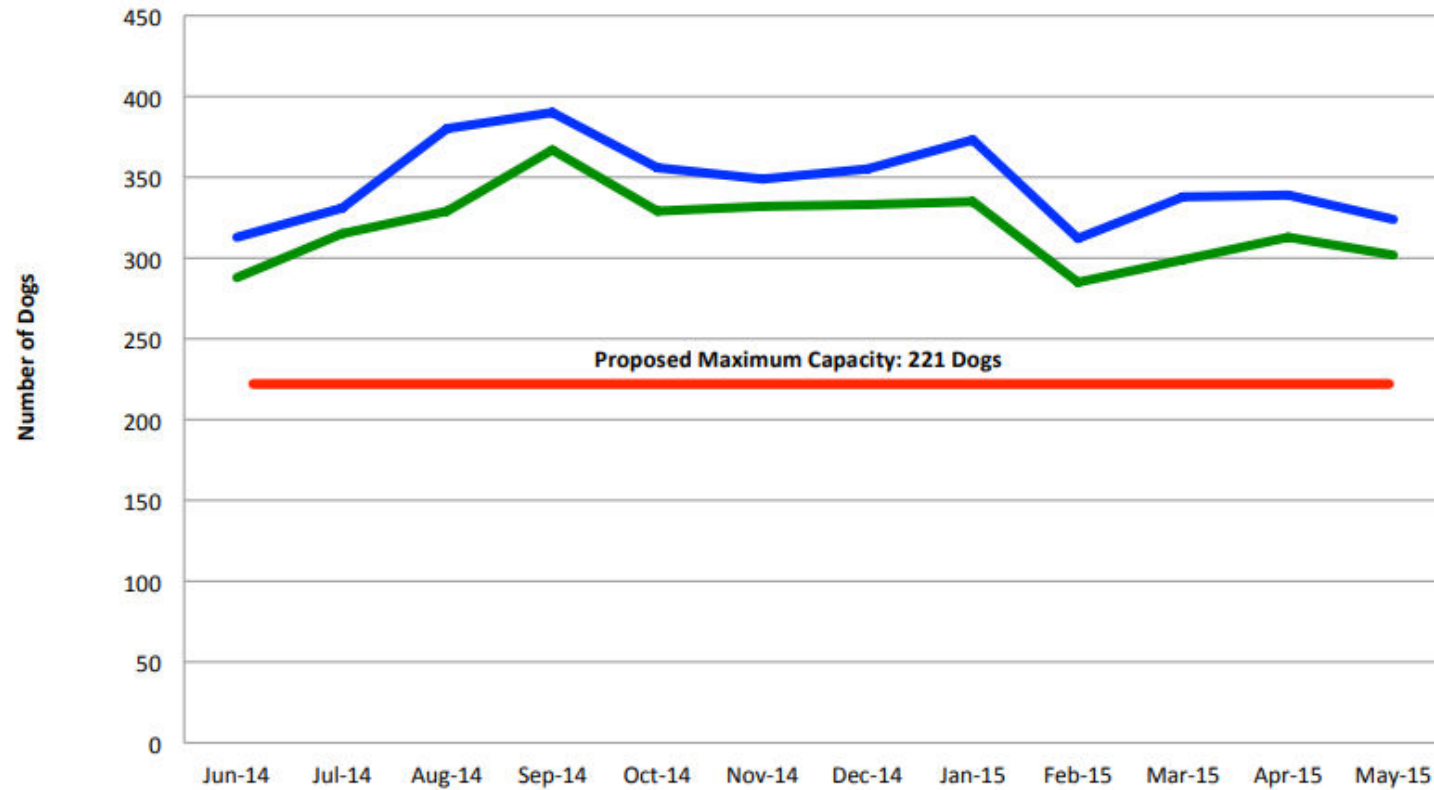


\*Projected total for 2022 had the 10-week emergency shutdown not occurred

# Consistently High Shelter Intake for 10 Years

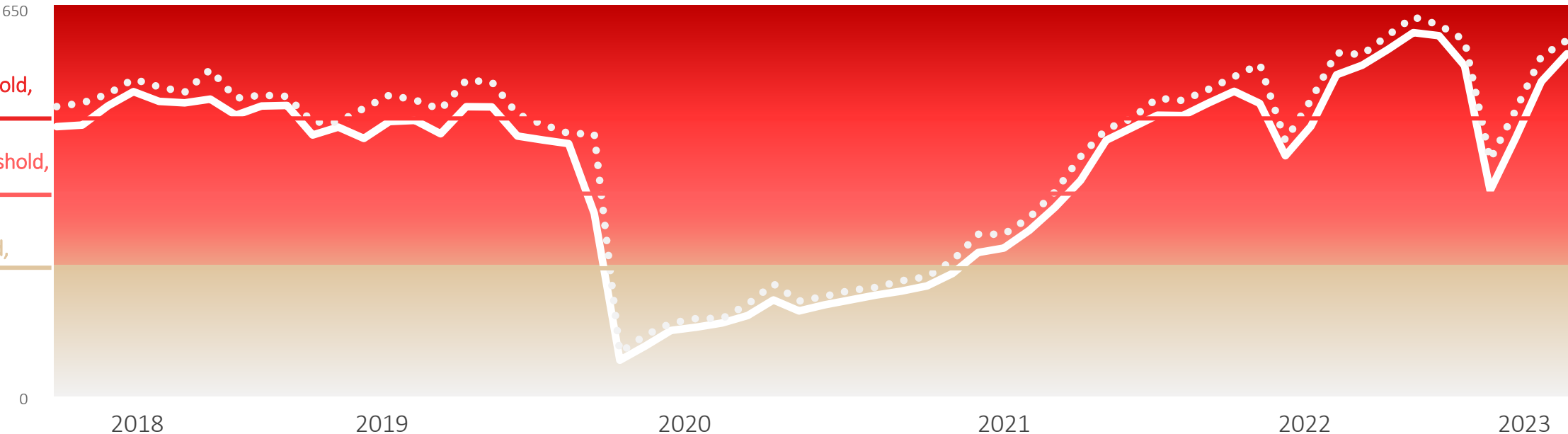


## DeKalb County Animal Services Actual Dog Population vs. Proposed New Shelter Capacity June 2014 - May 2015



	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15
<span style="color: green;">—</span> Avg Daily Population	288	315	329	367	329	332	333	335	285	299	313	302
<span style="color: blue;">—</span> Peak Population	313	331	380	390	356	349	355	373	312	338	339	324

# Shelter Consistently Under-serves Dekalb County Needs



Legend  
— Average daily count by month  
..... Max count by month

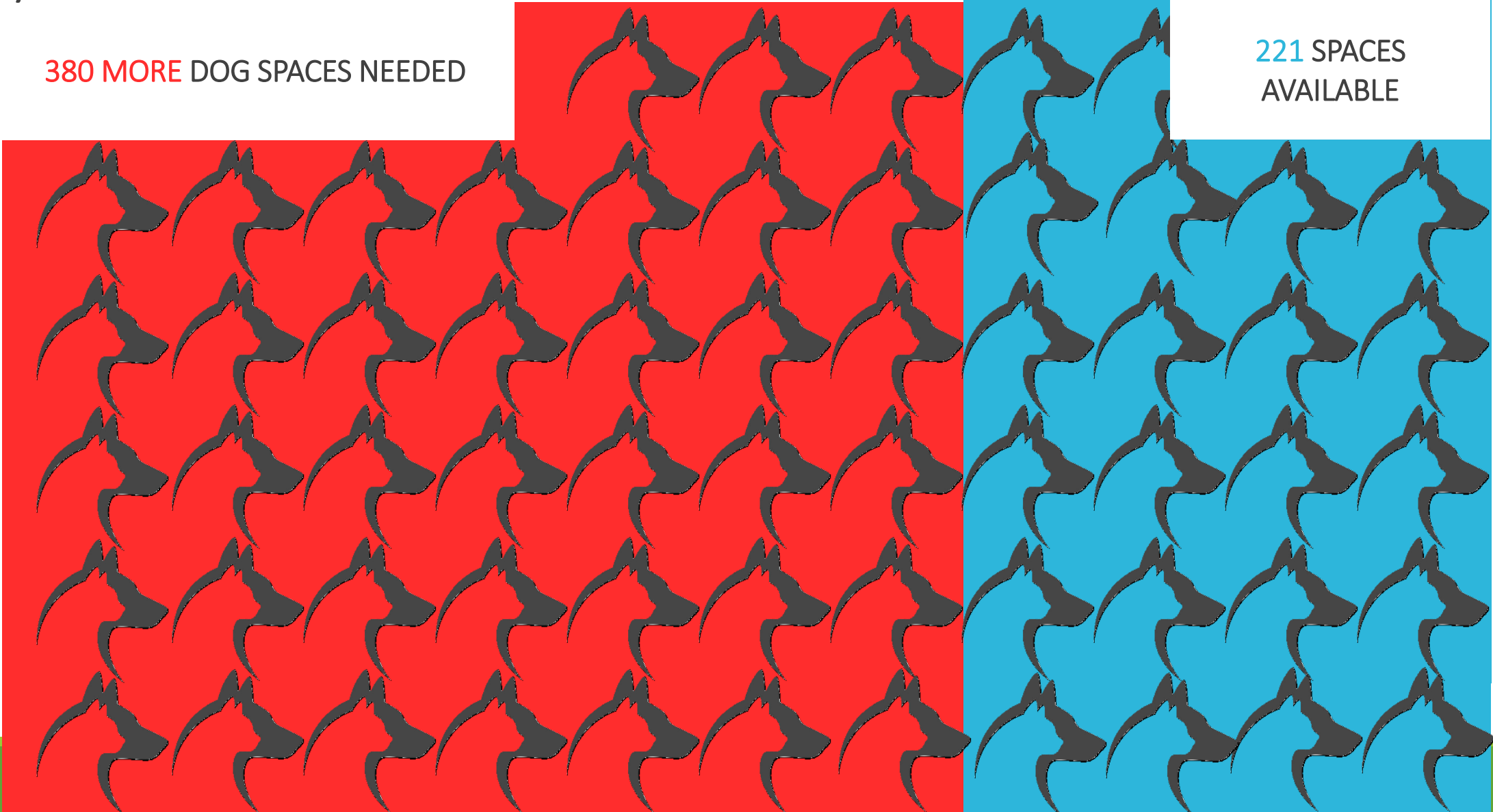
**Unhealthy threshold** – capacity added using temporary crates and cages in non-housing areas  
**Less healthy threshold** – capacity as adapted by splitting original kennels  
**Healthy threshold** – capacity as designed and constructed according to national standard of care guidelines

# Average Population Exceeds Available Space

2022-May 2023

380 MORE DOG SPACES NEEDED

221 SPACES AVAILABLE

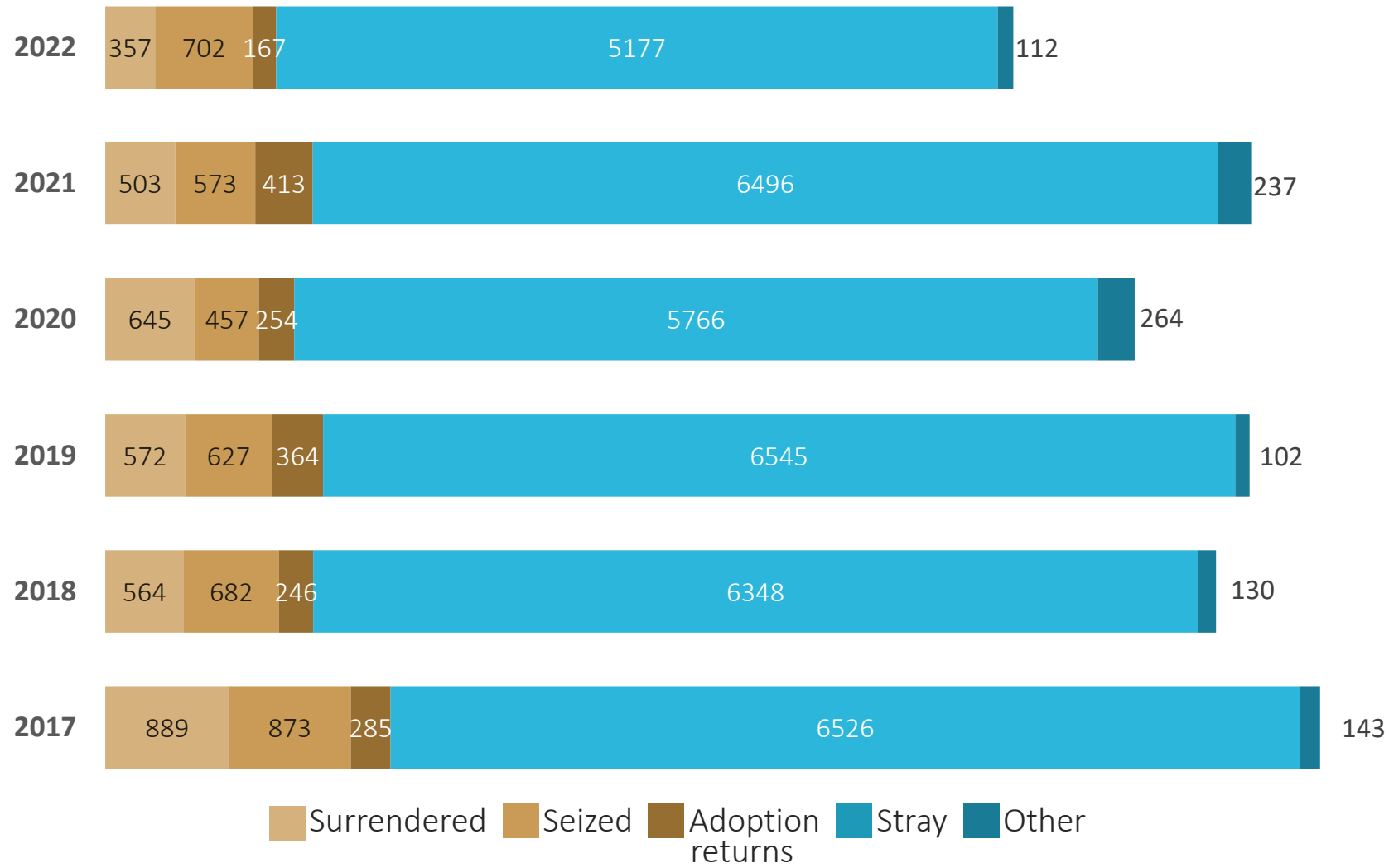


Legend



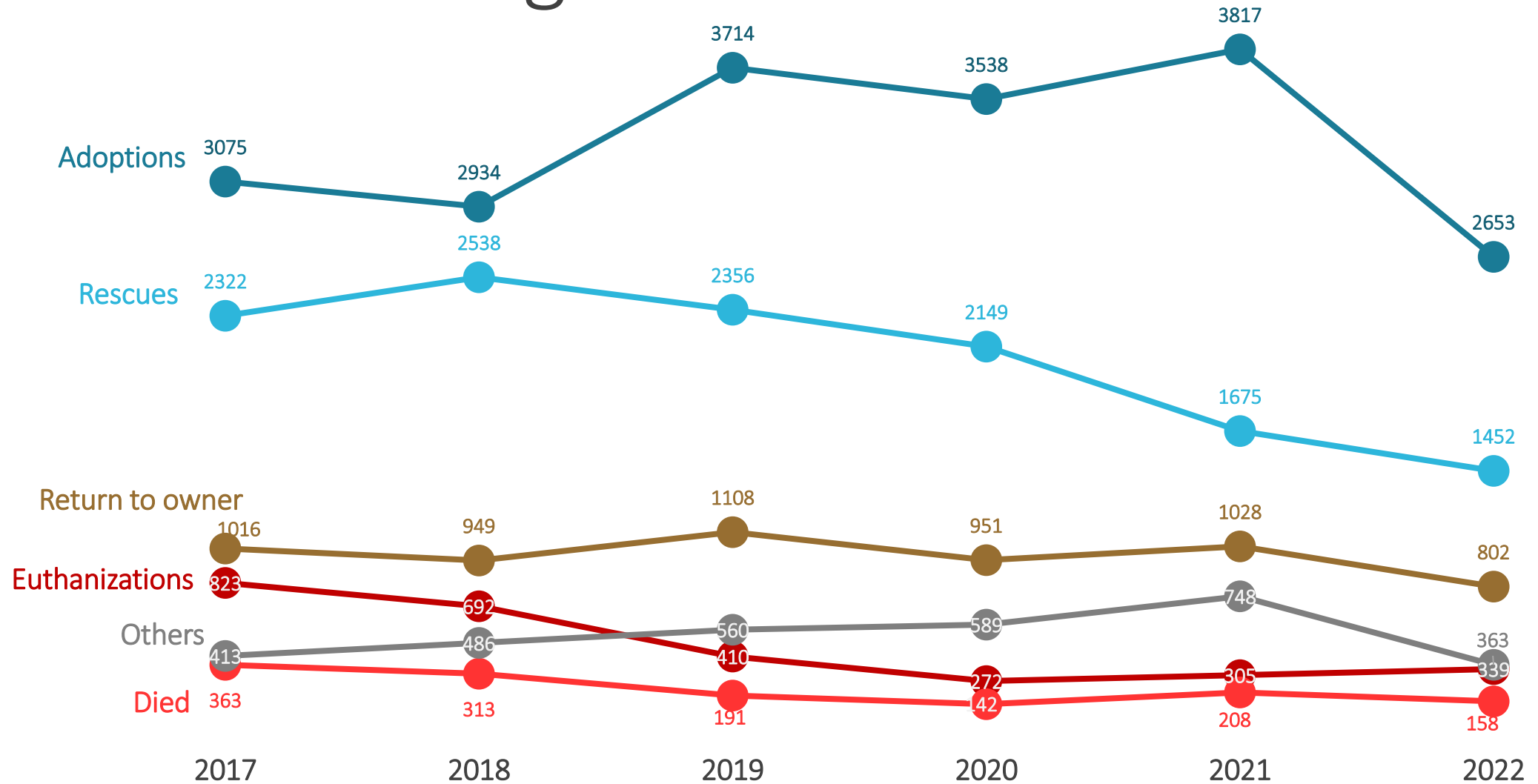
=10 dogs

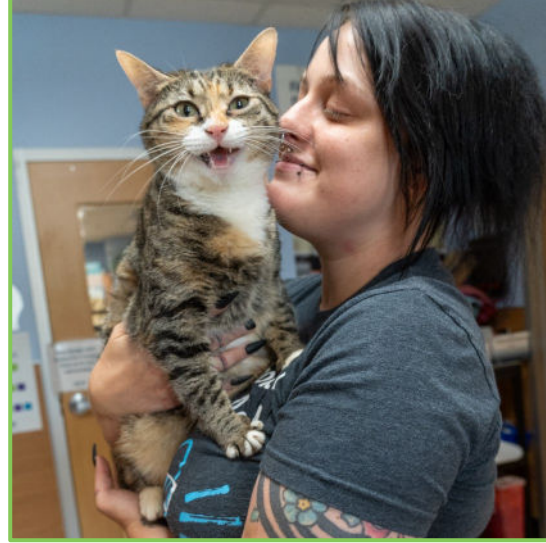
# Stray Animals Contribute the Most to Intake





# Adoptions and Rescue Transfers are Declining



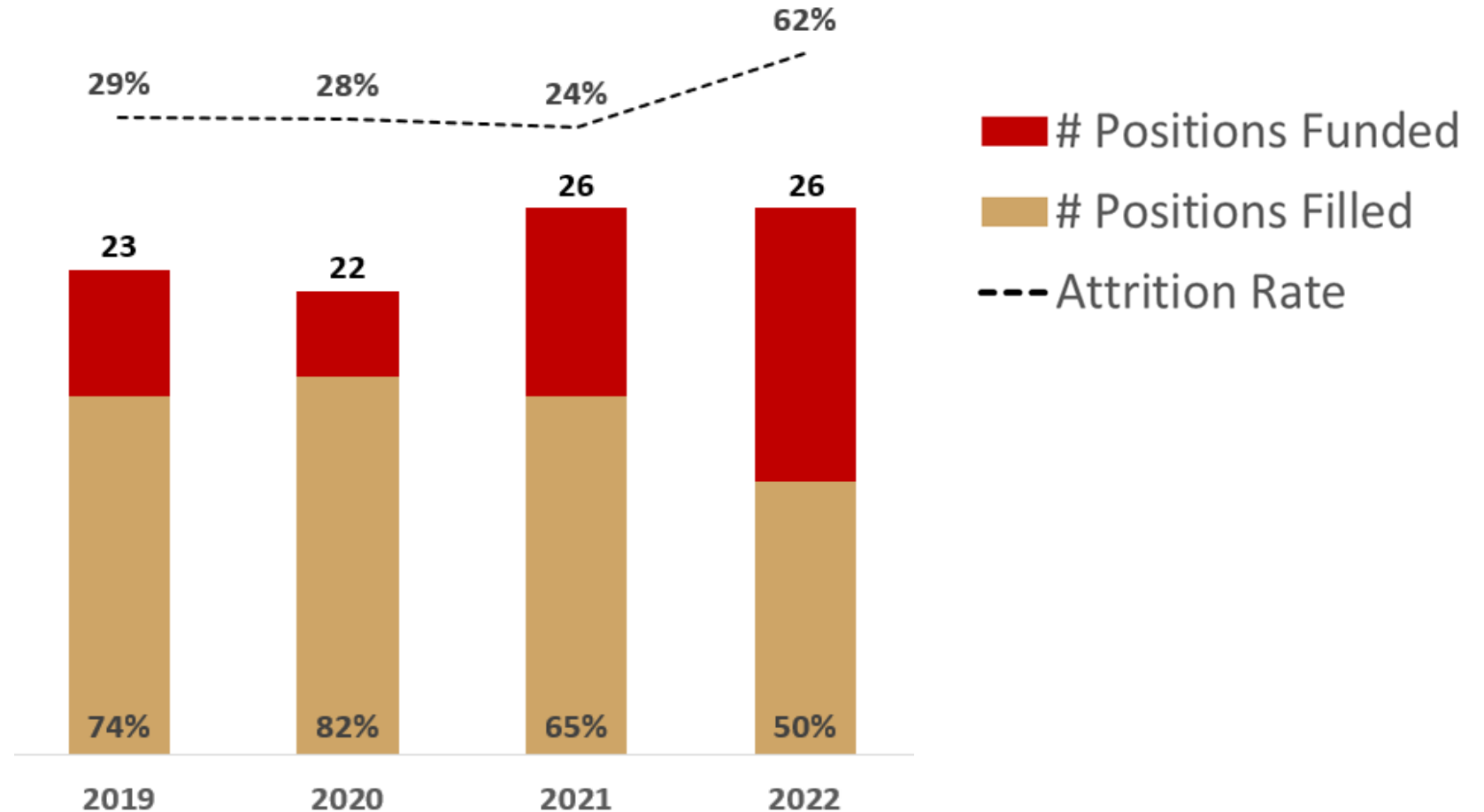


# Staffing Needs



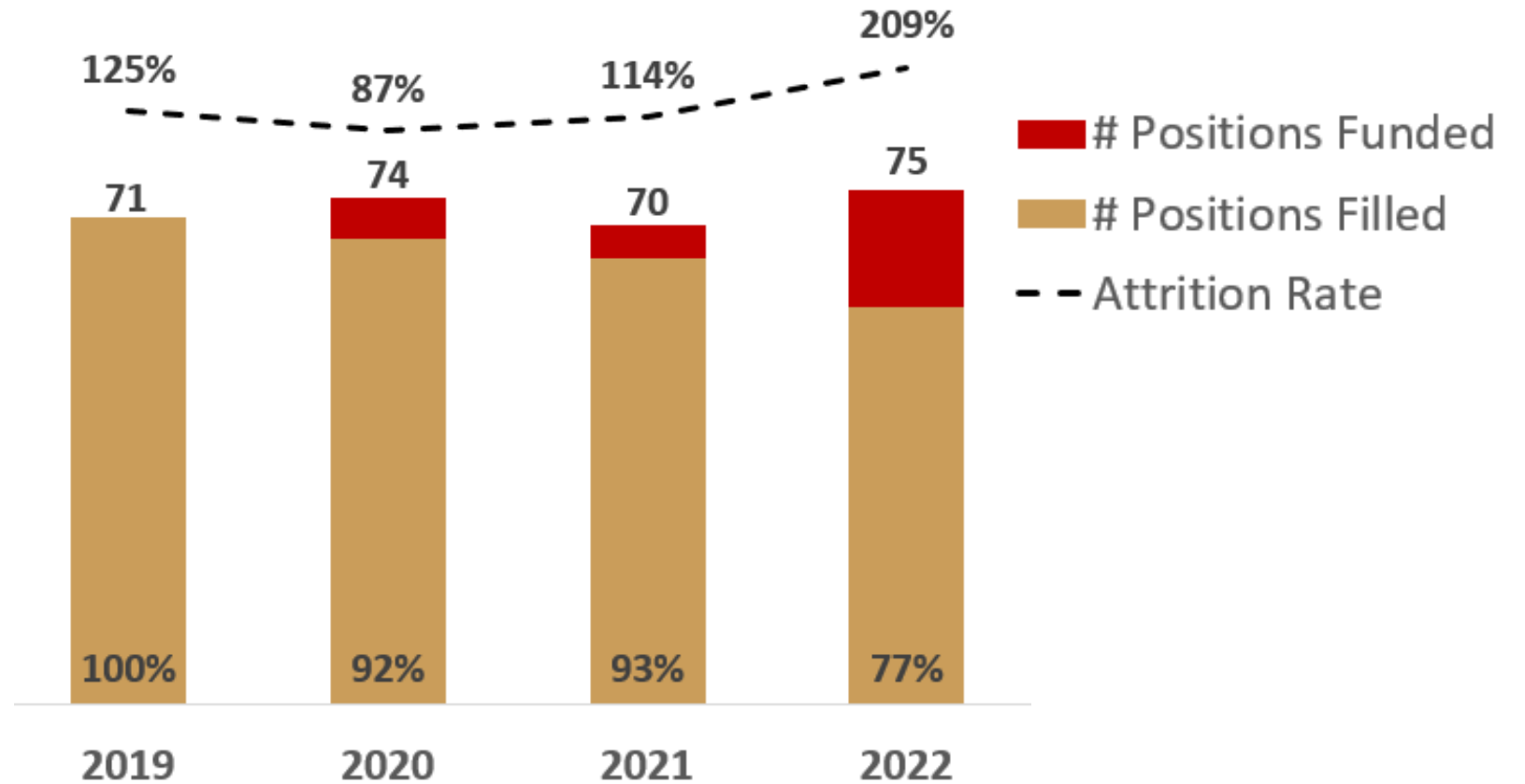
# Enforcement Understaffed and High Rates of Turnover 2019 – 2022

Staff support average  
of 24 calls per day



# Shelter Understaffed and High Rates of Turnover 2019 - 2022

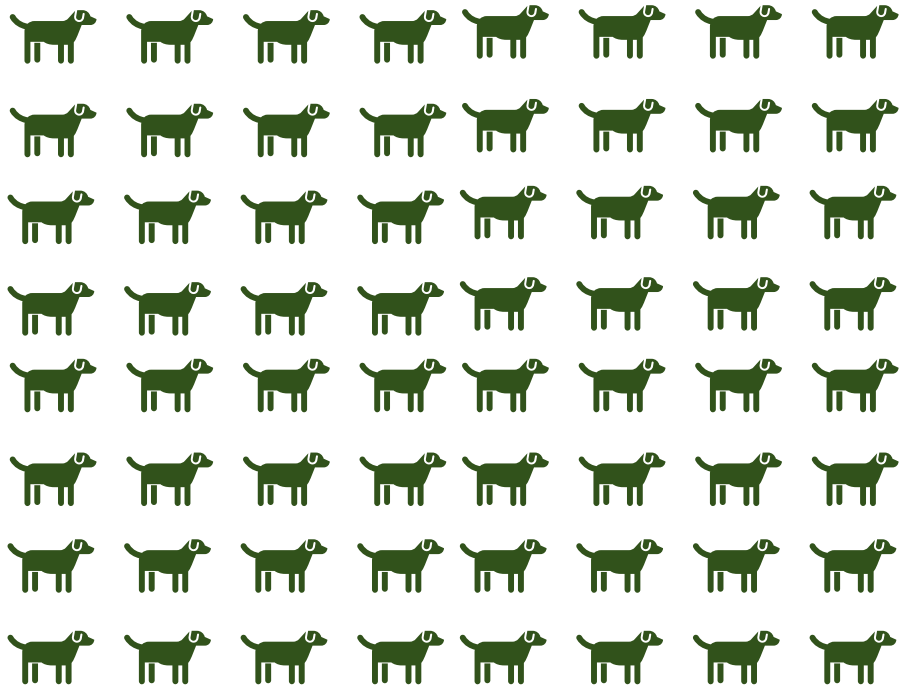
Staff support up to  
700 animals per day





# Court-Held Animals

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**159** court-held animals from...

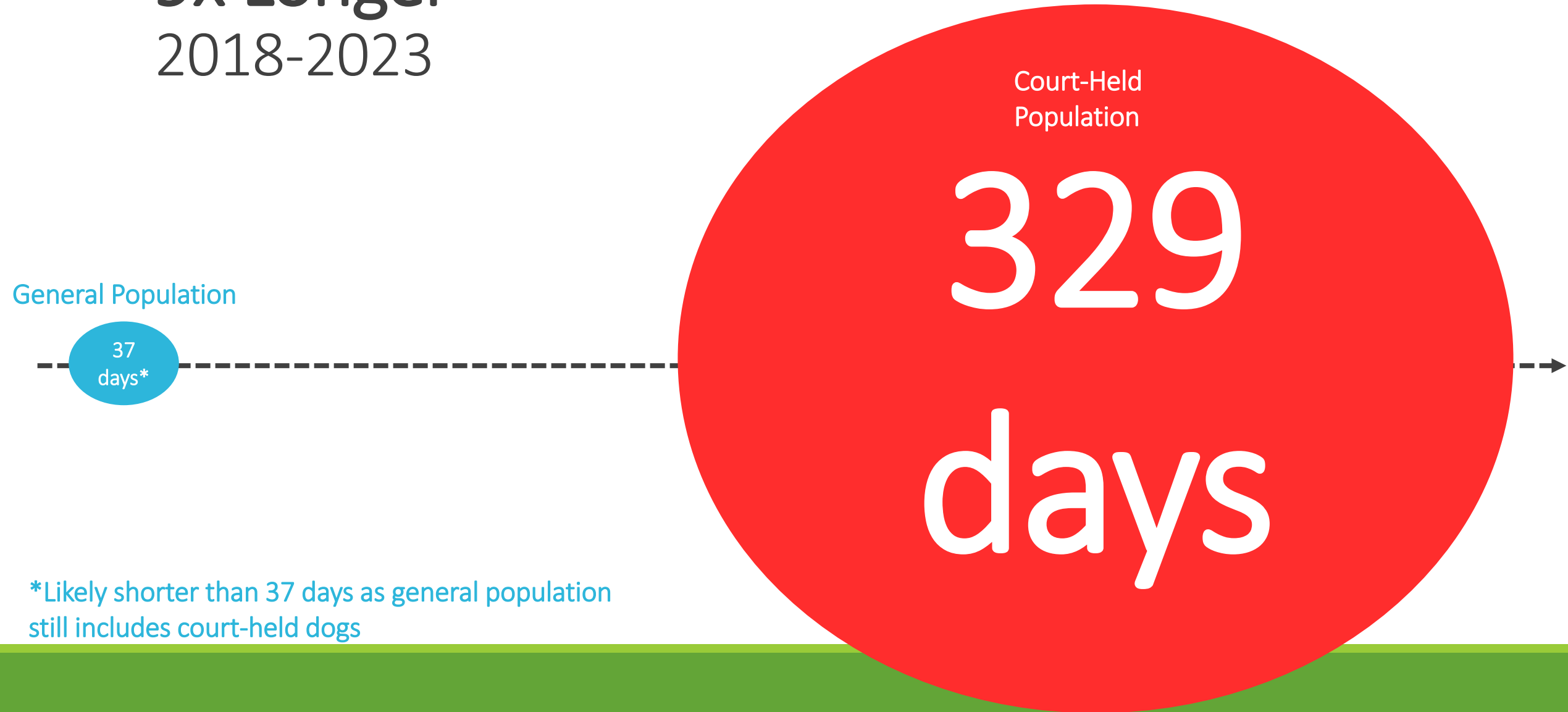


**32** cases, of which...



**8** filed a motion to dispose

# Court-Held Dogs Stay in System Almost 9x Longer 2018-2023



Court-Held  
Population

329

days

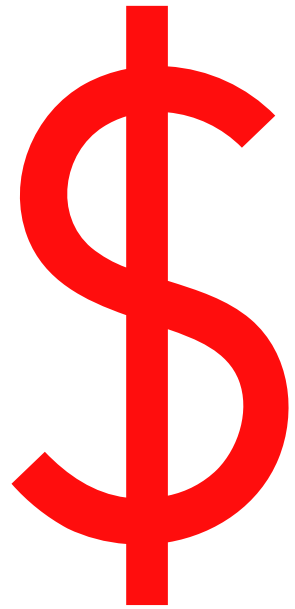
General Population

37  
days\*

\*Likely shorter than 37 days as general population  
still includes court-held dogs

# Running Cost of Care for Active Cases Almost \$2 Million

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**1.8 million** cost of care  
for 159 current court-held  
dogs at \$35/day\*

\*Conservative estimate



# Solutions to Court-Held Animal Overcrowding

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## DeKalb County Governing Authority

- Urge surrender in field and shelter for neglect and cruelty cases
- Use State law provisions to help counties
  - Motion to Dispose
  - Cost of Care
- New local legislation requiring owner to post bond to cover cost of care

## District Attorney and Solicitor General

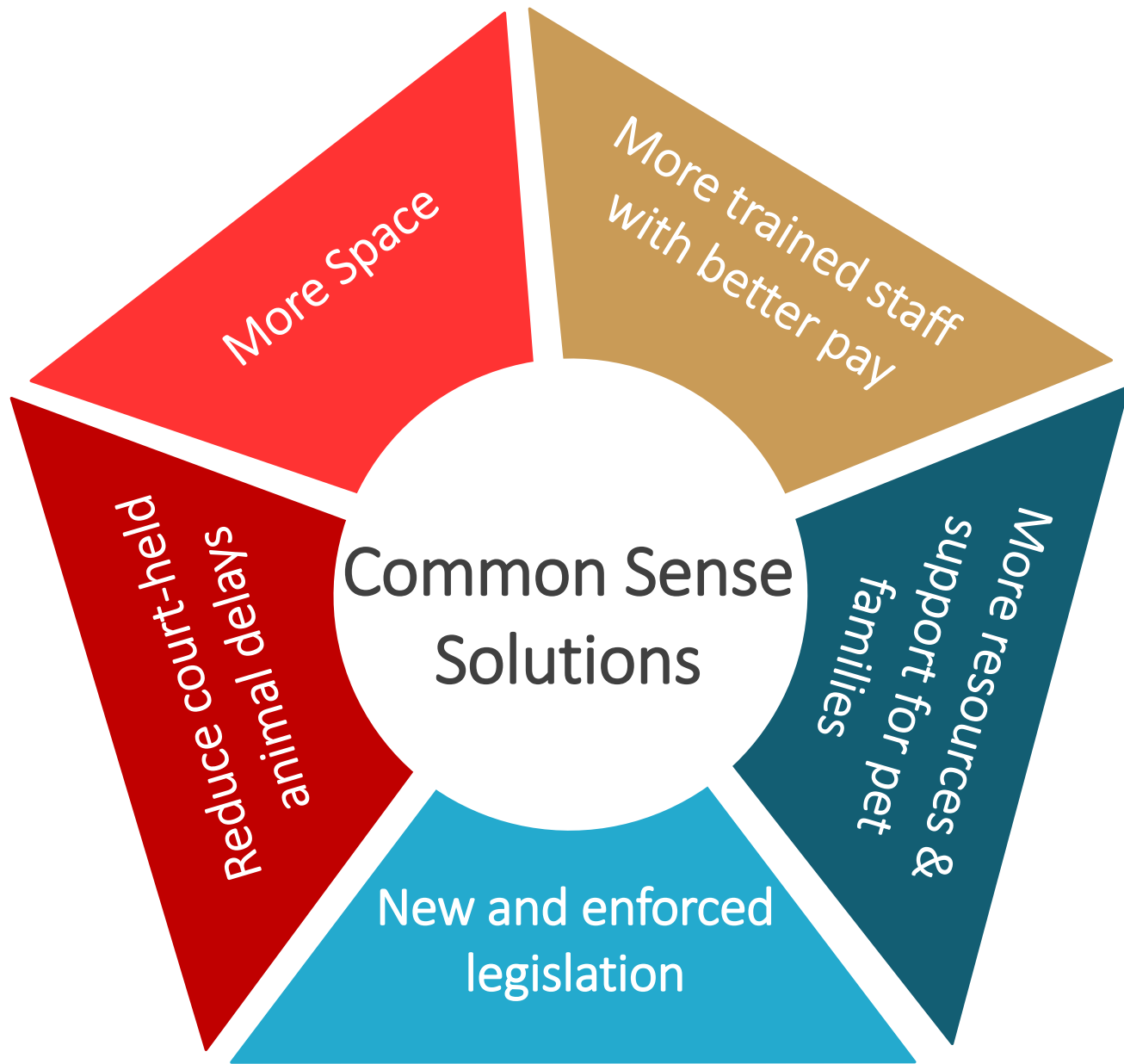
- Urge surrender at arraignment, subsequent hearings, and trial
- Coordinate with defense counsel to develop consent order
- Support County Attorney in motions to dispose and costs of care

## DeKalb County Courts

- Issue bench warrants when defendants first fail to appear for court
- Discourage ongoing efforts to postpone proceedings
- Encourage cooperation between prosecution and defense where the lives of animals are affected

# Goals and Recommendations

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# Common Sense Solutions Plans for a Better Tomorrow

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Goal I: Create More  
Space to Meet DeKalb  
Needs

# 60% of Dekalb Citizens are Pet Owners

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22% wanted but could not afford microchipping of their pets.

20% wanted but could not afford fence repair or placement.

And over the past three years, 72% wanted but could not afford access to things like pet food, veterinary care, microchipping, pet behavior and education training.

Source: Survey Commissioned by Maddie's Fund and conducted by A&K Research, April, 2023

# Dekalb Citizens' Opinions on Pet Services

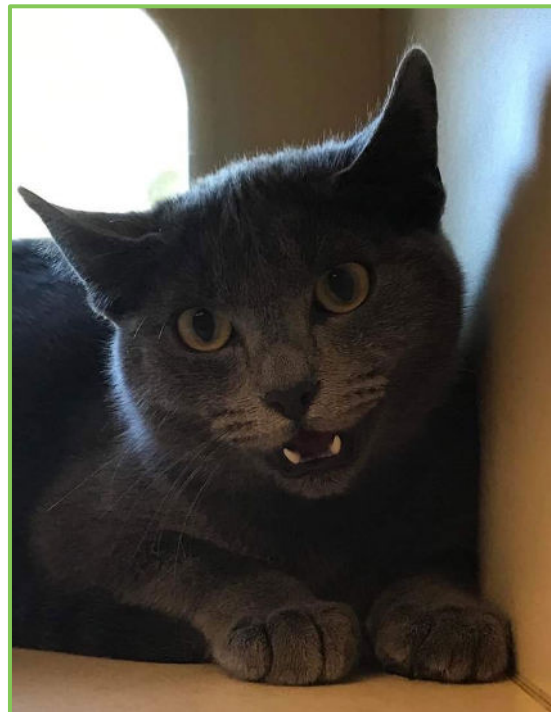
**66%** believed it was **important** for public officials to **increase the public funding** for the shelter.

**92%** believed there was a **need for additional funding** for animal services.

**69%** thought that funding should come from means **other than voluntary contributions**.

People of **all income levels** were supportive of **assistance programs** to support animal services.

Source: Survey Commissioned by Maddie's Fund and conducted by A&K Research, April, 2023



Thank you for your  
time and attention!

