



Positive Trend Continues for Canada’s Companion Animals – New Animal Shelter Statistics Report Released

OTTAWA – November 28, 2019 – Today, Humane Canada released its annual [report](#) on animal shelter statistics. This report measures the outcome for animals at Canada’s humane societies and SPCAs and gives Canadians a national picture of shelter animals in 2018.

The 2018 Animal Shelter Statistics report demonstrates positive, progressive change for homeless companion animals in Canada. More shelter cats are being adopted than ever before.

“For more than seven years, we have seen a steady improvement in outcomes for cats,” says Barbara Cartwright, CEO of Humane Canada. “Thanks to the committed, ongoing work of humane societies and SPCAs, public attitudes shift, spay/neuter rates go up and more cats with permanent ways to identify them, such as microchips – find their way home.”

Top Observations in the 2018 Report:

- The number of animals taken in to shelters continues to slowly trend downward. Fewer cats and dogs were taken in per organization in 2018 compared to past years.
- The number of both cats and dogs adopted increased in 2018; this continues the upward trend seen in recent years.
- The number of shelter cats adopted is at the highest rate ever observed.
- The number of dogs and cats taken in who were euthanized is similar to what was reported in recent years and is much lower than rates from five years ago or earlier, particularly for cats.
- The number of owned animals who were spayed or neutered through programs offered by humane societies and SPCAs increased 40 to 45%, relative to what was reported in 2017.

“The 2018 statistics inspire optimism for Canada’s shelter animals while it helps to inform Canadians about the role that shelters play in their communities,” says Dr. Toolika Rastogi, Policy and Research Manager, Humane Canada and report author. “To complete the 2018 Animal Shelter Statistics report, we compiled information from 87 shelters and seven foster-based branches operated by humane societies and SPCAs across Canada.”

The 2018 Animal Shelter Statistics Report is available for [download](#).

About Humane Canada

[Humane Canada](#) (a registered Canadian Charity) convenes Canada’s largest animal welfare community, representing humane societies and SPCAs from coast-to-coast, and an increasing number of municipalities and animal welfare organizations. As the nation’s voice for animal welfare, we drive positive, progressive change to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the humane treatment of all animals. The organization has been publishing annual shelter statistics since 1993. Read earlier reports [here](#).



For media interviews or further information, contact:

Stacey Diffin-Lafleur

Communications and Marketing Manager

Humane Canada

613-224-8072 ext. 18

Stacey@humancanada.ca