#### CANADIAN ANIMAL SHELTER STATISTICS 2020

**Sheltering Policy Platform**

We are a national, non-profit organization in Canada dedicated to the welfare of animals in the country. Our mission is to advance the welfare of animals with a strong national voice, promoting animal welfare interests and concerns to government, policymakers, industry, and the public.

**Humane Canada**

We drive positive progressive change to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the development of a just, compassionate and sustainable future for animals and people.

**ABOUT HUMANE CANADA**

Visit our website at humanecanada.ca or contact us through info@humanecanada.ca.

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### 2020 AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In 2020, we advance the welfare of animals with a strong national voice, promoting animal welfare interests and concerns to government, policymakers, industry, and the public.

**HUMANE SOCIETY AND SPCAs in Canada**

We are the largest network of animal protection organizations in Canada, working together to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection, and promote the development of a just, compassionate, and sustainable future for animals and people.

**SHELTERING POLICY PLATFORM**

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### 2020 ANIMAL SHELTER STATISTICS

In 2020, there was a 28% decrease in dog intake compared to the previous year.

**25% decrease in cat intake**

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**OTHER INTAKES**

- **Born in shelter:**
  - Dogs: 9 days
  - Cats: 12 days

- **Surrendered by owner:**
  - Dogs: 9 days
  - Cats: 8 days

- **Transferred from other organization:**
  - Dogs: 0.5%
  - Cats: 1.3%

- **Remained in shelter/errors:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 16%

- **Other live outcomes:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 16%

- **Euthanized:**
  - Dogs: 0%
  - Cats: 0%

**Sources of intake of cats and dogs in 2020**

- **Stray:**
  - Dogs: 17%
  - Cats: 17%

- **Surrendered by owner:**
  - Dogs: 80%
  - Cats: 80%

- **Other intakes:**
  - Dogs: 17%
  - Cats: 17%

**Median length of stay at a historic low in 2020**

- **Dogs:**
  - Median length of stay: 9 days
- **Cats:**
  - Median length of stay: 12 days

**Median shelter capacity in use in 2020**

- **Dogs:**
  - Median shelter capacity in use: 20%
- **Cats:**
  - Median shelter capacity in use: 20%

**Distribution of shelter capacity in use in 2020 by province:**

- **Ontario:**
  - Dogs: 28%
  - Cats: 28%

- **Quebec:**
  - Dogs: 30%
  - Cats: 30%

- **British Columbia:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

- **Alberta:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

- **Manitoba:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

- **Nova Scotia:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

- **New Brunswick:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

- **Newfoundland & Labrador:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

- **Saskatchewan:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

- **Yukon:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

- **Nunavut:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

- **Northwest Territories:**
  - Dogs: 34%
  - Cats: 34%

**Percent stray dogs and cats reclaimed by owner**

- **Dogs:**
  - 0%
  - 8%
  - 16%
  - 24%
  - 32%
  - 40%
  - 52%
  - 70%
  - 100%

- **Cats:**
  - 0%
  - 8%
  - 16%
  - 24%
  - 32%
  - 40%
  - 52%
  - 70%
  - 100%

**Percent dogs and cats adopted**

- **Dogs:**
  - 0%
  - 10%
  - 20%
  - 30%
  - 40%
  - 50%
  - 60%
  - 70%
  - 80%
  - 90%
  - 100%

- **Cats:**
  - 0%
  - 10%
  - 20%
  - 30%
  - 40%
  - 50%
  - 60%
  - 70%
  - 80%
  - 90%
  - 100%

**Total intake of cats and dogs to shelters**

- **83 shelters**

**2020 OUTCOMES**

- **Animals returned to their owners:**
  - 70%

- **Animals reclaimed by owner:**
  - 25%

- **Historically high levels of adoption and low rates of euthanasia:**
  - This is likely because the reduced intake and lower in-shelter population live outcome rates, particularly for cats. This may be because fewer animals were in care and shelters could thus accommodate increased live outcomes.

**Community-Supported Animal Sheltering Policy Platform**

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**COVID-19 pandemic**

With the emergence of a highly infectious human virus that resulted in the global COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, society at large was shuttered in an unprecedented way. This included animal shelters, that had to close to learn more.

**Human contact**

The result has prompted an evolution in the model of animal services toward a more community-centred approach.

**Community members**

Animals in potentially vulnerable situations. Please see Humane Canada’s Community-Supported Animal Sheltering Policy Platform.