



El Paso Animal Services

A Message To Our Community:

If you've seen our Live-Release Rate this month, it might seem like a devastating jab to the heart—which is why I wanted to write this message to you to clarify the reason behind the drastic change in our numbers.

For the month of February, we had a Live-Release Rate of 49.38%. A question that many of you might be asking is, 'Does this mean EPAS euthanized 51% of the animals that came to the shelter last month?' The short answer is no. But if not, then what is the reason for such a low save-rate?

The reason being is because over the last few months, we've been addressing our Foster program after some serious concerns were brought to management regarding loss of contact with many fosters. Over the last few years we've continued to work through the challenges that COVID left, including a nationwide veterinary shortage and an overall staffing shortage. Our workforce managed through these challenges, but following an audit conducted on our Foster program, we learned that many pets were lost while in foster care, or we lost contact with the individuals fostering, over the course of three years.

Since we've identified this shortfall in our Foster program, we took action to address the issues identified, including:

- Hiring new, temporary staff dedicated to rigorous follow-ups to all current fosters
- Establishing a partnership with the El Paso Veterinary Medical Association to outsource spay/neuter surgeries to reduce surgical wait times

We've also begun to implement new policies and procedures in order to enhance our Foster program, to include more rigorous counseling for fosters and dedicating more staff to the Foster program.

To clarify, the nationwide benchmark for no-kill is to save an average of 90% or higher of the animals that enter the shelter over the course of a year. In the Live-Release Formula, all animals are accounted for, in a 'noses in, noses out' type scenario—which means any outcome (positive or negative) is accounted for, including animals Lost in Care. We at El Paso Animal Services always strive to be transparent with our community—with our needs, with our challenges *and* with our data. Our shelter report is always updated monthly on our website for anyone to see, to include our live-release rate, a breakdown of our live outcomes and a breakdown of our other outcomes.



El Paso Animal Services

In February, 173 animals were euthanized, 29 died while in our care, and 532 animals were processed and outcome as lost while in our care. This 532 Lost In Care number is a result of our ongoing Foster Data Audit, a number that has accumulated since 2021. And as a transparent organization, what this means for our live-release rate is that as we complete this Foster Data Audit, we'll see a temporary negative impact on our overall live-release rate. But to give some perspective, if we looked at our Live-Release Rate as a normal month, without the Foster Data Audit outcomes, we would have saved 85.52%.

Nevertheless, I can assure you that my, and the entire team at El Paso Animal Services, ultimate goal is to continue to save as many lives of the pets that come into our care, and we remain dedicated to our lifesaving mission. Our Foster program was created to offer a second chance to our shelter pets, and has saved thousands of lives over the years. I'm excited that as we bring this Foster Data Audit to a close and we implement our program enhancements, we'll be able to save so many more with our community's help and support.

If you are able to open your home to a shelter pet in need, you can learn more about our Foster program on our website www.ElPasoAnimalServices.org/foster. Thank you for your continued support to El Paso Animal Services and our community pets.

Terry Kebschull, Director
El Paso Animal Services

Shelter Animals Count

Print Date Thursday, March 7, 2024

Site: All

Date From: 2/1/2024

Date To: 2/29/2024

Species By Age	Canine		Feline		Total
A - Beginning Animal Count (Date: 2/1/2024)	In Shelter 531	In Foster 1158	In Shelter 126	In Foster 786	2601

Live Intake	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	Total
B - Stray / At Large	467	241	102	329	76	27	1242
C - Relinquished by Owner	20	1	3	4	0	3	31
D - Owner Intended Euthanasia	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
E - Transferred in from Agency	7	0	0	13	4	1	25
F - Other Intake	6	0	0	90	16	54	166
G.1 - TOTAL LIVE INTAKE	509	242	105	436	96	85	
G.2 - TOTAL LIVE INTAKE	856			617			1473

Outcomes	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	Adult	Up to 5 months	Unknown	Total
H - Adoption	245	73	1	161	54	1	535
I - Returned to Owner	137	7	11	6	0	2	163
J - Transferred to another Agency	52	4	3	30	4	6	99
K - Returned to Field	-	-	-	301	23	1	325
L - Other Live Outcomes	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
M.1 - Subtotal: Live Outcomes	435	84	15	498	81	10	
M.2 - Subtotal: Live Outcomes	534			589			1123

N - Died in Care	4	3	2	9	9	2	29
O - Lost in Care	246	0	6	258	0	22	532
P - Shelter Euthanasia	77	19	39	23	1	14	173
Q - Owner Intended Euthanasia	17	0	6	0	0	0	23
R.1 - Subtotal: Other Outcomes	344	22	53	290	10	38	
R.2 - Subtotal: Other Outcomes	419			338			757
S.1 - TOTAL OUTCOMES	779	106	68	788	91	48	
S.2 - TOTAL OUTCOMES	953			927			1880

T - Ending Shelter Count (Date: 2/29/2024)	In Shelter 534	In Foster 1058	In Shelter 130	In Foster 472	2194
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Dog LRR: 52.46%

Cat LRR: 45.22%

FYTD LRR: 77.10%

CYTD LRR: 62.74%

Live-Release
Rate

49.38%

Euth Rate

11.74%

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**** Excluding Foster Clean Up ****

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