



Minneapolis

Animal Care and Control



Minneapolis Animal Care and Control (MACC) Destruction Records Assessment

by Mike Fry, No Kill Learning

Introduction

In September and October of 2018 animal rescue organizations and residents of Minneapolis, Minnesota began contacting No Kill Learning about concerns relating to operations – and particularly excessive destruction of animals – at the municipal-run animal shelter in the state’s largest city. Over a period of months No Kill Learning made various attempts to engage different City officials, as well as other stakeholders, to discuss shelter practices, particularly with regard to the destruction of animals at Minneapolis Animal Care and Control (MACC). These efforts resulted in a meeting held in December of 2018, which included City officials and staff.

At this meeting No Kill Learning offered free consulting services to help determine whether there were animals being destroyed that could otherwise be saved with minor adjustments to operating policies and protocols. To accomplish this goal No Kill Learning requested access to animal destruction records for the calendar years 2017 and 2018 as well as written copies of standard operating practices and protocols.

During discussions about this pro bono proposal, which took place face-to-face, via email and text message, a handful of relatively simple changes to existing practices were uncovered and discussed that would likely increase the MACC’s Live Release Rate (LRR) with little or no cost or effort.

However, following a lengthy discussion, the City declined to participate with the proposed assessment of the MACC euthanasia records and practices. As a result, it was necessary to obtain these documents via public records requests in order to perform this work. These

documents were, therefore, reviewed without input from MACC staff.

Following the public records request, destruction records were provided in the form of an Excel workbook, which No Kill Learning has made available for download (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y48klp2y>). The workbook consists of four spreadsheets. One sheet represents the animals destroyed. Other sheets are for treatments, behavior and medical assessment of those animals.

The information in these spreadsheets provides an insightful look at the inner workings at MACC. However, they are cumbersome to use. To find information about any individual animal, it is necessary to search each of the sheets separately for that animal’s unique ID. No Kill Learning has, therefore, converted them into an interactive, online database which allows people to review individual animal records in their entirety on a single screen (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2cbr2sf>), thereby making review of the records significantly easier.

MACC Policies and Procedures were provided in Microsoft Word documents and were compared to best practices of animal shelters with high live release rates (LRR).

No Kill Learning also followed the MACC web site to track the numbers of dogs and cats available for adoption for a two-month period to help assess the organization’s adoption efforts.

General Background

The fields of animal sheltering generally, and animal control specifically, have been undergoing rapid and dramatic change over the last decade and even more so in the last three to five years. Fifteen years ago, for example, the role of animal control was largely seen as “rabies control,” which oftentimes involved punitive licensing systems combined with the rounding up and destruction of stray animals.

Today, the role of animal control, and the public expectations of it, are completely different. There are now hundreds of open-admission municipal animal control centers in the USA that are achieving live outcomes of more than 95% – 96%. In these shelters the only animals destroyed are those with untreatable terminal illness, or those that pose a true public safety concern. These shelters are commonly referred to as No Kill shelters. A bare minimum Live Release Rate (LRR) of 90% is considered the industry standard threshold for being classified as No Kill. As the term suggests, “Live Release Rate” indicates the percentage of animals that leave the shelter alive. It is the total live outcomes (those returned to their owners plus those adopted to new homes plus those transferred to rescue organizations plus free-roaming cats returned to their territories) divided by the total outcomes. Mathematically, this can be expressed, “Total Live Outcomes/Total Outcomes >90%”.

At a No Kill shelter, the goal is not to achieve the 90% benchmark. The goal is to save every healthy or treatable animal, which usually results in a LRR of significantly higher than 90%. The 90% benchmark is simply a way of measuring progress toward that goal, with sufficient wiggle room for special circumstances that might result in an

unusually large number of untreatable animals coming into a shelter.

This new kind of animal control, which sees itself as a role model for the community and teacher of responsible pet stewardship, is the current trend and the future animal sheltering in the United States. These No Kill animal control operations have realized that there has been a cognitive disconnect between the way traditional animal control has behaved and the way they have asked the pet-owning public to treat their pets. They can’t, with integrity, for example, ask that people not treat their pets as disposable, and then turn around and destroy animals because of treatable medical or behavioral issues. Doing so is abhorrent to most Americans and a growing number of them are demanding this change at their animal shelters.

The transition from old “rabies control” dog pounds to true “animal care center” has been a relatively rapid one. On June 10, 2001, there were zero open-admission No Kill animal shelters in the USA. That changed on June 11, 2001, when new leadership started at Tompkins County, New York animal shelter. That day, Tompkins County became our first No Kill community.

Today, there are more than 140 cities and counties across the USA where all of the animal shelters have a LRR of more than 90%.



To see this map larger, see Attachment 1

The speed of this transition within the industry has been extraordinary and with each year it is accelerating. At the scale of the individual shelter, the transition is happening even faster. As it did in Tompkins County, the change often happens overnight usually due to a change in leadership. That change can happen by changing the person who runs the animal shelter, or it can come through a change in the governing body that oversees the shelter.

Lake County, Florida (see community profile below), for example, which transitioned to a No Kill model of sheltering on January 15, 2017 was able to do so after residents wanting a No Kill shelter replaced two County commissioners who had resisted shelter reforms. In the short documentary film *Boots on the Ground: The Lake County No Kill Story* (link: <https://youtu.be/gsdLu91ULu0>) Lake County Commissioner Leslie Campione explained it by saying:

“It was an issue that was spoken about in the election. It was no question. It was something that we began to talk about when we talked about who did we want on the County Commission... and did we want people that saw this as an important part of our Lake County value system. I mean, I don’t know how else to put that... it’s about values. It’s about how you feel about animals and how they should be treated, and just basic, you know, decency. And, I think that Lake County people, they wanted a No Kill shelter. They wanted the best shelter we could have within a reasonable amount of money. So, I think that drove the election to a certain degree because it became an issue that... it motivated people to pick a candidate based on who wanted to see changes at the shelter.”

As more shelters across the nation make this transition, more citizens are demanding change. As a result, the change in the industry is accelerating. The more change that happens, the more it applies pressure on shelters that have so far resisted this model of sheltering.

Today’s more forward-thinking animal control is as much educator as it is law enforcement. This public desire for change is apparent, even with regard to what animal control operations call themselves, with names like “Animal Services” and “Animal Care” becoming increasingly common. Sadly, some are changing in name only and continue destroying healthy animals or animals with treatable or manageable medical or behavioral issues. That said, real, dramatic and progressive change is happening in every area of the United States and many sheltering experts believe it is only a matter of time before all animal shelters are No Kill.

It is against this dynamic and interesting backdrop that this assessment was done.

MACC in Historical Context

Minnesota animal control, sheltering and animal welfare have interesting, rich and unusual histories of their own, some of which are largely misunderstood to this day. Not that long ago, for example, animal shelters in the Twin Cities metro area were destroying in excess of 20,000 dogs and cats annually. The overwhelming vast majority of the animals being destroyed were either healthy or had easily treatable or manageable medical or behavior issues.

At that same time it was commonly believed by many that the Twin Cities area was a No Kill community. Some even wrongly believed that Minnesota

was a No Kill state. The animal shelters themselves - through messaging which minimized or concealed the destruction of animals taking place - largely fostered this belief.

The false notion that Minnesota in general and the Twin Cities specifically were safe harbors for homeless pets was exacerbated significantly by animal shelters and rescue organizations that imported animals from out-of-state in large numbers (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6qckoxp>).

The false narrative that the Twin Cities had achieved No Kill status was also spread by organizations that were sending pets here to be “saved.” These organizations would often (and still do) send out dramatic requests to help raise funds to pay for the transports to send animals to the Twin Cities area. Such funding request would likely have been ineffective had prospective donors known about the destruction of animals taking place in shelters here. As a result, even when animal shelters in the Twin Cities had save rates of only around 50% many people believed them to be No Kill. The transports of animals to the Twin Cities were great PR for shelters and rescues on both the sending and receiving ends because they would frequently attract media attention and were generally presented by the press as feel-good stories of animals being saved. However, they likely resulted in little, if any, additional lifesaving. It could, in fact, be argued that the false narrative that the Twin Cities had already achieved No Kill status actually inhibited forward progress toward the No Kill goal here.

The lack of transparency related to animal deaths in Minnesota shelters, combined with the large numbers of animals imported into the area inspired proposed legislation, which was debated

at the Minnesota Legislature for a few years.

Minnesota House Representative John Benson introduced House File 1735, more commonly referred to as the Companion Animal Protection Act (CAPA), in 2011. The bill would have required animal shelters end what is commonly referred to as “convenience killing.” It would have also required increased cooperation between animal shelters and qualified rescue groups while also mandating additional transparency in the reporting of animal shelter outcomes. It also would have banned the use of carbon monoxide (gas) chambers and other forms of “euthanasia” that were/are widely regarded as inhumane.

Though CAPA had broad support from the general public and the private rescue community, it received fierce opposition from some Twin Cities-based animal shelters, including the City of Minneapolis. CAPA failed to pass and was reintroduced in the following legislative session, only to fail again, again due to opposition from animal shelters, including the City of Minneapolis.

Though CAPA failed at the State level, new shelter leadership in the City of St. Paul embraced it and worked with No Kill advocates and the St. Paul City Council to draft it as a local ordinance. CAPA in St. Paul was introduced by St. Paul City Council President Kathy Lantry and passed as a local ordinance in 2014. (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2bstfq2>)

St. Paul Animal Control had actually achieved a LRR higher than 90% prior to CAPA being introduced there. Following its passage, the privately run animal shelters also achieved save rates higher than 90%.

The Animal Humane Society (AHS), which operates 5 shelters in the greater Twin Cities metro area, is the largest sheltering system in the state and operates a shelter in St. Paul. When CAPA became law in that City, AHS announced that all of their shelters would begin complying with the provisions of the law. Prior to that time, animal control in the northern, western and southern suburbs were already reporting LRR higher than 90%, with some reporting as high as 97% save rates.

As a result, since 2015 every major animal shelter in the Twin Cities metro area has been reporting a LRR of over 90%, with the exception of MACC.

Other More Successful Communities

Much like a real estate agent likes to assess properties in comparison to others that are on the market, I like to compare animal shelter metrics to other shelters. For this assessment, I chose a variety of different shelters for comparison. I selected animal control operations that share at least some general characteristics with MACC.

Though they share some similarities with MACC, they also represent a diverse cross-section of animal control operations. Some are officially No Kill. Others are not. They represent the North, South, East and West of the United States and include shelters that serve urban centers as well as more rural communities. They are all open-admission animal control operations.

A brief overview of each is provided below. Unless specified, numbers are for the 2018 calendar year.

Comparison Communities that are Not Yet No Kill:

United States as a Whole

Population: 327,700,000

Shelter Intake: 5,800,000

Live Release Rate: 78%

Per Capita Intake: 17.69 animals per 1,000 residents

Budget per Capita: \$4.00 (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5azrhnd>)

By any measure, the United States is a nation of animal lovers, with 94.2 million owned cats and 89.7 million owned dogs living in the country. Add in all of the other species of pets and the total of owned animals is a staggering 393,000,000. There are, in fact, more non-human residents living in our homes than there are people.

In many households pets are considered and treated as family members. We care for our pets almost as though they are our children. We also grieve profoundly when they die.

It is this love for our non-human companions that has fueled the revolution that is taking place in the animal control field and that was mentioned earlier. Live release rates from animal shelters of all kinds have been skyrocketing in recent years. At the same time, intake to animal shelters has been declining. Increased live outcomes and reduced intake are due to changes in animal shelter policies and practices that increase adoptions, improve relationships with nonprofit rescue organizations and which keep animals that do not need rescue out of animal shelters (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yysr9lut>)

While lifesaving at animal control operations has increased dramatically, this has not corresponded with increased spending at animal control. In fact, spending on animal control has

generally risen more slowly than the rate of inflation, meaning that, adjusted for inflation, we are spending less on animal control as we have been increasing the save rates from our shelters. That is because many of the programs and practices that reflect the change from the old “dog catcher” culture to the new “animal care” paradigm either save money or generate revenue.

Increasing adoptions, for example, saves money by shortening length of stay while generating income in adoption fees. Releasing animals to rescue organizations saves money by shortening length of stay while avoiding costs associated with destruction and disposal animal carcasses. Proactive Redemption (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5eha2p8>) generates income while reducing costs.

Huntsville, Alabama (Madison, County)

Population Served: 312,185
Shelter Intake: 5,136
Live Release Rate: 92%
Per Capita Intake: 16.45 animals per 1,000 residents

Huntsville Animal Services (HAS) is the municipal animal shelter for the City of Huntsville, Alabama and also provides sheltering services for Madison County, with the exception of the City of Madison, which has its own animal shelter. Subtracting the population of the City of Madison from the population of Madison County, HAS provides animal services for a population of 312,185 people.

Though HAS has had a LRR of more than 90%, it is generally not considered to be a No Kill shelter, for several reasons – most importantly, they still destroy some dogs that would likely be saved at other animal shelters. HAS

achieves its LRR largely through aggressive SNR (shelter – neuter – release; link: <https://tinyurl.com/y3pbwh5k>) which has increased the LRR for felines to dramatically more than 90%. The LRR for dogs, however, is consistently in the low 90’s.

HAS made dramatic improvements to its LRR when a new City Administrator was hired. The new administrator began meeting with No Kill advocates at No Kill Huntsville and he fully embraced the No Kill Equation. In spite of fairly public resistance to change from the shelter director, HAS experienced dramatic improvements as a result of significantly increased oversight from City leadership. The last remaining population of animals needing attention in Huntsville is the larger, very energetic dogs. When programs are in place to address the needs of these animals, Huntsville will officially become a No Kill community.

Sacramento (City), California

Population: 502,000
Shelter Intake: 10,215
Live Release Rate: 86%
Per Capita Intake: 20.34 per 1,000 residents

Not long ago, the City of Sacramento’s Animal Services had a LRR of only 30%. That changed when the City hired a new, energetic and passionate director who quickly began making significant changes at the shelter. (link: <https://tinyurl.com/yyszdwyk>)

After the new director was hired, the LRR jumped rapidly from 30% to just over 71% in 2014. This dramatic improvement resulted in a kind of “halo effect” where many residents – and even many in the rescue community – believed the shelter was No Kill, or close to it, even when it was not.

Since 2014, the LRR in Sacramento has continued to increase to the mid 80's. While the shelter director has continued to push for shelter improvements, there has been little external evidence of meaningful leadership from elected officials or senior City staff to help bring the City to No Kill status. ***If City leadership in Sacramento embraced No Kill as a vision for their shelter, it is likely they would be a No Kill community very quickly.***

Comparison Communities that are No Kill:

Austin, Texas

Population: 950,715

Shelter Intake: 16,026

Live Release Rate: 97.69%

Per Capita Intake: 16.85 per 1,000 residents

In 2010, City Council in Austin, Texas embraced the eleven programs and services commonly known as the No Kill Equation (link: <https://tinyurl.com/yysr9lut>) and unanimously passed a No Kill resolution and implementation plan to achieve No Kill at the City's municipal-run Animal Center. Shortly thereafter, the City became the largest No Kill community in the United States, and it has maintained that status ever since.

Austin has not only held the status of largest No Kill community in the USA, it has continued refining and re-defining the upper limits of what is considered possible in terms of what is possible for lifesaving at an open-admission animal control operation.

A detailed assessment of each animal record for Austin's Animal Center (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/ya87jqt4>) in 2018 shows that animals in every category, from orphaned, un-weaned kittens to large and energetic dogs, were saved at

rates approaching 100%, whether taken in as stray, confiscated or surrendered by their owners.

After Austin first achieved No Kill status in 2010, dog bites, and particularly those deemed to be serious, fell dramatically. They have remained flat ever since, which is particularly interesting, since the LRR for canines in Austin in 2018 was a remarkable 98.88% (see Attachment 7).

The success in Austin was the result of strong leadership from elected officials in the City, which continues to this day, combined with competent and passionate staff at animal control. These two components have not always been present in Austin.

Prior to 2010, Austin's animal control operated much like it does today in Minneapolis. The LRR was poor. The shelter was not well liked in the rescue community, or by the public in general. Resistance to change was high. More importantly, improving shelter operations was not a priority for elected officials.

A multiyear-long campaign by local animal lovers to demand change, in which advocates for change petitioned City Council and became politically active – to the point of scoring potential City Council candidates on whether or not they supported reform of the shelter – is what put shelter reform on the City Council's radar. As host and Executive Producer of the syndicated Animal Wise Radio program, I followed these efforts for years, interviewing citizen organizers and members of Austin's Animal Advisory Board.

Following the passage of the No Kill resolution and implementation plan in Austin, shelter staff remained resistant and the shelter director was ultimately replaced after resisting implementing

the No Kill plan. With the resistant director gone, leadership at the City became aligned with shelter staff, focused on the No Kill goal. Once that happened the change occurred practically over night.

In the very last days of October of 2010, shortly after the Austin Animal Control director had been reassigned, and before a replacement had been hired, I was honored to be in Austin, Texas. I was speaking at a No Kill workshop coordinated by animal advocates there. I was also doing some consulting work for one of the nonprofit rescue organizations in the City.

As part of that work, I toured Austin's Animal Center and spoke with people working to save animals from what was then called the daily "kill list." At the time, the daily kill list would be generated about an hour before close of business each evening. Animals on the list would be destroyed before opening the next day, unless these people could create alternatives. The lists were shockingly long.

Again, the former director was already gone. A new director was also not yet in place. There was, however, a highly dedicated and knowledgeable group of remaining staff, rescues and volunteers who were focused on saving as many lives as was possible, and living by the No Kill resolution and implementation plan outlined by the City.

To say this a different way: I was literally boots on the ground at "ground central" for what was about to be the most dramatic transition in the history of animal sheltering. Though Austin had yet to officially achieve No Kill status, it was obvious that they were about to do so. No healthy or treatable animals on the kill list lost their lives while I was observing.

When I took the podium at the No Kill workshop near the end of my visit, I stunned the audience by telling them that a No Kill Austin was not years away. It was not months away, it was weeks or days away. There was an audible gasp in the room because, even by the end of the workshop, there was a healthy amount of skepticism remaining.



Photo: Mike Fry speaking at the No Kill Workshop in Austin Texas in October of 2010

However, the very next month, and before hiring a new director, the City of Austin achieved its first ever LRR of more than 90%. The month after that the City officially announced it had achieved the No Kill status it has maintained ever since.

The public struggle that had occupied the City for years prior evaporated. In its place was a sense of immense and well-earned pride and accomplishment.

City officials who set the No Kill vision for the shelter and then held staff accountable accomplished no Kill in Austin. The success was 100% about effective leadership.

Lake County, Florida

Population: 346,000
Shelter Intake: 7,000
Live Release Rate: 95%
Per Capita Intake: 20.23 per 1,000 residents

The municipal animal control shelter in Lake County, Florida made the transition to No Kill on January 15, 2017. Prior to that date, the LRR was always below 70% and often near 50%. However, on that date, the killing of healthy and treatable animals stopped and the shelter has maintained a LRR of over 90% ever since, with ongoing improvement of the LRR. In 2018, the LRR was 95%.

Lake County is a geographically large and rural community that many would describe as a deep red community in red state. It is home to a diverse population and suffers all of the animal-related challenges common throughout the Deep South.

As it did in Austin, the vision for a No Kill animal control came from elected officials who were themselves led to the No Kill goal by residents who wanted their shelter to transition from the old “dog catcher” paradigm to the true “animal care” model.

Also like in Austin, Lake County’s success required County officials ensure they had the right people driving the No Kill bus. New standard operating protocols were written. Staff were retrained or replaced. The new leadership took control on January 15, 2017 and the killing of healthy and treatable pets stopped immediately.

The shelter is also now a source of immense community pride and celebration.

MACC High-Level Statistics

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Population: 422,000
Shelter Intake: 2,491
Live Release Rate: 76%
Per Capita Intake: 5.9 animals per 1,000 residents
Budget per Capita: \$8.10

As mentioned earlier, a shelter’s Live Release Rate (LRR) is one of the primary metrics used to evaluate shelter performance. Another is the per-capita intake rate.

These objective measures are important when assessing animal shelters because the issues surrounding animals are often highly subjective and often highly emotional. Therefore, having objective measures of performance are particularly important.

In 2018, MACC had an overall LRR of 76% (see attachment 5), slightly below the national average of 78%. During that same year, MACC saw an intake of only 2,491 animals, which equates to an intake rate of only 5.9 animals for every 1,000 Minneapolis residents, which is about one third of the national average of 17.8 animals for every 1,000 residents.

These numbers show that while MACC has one of the lowest per-capita intake rates of shelters in the USA, it also has a relatively low save rate. MACC’s save rate is, in fact, dramatically lower than the other animal control operations in and around the greater Twin Cities metro area.

Though the save rate at MACC has improved somewhat over time, it has not kept pace with improvements in the surrounding shelters, or even the overall improvement in the sheltering industry nationally. In recent months, animal

advocates have been complaining that MACC’s save rate has been declining. In January of 2019, MACC’s LRR was only 72% (See Attachment 2).

At the same time, MACC enjoys a generous budget, which is in line with the generally accepted norms of animal control funding for shelters handling many more animals.

MACC’s most recent approved budget was \$3,429,000.00 (see attachment 5) which equals \$8.10 per capita. This is large particularly taking into account the exceptionally low intake level. Many animal shelters with much higher intake and save rates have much smaller budgets (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y376n3bs>)

MACC Destruction Data Overview

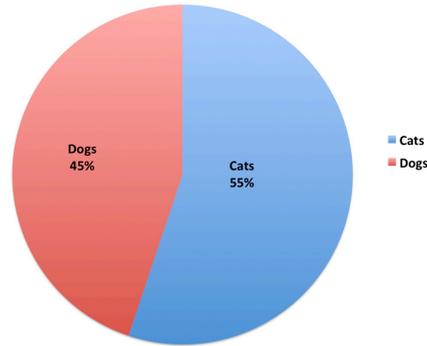
The destruction records provided by MACC represented 1,152 dogs and cats. They included 644 felines and 508 canines, which were categorized into 9 different intake types.

These intake types and the numbers of each are listed below:

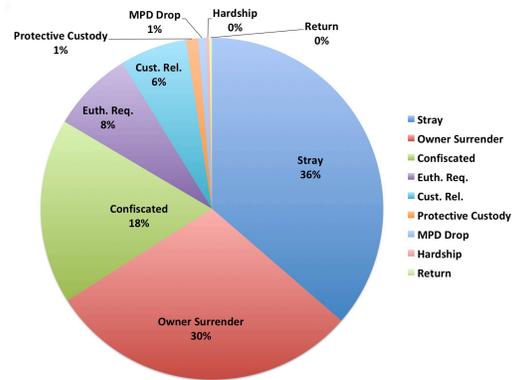
Stray	419
Owner Surrender	341
Confiscated	202
Euthanasia Request	89
Custodian Release	73
Protective Custody	13
MPD Drop	9
Hardship	3
Return	3

(For definitions of each intake type, see Attachment 8.)

Destruction by Species



Destruction by Intake Type



To view these graphs larger, see Attachment 6

Destruction records were provided in the form of an Excel workbook. The workbook consists of four spreadsheets or tables. One table represents the animals destroyed. Other tables were for treatments, behavior and medical assessment of those animals.

These four tables were converted into a database, which allows the review of individual animal records in their entirety on a single screen (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2cbr2sf>).

One additional field was added to each record in this database. This field represents the length of stay for each animal. Length of stay was computed automatically in the database. Different reports or views of the data were

created in order to provide overall snapshots of the data broken down in different ways, for example, Length of Stay broken down by species and/or Intake Type. For example:

Length of Stay by Species

Species	Length of Stay (Days)
Cats	4.6
Dogs	9.2

Length of Stay by Intake Type

Intake Type	Length of Stay (Days)
Stray	6.7
Owner Surrender	3.7
Confiscated	12.7
Euthanasia Request	0.5
Custodian Release	8.7
Protective Custody	11
MPD Drop	13
Hardship	16
Return	2.3

Records per Table

Table	Records
Animals	1,152
Treatments	4,256
Behavior	106
Evaluations	95

Inadequate Record Keeping or Missing Data

Even from a superficial, high-level view, the destruction records are remarkable for what is not included. For example, for the 1,152 animals represented, there are only 106 behavior and 95 evaluation records. Similarly, 4,256 treatment records in the data is a remarkably small number.

To better understand this, it is important to know that a “treatment” which would generate a treatment record can be anything that is done to an animal. Each vaccination should be, for example, represented by a row in the Treatments table. Similarly, each treatment for ear mites or fleas should also be represented by a row in the treatments table.

The treatments table also includes simple observations made by Animal Care Technicians (ACTs) when handling animals for intake. Furthermore, each vaccine type typically requires an initial vaccine, plus at least one follow-up booster.

Upon intake, each animal, regardless of condition, should be handled, a general intake evaluation/assessment done, and a handful of basic procedures performed. Most often, that should include the intake vaccinations, any flea or tick treatments, scans for microchips and more. These are all things that would normally be done before an official behavioral or veterinary evaluation is completed. As a result, the length of the treatments table should be tens of thousands of records long in order to accurately reflect what happens at a typical animal shelter while an animal is in the shelter’s care.

Take, for example, Animal ID # A223050 (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5gjhd47>):

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Animal Record

This information was obtained via open records request and was compiled into online form by [No Kill Learning](#)

Animal ID: A223050 Species: DOG
Intake Date: 09/14/2017 Intake Type: EUTH REQ
Outcome Date: 09/18/2017 Outcome: EUTH
Outcome Reason: EUTH REQ

Treatments:

09/16/2017 - FRONTLINE PLUS
09/16/2017 - MEDICAL NOTE 09/16/17- adult fleas noted; administered one tablet Capstar (nitenpyram 51 mg/tab) PO; applied Frontline topically
09/16/2017 - CAPSTAR
09/18/2017 - PYRANTEL PAMOATE
09/18/2017 - TRI-OTIC OINTMENT
09/18/2017 - HEARTWORM TEST
09/18/2017 - DA2PP
09/18/2017 - RABIES
09/18/2017 NORMAL - B.E. DONE passed BE
09/18/2017 - BORDETELLA INTRANASAL
09/18/2017 NORMAL - VACC Administered DA2PP vaccine
09/18/2017 NORMAL - INTAKE EXAM "Mouth/Teeth - Heavy tartar Ears - Very dirty ears- cleaned as best as she would tolerate and gave a dose of Triotic at time of exam Eyes/Nose - Cloudy eyes Heart/Lung - Possible labored breathing noted GI - Dirty anus Reproductive - Midline abdominal scar noted- presumed spayed- moist and stained vulva area- possible incontinent Skin /Hair coat - VERY itchy- has flea dirt (was already treated for fleas)- was shaved prior to impound- callus in multiple boney areas- multiple wheals on abdomen (circular areas of skin irritation) Musculoskeletal - Obese- talk to your vet about a weight reduction plan Neurologic - No obvious abnormality Heartworm test was negative Administered rabies vaccine"

Evaluations:

Behavior:

A223050 was a dog admitted on 9/14/2017 and listed as an "owner requested euthanasia." In spite of the fact that it was a requested euthanasia, two days later on the 16th, they treated her with Frontline Plus (flea and tick treatment) and gave her Capstar (another flea treatment). Then, on 9/18/2017 they treated her with Pyrantel (dewormer), Tri-otic ointment (ear cleaner/treatment), tested for Heartworm, vaccinated with DA2PP (Distemper/Parvo), vaccinated for

Rabies, did a behavior test (which she passed), vaccinated for Bordatella (kennel cough), vaccinated Distemper/Parvo again, and then an intake exam was performed, noting nothing particularly shocking. Then, the dog was destroyed that same day.

Without getting into the numerous issues with the records for this one animal, it seems clear the dog was brought in as an owner requested euthanasia, held for 4 days and destroyed, yet still generated 12 records in the Treatments table. For the vast majority of animals, that is how it should be.

It should be emphasized that records for A223050 were atypical of animal records provided. This animal was selected at random from a list of animal records that contained what would normally be considered a reasonable number of records for an animal admitted to a shelter. However, it represents more than twice as many record entries as the average animal in this data set. This is particularly unusual because A223050 was admitted with "owner requested euthanasia" as the intake type.

Finding only 4,256 records in the Treatments table raises serious red flags and suggests serious problems with shelter practices and/or record keeping.

Similarly, each animal should have at least one behavior and one medical evaluation record. However, there are only 106 Behavior and 95 Evaluation records for all 1,152 animals, which is also disturbing.

Looking through the individual animal records in the database, which consolidates the treatments, behavior and evaluation records together for each animal, it becomes easy to see that for

many animals, there are simply no treatments, behavior or evaluation records.

Within these records, 145 animals came in to MACC and were destroyed with no documentation in this data set at all, other than basic intake and outcome information. Animals with no documentation included all intake types and even included animals that remained at the shelter for up to two weeks. Animal ID A302939 (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5bqw37t>) is one example of such a case.

A302939 was a stray dog taken into the shelter on 12/23/2016 which was recorded as destroyed on 1/6/2017 (two weeks after intake) and for which there are no supporting records.

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Animal Record

This information was obtained via open records request and was compiled into online form by [No Kill Learning](#)

Animal ID: A302939 Species: DOG Intake Date: 12/23/2016
Intake Type: STRAY
Outcome Date: 01/06/2017 Outcome: EUTH Outcome Reason: BHVR FAIL

Treatments:

Evaluations:

Behavior:

An entire category of records are those destroyed for health reasons for which there is no or only very limited documentation. Animal ID A304984 is

one example. (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y48bpufk>)

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Animal Record

This information was obtained via open records request and was compiled into online form by [No Kill Learning](#)

Animal ID: A304984 Species: CAT Intake Date: 03/29/2017 Intake Type: STRAY
Outcome Date: 03/30/2017 Outcome: EUTH Outcome Reason: HLTH HST

Treatments:

Evaluations:

Behavior:

Animal ID A304984 was a stray cat taken to MACC on 3/29/2017. He or she was destroyed on 3/30/2017. There are no behavior, treatment or evaluation records in the data set for this cat at all.

No Dog Bite Incident Reports in Data

Dog bite incident reports represent some of the most critical information to animal control operations, particularly as they relate to decisions regarding the destruction of animals at the shelter and declarations of animals living in the community. Decisions about which animals are truly dangerous are important to get right. Clearly, failing to identify dangerous dogs does not keep the community safe. What is less obvious is that being too quick to label dogs as dangerous or potentially dangerous does as well, because once an animal control agency develops a reputation for doing so, people become less willing to seek assistance from animal control with dog bite concerns. That is one of the reasons dog bites, and particularly dog bites categories as serious, have gone down – sometimes dramatically – when animal control

operations go No Kill. (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2r6e38l>)

Multiple records reviewed make reference to either bites to humans or bites to other animals, with no additional information about these incidents. It is, therefore, nearly impossible to use the records provided to assess MACC's review or categorization of dog bites. However, a limited set of paper dog bite incident reports created by MACC have been reviewed, which are discussed in the section "Paper Dog Bite Incident Reports."

If there are paper based bite incident reports, or bite incident reports kept electronically elsewhere, they should be summarized and referenced in these tables, including information about where to find those full reports.

Animal ID A274816 (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y44evx2q>) for example, includes a behavior note at the bottom of the record, which reads simply, "11/6/2017 BITE HUMAN." This level of documentation is insufficient. Was this a snap and release? Was it a grab and hold? Was skin broken? Was the bite witnessed by others? Was the person who received the bite a staff person? A volunteer? A member of the public? What was the person doing with the dog when the bit occurred?

Because A274816 was brought to the shelter on 10/20/2017 and destroyed on 12/13/2017, the bite clearly occurred while the dog was at the shelter. Therefore, all of that information should be recorded along with the note that the bite occurred.

No Veterinary Diagnoses Present in Data

Quickly and accurately diagnosing animal disease in animal shelters is crucial to preventing the spread of illness to other animals, and potentially humans. Yet, these records show an extreme absence of meaningful diagnosis and generally do not even include the results of routinely run tests.

For example: the Treatments table mentioned earlier, which contains 4,256 rows, includes a column titled "Diagnosis" which is intended to be used to contain the official veterinary diagnosis for which a treatment is being given. None of the 4,256 rows contain data in the Diagnosis field.

Furthermore, the text written into the "Medical Notes" and "DVM Exam" areas of the data make reference to descriptions of conditions, generally without objective clinical diagnoses, even when significant veterinary issues are obvious.

One example of this is a scared, malnourished stray dog that came to MACC on 5/24/2018. Medical notes from Camden Pet Hospital, which describe a variety of medical issues of the eyes, ears, nose and skin are included in the record. The dog's nails were overgrown and the initial intake description includes the text, "This dog needs a veterinary investigative exam for possible case should someone attempt to reclaim." This suggests the dog was in poor enough condition that possible neglect or cruelty charges may be possible.

This was animal ID A316804 (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2q8vt5c>) and the animal record containing the most extensive documentation of any reviewed.

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Animal Record

This information was obtained via open records request and was compiled into online form by [No Kill Learning](#)

Animal ID: A316804 Species: DOG Intake Date: 05/24/2018 Intake Type: STRAY Outcome Date: 06/02/2018 Outcome: EUTH Outcome Reason: HLTH HST

Treatments:

05/24/2018 NOT NORMAL - 61.8 EXAM "Notes from visit to Camden Pet Hospital on 5/24/18: Temp 100.6- pulse 130- respirations 25- approximate age is 5 years- 61.8#- microchip found: 0a12436E1D OU: mucoïd green discharge- OD severely tacky cornea- closed AU: scabbing on inner pinnae- yellow debris in canals- scarring and stenosis AS Nose: severely dry nasal planum with cracking- green exudate from cracks- severely painful Generalized lymphadenopathy Scabbing- yellow crusting- alopecia- lichenification of skin- generalized- but worst on ventral neck-face- legs x4- dorsum (Lumbar region)- ventral abdomen Severely overgrown toe nails all feet Body condition score 3.5/9 Swollen right stifle No evidence of any medical treatment "

05/24/2018 NOT NORMAL - MEDICAL NOTE "This dog was picked up as a stray in the field. Upon viewing the dog at the shelter it has some sort of skin issue (mange or infection)- is clearly malnourished/underweight- has long nails- very crusty nose. This dog needs a veterinary investigative exam for possible cause should someone attempt to reclaim. Dog is very scared currently. Administered DA2PP vaccine."

05/24/2018 - DA2PP

05/25/2018 - REVOLUTION

05/25/2018 - CARPROFEN TAB 75 MG

05/25/2018 - DERMA-VET OINTMENT

05/25/2018 - DA2PP

05/25/2018 - NEOPOLYBAC

05/25/2018 - HEARTWORM TEST

05/25/2018 - CEPHALEXIN 250 MG

05/25/2018 - TRAMADOL 50

05/25/2018 - PYRANTEL PAMOATE

05/25/2018 NOT NORMAL - 62 T18-034129 "Mouth/Teeth - Not examined Ears - AU- scabbing on inner pinnae- yellow debris in canals; scarring and stenosis AS Eyes/Nose -Nose-severely dry nasal planum with cracking with frank blood from some and green exudate from others; source of pain Eyes: OU green mucoïd discharge; OD- moderate blepharospasm. Heart/Lung - increased upper respiratory sounds on inspiration GI - No obvious abnormality Reproductive - pendulous teats; large vulva- no discharge noted Skin /Hair coat - generalized lichenification worse on ventral abdomen- ventral neck

05/25/2018 - CEPHALEXIN 500 MG

05/25/2018 - TRI-OTIC OINTMENT

05/26/2018 ON TX - MEDICAL NOTE "05/26/18 - daily rounds visual exam: dog is BAR - much improved from lethargy and fear seen yesterday; much better energy and attitude today; moving about kennel and wagging tail - "

05/27/2018 - MEDICAL NOTE "05/27/18 Dog given a bath with medicated shampoo. Was very tolerant of 081 and me touching her head- neck- and underside during the bath. "

05/29/2018 ON TX - RECHECK EXAM "ACT reported concerns about high anxiety-laceration between toes of LF paw- and open sores on ventral neck. Dog is BAR- with good appetite. Barks continuously in kennel. Examined LF paw for wounds/lacerations - none found- though interdigital and interpad skin is moist and erythematous- so it is predisposed to superficial lacerations when dog is clawing at kennel door- etc. A few tiny- superficial wounds present on ventral neck oozing serosanguinous fluid - again- due to markedly inflamed and moist skin- and not due to any particular incident. Eyes and nose appear much improved- according to CVT observation and compared to DVM notes from last week. "

05/30/2018 - CARPROFEN TAB 75 MG

05/30/2018 - TRAMADOL 50

05/30/2018 - MEDICAL NOTE "5/30/18- After conferring with about this dog- it is not a good candidate for placement due to multiple severe health issues: severe skin issues- cheyletiella- possible Sarcoptes- KCS as well as iffy behavior when administering treatments. I was also informed by an ACT that the dog will growl when food is present and they are trying to administer treatments. This dog obviously has some immunodeficiency and will always be in need of treatment. With behavior as it is for treatment and around resources- this dog's behavior makes it a public safety risk to place. Recommend humane euthanasia at the end of the stray period."

05/30/2018 - INTAKE EXAM Not placeable due to several significant health problems as well as difficult/iffy behavior when administering treatment.

05/30/2018 ON TX - DVM EXAM "05/30/18 - dog is BAR with good appetite and energy; skin is overall improved since initial exam- starting to see healthy scabs-oozing wounds significantly decreased; general inflammation persists as expected with differential dx; Plan to continue abx and topical bx as allowed; Switch eye ointment to Neopolydex; Extend carprofen and tramadol additional 4 days Rx: carprofen (75 mg/tab) one tab PO BID x 4 days tramadol (50 mg/tab) one tab PO TID x 4 days Neopolydex: one strip OU BID x 4 days "

Evaluations:

Behavior:

None of the maladies from which A316804 suffered were life threatening. They were skin issues, some minor

wounds and discharge from eyes and nose.

One thing worth pointing out about this record is that on 5/25/2018 a heartworm test was performed. However, as was typical of most of the records reviewed, no results from the test were recorded in the documentation. This was typical of the records reviewed.

This review indicated that heartworm tests were regularly performed on dogs and FIV/FeLV tests were routinely performed on cats. Yet, the results of those tests were rarely included in the documentation.

The documents show that the tests were performed. However, the results of the tests are simply not present.

The "medical notes" from the various "DVM Exams," seem to speculate about what may or may not be wrong with the dog, without even the most basic of tests having been documented to have been performed to try to reach a clinical diagnosis.

For example, on 5/30/2018 a portion of the medical note reads "possible Sarcoptes" (a mite that causes Sarcoptic Mange). Though Sarcoptes is contagious, and even zoonotic (transmittable to humans) there is no indication the dog was tested for Sarcoptes or any form of mange, for that matter. Note: testing for mange is a relatively straightforward and inexpensive procedure where a small patch of skin is scraped with a surgical blade to collect debris off the surface of the skin. This debris is then examined under a microscope to look for mange-causing mites. This test is generally referred to as a "skin scraping.") The records, however, show no indication this simple test was requested or performed and there are no diagnostic records to determine if anyone ever

even tried to figure out what was actually causing the condition. It should also be pointed out that if the dog was suffering from mange it is treatable with inexpensive medications that are readily available at most animal shelters.

In spite of the fact that no effort seems to have been made to actually diagnose what was bothering the dog, the medical note from that same day goes on to speculate, “This dog obviously has some immunodeficiency and will always be in need of treatment.”

Ironically, though the records document no significant treatments, additional medical notes from that same day go on to read, “dog is BAR [Bright, Alert, Responsive] with good appetite and energy, skin is overall improved since initial exam – starting to see healthy scabs – oozing wounds significantly decreased...”

A316804 was destroyed a couple of days later with no documentation in these records of any effort being made to find out what was actually wrong with him or her.

This dog’s overall profile is one of a kind of case seen frequently by every animal shelter and rescue organization with which I have ever worked. The overwhelming vast majority of cases such as this recover fully with a bit of care and nutrition. Something as simple as chronic exposure to heavily soiled bedding combined with poor nutrition could explain everything described in this record.

Whether this dog simply suffered from chronic neglect and soiled bedding, or whether it had easily treatable mange, or whether it had some mysterious autoimmune deficiency that would have required lifelong treatment we cannot tell from these records because the records show no reasonable effort to

find out before the dog was killed a few days after the expiration of the state-mandated stray hold period.

If the diagnoses and test results missing from these tables are present in some other place and in some other form, these records should – at minimum – include reference to those other document sources and locations, along with a summary overview of what they contain (see “Recommendations”)

Unsupported and Undocumented Tests Used to Select Dogs for Destruction and to Avoid Vet Examination

One of the most controversial areas of animal sheltering are the use of so-called “temperament” tests to select which dogs will be placed for adoption and which animals will be destroyed. I refer to them as “so-called” temperament tests, because, according to credentialed veterinary behaviorists, these tests do not and cannot actually measure a dog’s temperament. What they do is help to identify behavior, which is, in very important ways, a very different thing. More importantly, because canine behavior is very context-sensitive and complex, these behavior tests have been proven to be highly ineffective at predicting future behavior, and particularly aggression. They are even more so when they are performed in an animal shelter, which is an unusual and stressful environment for animals.

Jessica Heckman, DVM, MS is a prominent behaviorist who has studied and tested these tests of shelter dogs. In concluding one of her studies, she wrote:

“These are pretty chilling results. They could be interpreted to

mean that the two most widely used behavioral assessments in the United States are not doing even a passable job of predicting aggression, and that shelters are not doing much more than flipping a coin when they use an assessment to decide whether a dog will be put on the adoption floor or, potentially, euthanized."

It turns out that these tests routinely fail dogs that have no propensity for aggression. More troubling is that they fail to detect actual aggression in some of the most dangerous of dogs (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5kz78k3>).

The test performed on dogs at MACC includes four primary components, the "Head Pat," the "Tooth Touch," the "Touch" and the "Food Test" with a corresponding column for each in the behavior records labeled "HEAD_PAT," "TOUCH," "TOOTH" and "FOOD."

When a test is performed, the evaluator enters one or two descriptive words in each of these fields to describe the dog's attitude or behavior to that portion of the test, like "SOFT/HAPPY," "FREEZES," "EXCITABLE" or "RECOVERS." It goes without saying that interpreting a dog's behavior and categorizing it into one or two words is a highly subjective process. Additionally, a dog is certain to respond differently to these tests at different times, with different people and in different settings.

I have researched and written about the topic of animal shelter behavior testing fairly extensively. I have also worked with different shelters that use different approaches to behavior evaluations. I have included the best information available on the topic in No Kill Learning's Dangerous Dog Policy Recommendations for Animal Shelters (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y3f99ajg>)

I have also included video of some of the related issues in No Kill Learning's online videos "Dangerous Dogs and Not So Dangerous Ones" (link: <https://youtu.be/iMIBLKXb4il>), "Kennel Stress in Shelter Dogs" (link: <https://youtu.be/bdrUoUL83Co>) and "Barrier Aggression - a Funny and Informative Look" (link: <https://youtu.be/WyNlu69UqaY>) some of which I have shared with MACC staff.

When communicating with MACC staff about this topic, I have been repeatedly told that they do not use their behavior tests as a pass/fail means to determine which dogs will live or die. Additionally, after emailing No Kill Learning's Policy Recommendations regarding dangerous dogs, along with a link the dangerous dog video mentioned above, I received an email reply from MACC management, which read, in part:

"Thank you too for sending on the dangerous dog policy. I'm happy to report that MACC has already incorporated most, if not all, of the major points made in the policy."

Unfortunately, the records for animals destroyed do not support such a statement. These records clearly document many animals being destroyed and the stated reason for the destruction was for failing their behavior tests. This has continued through the end of 2018.

In total, 77 dogs are represented in this data set that were destroyed specifically for failing MACC's "temperament test." More troubling is the fact that details of the tests are generally missing from the records. Also problematic is that the tests are frequently being done shortly after intake, when the dogs are most traumatized and least likely to be exhibiting their more natural reactions. More troubling still is the fact that behavior tests are often being done

before veterinary examination. This is critically important because medical issues that cause pain or irritation can induce negative responses from animals. This is common sense and commonly known by most anyone who works with animals. Yet, "INTAKE EXAM" notes in this data set frequently include the text, "no need for exam. Not placeable" due to failing the behavior test.

Animal ID A308465 (link: <https://tinyurl.com/yyefm5f9>) is one example of such a dog.

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Animal Record

This information was obtained via open records request and was compiled into online form by [No Kill Learning](#)

Animal ID: A308465 Species: DOG Intake Date: 07/13/2017 Intake Type: STRAY Outcome Date: 07/21/2017 Outcome: EUTH Outcome Reason: BHVR FAIL

Treatments:

07/14/2017 NORMAL - VACC 07/14/17 - administered DA2PP vaccine SC on 07/13/17 at intake
07/14/2017 - DA2PP
07/20/2017 NORMAL - INTAKE EXAM Failed BE- no need for exam.
07/20/2017 NORMAL - B.E. DONE This dog has come around but is EXTREMELY flinchy for any kind of touch or even putting leash on. She head whips alot- huge bite risk.

Evaluations:

Behavior:

07/20/2017 -

A308465 was brought to MACC on 7/13/2017 as a stray. She was vaccinated the next day. On 7/20, her "INTAKE EXAM" reads, "Failed BE (behavior) – no need for exam." Another note from 7/20 reads, "B.E. (behavior evaluation) DONE This dog has come around but is EXTREMELY flinch for any kind of touch or even putting a leash on. She head whips alot – huge bite risk."

The sort of head whipping behavior described is often a sign of pain or discomfort. The described behavior is not a reason to avoid doing a veterinary

examination; it should be cause for doing a more thorough examination to determine if there is a source of pain that could be alleviated. This is particularly noteworthy given the fact that the dog had been recently vaccinated and various vaccine reactions can cause everything from mild to severe pain. (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6kd7n48>)

Dogs and Cats Destroyed for Normal, Manageable or Treatable Behaviors

A large number of records document animals being destroyed for behaviors that are either perfectly normal, or that are manageable or treatable, including the following:

- Urinating outside the litter box, for example, A298730 (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2pnq55r>)
- Barrier aggression (which is not a true form of aggression at all), for example, A302876 (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5ljds8>)
- Simply being scared. 193 felines alone were destroyed for fear-based behaviors in the shelter, for example.

Ask any practicing veterinarian about what a traumatic experience it can be for a dog or cat to simply visit the vet. The average pet can go from a docile couch potato to a 4-legged claw and teeth equipped ninja warrior in seconds. A friend of mine has a sweet, old very pudgy cat. He is loved by kids in the neighborhood, is very affectionate. Yet, when she tries to put him in the car to take him to the vet, she needs to don protective clothing and secure him in a reinforced container, because he is terrified of the car and the vet.

For all animal species, fear often results in behaviors that appear as aggression. Dr. Sarah Wooten, DVM describes it like this in an article titled “Why Does My Pet Misbehave at the Veterinary Clinic” (link: <https://tinyurl.com/jqc6krt>):

“Dogs and cats who are normally easygoing can feel so much fear at the veterinary hospital that they become aggressive and next to impossible to handle.”

Growling, hissing, snapping, scratching, snapping, hiding and trying to run away are all behaviors veterinarians see daily in pets that are perfectly well-behaved at home. If a simple trip to the vet, accompanied by their owner, is that frightening, then being taken to an animal shelter by strangers, is downright terrifying.

Yet MACC’s destruction records are filled with statements from MACC staff, written on or shortly after intake, which read, “Unhandleable. Not placeable. Recommend euthanasia once impound period expires.”

A306298 is a typical example (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y4f6ybf>)

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Animal Record

This information was obtained via open records request and was compiled into online form by [No Kill Learning](#)

Animal ID: A306298 Species: CAT Intake Date: 05/10/2017 Intake Type: STRAY Outcome Date: 05/19/2017 Outcome: EUTH Outcome Reason: BHVR SHTR

Treatments:

05/19/2017 - INTAKE EXAM This cat is very scared and unhandleable. Not a barn cat candidate as it had an owner. Not placeable and recommend euthanasia.

Evaluations:

A306298 was a stray cat brought to MACC on 5/10/2017. His or her record contains a single entry with reads, “INTAKE EXAM This cat is very scared and unhandleable. Not a barn cat

candidate as it had an owner. Not placeable and recommend euthanasia.”

Again, these records are filled with statements like this, made on or shortly after intake, for both dogs and cats.

No Discernable Behavior Program Detectable in Records

Well-run animal shelters, for a host of reasons, need functioning behavior programs that are clearly articulated, documented and followed. Such programs are important because animal shelters are going to see animals that behave badly for a wide variety of reasons. As mentioned earlier, fear is one of those reasons, but there are many others. For example, some animals have simply not been trained to behave well, particularly in new situations.

Keeping staff, volunteers and animals safe, without needlessly killing animals, is an essential part of running an animal shelter. One approach is to simply lock challenging animals off in a separate area of the building where they can only be seen or handled by limited staff. A better option is to implement a structured behavior program to help address the behavior needs of the animals sheltered.

Identifying a shelter’s behavior program style is generally fairly easy to do by looking through the animal records. For example, one approach that is common in shelters throughout the USA is to color code animals into different behavior categories. The most common is a color-code system that looks something like this:

- Red – Staff only. May not be handled by volunteers or the public.

- Yellow – Volunteers and public may handle after receiving special handling instructions.
- Green – OK to be handled by volunteers without any special instructions.

When a shelter implements a system such as this, entries in the animal records generally tend to describe each animal’s current color code, including any special precautions for handling, with the ultimate goal of moving animals coded as “red” to “yellow” and then, eventually green.

There are no entries in these animal records found that would suggest that such a program exists at MACC.

Length of Stay Concerns

Another objective measure of shelter performance is the average length of stay (ALOS) for animals in their care. When ALOS is very short, it can indicate a shelter is very quick to destroy animals. When ALOS is too long, it can suggest the shelter is not killing them, but that they are also not doing enough to market animals to the public or to the local animal rescue groups in order to move them out quickly.

Length of Stay by Intake Type

Intake Type	Length of Stay (Days)
Stray	6.7
Owner Surrender	3.7
Confiscated	12.7
Euthanasia Request	0.5
Custodian Release	8.7
Protective Custody	11
MPD Drop	13
Hardship	16
Return	2.3

Above: MACC destruction records broken down by average length of stay by intake type.

Many things affect the ALOS for a shelter. For example, state-mandated hold periods for different intake types vary from state to state. They can have a profound impact on the ALOS for animal shelters.

In Minnesota, stray animals are required to be held for a minimum of 5 business days, and may not be destroyed, released to rescue or adopted into new homes until the sixth day. A “business day” is defined as a day the shelter is open for normal business for at least 4 hours.

Because MACC is closed for business Sundays and holidays, this means the mandatory, minimum hold period for the overwhelming majority of stray animals that come to MACC must be held for 6 days, or more when there are holidays.

Animals found abandoned (generally classified as intake type Custodian Release - or “CUST REL” in their computer system) are required to be held a minimum of 10 days. Animals involved in legal proceedings are required to be held to the conclusion of those proceedings.

With that in mind, a review of the average length of stay for animals destroyed at MACC raises serious red flags.

Breaking these numbers down further by species raised even more. For example, the average length of stay for a stray cat destroyed by MACC during 2017 and 2018 was only 5.5 days. 114 stray cats (or 40% of all of the stray cats) were destroyed within fewer than 6 days of arriving at MACC.

It is understood that some small percentage of stray animals that enter animal shelters are critically ill and benefit from rapid humane euthanasia. However, 40% is an implausibly large percentage.

For the sake of comparison, only 15 stray dogs were destroyed in fewer than 6 days, or 11% of the total stray dogs. It should be emphasized that 11% of stray dogs being destroyed in fewer than the state mandated holding period is also a high percentage.

A similar pattern can be seen in each intake type. For example, the average length of stay for a feline confiscated by MACC was only 3.7 days, compared to 19.8 days for dogs.

The most startling statistic of all is that 79% - or 70 out of 89 – felines confiscated from their owners were destroyed within 2 days or less.

Unraveling all of that is well beyond the scope of this project. However, the issues this data raise are serious and demand immediate investigation, in my opinion.

Arbitrary Nature of Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous Designations

As mentioned earlier, no detailed reports regarding animal bite incidents could be found in this data set. However, for a number of reasons, I have had the opportunity to review several paper documents involving incident reports created by MACC of owned animals biting people or other animals. I have reviewed these documents because during my years of working in the sheltering field I have been approached by pet owners and attorneys working for pet owners who believed their animals were wrongly and

arbitrarily designated as dangerous or potentially dangerous. During the production of this report, in fact, I was sent another such report (see Attachments 10 & 11), hereafter referred to as “Jaws Report.”

A brief synopsis of the Jaws Report goes something like this: On March 8, 2019, MACC was called to report a dog bite. The complainant claims that “Jaws” came up behind her when she was not looking and bit her on the outside of her right knee. Photographic evidence, however, suggests such a bite did not occur, or that if it did occur, it was not an aggressive bite. Not only was there no broken skin at the reported site of the bite, there were no red marks, indentations, or other evidence of any sort of bite.



Photo: the location where “Jaws” reportedly bit the complainant, showing no evidence of a bite.

In spite of the fact that no evidence existed that a bite had occurred and no injury was even reported, MACC confiscated Jaws and declared him to be “Potentially Dangerous,” resulting in approximately \$600 in fines, fees and other charges to Jaws owner.

The only relatively objective information in the report supporting a law violation are two pieces of information: 1) Jaws owner admitted her dog was roaming at large and 2) A history of animal complaints at the home. However, none

of the former complaints have involved actual dangerous dog behavior. Furthermore, prior complaints could as easily be the result of a problem complaint-oriented neighbor as they are a problem dog.

The report describes Jaws as being well-behaved and his owner cooperative.

In my professional opinion, there is no rational basis for designating this dog dangerous or potentially dangerous, or for having been confiscated.

This report is consistent with other incident reports I have seen from MACC over the years, which collectively suggest MACC is prone to making fairly random and arbitrary decisions about the declarations of dangerous or potentially dangerous dogs.

Such decisions have profound impacts on animals and families in Minneapolis, who should be able to rely on the City to make such decisions based on objective, verifiable facts. Jaws is owned by a bi-racial couple of low income and the beloved pet of two children, ages 8 and 10. Needless-to-say, the impact of this seemingly arbitrary declaration has had a profoundly negative impact on their family.

I will add that while I have been called upon to review several declarations made by the City of Minneapolis during my years working in the animal sheltering field, I have never been asked to review such cases in any of the surrounding municipalities.

Dogs Previously Deemed Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous Dogs Not Evaluated at Shelter

Once a dog is declared dangerous or potentially dangerous the ramifications going forward are severe. In addition to the fees and fines owners need to pay in order to reclaim their pets, these designations come with many other requirements, ranging from handling restrictions and insurance requirements, which can be difficult to overcome. These problems become exponentially worse if their pet ends up back at MACC for any reason.

The destruction records show that dogs previously declared either dangerous or potentially dangerous are not even evaluated, even if the declarations are from many years previous, and no additional incidents reported.

MACC Adoption Program

No Kill Learning tracked animals available for adoption via the MACC web site for a two-month period from January through February 2019. During that period, the number of dogs and cats available for adoption at MACC averaged less than 10. Similar numbers of animals available have continued since that time. (See Attachment 3)

Name	Breed	Age	Sex	Status
YOU WILL FIND ME IN HEAVEN (KID)	Small breed mix	07 months	01 female	DF AD2017
YOU WILL FIND ME IN HEAVEN (PUP)	Small breed mix	02 months	01 female	DF AD2018
YOU WILL FIND ME IN HEAVEN (KID)	Small breed mix	02 months	01 female	DF AD2018
YOU WILL FIND ME IN HEAVEN (KID)	Small breed mix	02 months	01 female	DF AD2017

The lack of pets available for adoption is a clear indication that MACC has no meaningful adoption program. According to these records, and statements made by MACC

management, animals with relatively minor medical issues are either destroyed, or they are listed on the MACC web site as “rescue only” (meaning they are not available for adoption but that rescue groups could take them). This appears to be the limit to which MACC markets their animals to rescue organizations. If the animals are not taken by rescue very quickly (see “Average Length of Stay”) the animals are destroyed.

When discussing this issue with MACC management, they indicated they were unwilling to place animals for adoption that had medical needs, like mild dental disease. When questioned about the short timeframe animals have for rescue organizations to take them I was told that “MACC can’t keep animals in cages for months or years.” The fact, however, is that they are not even generally keeping them weeks. Frequently, they are not even keeping them days past the expiration of their impound periods.

People of Color and Low Income Families

I was hoping to have more location information relating to intake of animals. Common sense says that the policies and practices at MACC, particularly as they relate to animal reclamation, disproportionately impact lower income families and people of color. However, more research into this topic is needed.

Minneapolis has as a priority erasing policies and practices that disproportionately impact people of color. This topic should be part of that plan.

“Euthanasia” Protocol Review

The MACC Euthanasia Determination Protocol can be found on Page 70 of a

document titled SHELTER STD OPERATING PROCEDURES. It begins with the section titled “Selection for Euthanasia,” which begins part way down the page and concludes about half way down Page 71.”

It is my belief that while the spirit of the “selection for Euthanasia” section seems clear, much of the language is also ambiguous, making it very open to interpretation.

For example, item number 2 on the list of selection criteria reads, “If space is an issue, rescue partners shall be contacted first for assistance. Every effort shall be made before an animal is euthanized due to space issues.”

Does this mean that rescue organizations don’t need to be called about animals with medical or behavioral issues? MACC management has said they “have not killed an animal for space in years.” Does that mean they don’t feel a need to call their rescue partners for help with all of the animals they are killing for other reasons? Also, how long to those rescues have to respond?

Item 4 reads “**If in doubt, DON’T. You cannot un-euthanize an animal!**” (emphasis in the original). This is a great sentiment. Unfortunately, it is also ambiguous and non-specific.

Animal shelter staff are put in the nearly impossible position of trying to balance animal welfare and public safety, which ultimately sends them mixed signals about this very challenging decision.

It also improperly designates authority to make “euthanasia” decisions to the “Supervising Shelter Veterinarian or designee.” The decision to end the life of a pet is one of the most important decisions an animal shelter makes, and should be made by the shelter director.

Methodologies

A detailed review of each animal record in this data set was beyond the scope of this project. As a result, about 120 records were selected at random for detailed review. These records were also used to verify the integrity of the data conversion from the original Excel tables provided by MACC into the relational database published online. A series of custom searches and reports were used to group and analyze the records in sets for this report.

Conclusions

Based on all objective measures available it seems clear that MACC is not performing in line with the best performing shelters in the nation. It is not even performing at the same level as its counterparts throughout the Twin Cities Metro Area. And, while MACC management has said repeatedly that they “do everything possible to save every animal they can,” these destruction records clearly show there is much more that can be done.

Responsibility for MACC’s relatively low performance should not fall exclusively on the leadership at MACC itself. The kind of culture change that is needed to shift an animal control operation from the old “dog catcher” mindset to a true modern day “animal care” facility requires vision and leadership from the highest levels in the City.

It would be easy to say, “simply make animals with minor, treatable medical or behavioral issues available for adoption.” Doing so would undoubtedly save many lives at MACC. Minneapolis is, after all, a community of animal lovers who would willingly adopt animals that were less than “perfect.” I know, because I have personally adopted thousands of “imperfect” animals into

Minneapolis homes. That very simple change, however, (along with many other similar changes) would require vision and direction from above.

The good news is that the City of Minneapolis is already funding MACC at a level that is more than sufficient to see dramatic improvements. The City also has a shelter facility that may not be perfect, but which is more than serviceable.

Currently, Austin, Texas, with a population of about 950,000 people, is the largest metropolitan community in the USA that is No Kill. If Minneapolis joined the other shelters in this area in saving all healthy and treatable animals, the greater Twin Cities area, with a population of nearly 3 million people, would become the largest safe haven for homeless pets. And, achieving that goal would not be hard. Other communities that had a much heavier load to lift got there practically over night.

Minneapolis is a vibrant, diverse, beautiful and progressive City. There is nothing that could stop it, if the City leaders simply said they wanted it to be so.

Recommendations

Based on the above, I make the following recommendations:

Timeframe - Immediate:

1 - Implement a formal, structured behavior program to assist animals moving through the shelter. This will not require new staff. Existing policies and practices need to be updated to include such a behavior program. Such a behavior program should include a host of enrichment activities for animals that

may be experiencing stress in the shelter.

2 - Make animals with medical or behavioral issues available for adoption. So long as the animals are not dangerous and the issues are documented and disclosed, there is no reason not to.

3 - Begin adding behavior and other observation notes from volunteers into the computer system. At most shelters, volunteers handle animals more, and in more contexts, than staff. Their observations can help staff make better decisions about animal care.

4 - Revise the Euthanasia Determination Protocol to specify that no healthy animals and no animals with treatable or manageable medical or behavioral issues are to be destroyed if there is space in the shelter where they could live, foster homes where they could go, or rescue organizations that could take them.

5 - Require the Director of Animal Care and Control to personally sign-off on all euthanasia decisions.

6 - Remove arbitrary criteria that limit access to animals from the rescue community. Any 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to animal rescue that is in good standing with the law should be allowed to save animals that would otherwise be destroyed.

7 - Smile more when talking to the public, volunteers and rescue organizations. They are your life-blood and they are, too often, treated as the enemy.

Timeframe – Short-Term:

8 - Revamp the web site to help market the animals more effectively, including

better photos, better descriptions and videos.

9 - Develop a communication and marketing plan to incorporate a new life-saving MACC mindset into more of the City's overall communications. This can help market this City while also strengthening a true animal care vision within MACC.

10 - Stop using behavior assessments as a pass/fail method for determining who lives or dies. The validity of these tests is sketchy at best. If they are going to be done, they should be used as only a small piece of the overall behavior information about animal behavior. With a structured behavior program in place, and behavior notes being added by staff and volunteers, a much more complete behavior profile will be available for every animal.

11 - Re-vamp the organizational structure of the Animal Advisory Board. It has historically reported to Animal Care and Control and MACC has been largely involved in the Board selection. This sets up conflicts of interest that significantly reduce the efficacy of the Board.

12 - Have MACC audited fully by an outside organization with expertise in No Kill sheltering. Then commit to annual audits for some period of time until a proven track record of good performance is well established.

Timeframe - Long Term

13 - Codify the new approaches in an ordinance that follows St. Paul's CAPA, which will codify new practices in law.

Contact Information

No Kill Learning

P.O. Box 6506

Minneapolis, MN 55406-0506

Toll Free (877) 799-9951 |

mike@nokilllearning.com

**Attachment 2
MACC January Outcomes Report**

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Kennel Stats
Between 01/01/2019 and 01/31/2019

		Species							Totals	
		Canine			Canine Totals	Feline				Feline Totals
		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		
Beginning Animal Count as of 01/01/2019		15	0	0	15	35	0	0	35	50
I N T A K E S	Stray/At Large	46	2	0	48	21	3	0	24	72
	From MPD	5	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
	Hardship	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	7	0	0	7	3	0	0	3	10
	Relinquished by Owner	20	0	0	20	32	10	0	42	62
	Legal Intakes	24	2	0	26	9	3	0	12	38
	Total Intakes	103	5	0	108	65	16	0	81	189
O U T C O M E S	Adoptions	5	0	0	5	17	7	0	24	29
	Returned to Owner	37	3	0	40	7	2	0	9	49
	Transferred to Municipal Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Transferred to Rescue Group	16	1	0	17	30	4	0	34	51
	Other Live Outcomes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Live Outcomes	58	4	0	62	54	13	0	67	129
	Died in Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other - Deceased	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Euthanasia	13	0	0	13	25	1	0	26	39
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	7	0	0	7	3	0	0	3	10
Total Other Outcomes	20	0	0	20	28	1	0	29	49	
Total Outcomes	78	4	0	82	82	14	0	96	178	
Ending Animal Count as of 01/31/2019		40	1	0	41	18	2	0	20	61

Total Live Outcome = 129
(29 Adoptions + 49 Return to Owner + 51 Transfer to Rescue = 129)

Total Outcomes = 178

Live Release Rate = 129/178= 72%

Attachment 3 Animals Available for Adoption on March 5, 2019

Picture	Animal Description	Age	Adoption Price	Animal ID	Picture	Animal Description	Age	Adoption Price	Animal ID
	Staff named me MURDOCK. You will find me in kennel KL19. I am a neutered male, brindle and white Pit Bull Terrier and Mastiff. I weigh approximately 77 pounds. I have been at the shelter since Feb 06, 2019. I was made available on 02/06/19. My name is CLEO.	01 Years 01 Months	\$250.00	ID# A323337		Staff named me FRED. You will find me in kennel FA27. I am a neutered male, black Domestic Shorthair. I weigh approximately 9 pounds. I have been at the shelter since Feb 19, 2019. I was made available on 03/01/19. Staff named me RIPLEY.	04 Years 00 Months	\$100.00	ID# A324038
	You will find me in kennel KL15. I am a spayed female, brindle and white Belgian Malinois mix. I weigh approximately 44 pounds. I have been at the shelter since Feb 27, 2019. I was made available on 02/28/19. My name is DIAMOND.	00 Years 08 Months	\$250.00	ID# A323800		You will find me in kennel FA01. I am a neutered male, black and white Domestic Longhair. I weigh approximately 12 pounds. I have been at the shelter since Feb 21, 2019. I was made available on 03/01/19.	04 Years 00 Months	\$100.00	ID# A324058
	You will find me in kennel KL26. I am a spayed female, brindle and white Australian Cattle Dog and Pit Bull Terrier. I weigh approximately 22 pounds. I have been at the shelter since Feb 06, 2019. I was made available on 02/15/19.	00 Years 04 Months	\$250.00	ID# A323857					

During the months of January and February, 2019, MACC averaged fewer than 10 dogs and cats available for adoption each day. The image above represents all of the dogs and cats available for adoption on 3/5/2019.

**Attachment 4
MACC 2018
Intake/Outcome Report**

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control																																																																																							
Data represents 1 location(s) for January 2018 – December 2018																																																																																							
Beginning and ending counts are only accurate if consistently entered.																																																																																							
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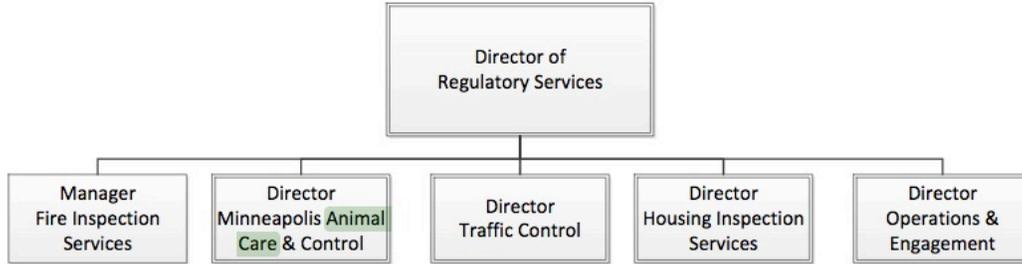
**Attachment 5
MACC's 2019 Approved Budget**

REGULATORY SERVICES

MISSION

The Minneapolis Regulatory Services Department strengthens communities by partnering with residents, neighborhoods and businesses to make the city safer, healthier and more inviting for all.

ORGANIZATION CHART



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

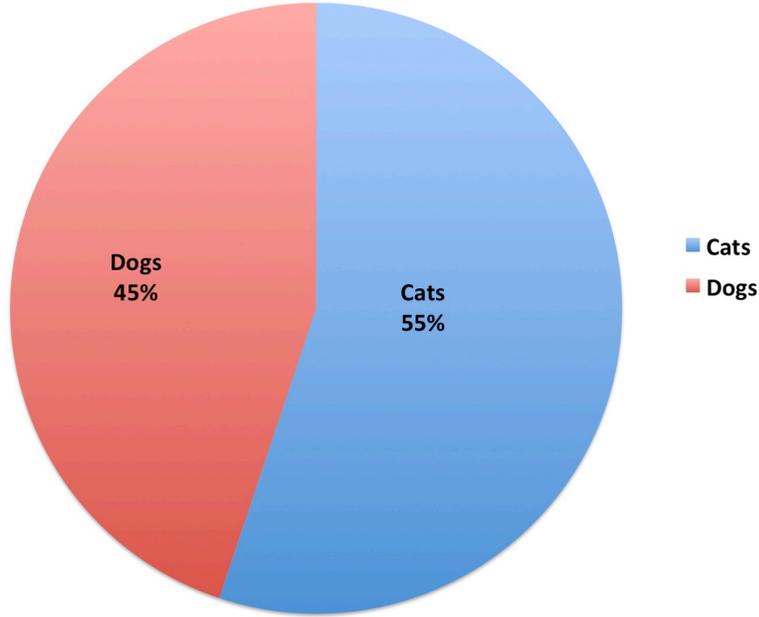
All data and analysis generated through the City's performance measurement process, Results Minneapolis, can be found on the City's website. Please visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/strategicplanning/wcmstp-199683> to find detailed information and analysis related to the budget programs listed below.

Animal Care & Control (MACC)

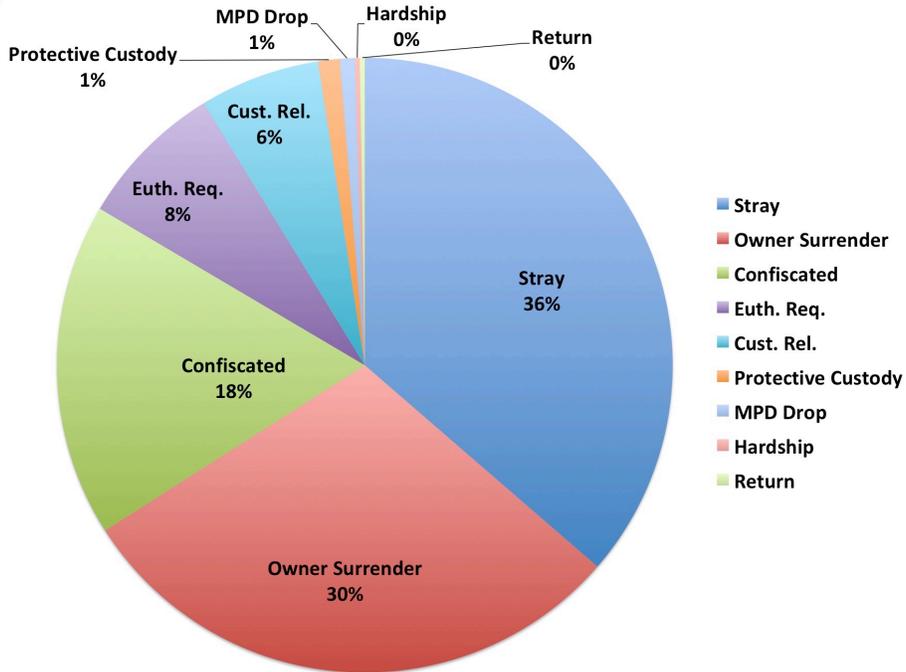
General Fund: \$3,354,000
Other Funds: \$75,000

Minneapolis Animal Care & Control has a dual focus on public safety and shelter care that allows for a holistic view of animal welfare. MACC works with MPD, City Attorney, and non-profit partners to address criminal conduct involving animals. MACC promotes sound animal welfare policies such as pet licenses and spay and neuter programs; impounding, kenneling and providing proper veterinary care for injured, stray or surrendered animals; and adopting out pets in search of forever homes. MACC also conducts rabies quarantines for all bites to humans involving animals.

Destruction by Species

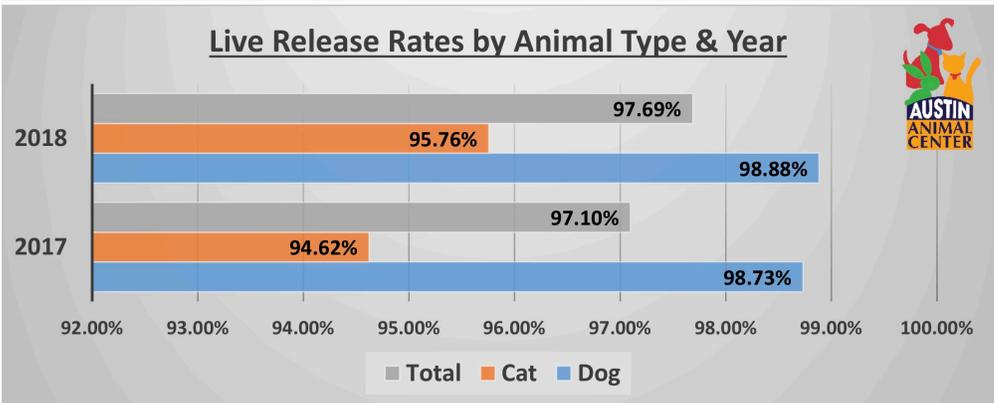
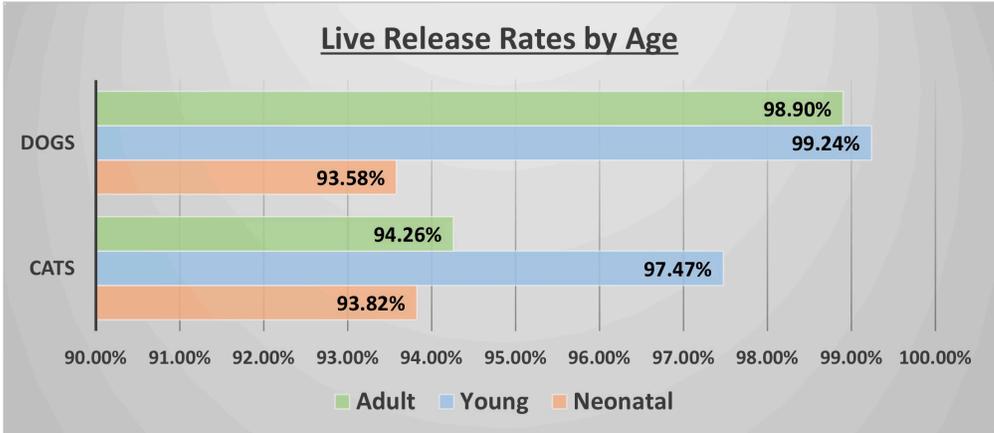
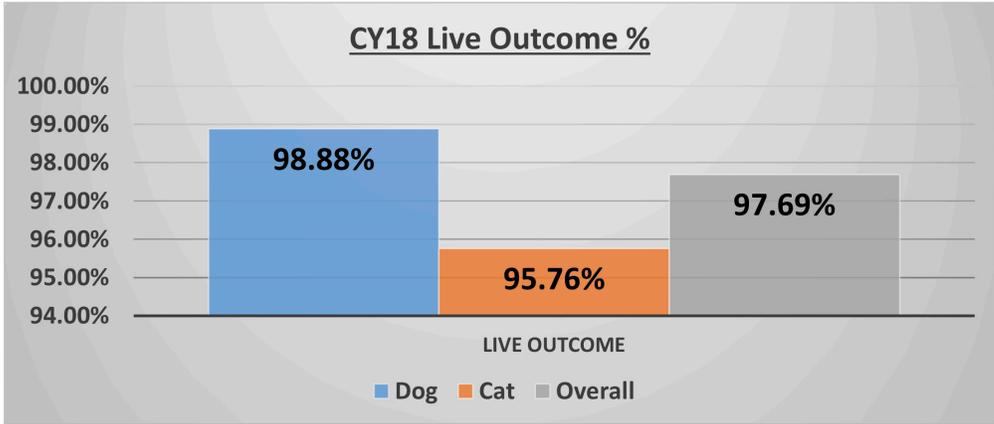


Destruction by Intake Type



**Attachment 7
Austin, Texas LRR Breakdown**

Austin Animal Center Calendar Year 2018 Live Outcomes

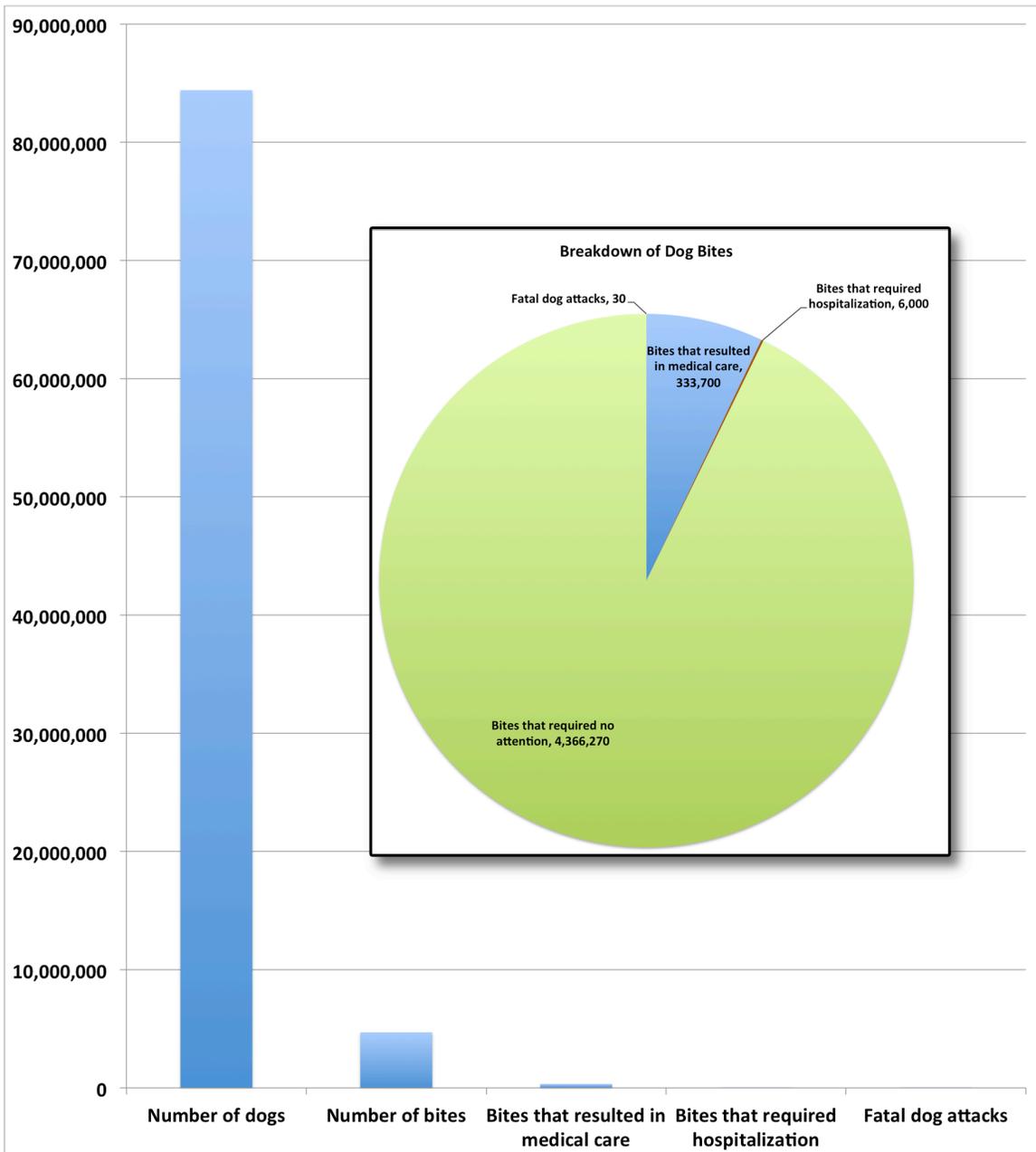


Attachment 8 MACC Intake Types

ABBREVIATION	TYPE	DEFINITION
C	CONFISCATE	The animal came in as part of a criminal violation, search warrant or other legal matter
CR	CUST REL	The custodian / not owner surrendered the animal to animal control
DR	DISPO REQUEST	The animal is deceased and the owner or other requested animal control to dispose of the body
ER	EUTH REQ	Owner is requesting the animal be euthanized
HS	HARDSHIP	The owner is suffering a hardship. An example would be an afterhours call where the owner has been taken to the hospital via EMS and EMS has requested that we remove the animal because there is no one to care for it. There is no charge to the owner for these services, including kennel fees.
MPD	MPD DROP	Minneapolis Police Department has picked up an animal after hours and brought it to the shelter for care
OR	OWNER SURRENDER	Owner has surrendered all rights to the animal to the City
PC	PROT CUST	Animal is taken into protective custody / This often leads may to a legal case, but not always.
P DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	PROTECTED	Animal is part of a domestic violence case and has been taken into custody to give its owner (victim) time to find a safe place to escape the violence.
R	RETURN	Adopted animal has been returned to the shelter
S	STRAY	Presumably owned animal that is not under the immediate control of its owner and of which the owner is unknown
W	WILD	Wild species of animals

Annual Dog Bites in the USA in Perspective

Source: CDC



Attachment 10

“JAWS” Incident Report

 **Report of Animal Bite or Incident**
Minneapolis Animal Care and Control
212 17th Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

A19-030936

Synopsis: _____

Type: **IA-H** Victim Type: **HUMAN / ADULT**
Bite / Incident Date and Approximate Time of Occurrence: **3/8/19 13:30** Activity #: **A19-030936**
Report Date: **03/08/2019** Bite#: **B19-001659**
Incident Location Address: _____, **MINNEAPOLIS MN** Public/Private property: **PRIVATE**
55413

VICTIM INFORMATION

(if animal victim, for animal victim's owner)

Middle Last Name
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413
Street Address City Zip
INCIDENT / INCIDENT
Location on body and extent of injury

Guardian if victim is a juvenile:

First Mid. Last

Street Address City Zip

If Animal victim:
Breed/Species Color/Markings Name Vaccine Expiration Date (Rabies) and Vet ID

Current License number Microchip number

VICTIM/OWNER STATEMENT REPORTS

Report Date and Time: **3/8/2019 8:46:38PM** Report Author User ID: _____

Today, I was putting out my garbage cans in the back of my house at about 1:30 this afternoon, when I felt a bump and a bite on my outer right knee.

I didn't see or hear the dog run up, but a white pitbull looking dog was there.

I screamed at it and went inside my fence, closing the gate after me. The dog kept barking in an aggressive manner and lunging at me.

I yelled at the dog again, and went inside my house. I did not see what happened to the dog after I went inside.

When I was inside, I looked at my wound, and saw the skin was not broken.

I have made reports about this dog being loose in the area in the past.

END OF STATEMENT

Case: IA-H Victim Type: HUMAN / ADULT
Bite / Incident Date and Approximate Time of Occurrence: 3/8/19 13:30
Report Date: 03/08/2019

Activity #: A19-030936
Bite#: B19-001659

Incident Location Address: [REDACTED], MINNEAPOLIS MN Public/Private property: PRIVATE
55413

OWNER INFORMATION

Owner of Animal: [REDACTED]
First Name: [REDACTED] Mid: [REDACTED] Last: [REDACTED]
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413 P236131
Street Address City Zip Co-Owner PID Custodian PID

Biter/Aggressor Animal:
DOG PIT BULL
Animal type Breed/Species M NO JAWS
Sex Spayed/ Neutered Name WHITE
NO UNKNOWN NONE YES
Prior Incidents License Number Microchip Number Current Rabies Vaccine Vac. exp. Date (Rabies) Vet Clinic
5/23/19 G001464

Quarantine Info if Human bite or exposure:
Date of Quarantine 03/08/2019 217 N/A
Quarantined by (Badge) Location of Quarantine and responsible PID Release Date Released from Quarantine by (Badge) Victim Notify Date Victim Notified by (Badge)
H (healthy) or D (dead) or U (unknown)

For Lab Testing:
Date of Euthanasia Performed by To Lab Date Specimen number Exam date Test date Test result: NEG (negative) or POS (positive) or UNS (unsatisfactory)



Aggressor animal photo

ANIMAL OWNER STATEMENT REPORTS

Report Date and Time: 3/8/2019 8:47:48PM Report Author User ID: [REDACTED]
"Jaws" has gotten out a couple of times today. My step-daughter was unaware of the precautions to take with him, and left open the back gate. I'm not sure exactly what time this could have happened at.
END OF STATEMENT

IA-H Victim Type: HUMAN / ADULT
Report Date and Approximate Time of Occurrence: 3/8/19 13:30
Report Date: 03/08/2019
Incident Location Address: ██████████, MINNEAPOLIS MN Public/Private Property: PRIVATE
55413

Activity #: A19-030936
Bite#: B19-001859

ACO SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

Report Date and Time: 3/8/2019 8:43:14PM

Report Author User ID: ██████████

OPENING

Alleged animal to human incident.

HISTORY

MACC has responded to fourteen animal related complaints to the address of ██████████ since 2017. Call types include: at-large aggressive type calls; at-large (DATAR) dog at this address runs at large calls; Animal Control follow-ups, welfare investigations; and barking complaints.

"Jaws," owned by ██████████, was involved in a NO-DECLARATION (ND18-001485) case in reference to a incident number (B18-001485) on 10/01/2018.

OBSERVATIONS/ACTIONS

On 03/08/2019 at about 1634 hours I arrived at ██████████ for an alleged animal to human bite.

Before heading to the residence, I checked MACC records and found no animals registered to the victim or the residence.

I made contact with the alleged victim, ██████████, whom I formally identified via her MNDL. I collected a statement and information from ██████████. I also collected digital evidence photographs of the alleged bite area to ██████████ which I uploaded to this case file. During my visual observation of the alleged bite wound area to ██████████ I found no breakage of skin. At this time, I formally identified ██████████.

██████████ stated the incident had occurred on 03/08/2019 at around 1330 hours. Additionally, she stated the house the dog lived in was a few houses down, with "Beware of Dog" signs posted on the fence.

After collecting the statement, I advised ██████████ about the declaration process, including the next steps in the declaration process, such as speaking to the owner of the alleged aggressive dog, collecting a statement, and compiling a report.

I handed ██████████ a business card with the activity number and advised her to call with any questions.

I drove around the block and observed the address where the alleged aggressive dog lived as ██████████. I checked MACC records and found numerous incidents pertaining to the dog, "Jaws" (A318948).

I returned and showed a picture on file in MACC records of "Jaws" to ██████████ who stated it was the dog involved in the incident.

Due to my observation of no breakage of skin, I downgraded the call to an animal to human incident, and re-sequenced the call. I cleared the scene on 03/08/2019 at about 1709 hours.

Report Date and Time: 3/8/2019 8:43:53PM

Report Author User ID: ██████████

1A-H

Victim Type: HUMAN / ADULT

Bite / Incident Date and Approximate Time of Occurrence: 3/8/19 13:30

Report Date: 03/08/2019

Activity #: A19-030936

Incident Location Address: ██████████ MINNEAPOLIS MN Public/Private property: PRIVATE

Bite#: B19-001659

55413

On 03/08/2019 at about 1710 hours I arrived in the area of ██████████ on an animal to human incident follow-up.

I checked MACC records and found a license at the residence for "Jaws" (L18-004785), registered to ██████████ co-owned by ██████████

I made contact with ██████████, whom I formally identified via her MNID.

I collected a statement from ██████████ admitted "Jaws" had been running unrestrained throughout the neighborhood multiple times throughout the day. I advised ██████████ about the declaration process.

I advised ██████████ I would need to confiscate "Jaws" due to the potential for "Jaws" becoming declared from this incident. I advised that "Jaws" had already received a no-declaration (ND18-001485) in the past, and due to the nature of this incident, he could receive a declaration from the director of MACC.

██████████ cooperated and voluntarily brought "Jaws" outside with a leash and secured the dog in the rear of my vehicle without incident.

I completed a property seizure receipt form, which ██████████ signed and was provided a copy of for her records. "Jaws" the dog was confiscated under the authority of Minneapolis City ordinance 66.60, Impoundment.

I issued ██████████ MACC citation number (V19-002008) for the probable cause violation of City of Minneapolis ordinance 64.80 (A), Leashing. I added Officer comments to the citation.

I cleared the scene on 03/08/2019 at approximately 1756 hours.

When I returned to MACC, "Jaws" was caged and provided food and water without incident. The dog's collar and leash were removed for safety purposes and placed on its assigned cage. "Jaws" the dog was impounded under impound number K19-013799.

DISPOSITION

I generated this report on 03/08/2019 and placed a copy, along with all applicable case paperwork, into the report bin for command staff review.

I updated the case status to "For Review."

City of Minneapolis Animal Control Officer, ██████████

Victim Type: HUMAN / ADULT
Report Date: 03/08/2019
Incident Date and Approximate Time of Occurrence: 3/8/19 13:30
Incident Location Address: [REDACTED] MINNEAPOLIS MN Public/Private property: PRIVATE
55413

Activity #: **A19-030936**
Bite#: **B19-001659**

Photographs associated with B19-001659

Image #1
Uploaded by : [REDACTED]
upload date: 03/08/2019 19:37:38

Image Title 'Alleged animal to human incident victim, [REDACTED]'

Image #2
Uploaded by : [REDACTED]
upload date: 03/08/2019 19:38:08

Image Title 'Alleged wound to victim [REDACTED] outer right knee.'

Image #3
Uploaded by : [REDACTED]
upload date: 03/08/2019 19:38:51

Image Title 'Alleged wound to victim [REDACTED] outer right knee.'

NOTES ON PHOTOGRAPHS

Report Date and Time: Report Author User ID:

End of Report B19-001659 , Total Pages: 5

Attachment 11
Photo of So-Called JAWS Bite Close Up

