



Marcia Mayeda, Director

April 18, 2023

TO: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
 Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
 Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
 Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
 Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Marcia Mayeda *MMayeda*
 Director

**30-DAY REPORT BACK ON BOARD MOTION
 (ITEM 10, AGENDA OF DECEMBER 20, 2022)**

On December 20, 2022, your Board instructed the Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) in collaboration with rescue partners and animal welfare stakeholders to report back with a five-year plan to decrease the number and percentage of animals that are euthanized with built-in annual benchmarks.

Committee of Rescue Partners and Animal Welfare Stakeholders (Committee)

DACC convened a panel of animal welfare experts who are working with the Department to respond to this motion. They include representatives from:

- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- University of California-Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program
- Best Friends Animal Society
- Michelson Found Animals Foundation
- Dogs Playing for Life
- A long-time DACC volunteer and former City of Los Angeles animal cruelty prosecutor and Los Angeles Animal Services department policy advisor who serves on boards of several animal welfare nonprofit organizations.

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 Agoura Hills, CA 91301
 (818) 991-0071

Baldwin Park ACC
 4275 N. Elton Street
 Baldwin Park, CA 91706
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Carson/Gardena ACC
 216 W. Victoria Street
 Gardena, CA 90248
 (310) 523-9566

Castaic ACC
 31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd.
 Castaic, CA 91384
 (661) 257-3191

Downey ACC
 11258 S. Garfield Ave.
 Downey, CA 90242
 (562) 940-6898

Lancaster ACC
 5210 W. Avenue I
 Lancaster, CA 93536
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Palmdale ACC
 38550 Sierra Highway
 Palmdale, CA 93550
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 5898 Cherry Avenue
 Long Beach, CA 90805
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Each Supervisor
April 18, 2023
Page 2

The Department erroneously submitted a report back on March 20, 2023, that had not been reviewed by the Committee prior to its submission. That report back was withdrawn, and this report begins the regular reporting to your Board regarding the progress of this response. We regret this error.

The Committee has been working diligently to review and make recommendations on the topics directed by your Board. The level of detail required for the analysis and recommendations has required much further study and will take several months to complete. We will provide monthly reports to your Board on the progress made regarding each item. This report provides a status of the following items:

An accounting of the reasons for animals being euthanized including illness, safety, lack of rescue availability, etc., broken down by species and animal care center.

This information is shown on the attachment.

Assessment on the number of rescue and community partners needed to decrease the euthanasia rate without decreasing the number of intakes to animal care centers.

There are many variables that impact Adoption Partner rescue groups in their ability to adopt animals from DACC. Many Adoption Partner groups focus their efforts on specific subsections of animals. These could be breed-specific groups that only work with one breed of dog, groups that only work with cats, groups that focus only on animals with medical or behavioral problems, groups that only adopt small dogs, and more. For those reasons, the number of Adoption Partners one agency has does not equate to lifesaving success. This assessment will require more analytical tracking going forward to be able to determine where Adoption Partner resources are lacking.

DACC will begin tracking Adoption Partner adoptions by various subcategories as well as animals euthanized that were made available to Adoption Partners but not taken. This information will show where the gaps exist for the specific subgroups of animals and where rescue efforts are most lacking.

Particular consideration should be given to understanding that a decrease in the number of animals coming into animal care centers can be a positive result. Appropriate resources offered by DACC to allow pets to remain with their families or be rehomed with outside resources instead of being surrendered to DACC helps maintain the comfort of the human/animal bond, reduces strain on DACC resources for housing more animals than necessary, and meets the community expectations of reducing euthanasia. Maintaining a high admittance rate at animal care centers is not a desirable goal. This approach is

similar to human services such as alternatives to incarceration or preventative health programs that reduce hospital admissions.

DACC's new Power BI reporting will allow us to begin collecting this information. Because of these variables and the need for more granular data, we cannot accurately predict an answer at this time. However, we will begin gathering data and include this in our benchmark reporting going forward.

Plan to expand DACC's Spay4LA program to make it more financially accessible.

DACC has partnered with Spay4LA to offer free spay and neuter services to residents of Los Angeles County since January 2016, when the Board directed the Department to conduct a one-year pilot program. The cost to the County was \$300,000, with Spay4LA matching 50 percent of their costs to provide the service. The program has continued since that time through a contract with Spay4LA approved by the Board on August 1, 2017, and extended by the Board on June 14, 2022. During the terms of the contract, Spay4LA engaged Simi Valley Non-Profit Spay and Neuter Clinic as a subcontractor to provide surgeries in the Antelope Valley areas of Los Angeles County.

On April 4, 2023, the Department will request delegated authority to the Director to expand these services by approving two contracts for mobile spay and neuter clinic and vaccination services with Spay4LA and the Simi Valley Non-Profit Spay and Neuter Clinic. These contracts set a minimum threshold of 480 spay/neuters to be performed by each contract per year, a condition that did not exist in the prior contract with Spay4LA. By contracting with two providers instead of one, we ensure free spay/neuter services are offered equally in South Los Angeles County and the Antelope Valley area, both of which are in critical need of free spay/neuter services.

The Department has conducted an analysis to expand spay/neuter services even further based on both Spay4LA and Simi Valley's maximum capacities to provide spay/neuter surgeries if Department funding wasn't limited. Based on these new thresholds, Spay4LA and Simi Valley would be able to perform an estimated 13,200 spay/neuter surgeries per year for an annual cost of \$1,368,000—this compared to the Department's current budget of \$300,000 per year. The Department is also exploring funding opportunities to provide these services at the Department's animal care centers on weekends.

The Department has applied for and received various donations and grants to expand free and low-cost spay/neuter services to residents provided via its own animal care centers and through partnerships with private veterinary clinics. Most recently, the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation allocated \$150,000 for spay/neuter services offered through the Department. The Department will continue to seek external

Each Supervisor
April 18, 2023
Page 4

funding to help sustain and expand these programs to make spay/neuter more accessible to the communities we serve. The advisory committee will also make recommendations on expanding access to spay/neuter services Countywide in addition to the Spay4LA program.

The Department and the Advisory Committee recognize the importance of providing a comprehensive and well-planned response to your Board. This work is a top priority for the Department, and we will continue to regularly update you on the progress. Please contact me if you have any questions at mmayeda@animalcare.lacounty.gov or (562) 728-4610.

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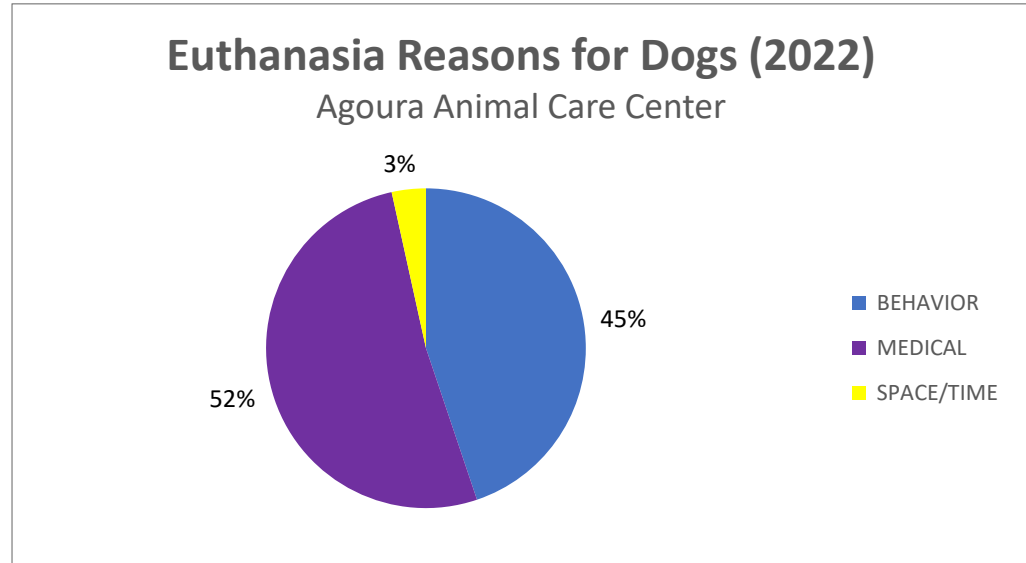
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Enclosure

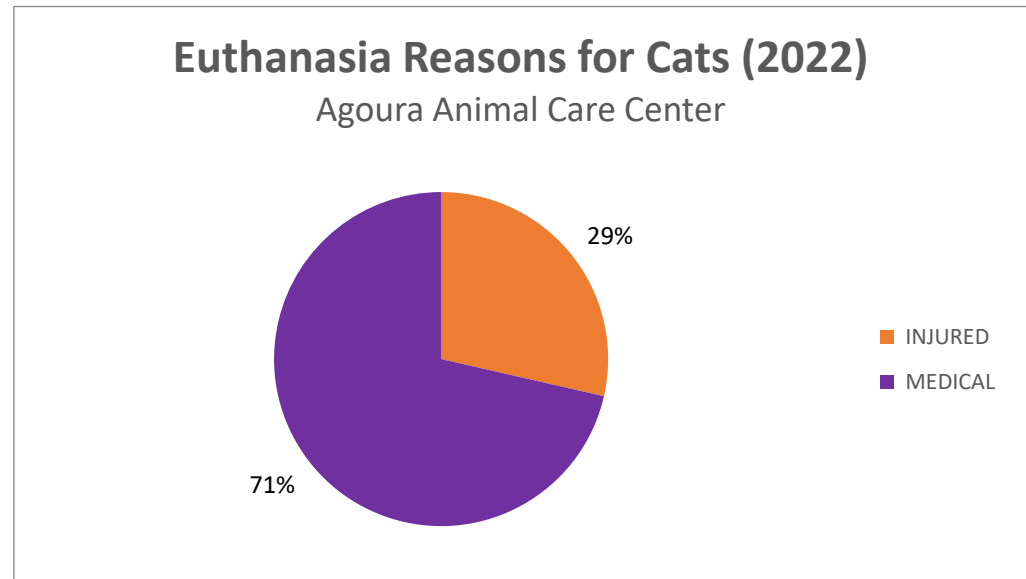
c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Animal Care Board Deputies

Euthanasia Reasons (2022)
 Agoura Animal Care Center

| Euthanasia Reasons - Dogs | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 13 |
| MEDICAL | 15 |
| SPACE/TIME | 1 |
| TOTAL | 29 |

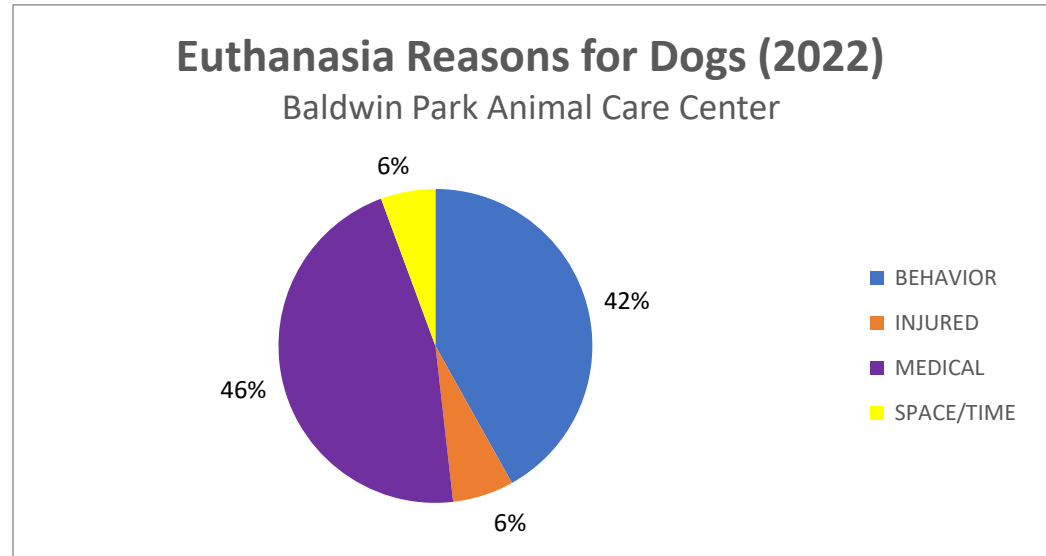


| Euthanasia Reasons - Cats | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Reason | Count |
| INJURED | 4 |
| MEDICAL | 10 |
| TOTAL | 14 |

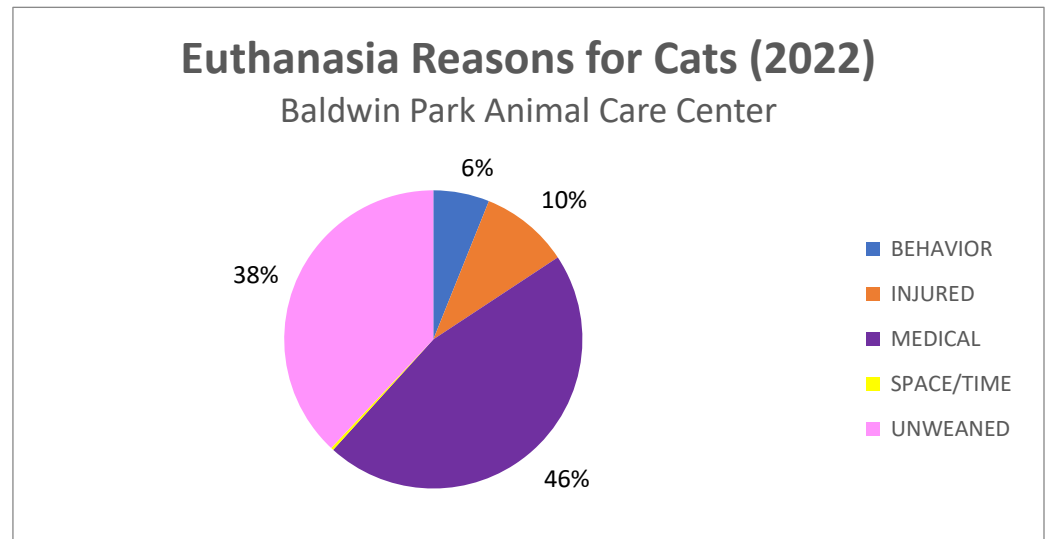


Euthanasia Reasons (2022)
Baldwin Park Animal Care Center

| Euthanasia Reasons - Dogs | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 186 |
| INJURED | 28 |
| MEDICAL | 205 |
| SPACE/TIME | 25 |
| TOTAL | 444 |



| Euthanasia Reasons - Cats | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 41 |
| INJURED | 65 |
| MEDICAL | 310 |
| SPACE/TIME | 2 |
| UNWEANED | 256 |
| TOTAL | 674 |

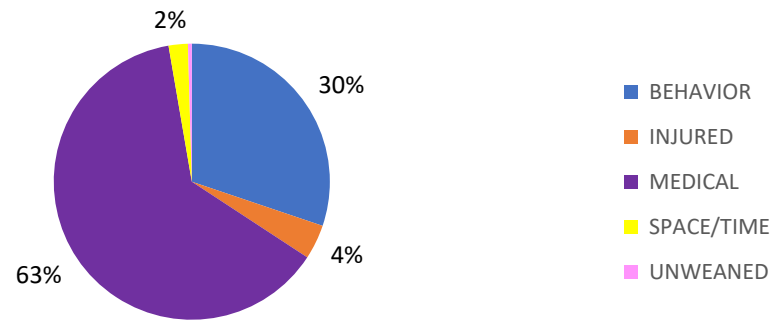


Euthanasia Reasons (2022)
Carson/Gardena Animal Care Center

| Euthanasia Reasons - Dogs | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 67 |
| INJURED | 9 |
| MEDICAL | 140 |
| SPACE/TIME | 5 |
| UNWEANED | 1 |
| TOTAL | 222 |

Euthanasia Reasons for Dogs (2022)

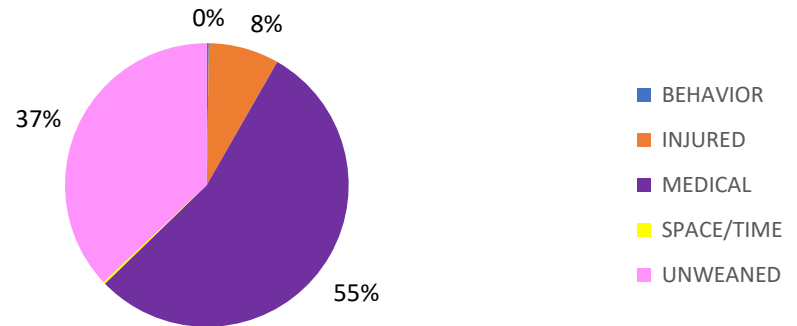
Carson/Gardena Animal Care Center



| Euthanasia Reasons - Cats | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 1 |
| INJURED | 35 |
| MEDICAL | 237 |
| SPACE/TIME | 1 |
| UNWEANED | 161 |
| TOTAL | 435 |

Euthanasia Reasons for Cats (2022)

Carson/Gardena Animal Care Center

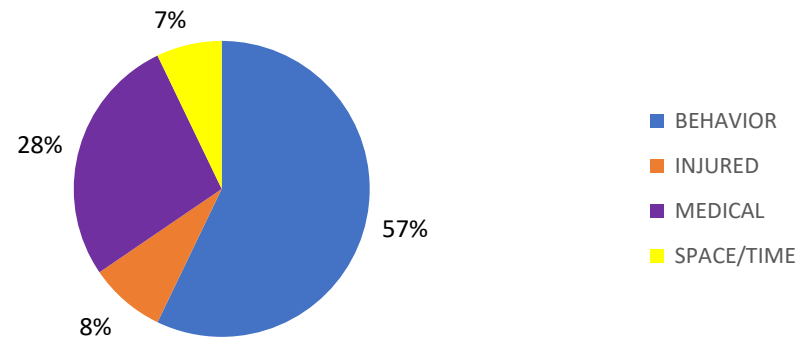


Euthanasia Reasons (2022)
Castaic Animal Care Center

| Euthanasia Reasons - Dogs | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 48 |
| INJURED | 7 |
| MEDICAL | 23 |
| SPACE/TIME | 6 |
| TOTAL | 84 |

Euthanasia Reasons for Dogs (2022)

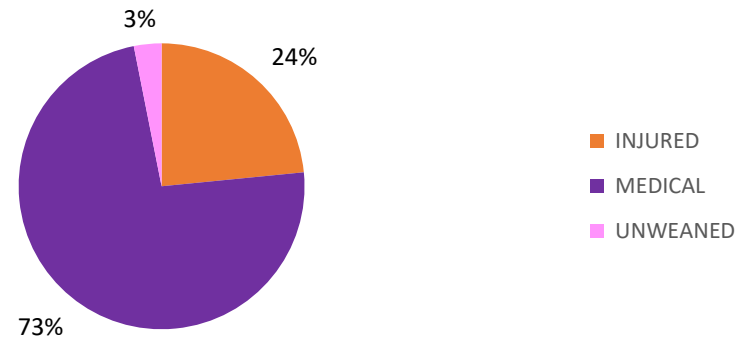
Castaic Animal Care Center



| Euthanasia Reasons - Cats | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Reason | Count |
| INJURED | 15 |
| MEDICAL | 47 |
| UNWEANED | 2 |
| TOTAL | 64 |

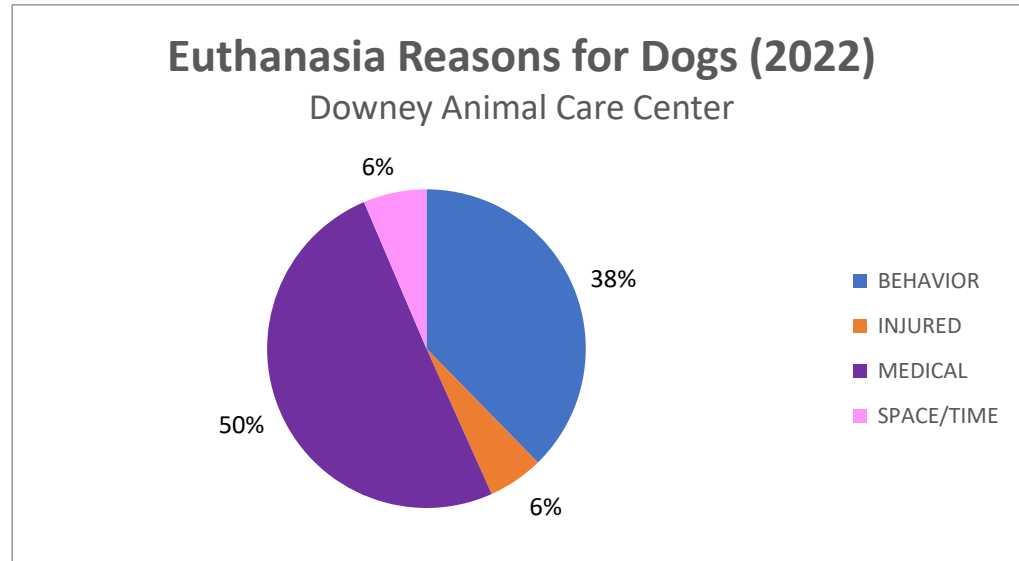
Euthanasia Reasons for Cats (2022)

Castaic Animal Care Center

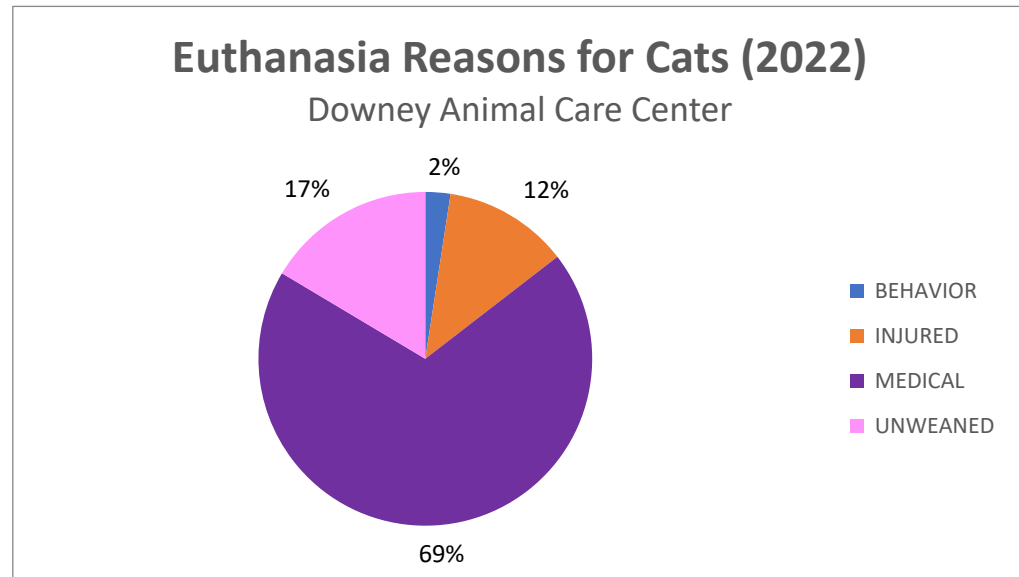


Euthanasia Reasons (2022)
Downey Animal Care Center

| Euthanasia Reasons - Dogs | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 188 |
| INJURED | 28 |
| MEDICAL | 251 |
| SPACE/TIME | 32 |
| TOTAL | 499 |

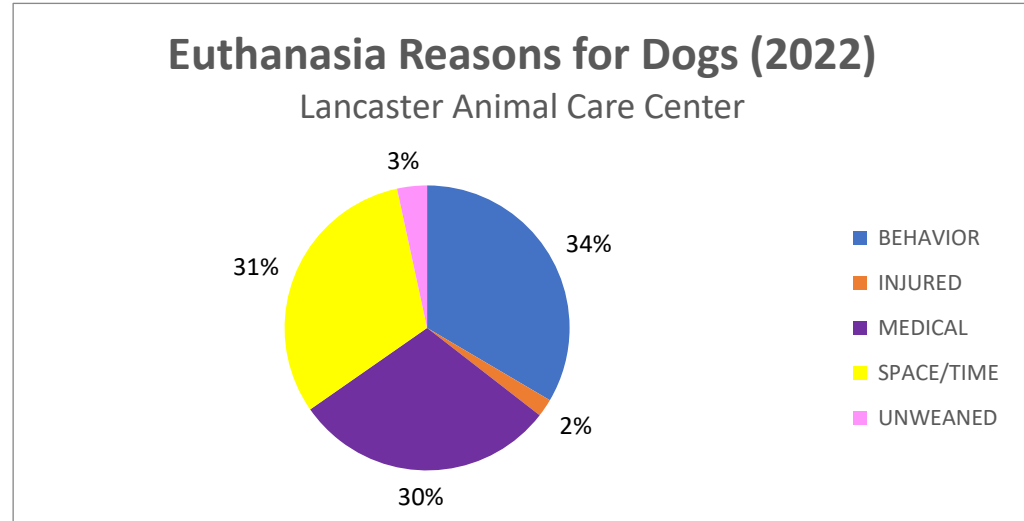


| Euthanasia Reasons - Cats | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 14 |
| INJURED | 70 |
| MEDICAL | 399 |
| UNWEANED | 95 |
| TOTAL | 578 |

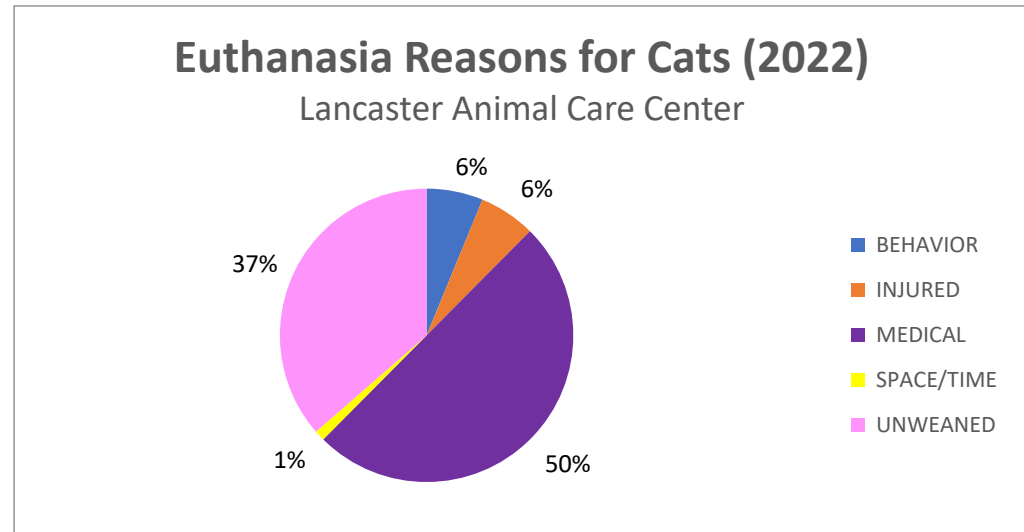


Euthanasia Reasons (2022)
Lancaster Animal Care Center

| Euthanasia Reasons - Dogs | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 247 |
| INJURED | 15 |
| MEDICAL | 220 |
| SPACE/TIME | 231 |
| UNWEANED | 25 |
| TOTAL | 738 |

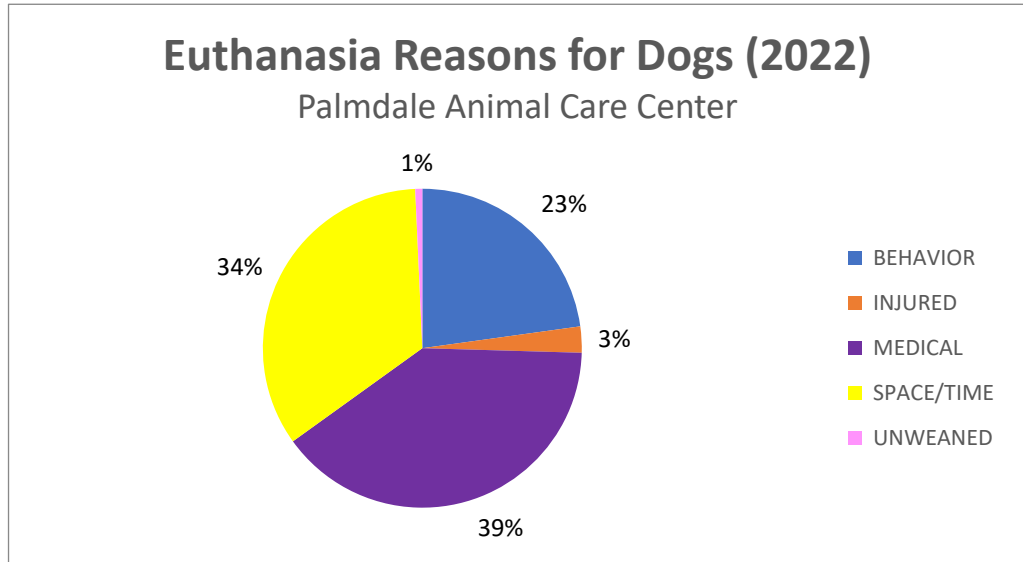


| Euthanasia Reasons - Cats | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 27 |
| INJURED | 27 |
| MEDICAL | 217 |
| SPACE/TIME | 5 |
| UNWEANED | 158 |
| TOTAL | 434 |



Euthanasia Reasons (2022)
Palmdale Animal Care Center

| Euthanasia Reasons - Dogs | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 224 |
| INJURED | 26 |
| MEDICAL | 389 |
| SPACE/TIME | 336 |
| UNWEANED | 7 |
| TOTAL | 982 |



| Euthanasia Reasons - Cats | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Reason | Count |
| BEHAVIOR | 33 |
| INJURED | 44 |
| MEDICAL | 317 |
| SPACE/TIME | 1 |
| UNWEANED | 116 |
| TOTAL | 511 |

