

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



**PAUL R. LEPAGE**  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF MAINE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY**  
**ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM**  
28 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

**WALTER E. WHITCOMB**  
COMMISSIONER

## **Maine's Animal Welfare Program Review for 2017**

**Our Mission:** The Animal Welfare Program ensures the humane treatment of animals through communication, education, and enforcement of animal welfare laws.

**What we do:** Animal Welfare develops and implements policies and programs to effectively address complaints of animal cruelty, inspect and license animal shelters, pet stores, kennels, animal research facilities, and enforce the licensing of dogs.

### **Staff:**

Liam Hughes	Director
Chrissy MacFarland	District Humane Agent Aroostook County
Douglas Radziewicz	District Humane Agent Washington, Hancock Counties
Rachel Croce	District Humane Agent Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset Counties
Rae-Ann Demos	District Humane Agent Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Kennebec Counties
Angela Rogers	District Humane Agent Franklin, Oxford, Androscoggin Counties
Danielle Jersey	District Humane Agent York, Cumberland Counties
Sara Thompson	Office Staff
Dr. Rachael Fiske DVM	Assistant State Veterinarian
Danielle Trask	Office Associate II

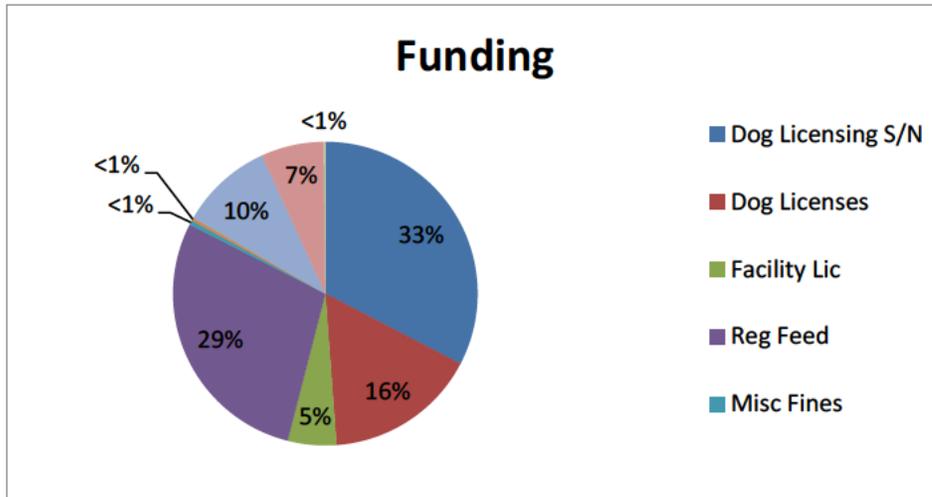
**LIAM HUGHES, DIRECTOR**  
ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM  
90 BLOSSOM LANE, DEERING BUILDING



PHONE: (207) 287-3846  
FAX: (207) 624-5028  
[WWW.MAINE.GOV/DACF](http://WWW.MAINE.GOV/DACF)

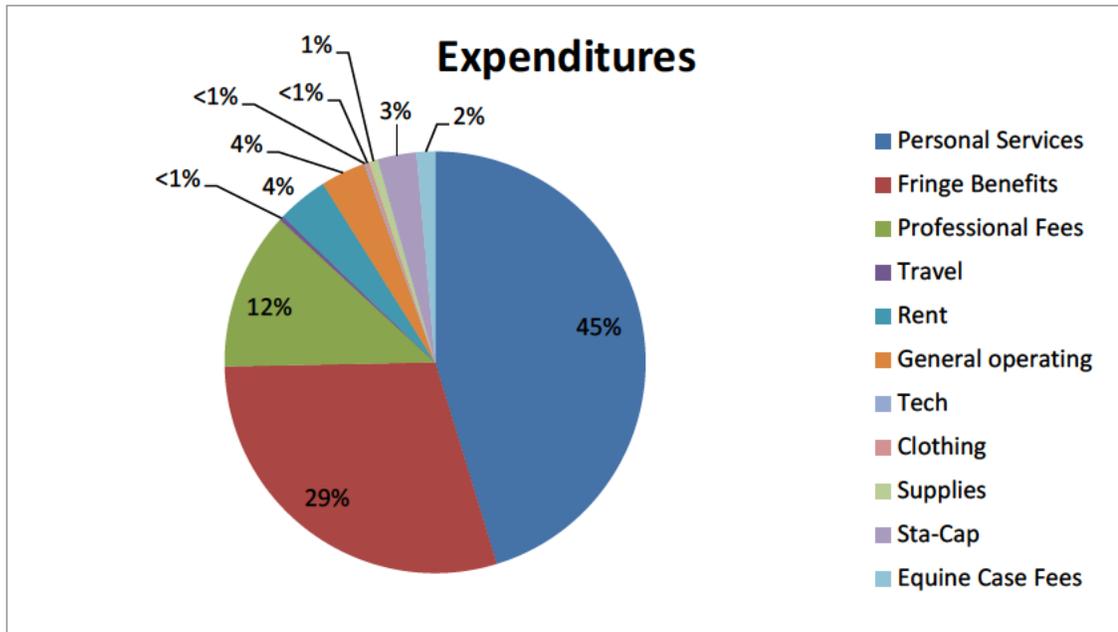
## Income 2017

A majority of the income for Animal Welfare comes from dog licensing and pet food surcharges. In the calendar year for 2017, Animal Welfare received the following funding.



	Funding
Dog Licensing S/N	\$464,669.00
Dog Licenses	\$230,399.00
Facility Lic	\$73,487.00
Reg Feed	\$405,880.00
Misc Fines	\$7,094.00
Restitution	\$4,165.00
Misc Fees	\$140,649.00
Animal Welfare Plates	\$95,105.00
Donations	\$1,946.00

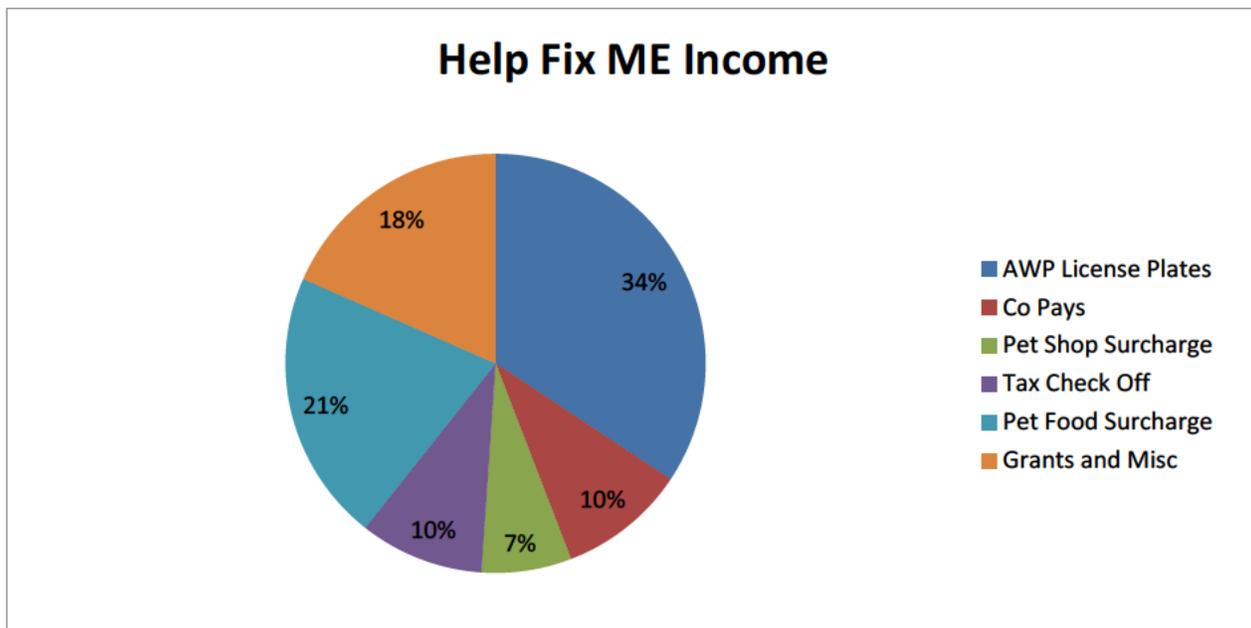
## Expenditures 2017



	Expenditures
Personal Services	\$462,599.00
Fringe Benefits	\$300,448.00
Professional Fees	\$123,988.00
Travel	\$3,425.00
Rent	\$39,863.00
General operating	\$35,384.00
Tech	\$1,212.00
Clothing	\$2,880.00
Supplies	\$6,996.00
Sta-Cap	\$30,356.00
Equine Case Fees	\$14,477.00

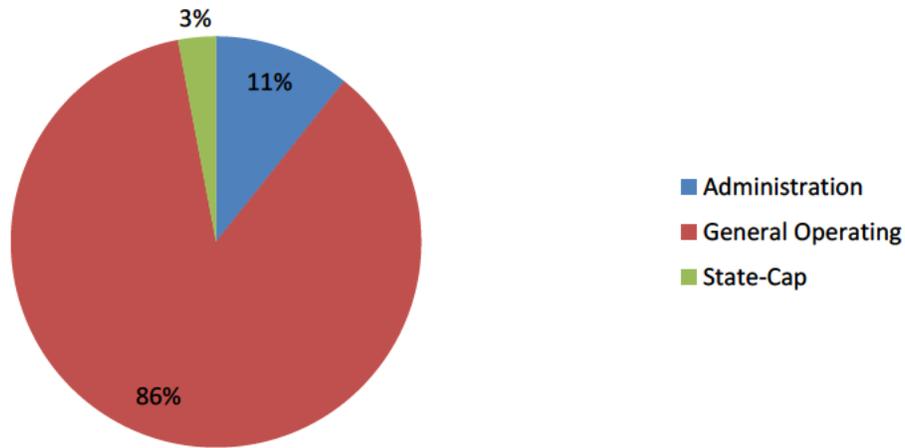
## Companion Animal Sterilization (Help Fix ME)

Also known as **Help Fix ME** the program has been in operation since 2005 and has helped thousands of dogs and cats across the State of Maine. In 2017 HFM received 3843 calls for assistance. The goals of the Help Fix me program are to assist responsible pet owners with keeping their pets and help reduce the numbers of unwanted pets euthanized in the animal shelters. It is designed to help people on government assistance or those that meet the income criteria. Thanks to responsible pet owners and spay and neuter programs from many of the animal shelters and humane groups across the state, euthanasia rates are at record lows. Below is the income for calendar year 2017. Because this information reflects calendar year instead of fiscal year that runs from July to June, some of the figures may not appear correct but they are accurate and have been compared to fiscal year's numbers.



Help Fix Me Income	
AWP License Plates	\$95,105.00
Co Pays	\$27,210.00
Pet Shop Surcharge	\$19,175.00
Tax Check Off	\$26,517.00
Pet Food Surcharge	\$58,020.00
Grants and Misc	\$50,951.00

## Help Fix ME Expenditures



Help Fix ME Expenditures	
Administration	\$36,459.00
General Operating	\$293,290.00
State-Cap	\$10,111.00

During the calendar year of 2017 Help Fix ME issued 3569 vouchers totaling \$321,000 which were used for spaying and neutering dogs and cats in Maine. The total number of vouchers for 2017 is almost double from what was done in 2016. Animal shelter surveys that this department conducts annually have shown a majority of animals in the shelters are cats. Dogs that are being altered are predominantly large mix breed dogs such as Pit bull type dogs that are commonly found in the shelters of Maine.

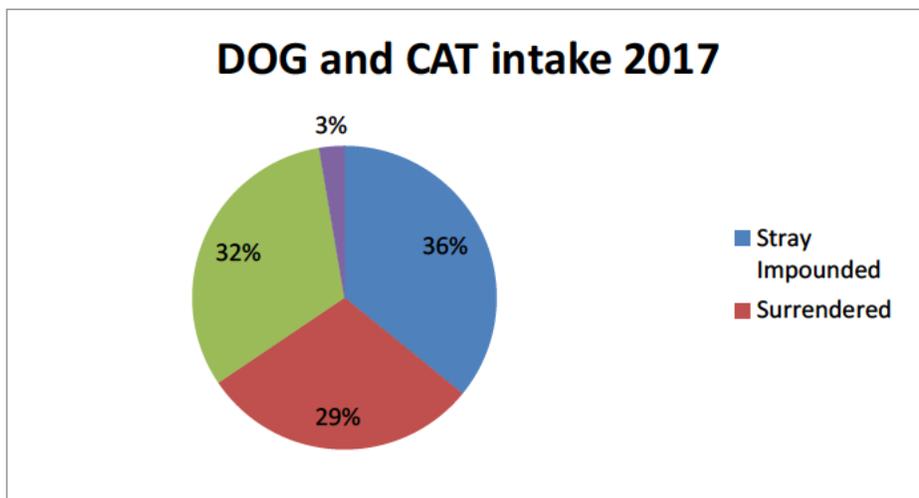
- 3150 Cats altered
- 419 Dogs altered

In late September of 2017, Help Fix Me had three thousand dollars remaining and over fifteen thousand in outstanding vouchers. After reviewing potential options the program stopped giving out new applications for spay and neuter surgeries and transferred money from Animal Welfare to the Help fix me account to cover any outstanding invoices. The program has started to give out a limited number of vouchers in January of 2018 as the program continues to evaluate how best to proceed in the future.

## Animal Shelter Survey

Since 2011, Animal Welfare has been conducting surveys of the animal shelters to find out how many animals are being euthanized and how many are adding to the live release rate each year. During the time we have been doing the survey we have found that the live release rate has gone up and the euthanasia rate has decreased dramatically. This is in part due to the hard work of the animal shelters and animal control officers throughout the state that help the Animal Welfare Program educate pet owners and share information about spay and neuter programs.

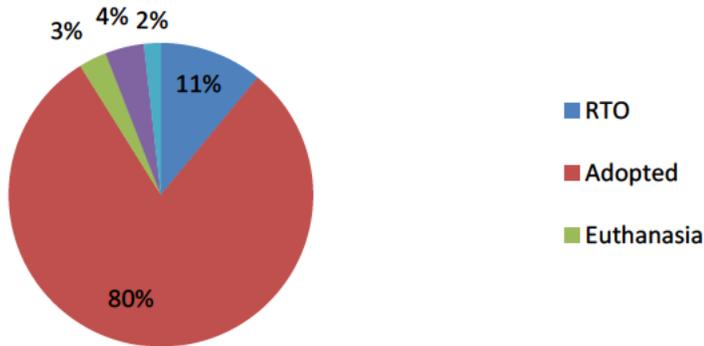
The live release rate refers to the animals that are not being euthanized and this number shows that Maine is doing great work preventing the euthanasia of unwanted animals and finding ways to place animals in forever homes.



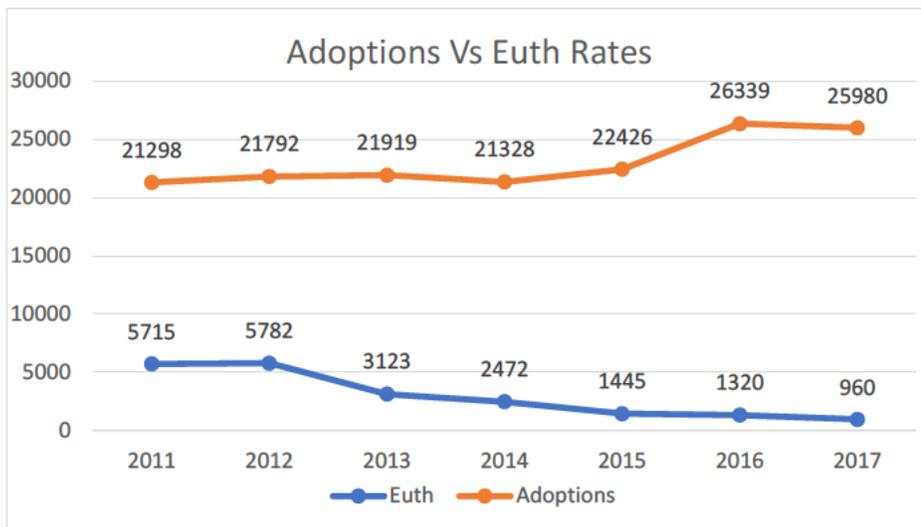
	<b>Dog &amp; Cat</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>Cat</b>
<b>Stray</b>	<b>12,088</b>	<b>3,467</b>	<b>8,621</b>
<b>Surrendered</b>	<b>9,987</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>6,969</b>
<b>Transferred in</b>	<b>10,705</b>	<b>7,174</b>	<b>3,531</b>
<b>Born in shelter</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>742</b>

Animals transferred into shelters reflect dogs and cats being imported from shelters in the southern United States and from around the State of Maine.

## Dog and Cat Outcome 2017



	Dog & Cat	Dog	Cat
<b>Returned To Owner</b>	<b>3,556</b>	<b>2,638</b>	<b>918</b>
<b>Adopted</b>	<b>25,980</b>	<b>10,040</b>	<b>15,940</b>
<b>Euthanasia</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>690</b>
<b>Transferred out</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>1,076</b>
<b>Died/Lost</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>499</b>



## Live release rates for the past 6 years

2011	72%
2012	80%
2013	88%
2014	90%
2015	93%
2016	95%
2017	95%

It is important to note that animals that are being humanely euthanized in many of the animal shelters across the state are the results of sickness, disease, injury, or unmanageable aggression. They are not being euthanized for space or length of stay reasons.

## Licensed Facilities

The Animal Welfare Program is responsible for the licensing and inspection of all Animal Shelters, Pet Stores, Boarding Kennels, Breeding Kennels, and Research Facilities in the State of Maine. There are over 570 of these facilities in the state and humane agents are working with these facilities to maintain compliance and prevent disease outbreaks. Inspections completed in a timely manner are very important to the Animal Welfare Program but staffing, scheduling issues and cruelty cases have slowed the response time for inspections. This past year AWP took steps to deal with the issue and generated a contract for a temp worker to help the agents do inspections. Within six months, many of the outstanding inspections have been completed. AWP is still working on improving inspection times and responses.

- 227 Boarding Kennels
- 126 Breeding kennels
- 75 Pet stores
- 11 Research facilities
- 134 Animal Shelters and Rescues

## Animal Complaints in 2017

The Animal Welfare Program received 5,233 calls in 2017 and 345 animal complaints were taken and dispatched out to the Humane Agents and Local ACOs. Animal Welfare Program staff has been working with the public and local Animal Control Officers to help resolve complaints of neglect, abuse, and animal/human conflicts throughout the year. Through our efforts to educate the public on what the pet owner's responsibilities are and what resources are available to them, we have been able to reduce the number of animals seized by the state and improve the quality of life for the people and animals we encounter. This method of enforcement is part of our community policing strategy that is showing positive results in reducing the number of repeat offenders.

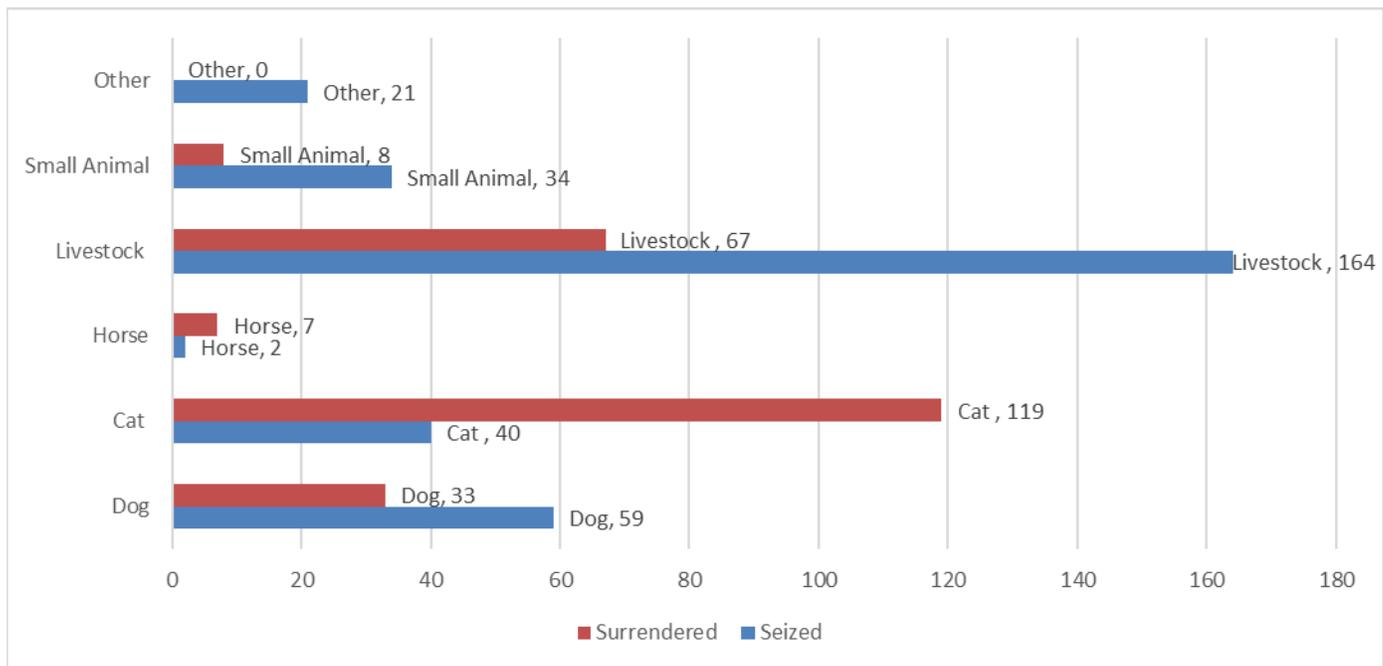
In 2015 Animal Welfare re-evaluated how it receives and documents complaints. Multiple complaints on an address during the same time are now tied into one complaint and information is now added to the complaint rather than starting a new complaint report.

In 2017, 234 animals that were surrendered by owners that found themselves unable to care for them appropriately or were overwhelmed by the costs of the animal's care were quickly placed into local animal shelters and rescues where most have been rehomed.

In cases that can't be resolved in a cooperative fashion with the pet owner, or there is probable cause of deliberate abuse, Humane Agents will begin working with the local District Attorney's office to file for an ex parte order or a search warrant to get custody of the animals and gather evidence.

In 2017, 321 animals were seized by Humane Agents across the State of Maine. Once the animals that have been seized are awarded to the Animal Welfare Program by the court, the program will work with our shelter and rescue partners to quickly rehome the animals just like they would be if they were surrendered.

### 2017 Seized and Surrendered



	Seized	Surrendered
Dog	59	33
Cat	40	119
Horse	2	7
Livestock	164	67
Small Animal	34	8
Other	21	0

\*Small Animal includes rabbits.

## **Animal Control Officer Trainings and Improvements**

Another responsibility of The Animal Welfare Program is to provide the Basic Animal Control Officer (ACO) Training and to help encourage them to seek additional trainings wherever possible. Twice a year our office conducts a training that helps instruct the ACO on local ACO responsibilities, the animal laws, dangerous dogs and bite cases, rabies, and officer safety. A wide variety of professionals such as District Attorneys, Veterinarians, Police Officers, and other Certified ACOs serve as instructors to share their experiences and knowledge to help new ACOs prepare for the job ahead of them. Trainings were held in Augusta and Houlton this past year. Animal Welfare is currently looking into ways to create a digital training for ACOs and hope to test a potential core competency digital training in 2018.

## **In Conclusion**

The State of Maine has been ranked once again in the top 3 by the Animal Legal Defense Fund for having the strongest animal welfare laws in the country. Maine has been a leader in the animal welfare world for many years and it is our intention to continue those efforts using education and enforcement.