

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

Maine's Animal Welfare Program Review for 2018

Our Mission: The Animal Welfare Program (AWP) 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
Vacant 2018	District Humane Agent York, Cumberland Counties
Rachael Fiske DVM	Assistant State Veterinarian
Leonard Goodine	Secretary Associate
Danielle Trask	Office Associate II

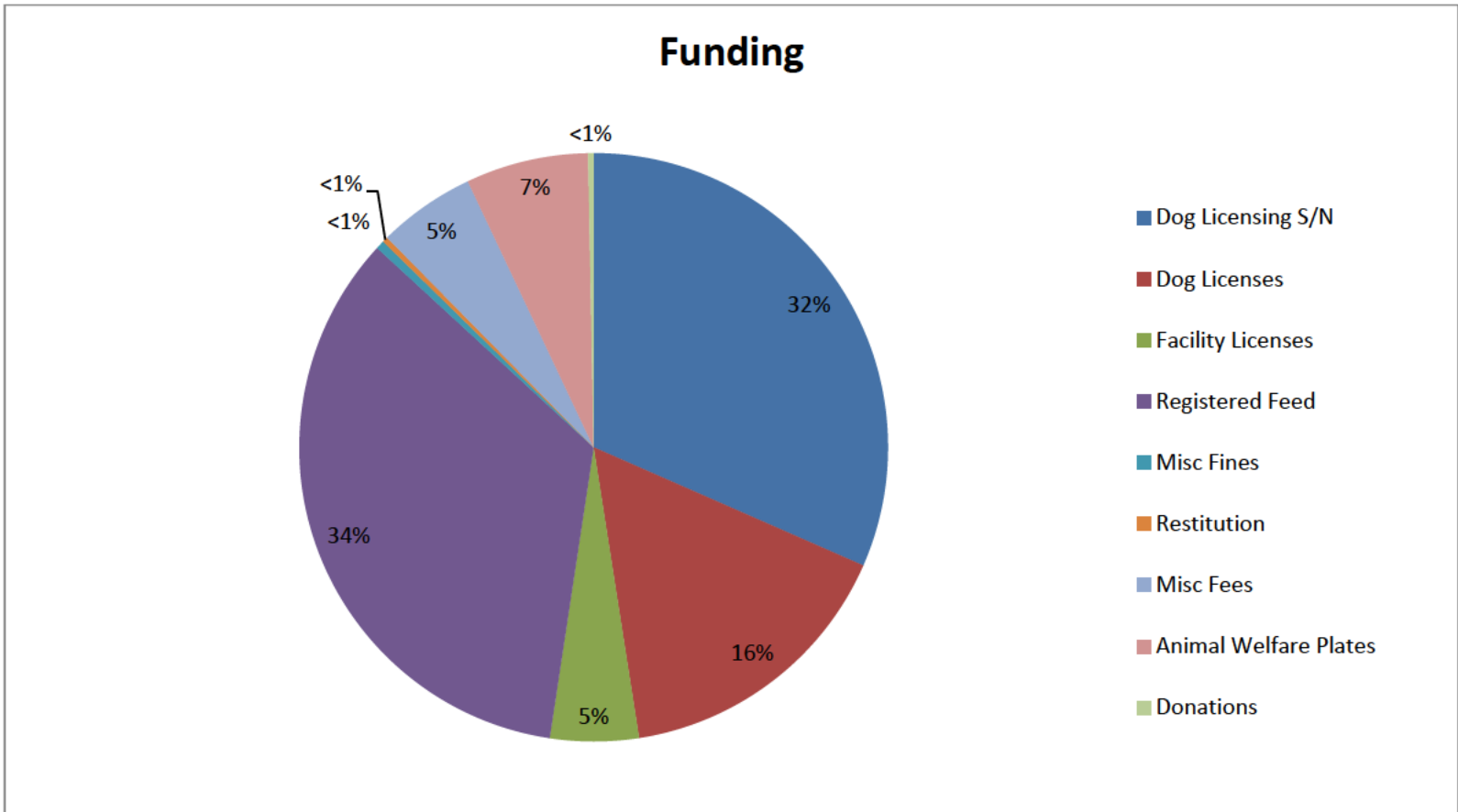
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Income 2017/2018

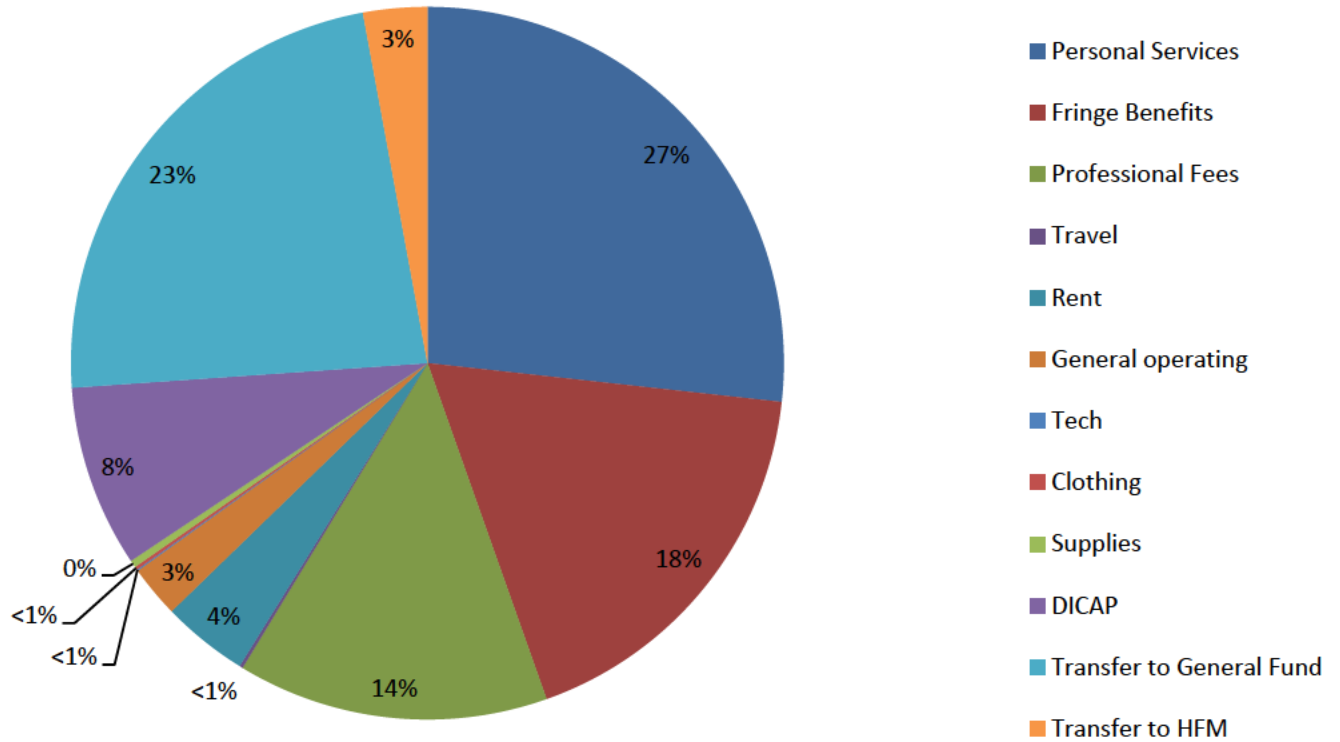
A majority of the income for the Animal Welfare Program comes from dog licensing and pet food surcharges. In the Fiscal year for 2017/18, AWP received the following funding. This funding chart shows the income for the Fiscal Year of July 2017-June 2018



	Funding
Dog Licensing S/N	\$464,215.00
Dog Licenses	\$234,378.00
Facility Licenses	\$71,453.00
Reg Feed	\$506,520.00
Misc. Fines	\$6,963.00
Restitution	\$4,406.00
Misc. Fees	\$78,549.00
Animal Welfare Plates	\$98,910.00
Donations	\$4,406.00

Expenditures 2018

Expenditures

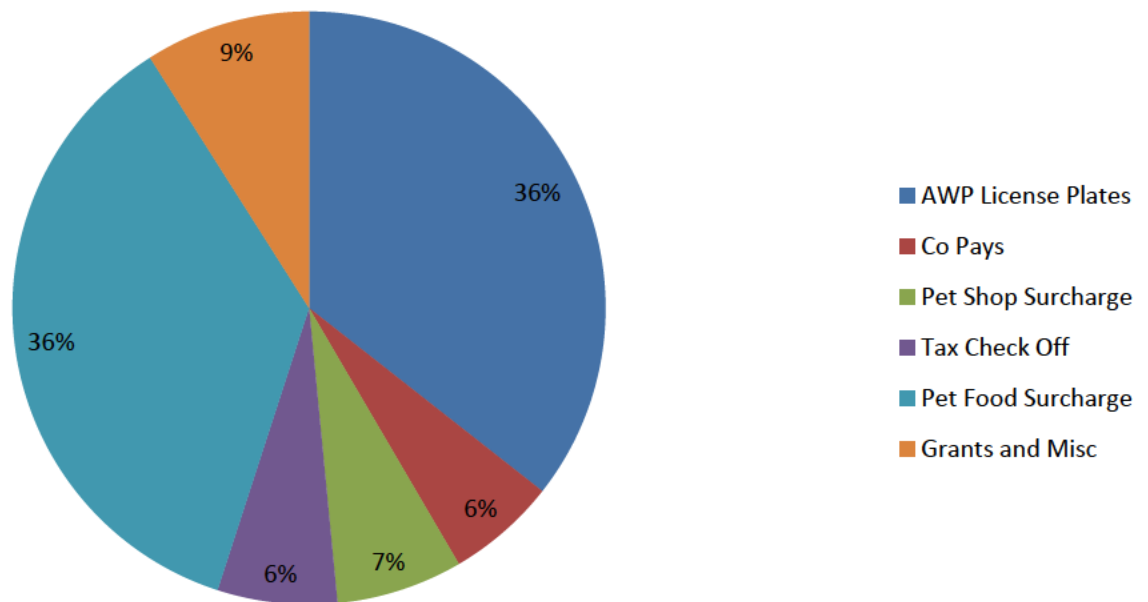


	Expenditures
Personal Services	\$461,092.00
Fringe Benefits	\$307,584.00
Professional Fees	\$243,200.00
Travel	\$2,691.00
Rent	\$67,448.00
General operating	\$40,643.00
Tech	\$1,069.00
Clothing	\$2,513.00
Supplies	\$5,702.00
DICAP	\$142,359.00
Transfer to General Fund	\$400,000.00
Transfer to HFM	\$50,000.00
Transfers to STACAP	27,466.00

Companion Animal Sterilization (Help Fix ME)

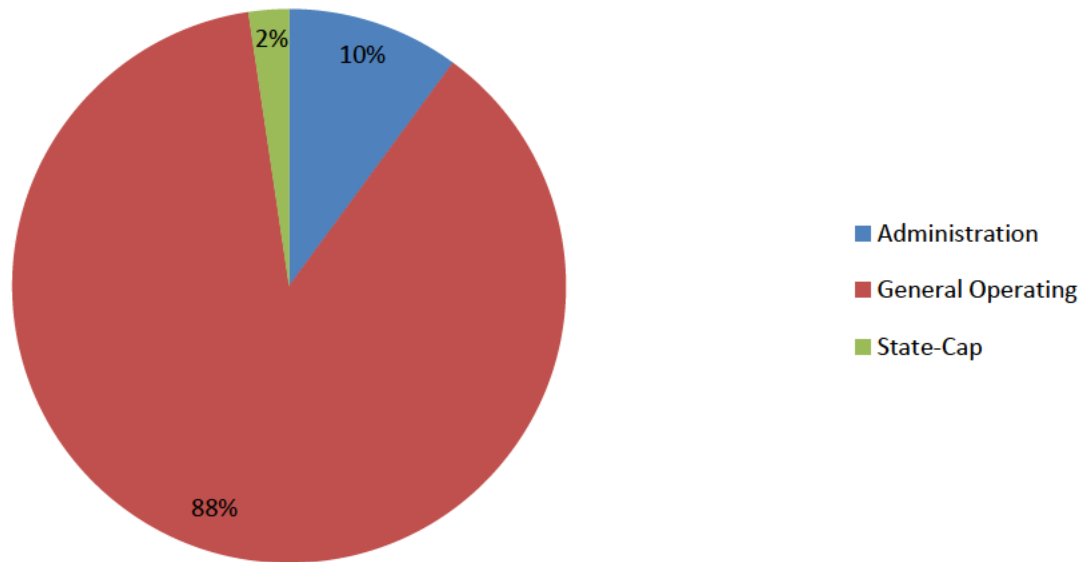
The Help Fix ME (HFM) program has been in operation since 2005 and has helped thousands of dogs and cats across the State of Maine. The goals of the Help Fix ME program are to assist responsible pet owners with keeping their pets, and to help reduce the number of unwanted pets euthanized in animal shelters. 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 fiscal year 2017-2018.

Help Fix ME Income



	Help Fix Me Income
AWP License Plates	\$98,910.00
Co Pays	\$16,600.00
Pet Shop Surcharge	\$19,175.00
Tax Check Off	\$18,125.00
Pet Food Surcharge	\$100,000.00
Grants and Misc	\$25,034.00

Help Fix ME Expenditures



Help Fix ME Expenditures	
Administration	\$27,803.00
General Operating	\$241,567.00
State-Cap	\$6,491.00

During the calendar year of 2018, Help Fix ME issued 1346 vouchers totaling \$122,288 used to spay and neuter dogs and cats in Maine. AWP conducts Animal shelter surveys annually which have shown a majority of animals in the shelters are cats. Dogs being altered are predominantly large mix breed dogs such as Pit bull type dogs, that are commonly found in the shelters of Maine.

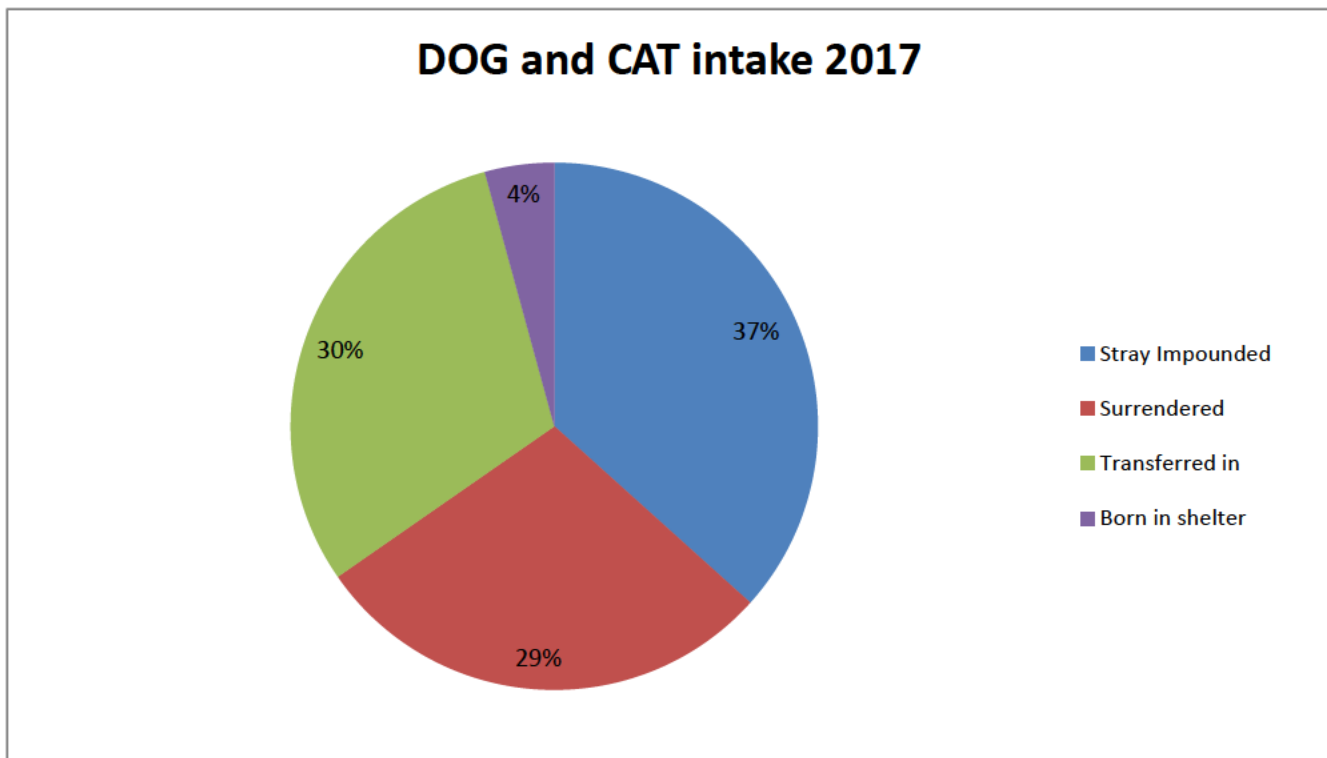
- 1161 Cats altered
- 160 Dogs altered

In late September of 2017, HFM discovered that it had \$3,000 remaining and over \$15,000 outstanding vouchers. After reviewing potential options, the program stopped giving out new applications for spay and neuter surgeries and transferred money from AWP to the HFM account to cover any outstanding invoices. After a review of Help Fix ME operations, the program started to give out a limited number of applications. A disturbing trend was noticed over the past year of people calling to get applications and then never using them. This created a bubble-like effect where more applications were out in the public than what the program had cash to cover. All applications given out after January are now numbered and have 90-day expiration dates. Expired applications are reissued to other qualified applicants. A set number of applications are given out each month that coincide with the allotment of funding of the HFM program. In future budget discussions, the department will work to better balance the allotments with the current amount of cash the program takes in yearly. Currently Help Fix ME is open and operating each month.

Animal Shelter Survey

Since 2011, the Animal Welfare Program 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. Over the past few years, these surveys 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 (ACOs) throughout the state that help the Animal Welfare Program educate pet owners and share information about spay and neuter programs.

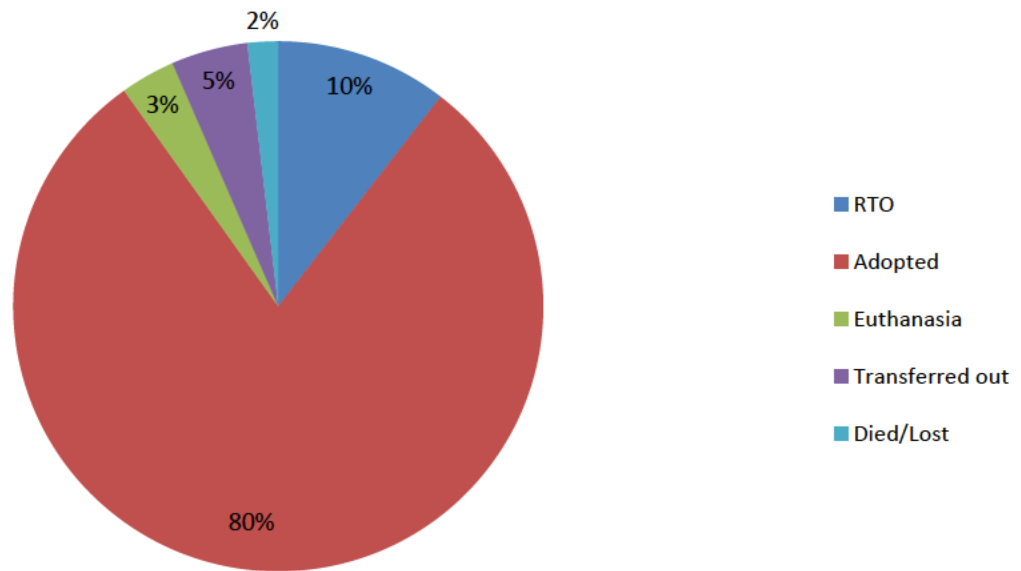
The live release rate refers to the animals that are not being euthanized and this number shows that Maine is doing great work preventing the euthanasia of unwanted animals and finding ways to place animals in forever homes.



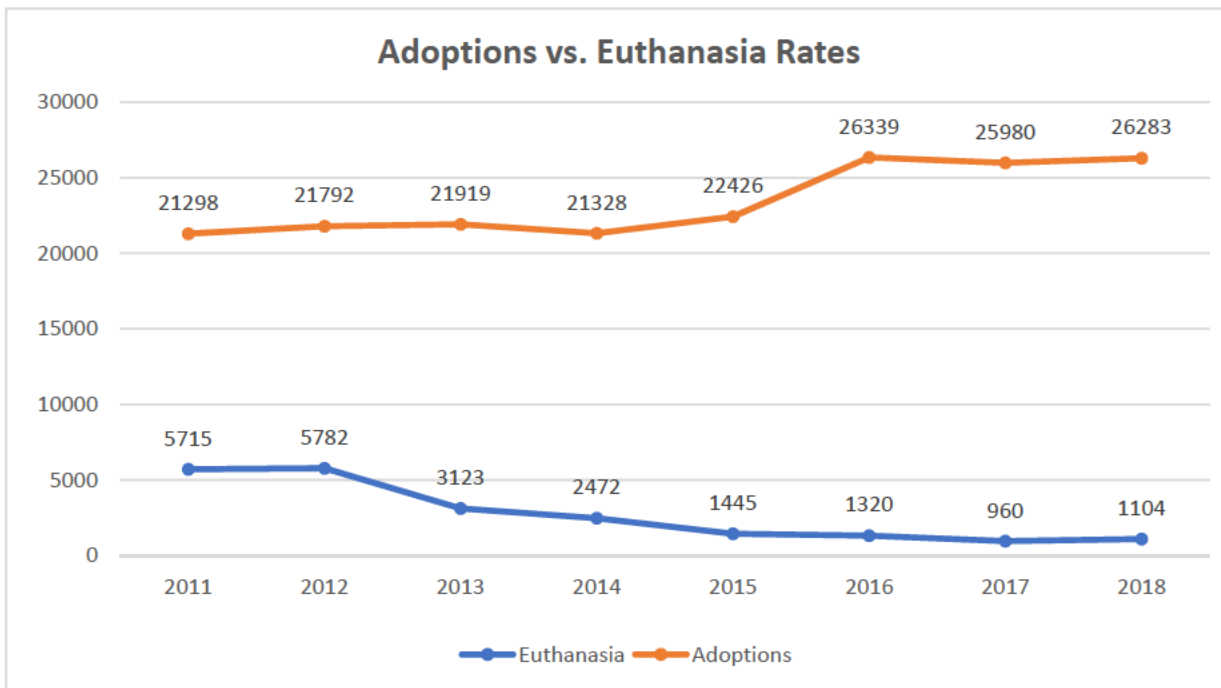
	Dog & Cat	Dog	Cat
Stray	12493	3137	9356
Surrendered	9769	2945	6824
Transferred in	10366	7117	3249
Born in shelter	1446	241	1205

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
Returned to Owner	3462	2550	876
Adopted	26283	10261	16022
Euthanasia	1104	316	788
Transferred out	1538	194	1344
Died/Lost	617	64	553



Live release rates for the past 8 years

2011	72%
2012	80%
2013	88%
2014	90%
2015	93%
2016	95%
2017	95%
2018	95%

It is important to note that animals being humanely euthanized in many of the animal shelters across the state is the result of sickness, disease, injury, or unmanageable aggression. The animals 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 580 of these facilities in Maine and Humane Agents work with these facilities to maintain compliance and prevent disease outbreaks. Inspections completed in a timely manner are very important to the Animal Welfare Program. Staffing, scheduling issues and cruelty cases have slowed the response time for inspections. There is need for a full-time inspector for this program. AWP is still working on improving inspection times and responses.

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

Animal Complaints in 2018

The Animal Welfare Program received 246 animal complaints and dispatched them out to the humane agents and local animal control officers. AWP staff has been working with the public and local ACOs 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, AWP has 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.

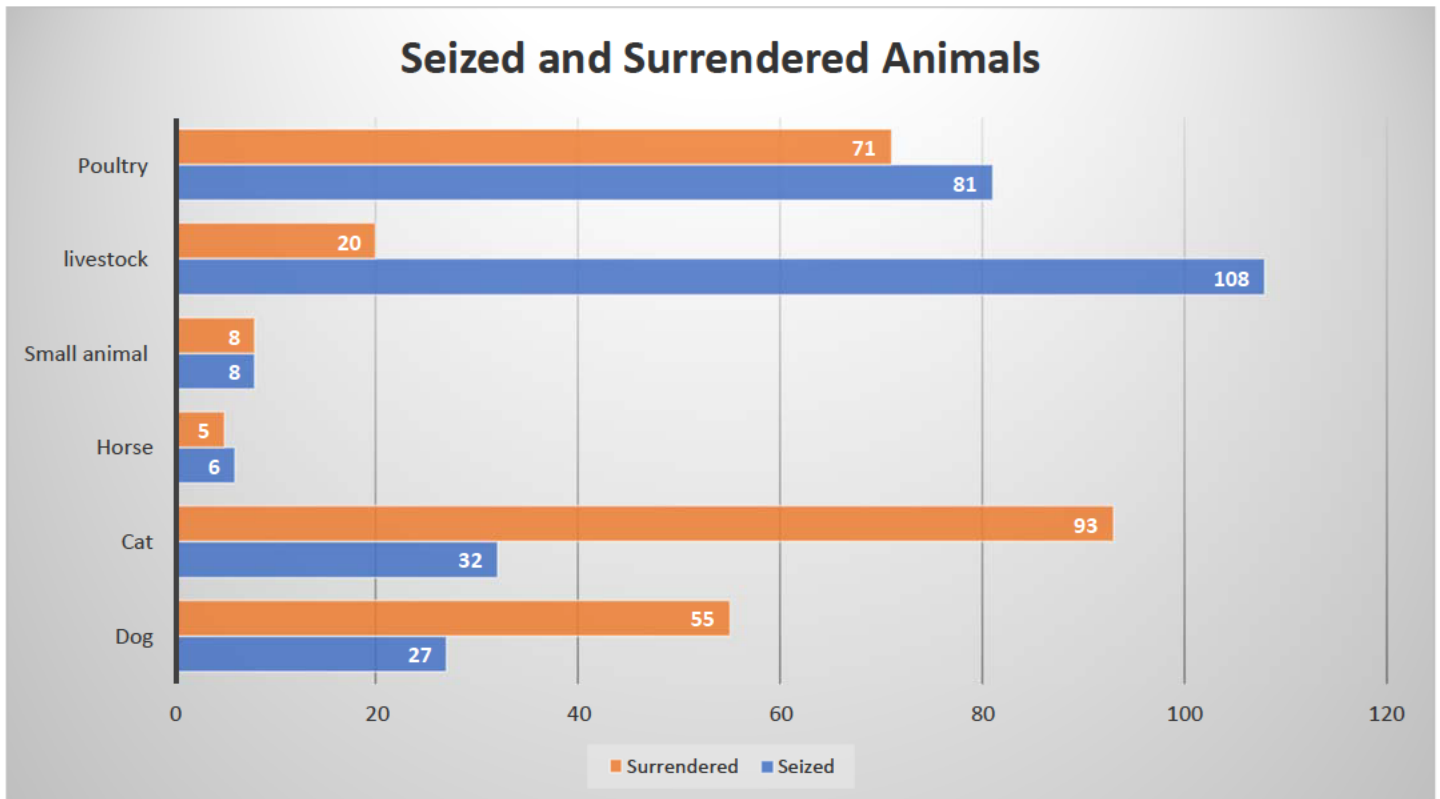
In 2015 Animal Welfare re-evaluated how it receives and documents complaints. Multiple complaints on the same address during the same timeframe are now tied into one complaint and information is now added to the complaint rather than starting a new complaint report.

In 2018, 262 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 work 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 2018, 333 animals were seized by Humane Agents across the State. Once the animals that have been seized are awarded to the Animal Welfare Program by the court, the program works with shelter and rescue partners to quickly rehome the animals just like they would be if they were surrendered.

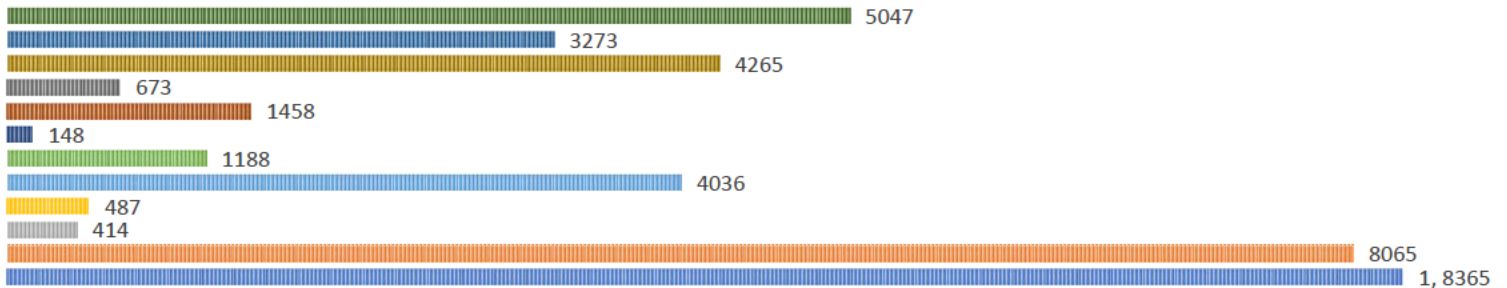
2017 Seized and Surrendered



Animal Control Reporting

In 2018, the law was changed to require yearly reports from the animal control officers. This is the first year that towns and ACOs have reported to Animal Welfare on their activities. With about 50% compliance from reporting towns our office gathered the following data.

ACO COMPLAINTS



	1
General Complaints	5047
Other	3273
Wildlife Complaints	4265
Rabid Animal	673
Cruelty Complaint	1458
Owner Insitutionalized	148
Animal Trespass	1188
Cat Complaints	4036
Vaccination Violation	487
Dangous Dog	414
Dog License	8065
Dogs at Large	8365

Since this was the first year of this report our office is working with towns and ACOs to help them develop a format to assist in the yearly reporting. We did find an issue with some ACOs that work under the police department in that their dispatching software does not break the complaints down into the types of complaints we are asking for, just a general animal complaint. Under this report, we have listed them under general complaints until we can find a better way to help gather this data.

It is our hope that over the years to come, this report can truly show how hard working all of the local animal control officers are and where resources and training are needed.

Animal Control Officer Trainings and Improvements

Another responsibility of the Animal Welfare Program is to provide the Basic Animal Control Officer Training and to help encourage ACOs to seek additional trainings wherever possible. Twice each year our office conducts a training that helps instruct new animal control officers on local ACO responsibilities, 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.

In 2019 the training will evolve into a new format. In order to obtain certification to be an ACO, trainees will have to complete two phases of the training. Phase one will consist of online training that will be available as soon as they register for the training. This phase will cover many of the basic responsibilities of animal control officers. Upon completion of the online training, the trainees will need to attend the phase two of the training that will be held in various locations throughout the State.

Animal Welfare Database Project

In 2018 Animal Welfare began the process of looking to create a new data base to replace the limited Access database currently in use. It is the hope of this program that a contract will be signed and work can commence by July 2019. It is our plan that this database will help manage cruelty cases, license facilities, and provide a dog licensing database for all municipalities and ACOs to use.

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.