



## City of Abilene

### Animal Services Advisory Board Agenda

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Animal Services Advisory Board of City of Abilene to be held on December 10, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall, Basement Conference Room, 555 Walnut Street, Council Chambers, Abilene, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### MINUTES

#### AGENDA ITEMS

1. Introduction of New Members
2. Nomination, Vote, and Appointment of Board Chairman
3. Animal Services Director's Report-Justin Lelesch
4. Foster Program Update- Justin Lelesch
5. Volunteer Program Update-Justin Lelesch

#### ADJOURNMENT

#### *Notice*

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Abilene will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to scheduled meetings. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at 325-676-6208. Telecommunication device for the deaf is 325-676-6360.*

#### **CERTIFICATION**

*I hereby certify the above meeting notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 3rd day of December, 2021, at 4:15 p.m.*

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*Shawna Atkinson, TRMC, CMC*  
City Secretary





**City Council  
Agenda Memo**

**Animal Services Advisory Board Date:  
12/10/2021**

**TO:**

**FROM:**

**SUBJECT:           3. Animal Services Director's Report-Justin Lelesch**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Over the last several years, Abilene Animal Services has made it our mission to reach the nationally accepted live release benchmark of 90%. This means that 90% of the animals that are processed in the shelter receive a positive outcome, which includes reclamation from their original family, adoption by a new family, being sent to a rescue partner both in the state and nationally, and in the case of our community cats, spay/neutered and released back to the home territory. We are proud of the strides we have made in our life-saving endeavors. This has only been possible due to the support of the City Manager's office, the City Council, the veterinary and rescue communities, as well as the citizens of Abilene.

Our live release rate has steadily increased over the last five years. When I first started in June of 2016, the save rate on dogs was 51% and cats was only 17%. For the year of 2016, we only saved 45%. The same held true in 2017 when we only saved approximately 50% of the animals that came to the shelter. The years following, we made a huge effort to institute programs that would benefit us in life saving. Through the institution of the community cat program, a foster program, a volunteer program, and a managed intake process, we have increased our save rates to 54% in 2018, 58% in 2019, 77% in 2020 and as of the end of November, our year-to-date save rate this year is 86%.

Euthanasia numbers have significantly decreased over the last 5 years as well. In 2016, 2578 cats and 2180 dogs were euthanized at the shelter. In 2020, those numbers decreased to 527 and 658 respectively. Year-to-date for 2021, those numbers are 220 and 374 respectively, with one month left in the calendar year.

Rescue Transports are on pace to break 1000 for the first time in our history.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT**

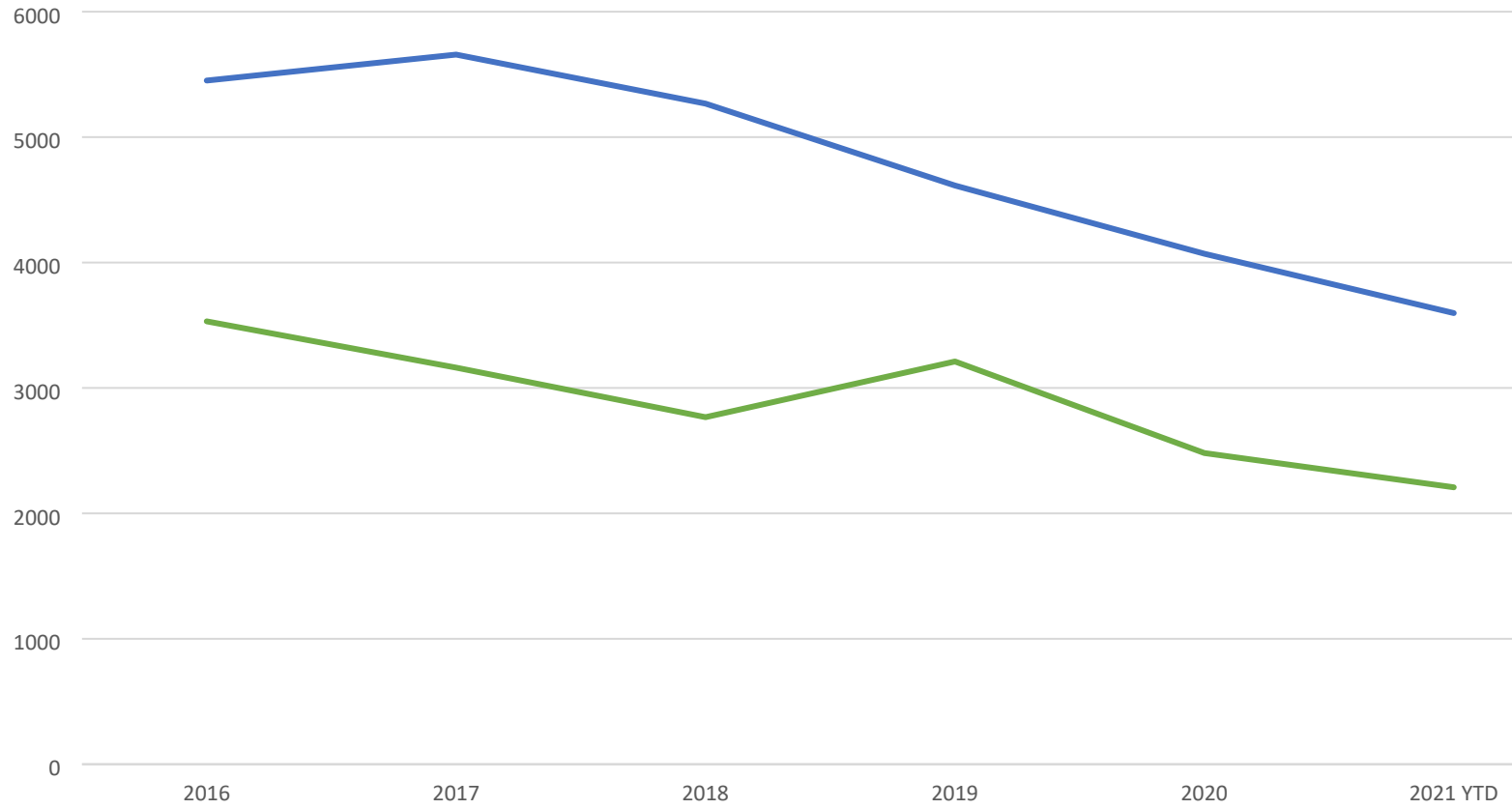
**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**BOARD OR COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

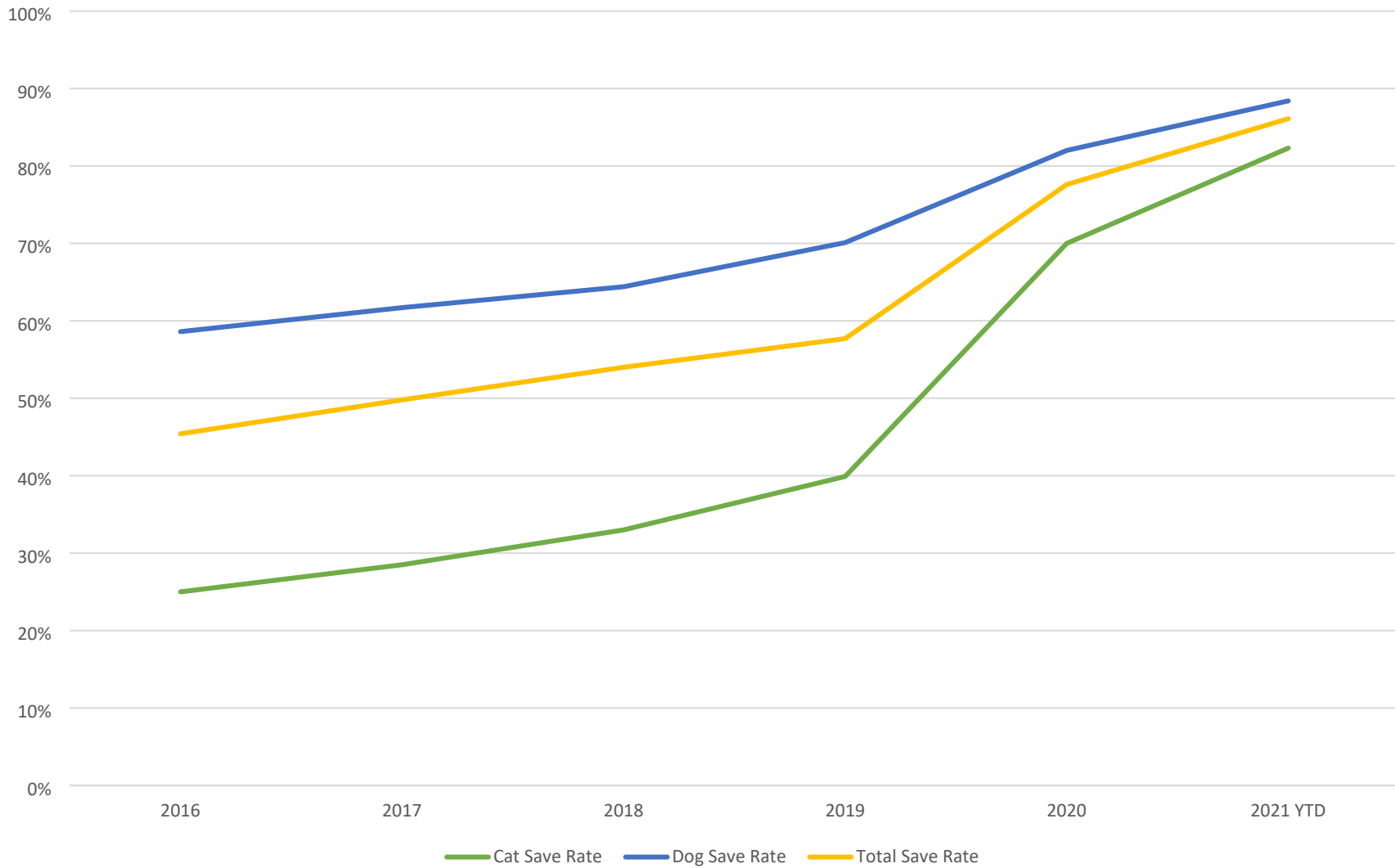
1. Historical Data Graphs

### Animal Intake

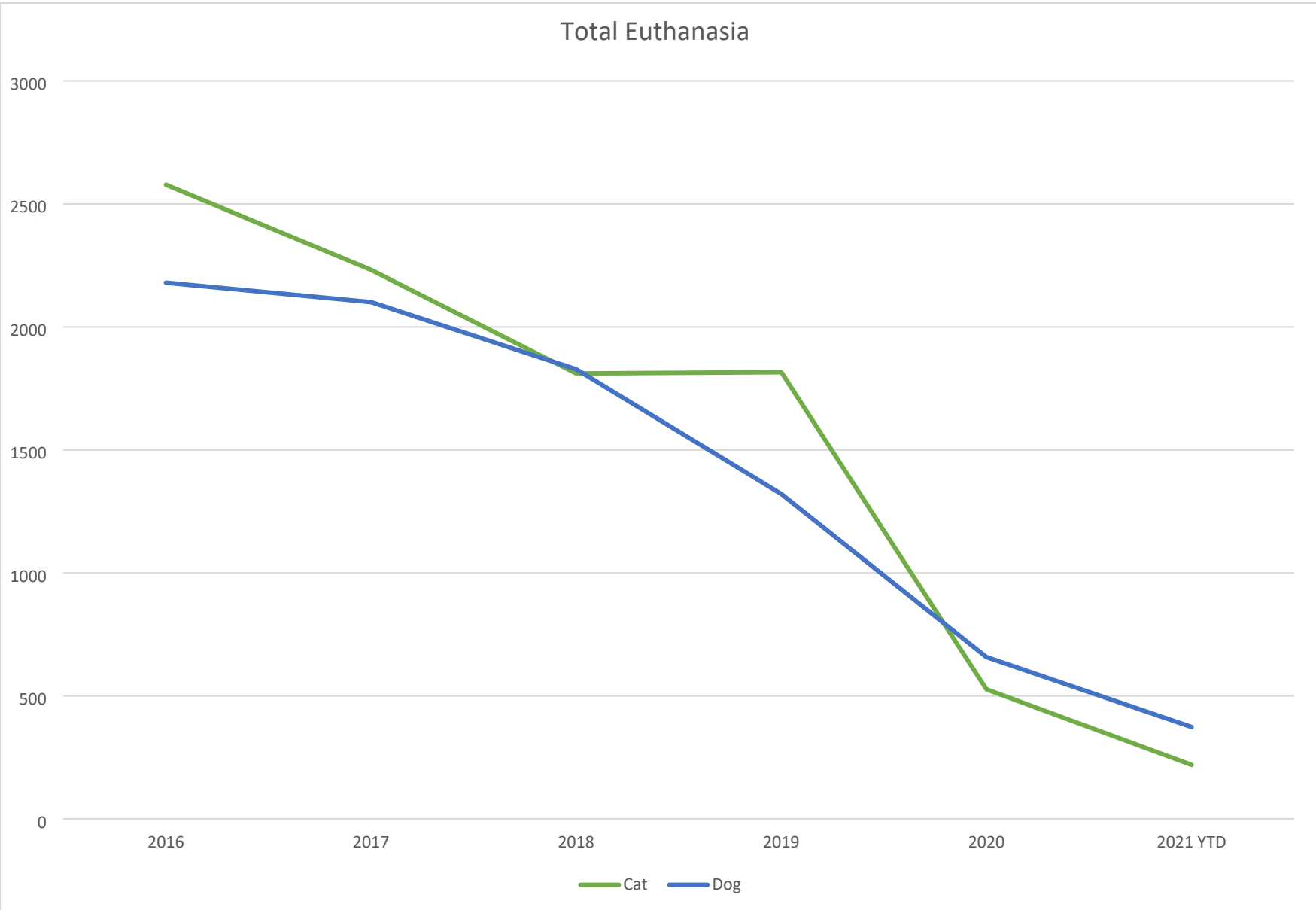


— Cat Intake — Dog Intake

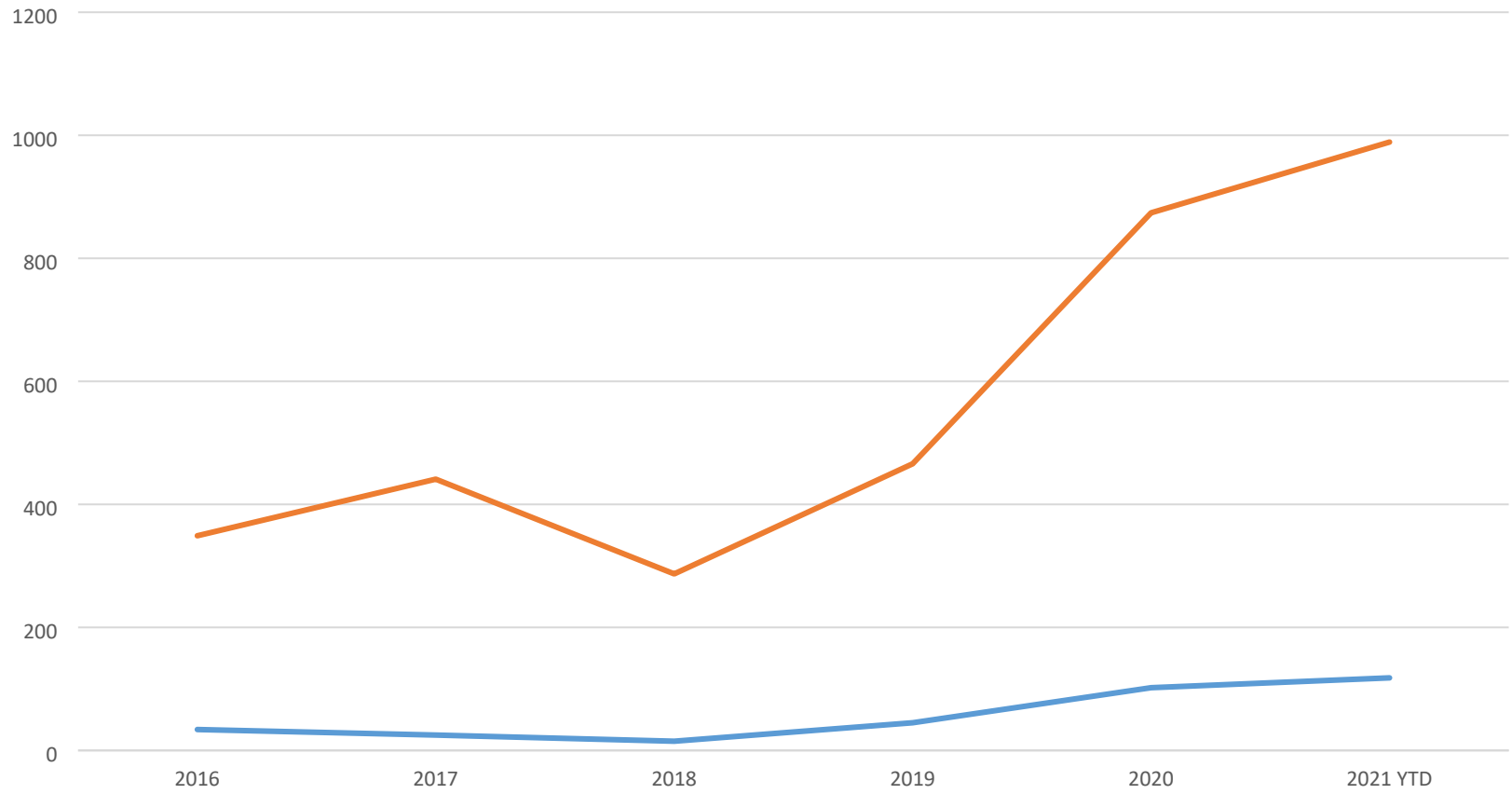
### Live Release Rate



### Total Euthanasia

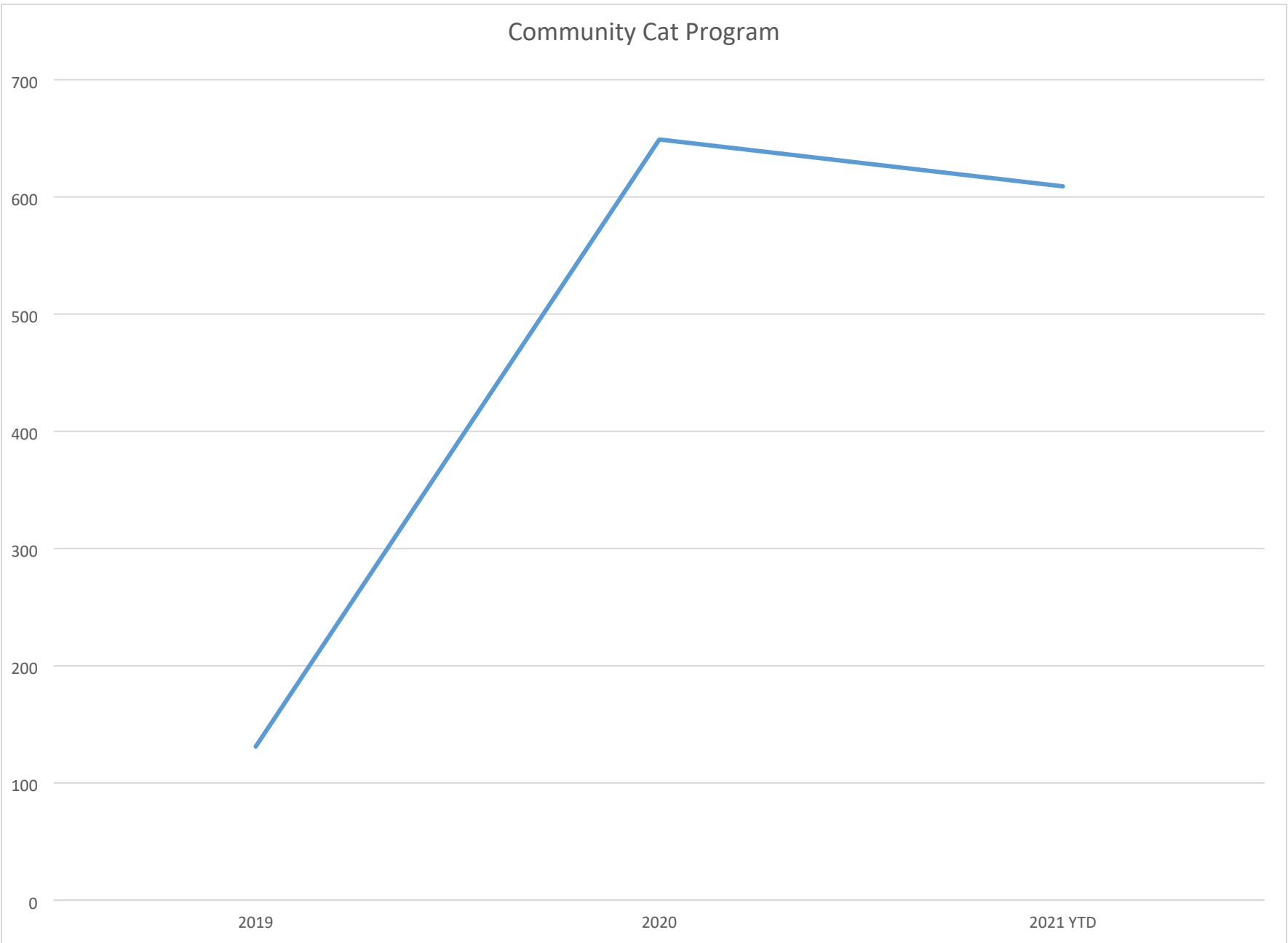


### Rescue Transports



— Cat — Dog

### Community Cat Program





**City Council  
Agenda Memo**

**Animal Services Advisory Board Date:  
12/10/2021**

**TO:**

**FROM:**

**SUBJECT: 4. Foster Program Update- Justin Lelesch**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

A strong foster program is essential for any shelter striving to reach a "no kill" threshold. In April of this year, Animal Services put an emphasis on utilizing volunteer foster homes to assist with the care of animals that were tagged by rescue and awaiting transport, as well as our most vulnerable populations of animals, including puppies and kittens. From April through November, we have put over 1500 animals into foster care. Of those, over half were either adopted or sent to rescue and there are currently just over 600 still in foster care. We have seen great success in our foster program and currently have a 93% save rate in our foster program.

We have recently reviewed the program and have made some adjustments to the criteria for applying to be a foster, and responsibilities of the foster parents while the animal is in their care. These changes include all of the existing pets in the foster home being spay/neutered and current on vaccinations, as well as regularly scheduled check-ins with Animal Service on the status of the animals. This is currently in review with the City of Abilene Legal Department and we hope to be able to roll that out by the start of calendar year 2022.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

## **BOARD OR COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. April-Nov kittens in foster
2. April-Nov 2021 puppies in foster
3. 2021 foster totals

## April-November 2021 Kittens in Foster

Month	Total in Foster	Adopted	Rescue	Died	Euth	Still in foster
April	144	15	35	3	11	80
May	229	56	19	11	3	140
June	164	75	32	8	7	42
July	182	103	0	10	0	69
August	132	48	0	18	0	66
September	102	72	0	16	2	12
October	59	37	8	0	0	14
November	52	21	0	1	0	30
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>453</b>

## April-November 2021 Puppies in Foster

Month	Total in foster	Adopted	Rescue	Died	Euth	Still in foster
April	41	10	0	2	1	28
May	73	33	17	0	0	23
June	106	42	10	1	0	53
July	124	75	19	0	1	29
August	49	23	7	1	2	16
September	32	8	11	8	0	5
October	14	4	7	0	0	3
November	31	2	24	0	0	5
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>162</b>

September lost entire litter to Parvo (8)

## April-November 2021 Total Foster Numbers

Month	Total in Foster	Adopted	Rescue	Died	Euth	Still in Foster
April	185	25	35	5	12	108
May	302	89	36	11	3	163
June	270	117	42	9	7	95
July	306	178	19	10	1	98
August	181	71	7	19	2	82
September	134	80	11	24	2	17
October	73	41	15	0	0	19
November	83	23	24	1	0	35

<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>1,534</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>615</b>
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**City Council  
Agenda Memo**

**Animal Services Advisory Board Date:  
12/10/2021**

**TO:**

**FROM:**

**SUBJECT:           5. Volunteer Program Update-Justin Lelesch**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Abilene is lucky in the fact that we have a substantial portion of our population that want to give back to the community. Historically, the Animal Services volunteer program has not been well managed and not well structured. We are in the process of updating the way that volunteers can apply to the program and better understand what their role is in the advancement of the organization and what they can and cannot do to help us reach our goal of a 90% live release rate. All of the documents related to the volunteer program are currently under review by the City of Abilene Legal Department.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**BOARD OR COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None