

PETS ARE FAMILY TOO Keeping Humans and Companion Animals Together

Wednesday, April 12th 2023







PETS ARE FAMILY TOO

Keeping Humans and Companion Animals
Together

April 12, 2023
Housing Ohio Conference



Christine Kim, MSW
Founder, Board Member
My Dog Is My Home

My Dog Is My Home is a national organization dedicated to increasing access to shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness and their companion animals.



Garrett Parsons, LSW
Services Director | Pet Support Supervisor
Found House Interfaith Housing Network

Found House Interfaith Housing Network's mission is to provide shelter, housing, and support to families (and their pets) experiencing housing insecurity and to strengthen those services through interfaith and community partnership.

Spirit, Kyya & Miniaga



Brigitte & Nuebian



Unified homeless services and animal welfare movements can end homelessness for people and their animals by making accessible:

- Emergency shelter
- Housing
 - Affordable housing
 - Rapid rehousing
 - Permanent supportive housing
- Wraparound services that support human and animal wellness

Scope and Need

- An estimated 6-24% of people experiencing homelessness have pets.
- Determining scope in your community: HMIS | PIT Count | Coordinated Entry
- Examples and References:

Knoxville, TN

Cronley, C., Strand, E., Patterson, D., & Gwaltney, S. (2009). Homeless people who are animal caretakers: a comparative study. Psychol Rep. 105(2):481–99.

Los Angeles, CA

Henwood, B., Dzubur, E., Rhoades, H., St. Clair, P., & Cox, R. (2020). Pet ownership in the unsheltered homeless population in Los Angeles, Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness, 30:2, 191-194.

Kitsap County, WA

Housing & Homelessness Division, Kitsap County. (2023). 2023 Kitsap County Unsheltered PIT Form and Local Questions. <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/HOUSINGBLOCK/2023%20Winter%20Kitsap%20PIT%20Form%20Unsheltered.pdf>

Housing & Homelessness Division, Kitsap County. (2023). [2023 Kitsap County Sheltered PIT Form \(for Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing PIT Shells\)](https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/HOUSINGBLOCK/2023%20Winter%20Kitsap%20PIT%20Form%20PIT%20Shells.pdf). <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/HOUSINGBLOCK/2023%20Winter%20Kitsap%20PIT%20Form%20PIT%20Shells.pdf>.

New York City, NY

To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to providing information about pets whose owners enter homeless shelters, Local Law 97. (2021). <file:///C:/Users/chris/Downloads/Local%20Law%2097.pdf>

Assistance Animals & Companion Animals

HUD Reasonable Accommodation / ESA Tools:

- [Assistance Animals and Fair Housing: Navigating Reasonable Accommodations Interactive Tool](#)
- [HUD's FHEO Notice 2020-01 "Assessing a Person's Request to Have an Animal as a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Fair Housing Act"](#)
- [Assistance Animals and Fair Housing: Navigating Reasonable Accommodations Webinar](#)

Recommendation: Assume all animals provide emotional support.

Providing for Unhoused People &

H.R.8074 Pets (PUPP) Act of 2022

This bill permits the Department of Housing and Urban Development to award grants for interim and permanent housing that accommodates individuals (or families) who are homeless and have pets. Entities eligible for the grant include local governments, nonprofits, and entities that house or shelter homeless individuals.

(g) Authorization Of Appropriations .—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026.



Found House IHN

- Mission
- Pet Support Program
- Who do we serve?
- What do we offer?



**KEEPING THE
ENTIRE FAMILY TOGETHER
SINCE 2014**

What do we offer?

Assistance with:

Shelter/Foster
Food/Supplies

*Vaccinations/Medical
Needs

*Spay/Neuter

*Pet Deposits

Landlord Advocacy
Behavioral Consultations
Referrals



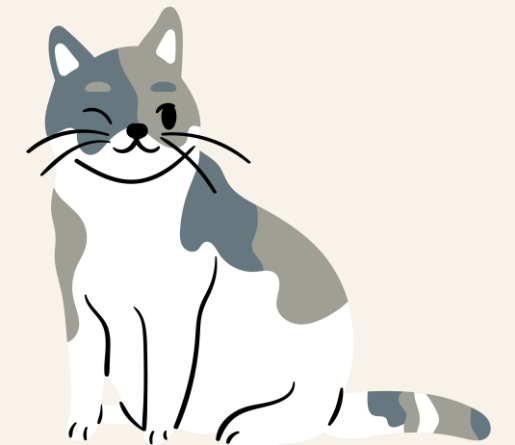
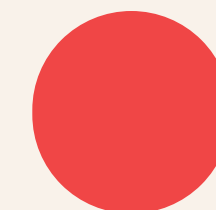
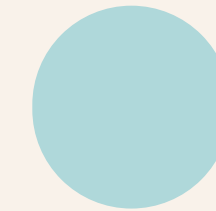
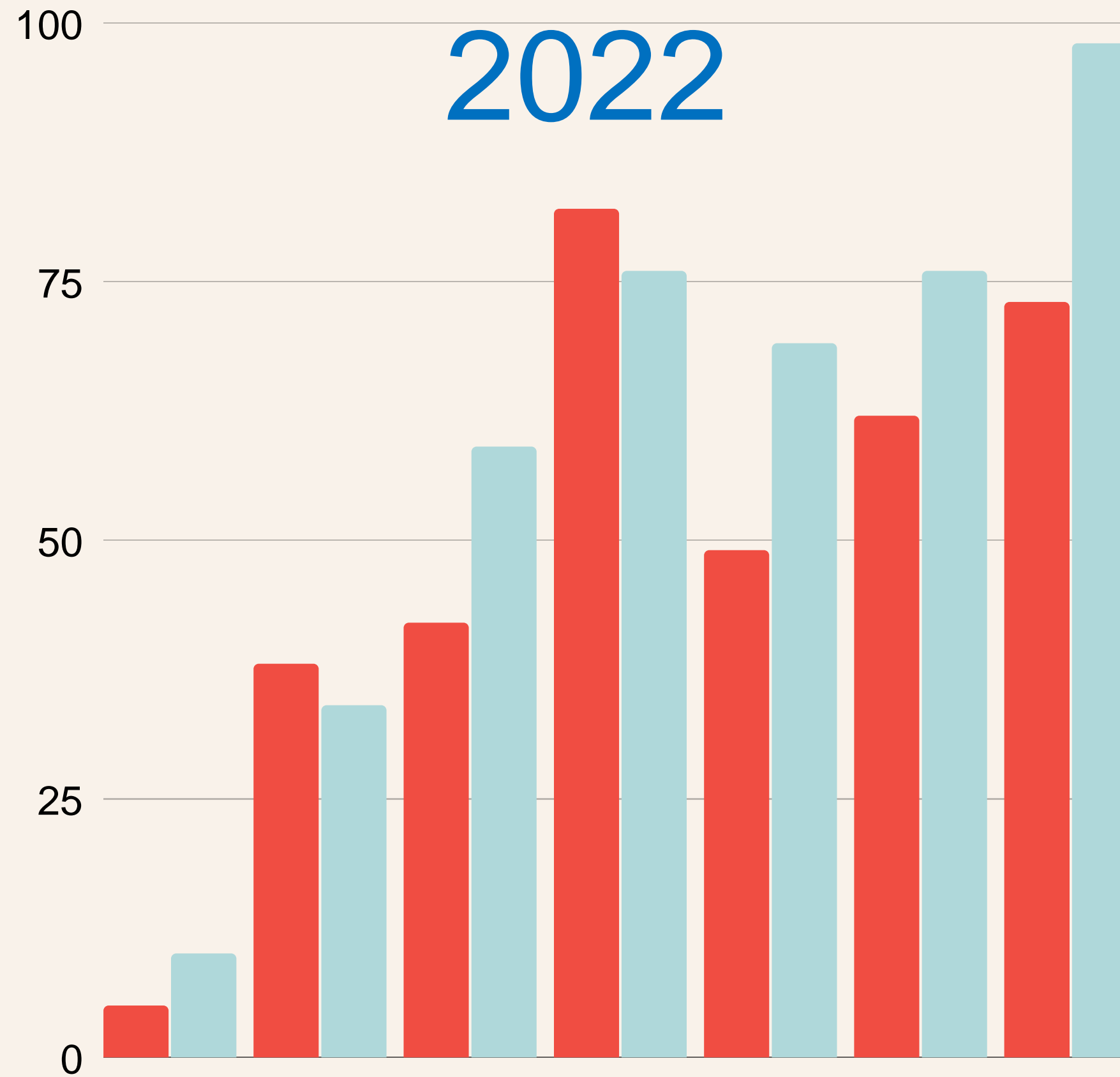
Measuring Success

- Did the family stay together?
- What is the families outcome?
- Are they on a path to self-sufficiency?



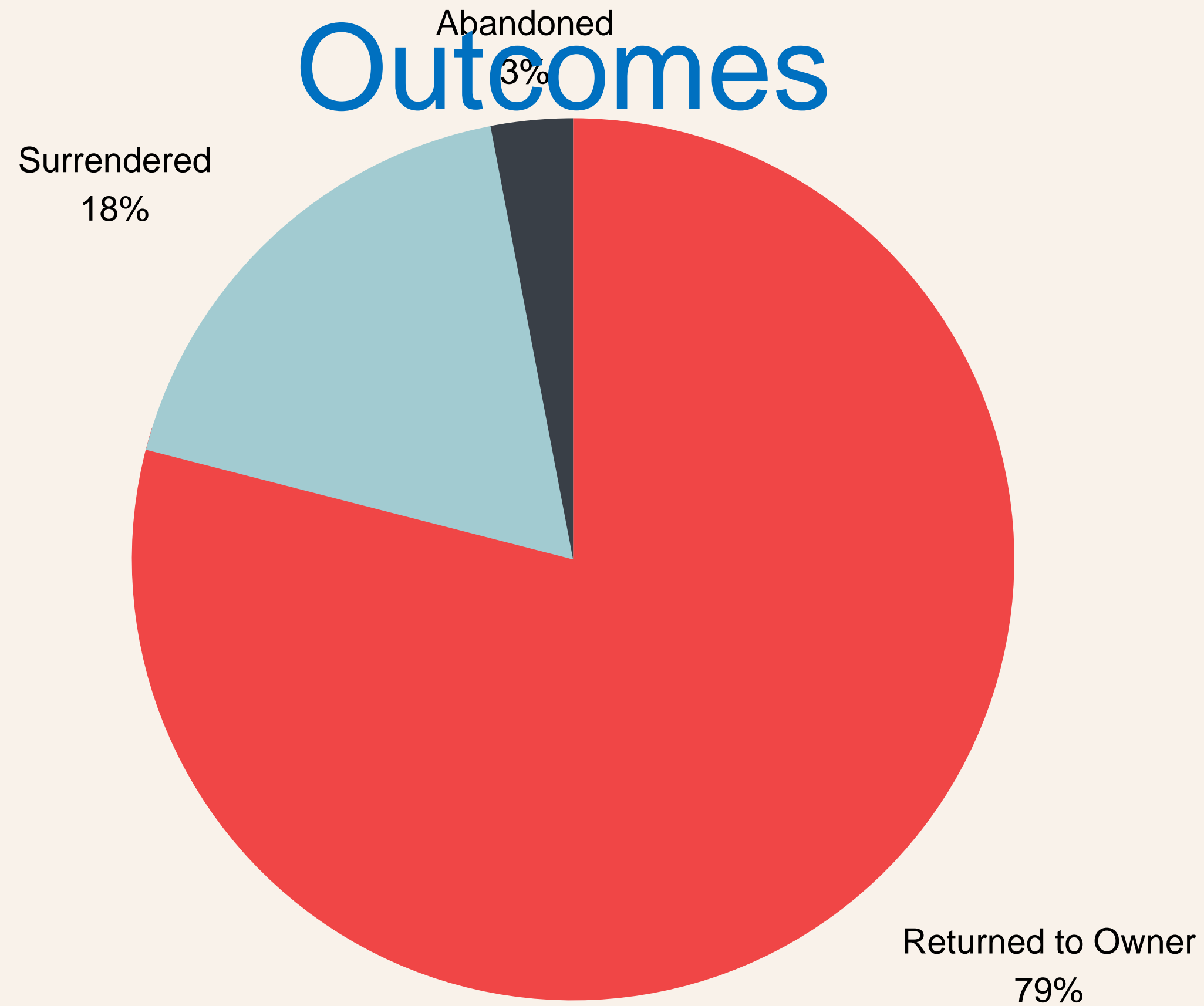
Animals Served 2016-

2022



2022

Outcomes



Collaborating with Animal Welfare Agencies

- Understand and excel in the complexities of sheltering animals
- Will result in healthier animals, safer protocols, and fewer incidents
- Will assist in clients journey as pet owners



Creating and Implementing a Pet Safety Plan with Clients



Pet Safety Plan

The purpose of a pet safety plan is to empower clients to continue growing as responsible pet owners with a goal of keeping families and their pets housed. This pet safety plan allows pet owners to think ahead and arrange for different scenarios and should serve as an inclusive supplement to the entire family's housing stability plan. This document should be completed collaboratively between the client and case manager.

**Note: Both the client and the appropriate staff should keep a copy of the safety plan*

I. Basic and Health Information

Pet 1

Name: _____ Est. DOB: _____

Type (circle): Dog Cat Other: _____

Sex (circle): Male Female

Distinct color or markings: _____





II. Medical

If your pet has a **non-emergency health issue**, where will you take them for help?

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

How will you get them there?

If your pet has an **emergency health issue or an after-hours health issue**, where will you take them?

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

How will you get them there?

What or who will you call for **transportation** (other than your social worker) if you need to get your pet to the vet?

Name: _____

Phone number: _____



III. Absence

If you have to be away from home for **a short period unexpectedly** (i.e. incarceration, medical emergency, etc.) what will you do with your pet(s)? Who will you call for help?

If you have to be away from home for **a short period planned** (i.e. surgery, vacation, inpatient treatment or rehabilitation, etc.) what will you do with your pet(s)? Who will you call for help?

If something causes you to be permanently or long-term unable to care for your pet, what is your plan for re-homing your pet?

IV. Basic Needs

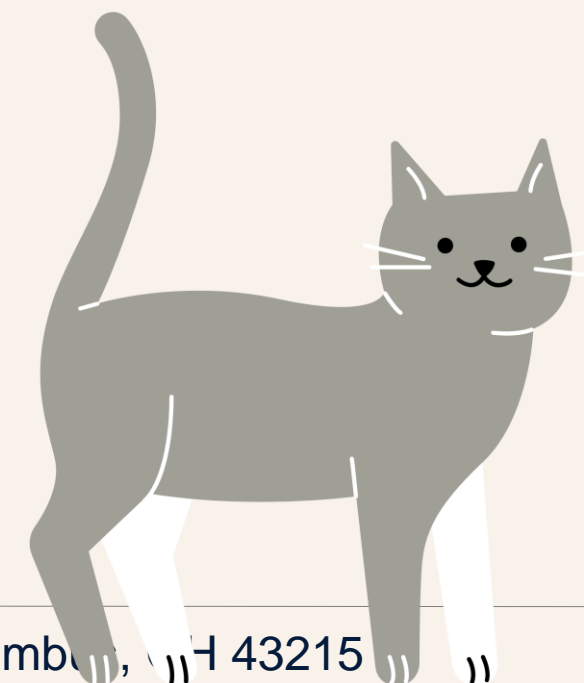
Do you have appropriate supplies for transporting your pet (collar/leash for dogs, crate for cats)?

Circle Y or N

If you are low on pet food or supplies, where will you go to get more or who will you call for financial help?

What can you do in your community?

- Listen to your clients and recognize the human animal bond
- Create relationships with animal welfare professionals!
- Many different approaches - Depends on available resources
- Intersection of human and animal welfare is complicated...need to work together
 - Establish connections! Spay/Neuter Clinics, County Shelters, Pet Food Pantries, Private Veterinary Clinics willing to give discounts...
- Form a coalition!



Questions?

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MY DOG IS MY HOME

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CEU Code

HOC032