

PetPoint Report: December 2020

The PetPoint Report is a monthly gauge of U.S. pet owner demand for cats and dogs available for adoption. Data is aggregated via the PetPoint Animal Management Software, a cloud-based application developed and launched in 2005. PetPoint is the most widely used animal management application in North American animal welfare.

The December PetPoint Report aggregates data from 1139 animal welfare organizations (“AWOs”) in the United States and compares it to data from the same month in 2019. For the purposes here, AWOs are defined as animal control agencies, SPCAs, humane societies and rescue groups. Only data from AWOs operating PetPoint during both December 2019 and December 2020 have been included.

The report includes data on 100,938 cats and dogs that entered AWOs during the month (referred to as Intakes) and 118,789 cats and dogs that left AWOs over the same period (referred to as Outcomes). Only data for cats and dogs is reported here. AWOs from 49 states, as well as Washington D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands are represented in this report; AWOs from North Dakota are excluded.

Intakes

Cats

- Total intakes of all cats into AWOs equaled 45,977 during December 2020, which represents an 8.5% decrease from December 2019.
- Owner surrenders of cats totaled 14,353, a decrease of 10.5% from December 2019.
- Cats returned by owners previously adopting from the same organization totaled 1,937, a decrease of 14.6% from the previous year.
- Intakes of stray cats totaled 18,842, which represents a 9.6% decrease from December 2019.
- In December 2020, 8,102 cats were transferred in from other AWOs, an increase of 0.8% over the previous year.
- Seizures of cats conducted by law enforcement agencies decreased 9.9% during December 2020 to 2,743.

Dogs

- Total intakes of all dogs equaled 54,961 during December 2020, a decrease of 22.0% from December 2019.
- Owner surrenders totaled 13,406, a decrease of 22.2% from December 2019.
- Returns of dogs previously adopted from the same organizations totaled 3,038, a decrease of 23.7% from the previous year.
- Intakes of stray dogs totaled 17,930, a decrease of 24.7% from December 2019.
- Transfers of dogs into AWOs totaled 14,214 in December 2020, a decrease of 15.6% over the previous year.
- Seizures of dogs conducted by law enforcement agencies decreased 25.9% during December 2020 to 6,373.

Outcomes

Cats

- In December 2020, 62,385 cats left AWOs, which represents a 11.1% decrease from December 2019.
- 47,797 cats were adopted in December 2020, which represents an 8.1% decrease year over year.
- Euthanasia totaled 4,904, a decline of 41.7% from December of last year.
- Transfers of cats out of reporting AWOs to other organizations increased 8.6% to 7,256.
- 1,582 cats were returned to their owners, a decrease of 12.5% compared to December 2019.
- The number of cats that died while in AWOs totaled 846 (excluding euthanasia), which represents a 33.9% decrease from December 2019 to December 2020.

Dogs

- In December 2020, 56,404 dogs left AWOs, a decrease of 21.8% from December 2019.
- 32,642 dogs were adopted in December 2020, which represents a 23.4% decrease from the previous year.
- Euthanasia totaled 4,478, a decline of 37.5% from December of last year.
- Transfers of dogs from reporting AWOs to other organizations decreased 5.5% to 9,874.
- Dogs returned to owners totaled 8,977, which represents a 21.0% decrease compared to December 2019.
- The number of dogs that died while in AWOs totaled 433 (excluding euthanasia), which represents a 12.3% decrease from December 2019 to December 2020.

Adoption Fees

- Adoption fees for cats younger than 1 year of age averaged \$83 in December 2020, which represents a 9.2% increase from December 2019.
- Adoption fees for cats older than 1 year of age averaged \$53, which represents a 6.0% increase compared to December of last year.
- For dogs less than 1 year of age, adoption fees averaged \$198, which represents an 8.8% increase from December 2019.
- For dogs older than 1 year of age, adoption fees averaged \$114, which represents a 12.9% increase compared to December of last year.

PetPoint reports are published monthly on the third Monday of each month, excluding holidays, in which case they are published the following business day.

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