



THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE PHYSICALLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE AND COMMENT VIA THE APPLICATION, ZOOM. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION AND CALL IN INFORMATION WAS POSTED ON THE AGENDA AND ON THE SASA'S WEBSITE.

NOTICE: THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, ISSUED BY CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM ON MARCH 17, 2020 THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT (CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54950, ET SEQ.), AND THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE PHYSICALLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE AND COMMENT VIA THE APPLICATION, ZOOM.

MEETING INFORMATION: WEBSITE-

<https://zoom.us/j/94554017370?pwd=ZFJjcVUzdnZCUzhPNUtIMFdwMDRIQT09>

PASSWORD – GA3xzn

REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT

If you prefer to provide a written comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comments via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the Board meeting. Please email your comment to the Clerk of the Board at rios@stancounty.com and include the Agenda Item Number in the subject line of the email. Your written comment will be distributed to the Board members of Stanislaus Animal Services Agency and kept on file as part of official record of the Board meeting.

Or join by phone: Dial: 1 669 900 9128; Webinar ID: 945 5401 7370; Password: 738132

REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 9:00am



STANISLAUS ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY

“SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER”

3647 Cornucopia Way
Modesto CA 95358

Phone: 209.558.7387 Fax: 209.558.2138
www.stancounty.com/animalservices

Joint Powers Agency Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 9:00am

The Joint Powers Agency welcomes you to its meetings, which are held by announcement, and your interest is encouraged and appreciated.

The agenda is divided into two sections:

CONSENT CALENDAR: These matters include routine financial and administrative actions. All items on the consent calendar will be voted on at the beginning of the meeting under the section titled “Consent Calendar.” If you wish to have an item removed from the Consent Calendar, please make your request at the time the Agency Chairperson asks if any member of the public wishes to remove an item from consent.

REGULAR CALENDAR: These items will be individually discussed and include all items not on the consent calendar, all public hearing and correspondence.

ANY MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE AGENCY ON A MATTER ON THE AGENDA: Please raise your hand or step to the podium at the time the item is announced by the Agency Chairperson. In order that interested parties have an opportunity to speak, any person addressing the Agency will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes unless the Chairperson of the Agency grants a longer period of time.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS: Matters under the jurisdiction of the Agency, and not on the posted agenda, may be addressed by the general public at the beginning of the regular agenda and any off-agenda matters before the Agency for consideration. However, California law prohibits the Agency from taking action on any matter which is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an emergency by the Joint Powers Agency for Stanislaus Animal Services. Any member of the public wishing to address the Agency during the “Public Comment” period shall be permitted to be heard once for up to 5 minutes.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Agency after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Clerk’s office at 3647 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA during normal business hours.

NOTICE REGARDING NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS: Joint Powers Agency meetings are conducted in English and translation to other languages is not provided. Please make arrangements for an interpreter if necessary.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Executive Director of Animal Services at (209) 342-1740. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Agency to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

MATERIALS: Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Joint Powers Agency after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Animal Services Office at 3647 Cornucopia Way in Modesto, during normal business hours.

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Stanislaus Animal Services Agency Board Meeting Agenda

November 19, 2020

1. **Welcome**
2. **Roll Call (silent)**
3. **Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person)**
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - A. Approval of the Agency Board Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2020
5. **Correspondence:**
 - A. The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors has referred a letter from Barbara Hedberg to this Board.
6. **New Business**
 - A. Discussion about improvements for SASA’s contract processes and delegation of spending authority.
7. **Committee Reports: None**
8. **Informational:**
 - A. Operation Update, October 2020
 - B. Executive Director Report
9. **Adjournment**

**THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE JOINT POWERS AGENCY OF THE
STANISLAUS ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY (SASA)**
Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

Thursday

October 15, 2020

Members Present:

Tom Westbrook, City of Ceres, Chair – Absent
Chief Richard Collins, City of Ceres Alt
Jody Hayes, Stanislaus County – 9:20 a.m.
Joe Lopez, City of Modesto
Merry Mayhew, City of Hughson
Michael Pitcock, City of Waterford - Absent
Ken Irwin, City of Patterson, Co-Chair

Staff Present:

Annette Patton, Executive Director
Martha Ruano, Business Manager
Daniel Solish, Deputy County Counsel

Jewel Warr, - Stanislaus Co. Alt
Adrienne Rios, Confidential

Guests and Dignitaries:

Supervisor Jim DeMartini

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Ken Irwin, Co-Chair.
2. **Roll call:** See above
3. **Public Comment:**

Michael Christian expressed his disagreement with Stanislaus Animal Services Agency's JPA Board meeting minutes referencing a Brown Act violation regarding online posting of the JPA Board agenda for the August 20, 2020 meeting. Mr. Christian suggested Animal Services' staff to attend Brown Act training. He also recommended a review and update of the Board's By laws. He mentioned addressing, and/or implementing, a JPA Board meeting attendance policy for Animal Services staff. Mr. Christian pointed out that five (5) out of seven (7) seats of the Stanislaus Animal Advisory Committee are vacant and the committee has not held a meeting since January 2020. He discussed the legal case involving the dog Turbo, Rescues efforts to assist the animals in the shelter, and sought better coordination with Rescues and shelter staff.

Nancy Klein spoke about a dog named Cooper, animal ID 498466, brought into the shelter on August 2, 2020, as part of a confiscate case, tagged for rescue, and then returned to owner. Ms. Klein expressed her concern for Cooper and questioned why he was released to his owner and placed back in the same environment. She also stressed the need for the shelter to hire an

animal behaviorist and evaluator to increase the number of animals who are adopted. Lastly, Ms. Klein stated the JPA Board does not address topics brought up during public comment and requested the Board begin to address issues brought forth.

Angela Garcia stated she issued a complaint to the shelter and Board members regarding Cooper's return to owner. Ms. Garcia requested more information regarding the dog Turbo as she has many unanswered questions and lack of understanding of what occurred in the case. In addition, Ms. Garcia, stressed a need for more help and resources for animals deemed as aggressive dogs.

Nadia Borisova shared her concerns with a lack of response when emailing shelter staff. She urged staff to respond as quickly as possible as timely responses are in the best interest of shelter animals and offer rescues a better opportunity to assist. Ms. Borisova stated the shelter would benefit from having a licensed trainer work with animals to reduce stress. She also requested funds to be allocated to have proper assessments performed.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- A. Approved the Agency Board Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2020.
(Modesto/Stanislaus County; 5/0)

5. Correspondence: None

6. New Business:

- A. Approval to Adopt the Amended Conflict of Interest Code for the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency
(Hughson/Ceres; 5/0)
- B. Ratification of the Agreement for Professional Services with Dr. Sarah Cadwell and Authorization for the Executive Director to Sign the First Amendment to the Agreement
(Ceres/Hughson; 5/0)

7. Committee Reports: None

8. Informational:

- A. Financial Update: Martha provided an overview of the agency's September budget. Annette offered clarification on the correlation between dog licensing, canvassing, vaccination clinics, and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- B. Operations update: Annette provided September's operations update.

C. Executive Director Report: Provided updates on DocuPet and recently confiscated dogs.

9. Member Referrals: None

Adjourned Regular Meeting at 9:54 a.m.

ATTESTED: ADRIENNE RIOS, Clerk
of the Governing Board
of the Joint Powers Agency
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency
State of California

Barbara Hedberg BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2020 SEP 28 A 11:10

September 15, 2020

STANISLAUS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
1010 10th Street, Suite 6500
Modesto, CA. 95354

ATTENTION: Kristin Olsen, Vita Chiesa,
Terry Withrow, Tom Berryhill
& Jim DeMartini

RE: Stanislaus Animal Services Agency

Dear Members of the Board:

My name is Barbara Hedberg. I am a long-time resident of Modesto and have worked in the legal field locally for over 30 years. I am a tax payer, a voter and an admitted animal lover.

After recently becoming aware of a situation at the local shelter involving mismanagement issues, I am reaching out to my local representatives to make them aware of what is happening at the animal shelter.

This is not my first letter to the Board of Supervisors asking for assistance with the situation at the animal shelter. However, I am hopeful that I can receive the courtesy of a response to this letter.

I started following a case involving a pit bull named Turbo who found himself at the shelter in March 2020 amidst COVID. As I witnessed events unfold, I became concerned as a resident and tax payer regarding the manner in which the local shelter is being managed. From what I learned, I was appalled by the misuse of tax payer money, lack of leadership and poor management.

After receiving no response from my local representatives regarding my concerns, I recently attended a JPA meeting and spoke regarding the situation at the shelter. I was disappointed, to say the least, at the lack of interest and concern shown by the members of the committee and especially the Executive Director of SASA, Annette Patton.

The issues set forth below are events I have personally followed and attended and correspondence and emails I have read. I personally attended court hearings in the superior court; I listened to the entire audio recording of the hearing to determine whether Turbo's actions were that of a vicious dog; and, I received and reviewed documentation from the shelter files.

1. VIOLATIONS BY SASA EMPLOYEE.

This entire situation involving the pit bull named Turbo began because one employee at the shelter violated shelter regulations and protocol. It is my understanding that when a dog is removed from the kennel to go outside to be evaluated, there is to be at least two employees/volunteers present. The SASA employee removed Turbo from his kennel to lead him outside *alone*. This employee knowingly led Turbo to a fenced area outside, next to another male dog for the evaluation, which dictated obvious failure. The employee knew that Turbo had been locked in the kennel for several days and would be excited to go outside. She also knew that the other male dog was outside in the fenced area right next to where she was taking Turbo for his evaluation. Common sense tells even the lay person that she is setting this dog up for failure. Not to mention against shelter rules, regulations and protocol.

Turbo and the other male dog began fence fighting. The SASA employee testified that she placed herself in between Turbo, the fence and the other dog. By placing herself in jeopardy she admitted that she "lost her balance and fell to the ground". The SASA employee said once she fell to the ground, she thought he was going to attack her so she punched Turbo in the face. Turbo did nothing in return to the employee. Common sense says that if Turbo attacked the employee, she would have needed stitches, surgery or even worse. She did not require stitches, did not require surgery and never missed any time from work. Personally, it seems that the employee did fall to the ground and did injury herself. But, after listening to her entire testimony under oath at the hearing, I find her story ridiculous and hard to believe.

- Did SASA management make changes after this incident?
- Was the employee reprimanded for her violations?
- Did the employee receive counseling?
- Did SASA provide the employee with additional training?
- **No**

The Executive Director, Annette Patton began an action to kill Turbo. This could have all been avoided with proper management and leadership at the shelter.

2. THE HEARING REQUESTED BY SASA TO KILL TURBO.

Annette Patton started the proceeding to label Turbo a viscous dog. Patton enlisted the help of a so-called "impartial hearing officer" to conduct the Turbo hearing. *This hearing officer is a local attorney who practices primarily in bankruptcy law. There is absolutely no information that this attorney has any special knowledge or abilities with regard to animal behavior or animal training.* However, there is evidence that this impartial hearing officer is regularly employed in this capacity by SASA. *This does not suggest impartiality.* I have read communications from SASA files by Annette Patton enlisting this impartial hearing officer's help in the Turbo case in which she labeled the hearing as a "viscous dog hearing". She did this prior to any determination and by doing so suggested her preferred outcome. *Her actions create a presumption of bias.*

I have also seen emails between this impartial hearing officer and other SASA employees in which an employee *tells the hearing officer what the outcome of a certain hearing should be.* These emails indicate that the hearing officer was not impartial, but was acting at the behest of SASA employees. The emails suggest a coziness between the hearing officer and SASA employees, which contradicts the notion of an impartial hearing officer.

Executive Director, Annette Patton, as the manager and leader of SASA and SASA employees should never have let this happen. This is another example of the inept management and leadership of this shelter.

3. TESTIMONY AT THE HEARING.

Annette Patton hired an out of state expert witness, Kelley Bollen to testify at the Turbo hearing. Patton demonstrates further ineptitude in hiring this so-called expert. This expert is located out of the State of California and was hired with tax payer dollars. This expert was hired to help secure the outcome that Patton wanted, and that was to label Turbo as vicious and ultimately killed.

This is what experts do when hired to testify, however, this is a better example of how Patton continued to load the deck in the Turbo matter. First, *she hires a biased hearing officer;* then she further stacks the deck *by hiring this expert to*

testify the way she wants her to testify, and that's exactly what she did. Without ever personally interacting with Turbo, this expert offered an opinion and letter to Patton that the dog was vicious and should be killed. The expert witness never once evaluated or assessed this dog. NEVER.

Annette Patton's response to this opinion provided by her expert was "**your letter is fantastic**". *The very letter which condemned Turbo to be killed.*

The hired expert, Kelley Bollen further responded to Patton by suggesting that "**if she needed anything changed in the opinion letter, just let her know and she will edit**". This expert was paid for with tax payer dollars.

- Why was Annette Patton working so hard for this outcome?
- Was it to protect Turbo?
- Was it to protect the community?
- Do the actions taken by Annette Patton radiate transparency or integrity?
- **Absolutely not!**

It was to cover up the actions of a negligent employee who violated shelter protocol and policies, but ultimately to protect herself because it is her mismanagement and poor leadership that allowed this employee to do what she did which created this situation.

4. THERE WERE THREE RESCUES OFFERING TO TAKE TURBO.

There were three rescue organizations contacting Patton and offering to take Turbo to save his life. All rescue organizations were willing to sign legal releases of liability and hold harmless agreements releasing the county from any liability. Members of the community and private donors were offering substantial financial support and help implementing programs to help the shelter with more challenging dogs, all in an effort to save Turbo's life. But, instead of embracing a positive collaborative relationship with the rescues that work tirelessly to help save hundreds of SASA dogs, Annette Patton chose to kill Turbo.

I question the ethics of an Executive Director in charge of my local shelter who would chose to kill this dog instead of at least making an effort to try and work with the rescue organizations to save his life. Especially since it is noted that Patton *promised* to **“keep Turbo safe”**. It is also noted that it was *Annette Patton who ordered Turbo to be euthanized*.

In fact, I read where Patton refers to these rescue organizations, the same rescues that save hundreds of SASA dogs, as **“shelter bashers”**. I find this unacceptable, unprofessional and an example of her arrogance and ignorance. Why wouldn't this executive director want to work in unison with rescues to promote a positive image for our local shelter and ultimately save dogs lives? Isn't that her job?

Tax payer dollars are being wasted and grossly mismanaged at our local animal shelter. Animals are being treated inhumanly and killed unnecessarily everyday by the poor management at our local animal shelter.

I find it distressing that the person in charge at the shelter would rather kill dogs than work together with the rescue organizations to do just that...*RESCUE* and save the dogs. Is this the image we want our animal shelter to convey to the local tax payers or large organizations such as Petco and many others who generously donate and support our local shelter?

For these reasons, all of which can be proven and substantiated, I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors:

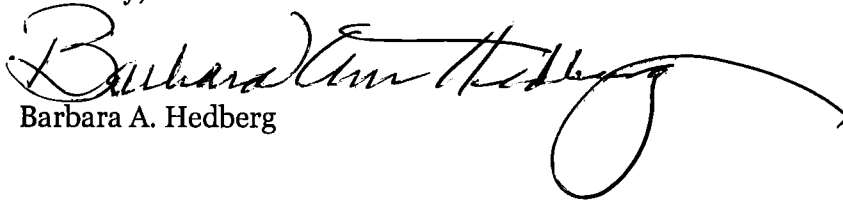
- Request that Annette Patton, Executive Director at SASA report back to the Board of Supervisors addressing each and every allegation contained in this letter.
- Request that Annette Patton, Executive Director at SASA report to the Board of Supervisors as to each and every corrective measure she has implemented at the shelter as to each and every allegation set forth in this letter.
- Request that Annette Patton, Executive Director at SASA be required to personally *attend* an upcoming Board of Supervisor's Meeting during the year 2020, and report publicly as to each and every allegation contained in this letter as well as all corrective measures she has implemented at the shelter regarding the allegations.

The corruption and lack of transparency at the shelter has gone on long enough, and the concern and outrage by the public in Stanislaus County and beyond is only growing larger and will not go away.

Accordingly, I request that this matter involving the mismanagement of Stanislaus Animal Shelter and tax payer dollars be placed on your Agenda and be addressed publicly at an upcoming Board of Supervisor's Meeting during the year 2020.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the above allegations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara A. Hedberg', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Barbara A. Hedberg



OPERATIONS REPORT

November 19, 2020



Stanislaus Animal Services Agency Operations Reports highlight operational statistics each month. The attached monthly report represents the period of October 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020.

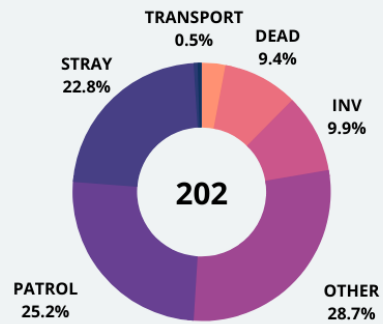
ATTACHMENTS:

- A - Field Reports
- B - Average Response Times
- C - Daily Population Dogs
- D - Daily Population Cats
- E - Vaccination Clinics Statistics
- F - Live Release Rate
- G - Volunteer Hours
- H - Animals Fostered

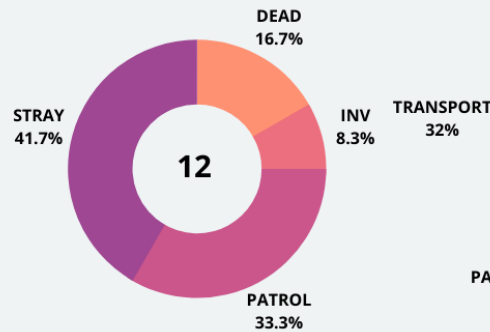
Completed Calls for Service



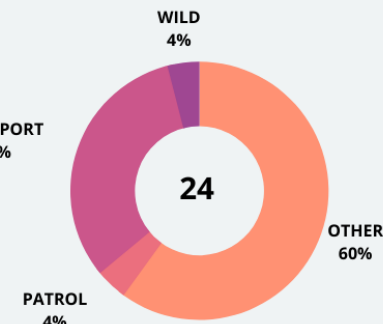
Calls Completed
In October 2020



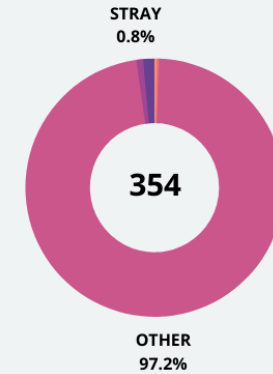
CERES



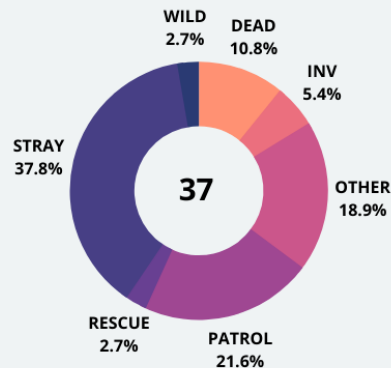
HUGHSON



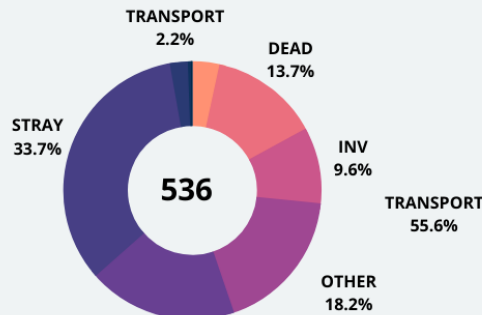
MODESTO



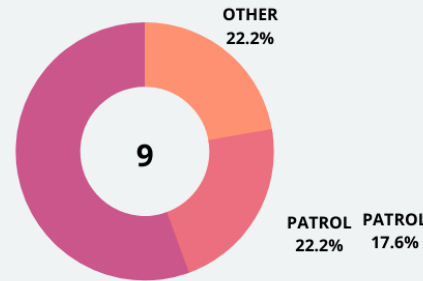
On-Site Assignment



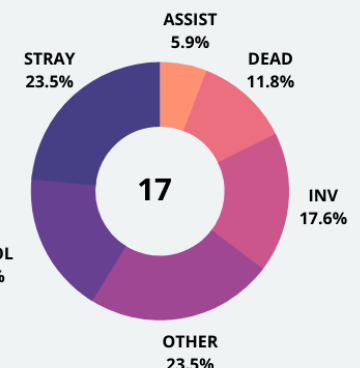
PATTERSON



STANISLAUS



OO COUNTY



WATERFORD

Total calls
completed
1,186

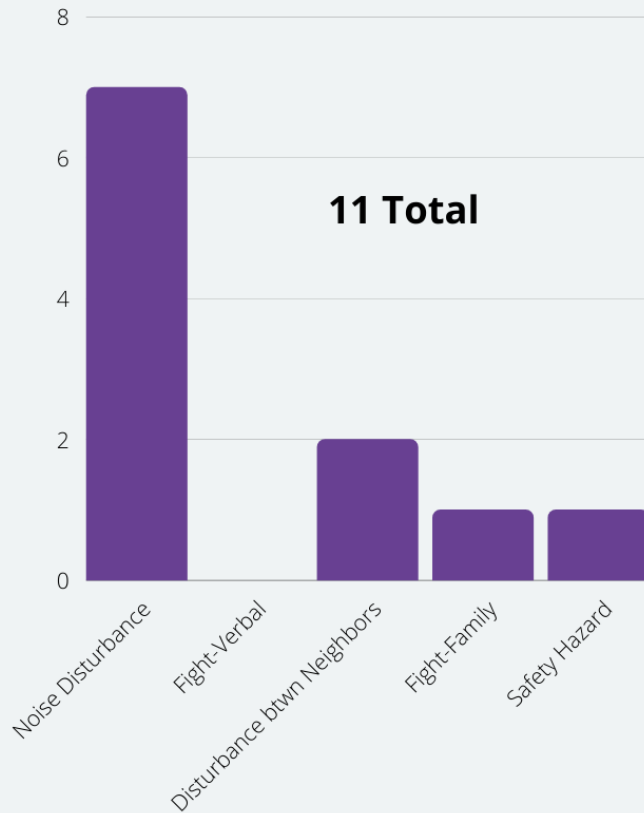
11
Animals
Diverted
From The
Shelter



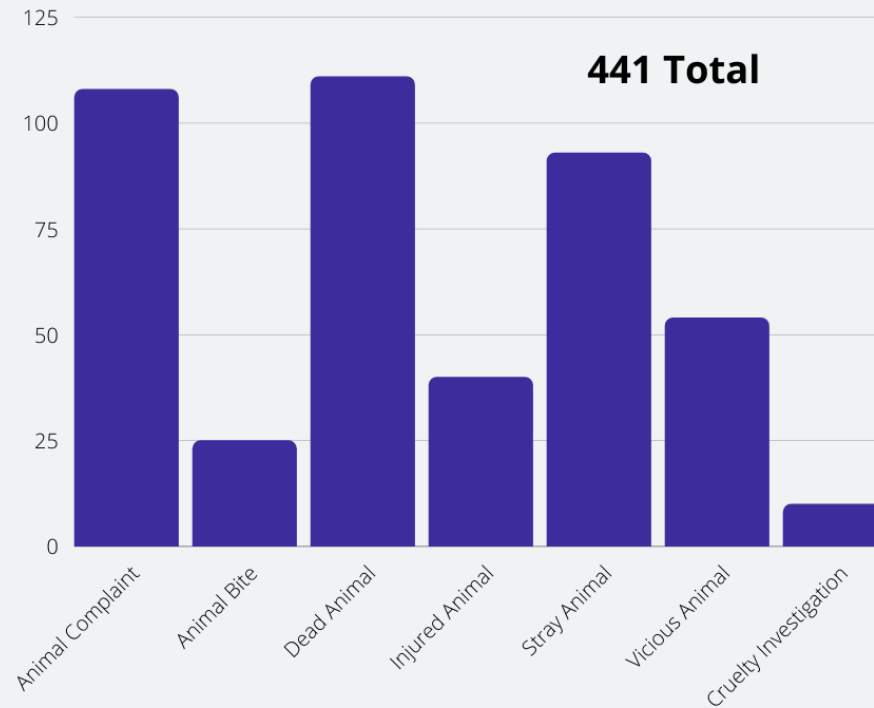
Modesto Police Department

Animal Control- Calls For Service (10/1/2020 to 10/31/2020)

Animal Related and Hazard Calls



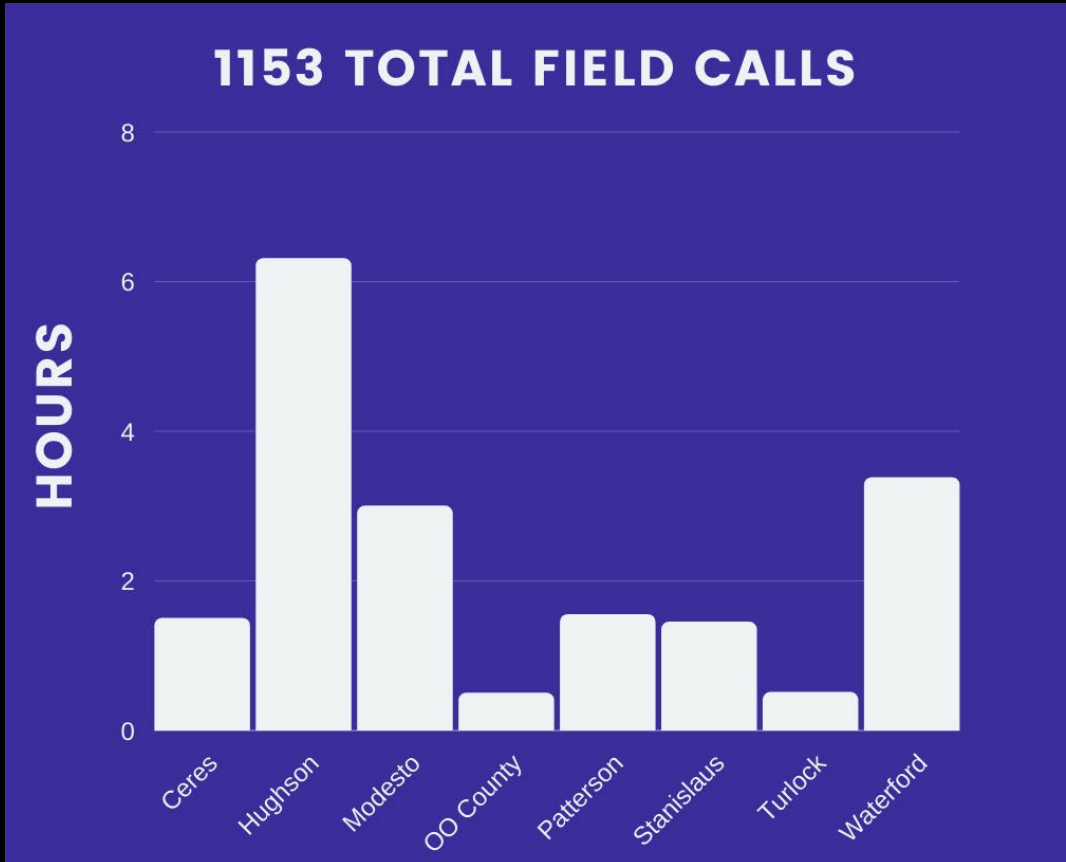
Animal Control Calls for Service



Animals
Diverted
from the
Shelter

8

1153 Initial
Response Field
Calls in
October



| Total Calls Per Area | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Ceres-195 | Patterson-37 |
| Hughson-11 | Stanislaus-517 |
| Modesto-22 | Turlock-1 |
| OO County-353 | Waterford-17 |



Average Response Times



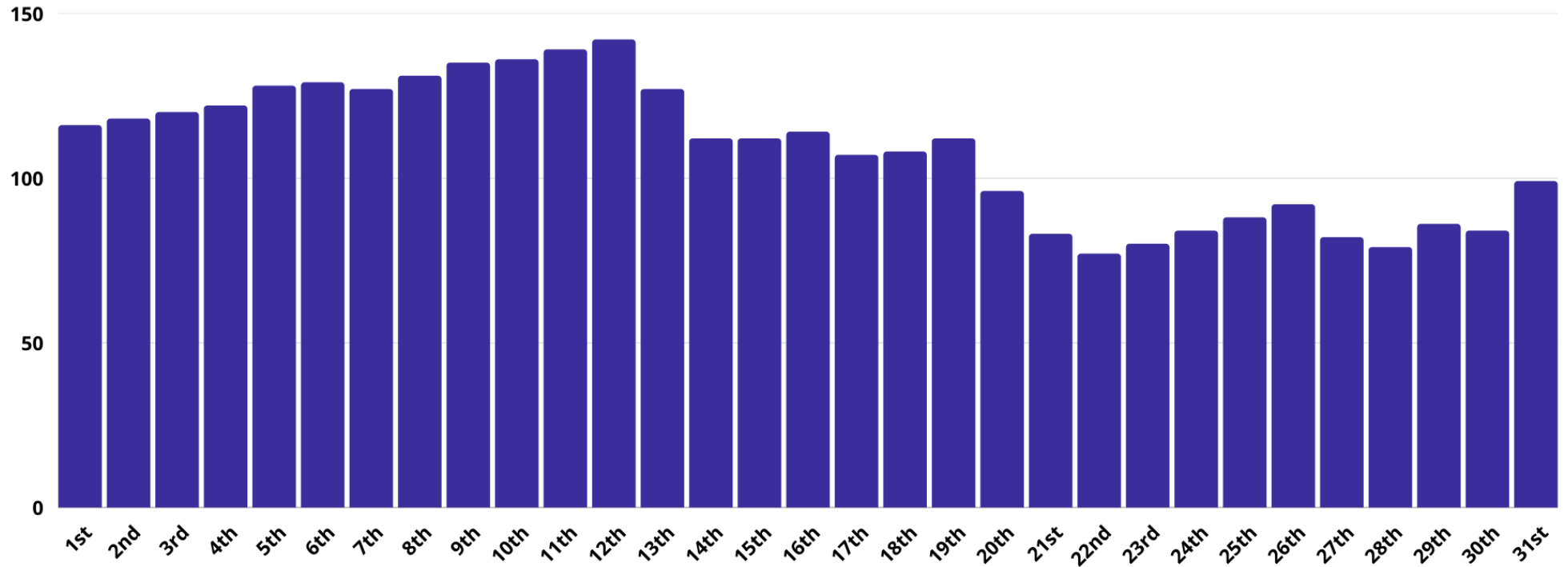
FIELD SERVICE CALLS

Initial response time used to
calculate average response time

Daily Kennel Census Dogs



Max Occupancy 188

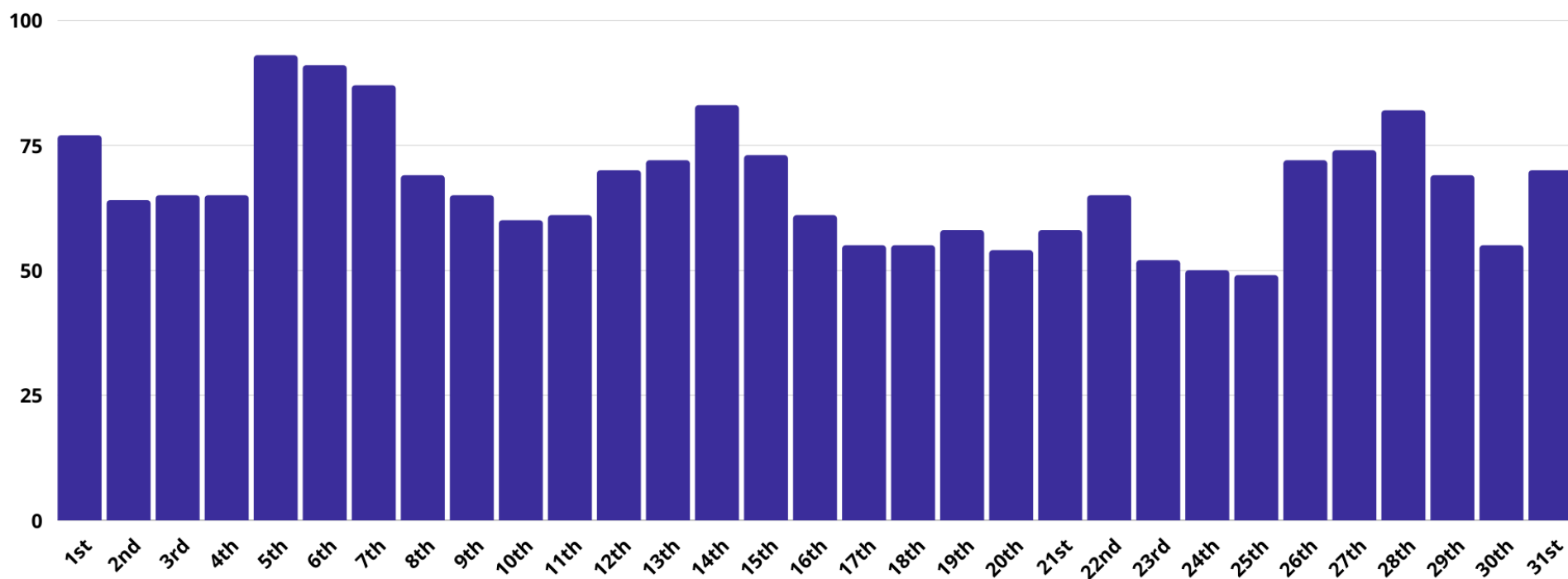


Daily Population
Dogs
188 Kennels
Average
population: 109



Daily Kennel Census Cats

Max Occupancy 224



Daily Population
Cats
224 Kennels
Average
population: 67

Vaccination
Clinics
Clinics began July
11, 2020
Vaccinations/
Microchips ONLY

FY 2018-2019
Total for year \$138,574.05

FY 2019-2020
Total for year \$96,194.00

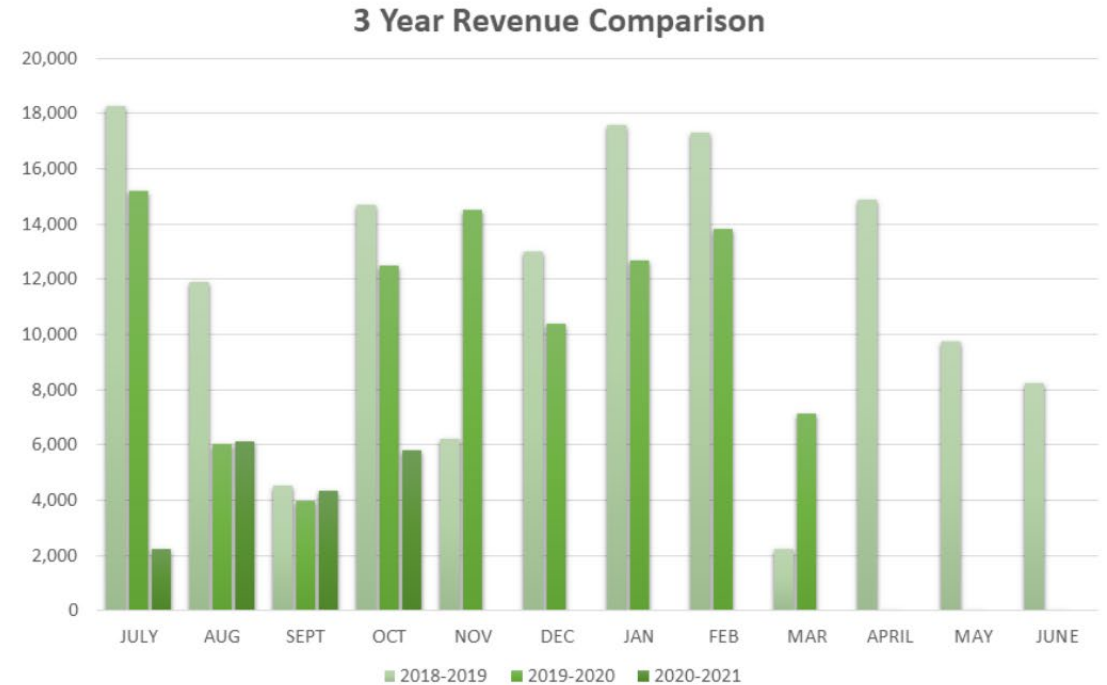
*Saturday clinics were discontinued from
March though June due to COVID closures.

FY 2020-2021
Total YTD \$18,553.00

*This FY we have adjusted to drive through
clinics. Dogs only.

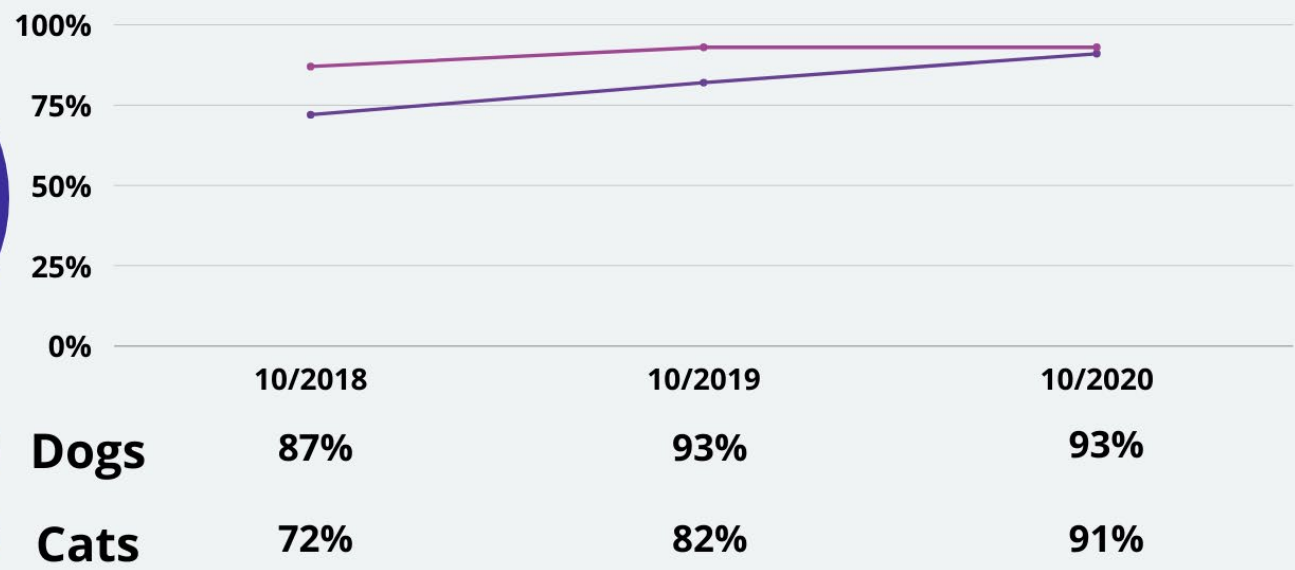


3 Year Revenue Comparison

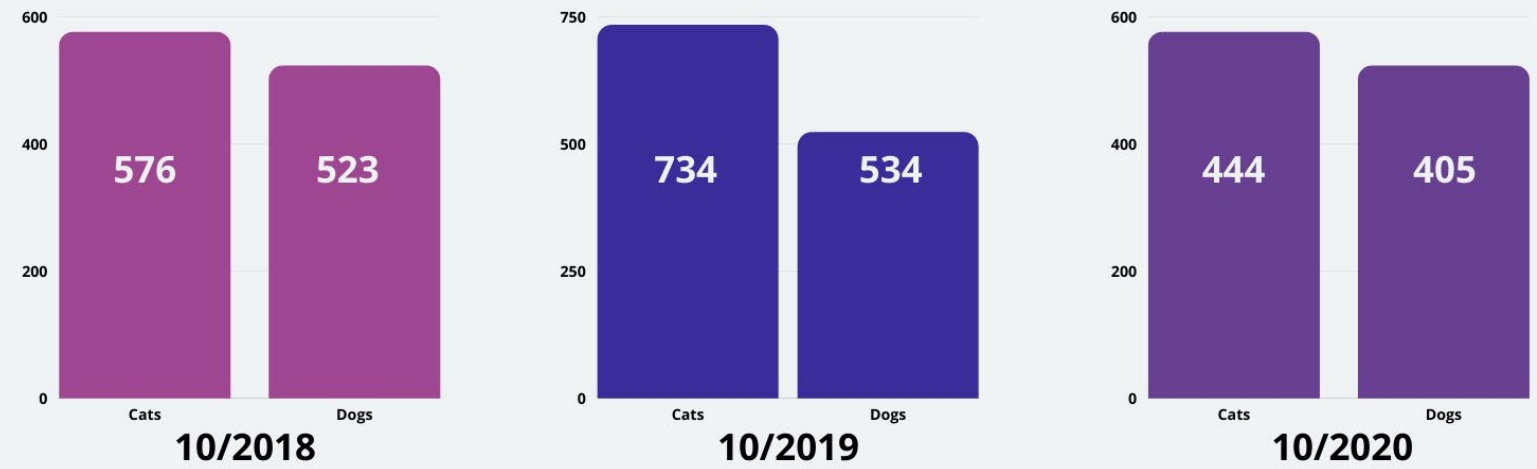


October
2020
Animal
Intake and
Live Release
Dates

Pets
Leaving
Alive

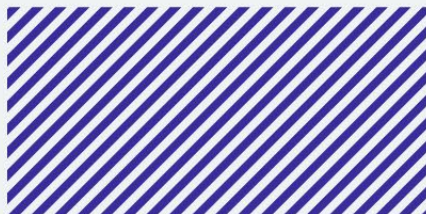


Intake
Data



October
2020
Animal
Intake
and Live
Release
Rate

717.35
TOTAL
HOURS
4.48 FTE
FOR
OCTOBER

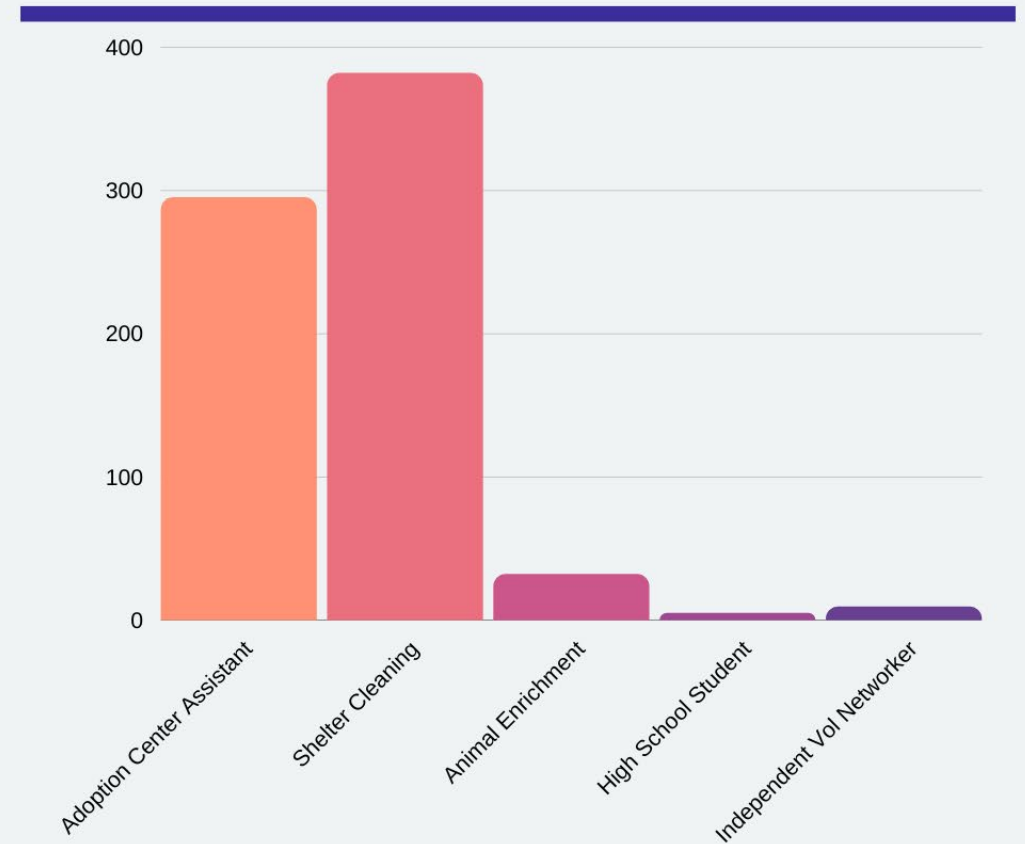


717.35
Hours
Total

Summary of Volunteer Hours

FROM 10/1/2020 - 10/31/2020

FTE OF 4.48 FOR OCTOBER



Our community is really contributing to SASA's live outcomes through fostering.



October 2020

Animals Fostered 202

