

Periodic Animal Ordinance Review



May 12, 2016



Purpose

- Outline **current challenges**
- Review **proposed ordinance amendments**
- Seek **input on ordinance amendments**
- Seek input on **community driven amendments**
- **Development recommendations** for ordinance amendments
- **Generally a 6 to 9 month process** with focused public meetings



Things to Consider

- **Be respectful of:**
 - Opposing positions
 - Time
 - Process
- Being respectful results in greater conversation/understanding and a **better outcome**
- Being respectful **allows for more ad hoc conversation** instead of limiting comments to three minutes per resident at the end



Challenge - Field Staffing

- Recommended Officer Staffing:
Working calls in the field: 45-51 Officers
- Actual Officer Staffing:
Working calls in the field: 29 Officers (Gap: 19 Officers)
- Recommended Budget:
\$4.5mil – \$7.7mil
- Actual Budget:
\$6,567,000 (Gap: \$1.2mil)

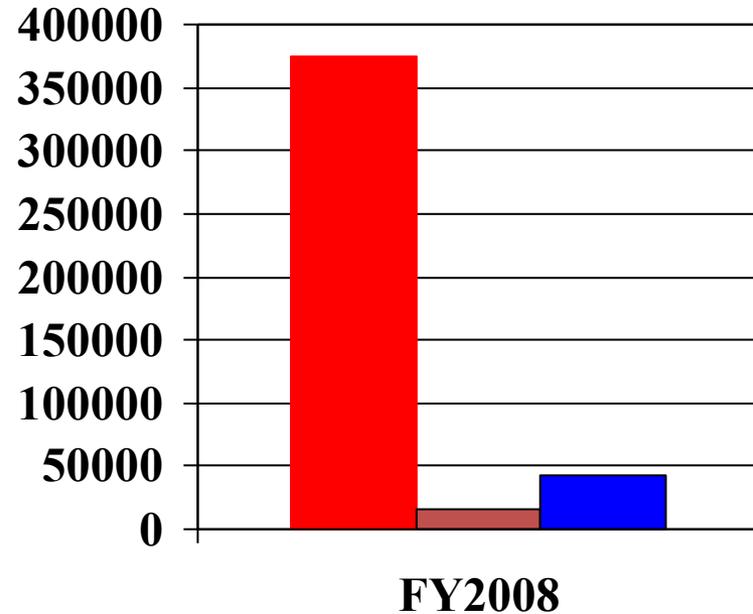
Notes:

1. NACA – National Animal Control Association/ICMA field staffing recommendations based on population. One officer per 16,000 – 18,000 residents
2. Budget recommendations based on 2001 figures of \$4 - \$7 per resident, adjusted for inflation to \$5.41-\$9.47



Challenge - Compliance

- Approximately 375,000 owned dogs and cats in Fort Worth*
- 15,167 registered with City in 2008 (4%)
- Of 25,000 animals brought to shelter annually, less than 2% have any form of identification



- Estimated Pets
- Pets Registered
- Projected Powershift Increases

*American Veterinarian Medical Association Estimates



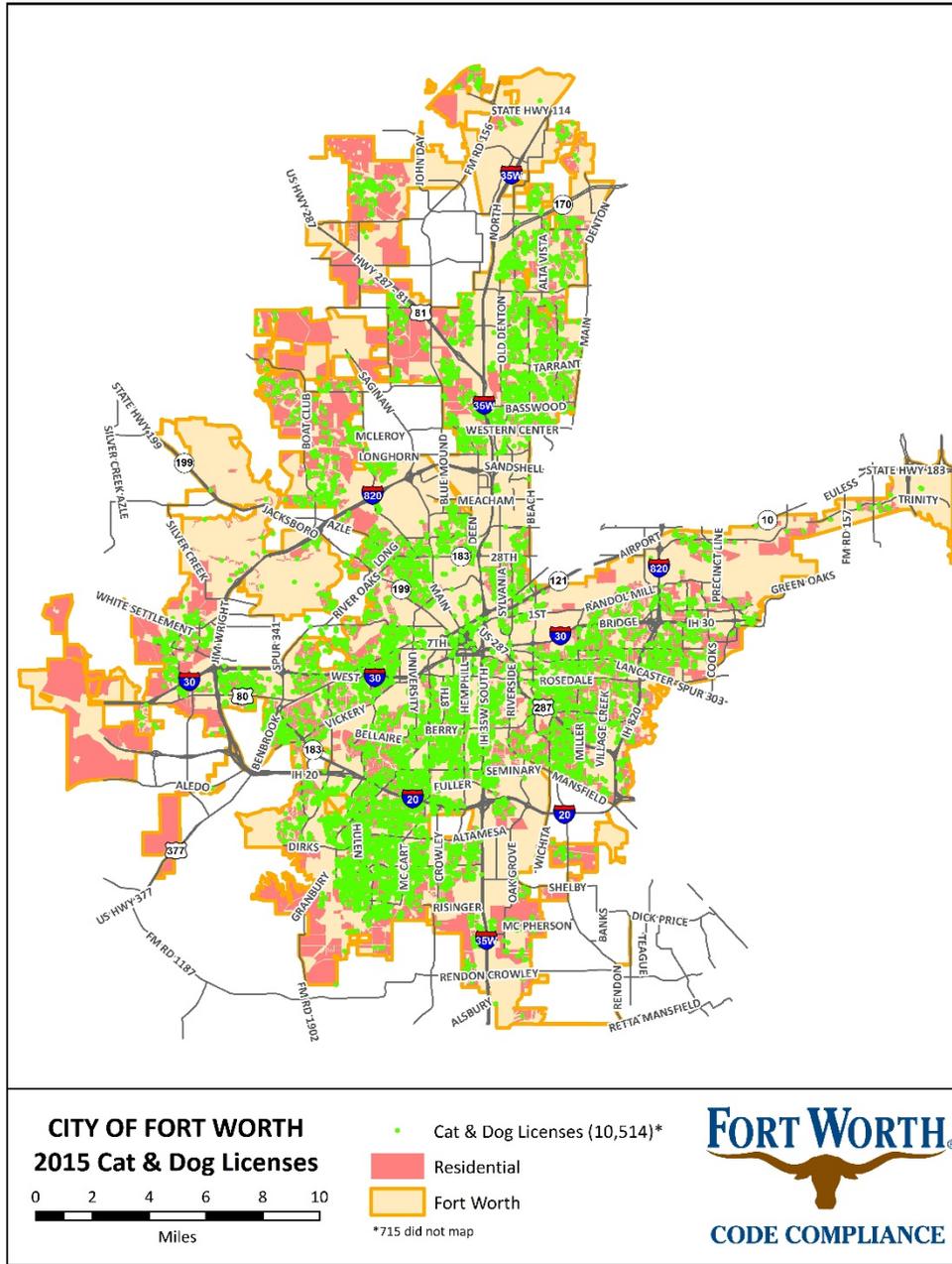
Municipal Benchmarking

City	Population	(Sq Miles)	Field Officers	Field Staff per Square Mile	Staff per Capita
El Paso	679,036	255.24	48	5	14,147
Amarillo	197,254	99.48	12	8	16,438
Dallas	1,281,048	340.52	38	9	33,712
San Antonio	912,791	460.93	40	12	22,820
Fort Worth	812,238	339.82	29	12	28,008
Arlington	1,436,697	95.88	8	12	179,587
Austin	383,204	297.90	16	19	23,950
Houston	2,239,558	599.59	29	21	77,226
City	Population	Shelter Techs	Vet Techs	Total Staff	Staff per Capita
Austin	912,791	30	18	48	19,016
Amarillo	197,254	8	1	9	21,917
Dallas	1,281,048	44	11	55	23,292
El Paso	679,036	23	6	29	23,415
San Antonio	1,436,697	28	18	46	31,233
Fort Worth	812,238	13	11	24	33,843
Arlington	383,204	6	1	7	54,743
Houston	2,239,558				

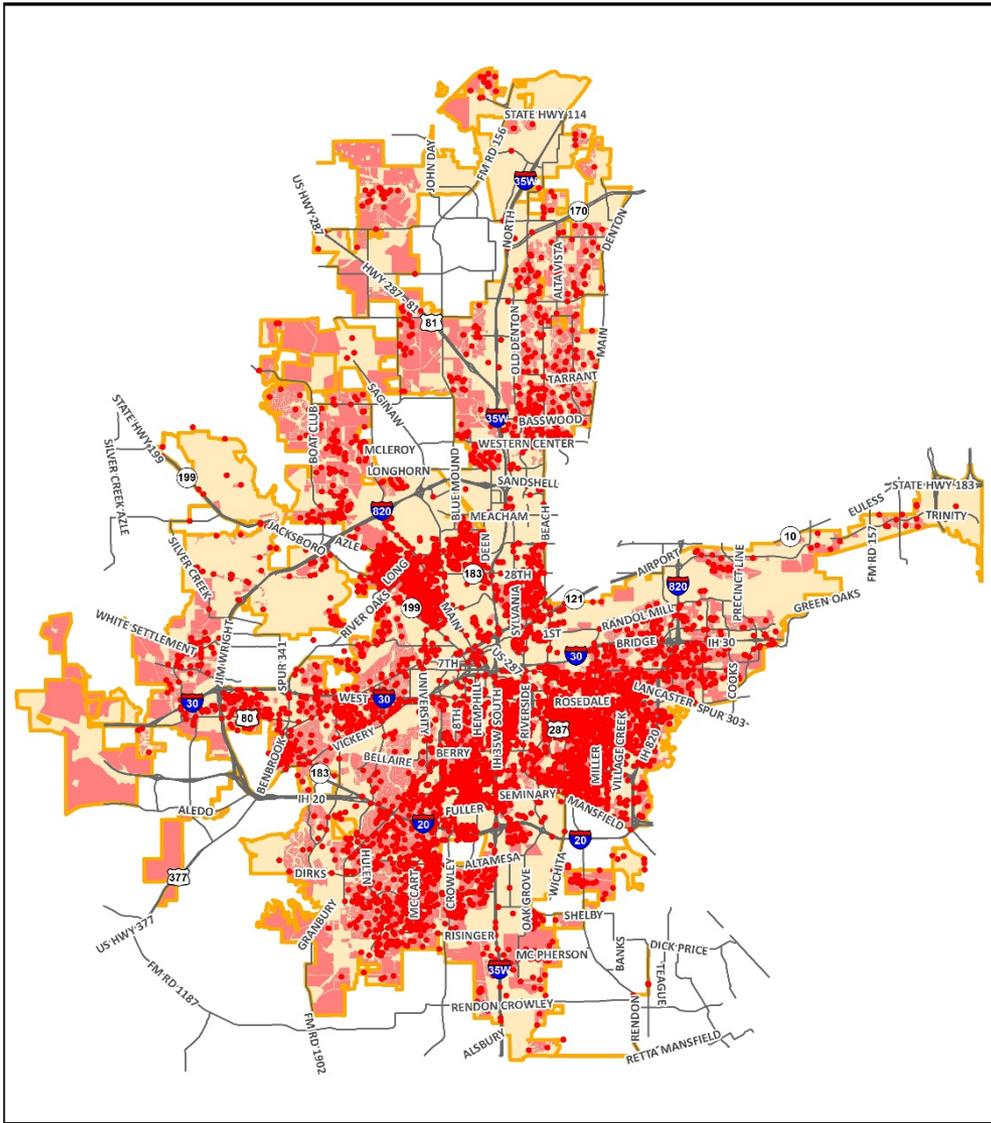
*By position type/role/responsibility



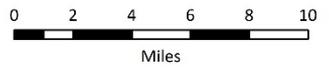
Fort Worth Code Compliance



Fort Worth Code Compliance

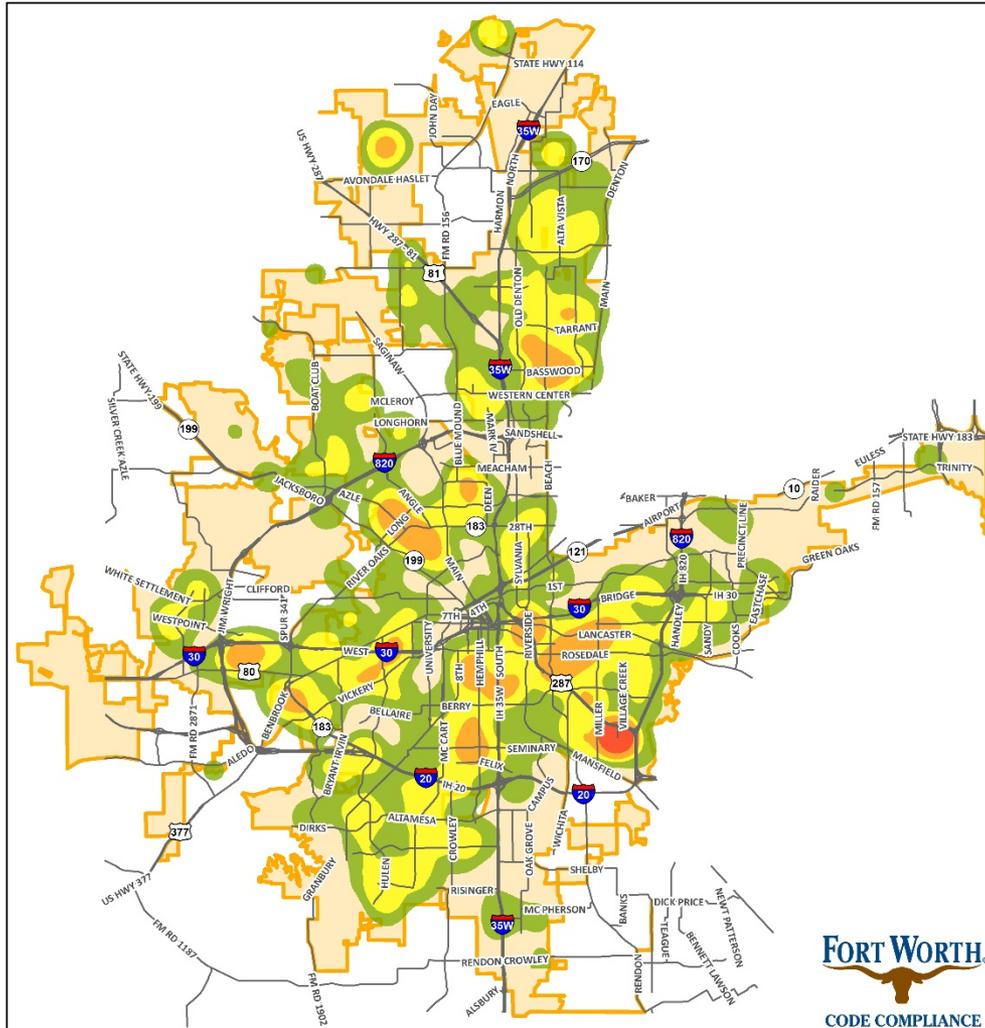


CITY OF FORT WORTH 2015 Stray Cats & Dogs



- Stray Cats & Dogs (1,1931)*
 - Residential
 - Fort Worth
- *1,668 did not map





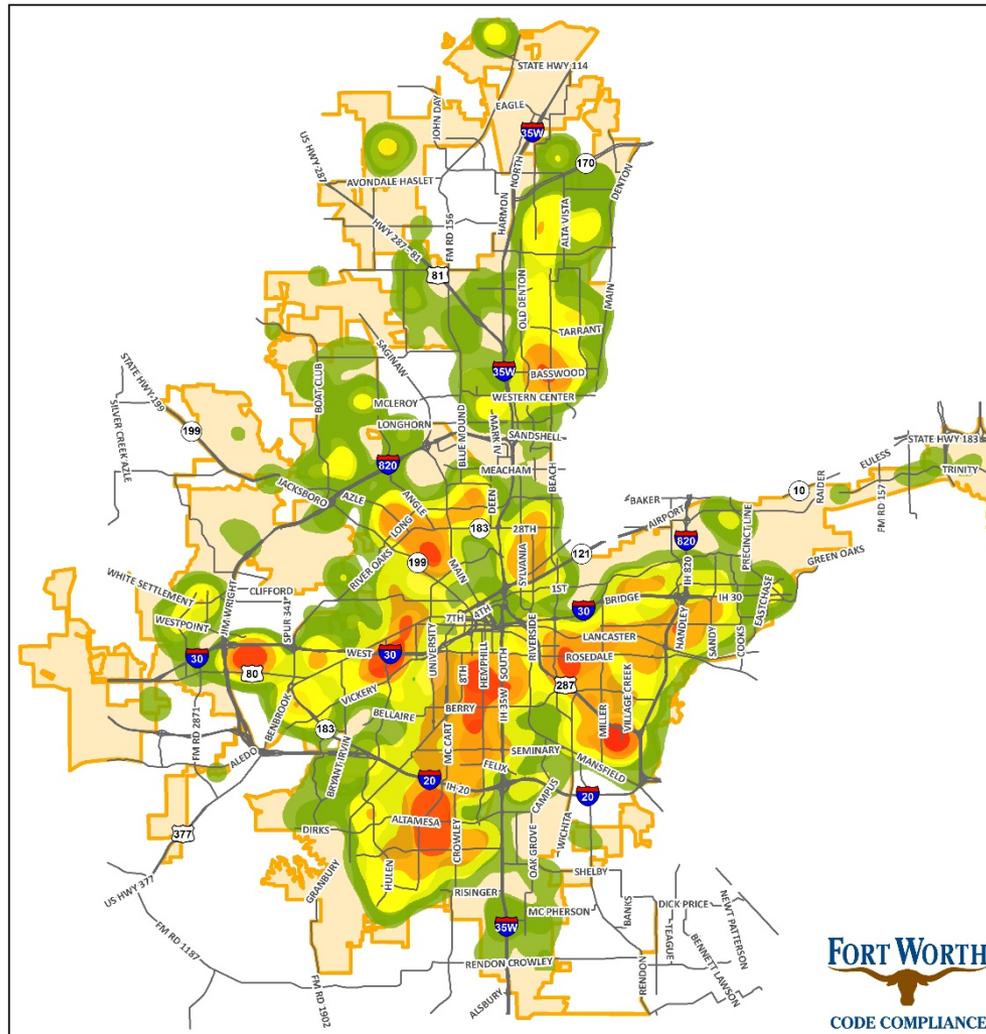
CITY OF FORT WORTH 2015 Animal Bites



Animal Bite Density Per Sq Mile*

- 1 - 4
- 5 - 8
- 9 - 19
- 20 - 36
- Fort Worth

*60 of 1,176 records did not map



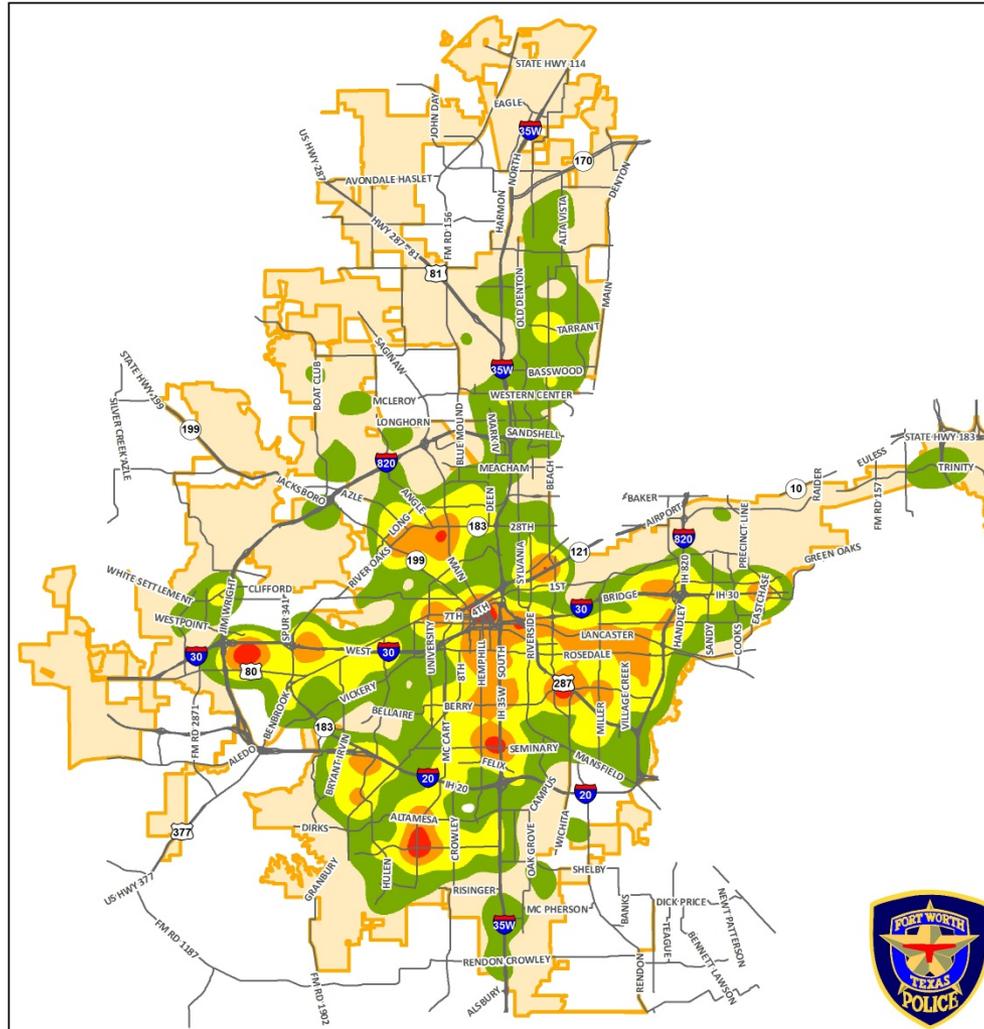
CITY OF FORT WORTH 2015 Priority One Animal Control Calls



Priority One Call Density Per Sq Mile*

- 8 - 26
- 27 - 48
- 49 - 78
- 79 - 161
- Fort Worth

*414 of 8,928 records did not map



CITY OF FORT WORTH
Total Crime Offenses
January 1, 2015 to November 30, 2015



Total Crime Offenses Per Square Mile

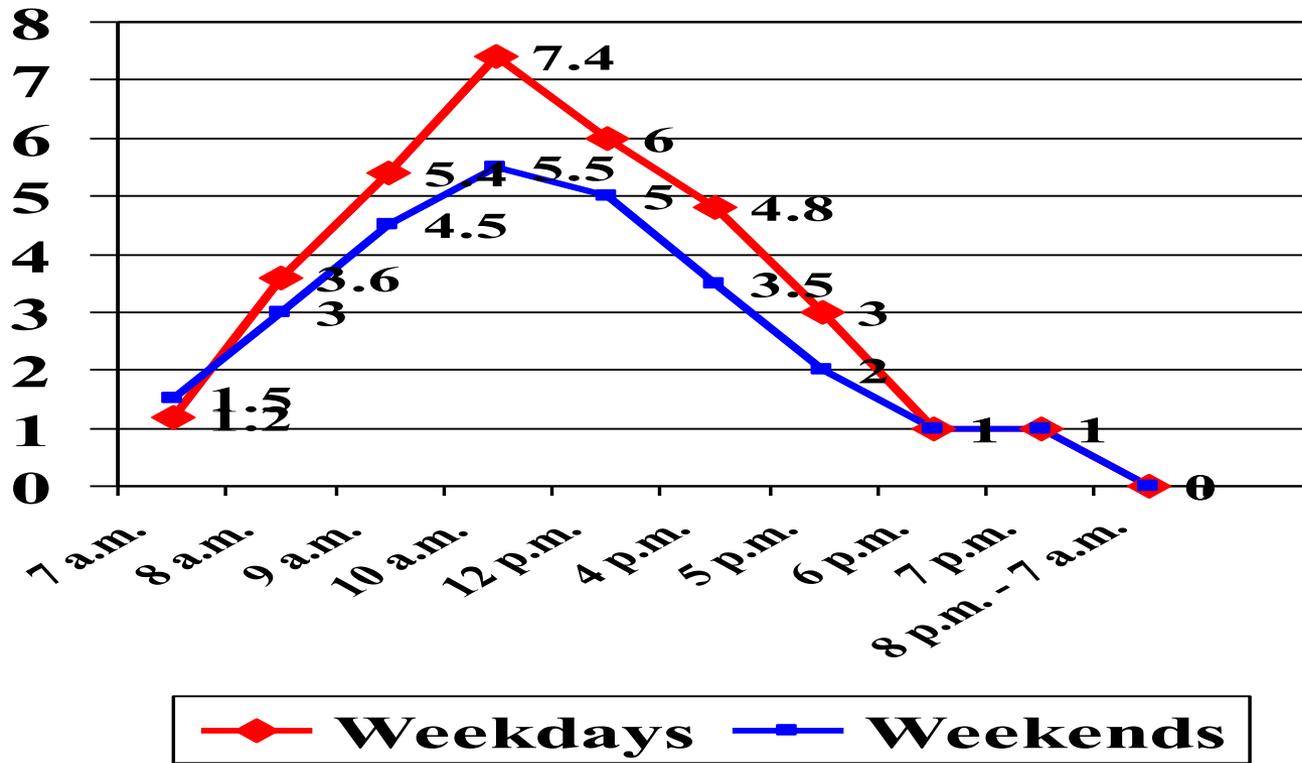
- 100 - 299
- 300 - 599
- 600 - 899
- 900 - 1,142
- Fort Worth

*Crime data used for this map has not gone through the full verification process and is considered unofficial

Challenge – 24/7 Coverage

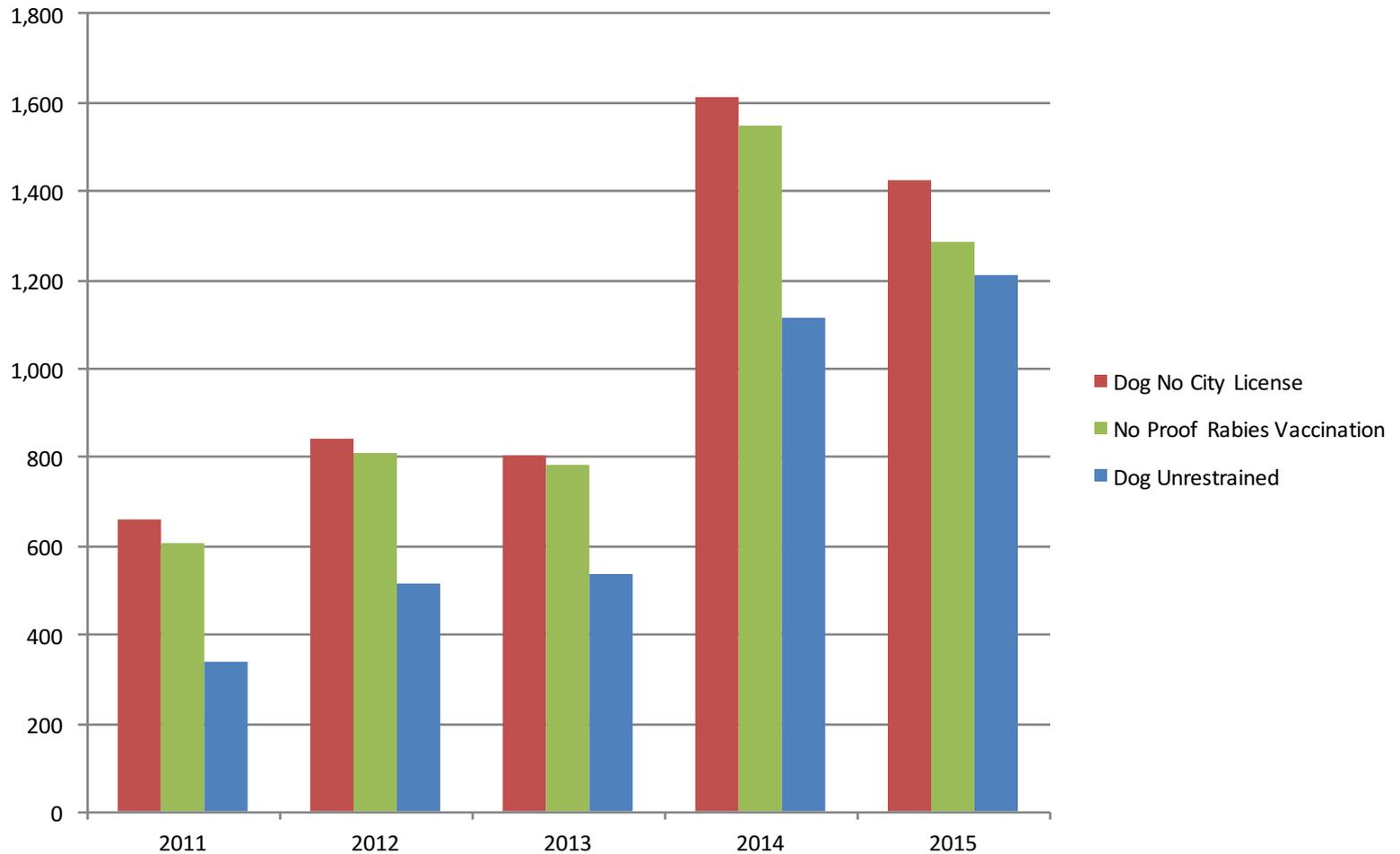
Officers either on duty or on-call 24/7, 365 days per year

Typical Reality Due to Vacancies, Vacation, etc.

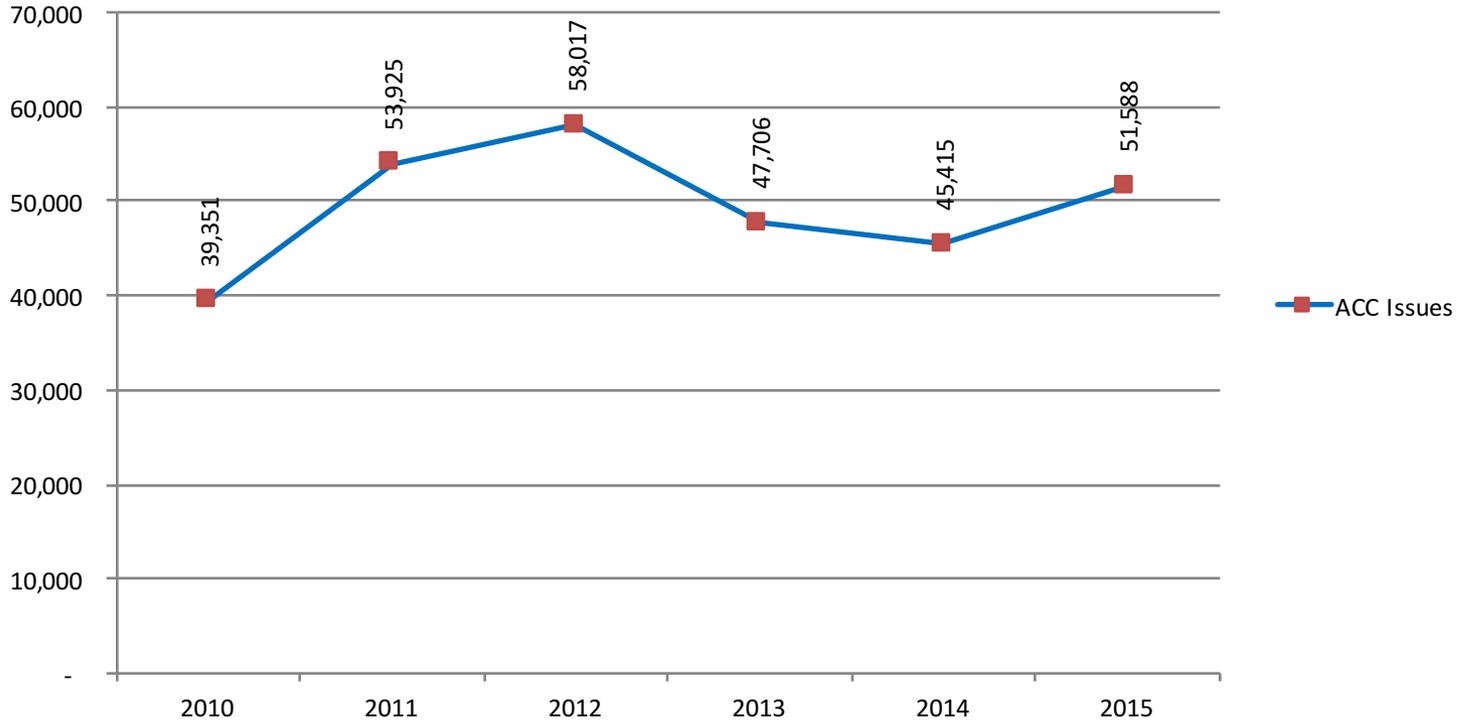


License and Rabies Citations

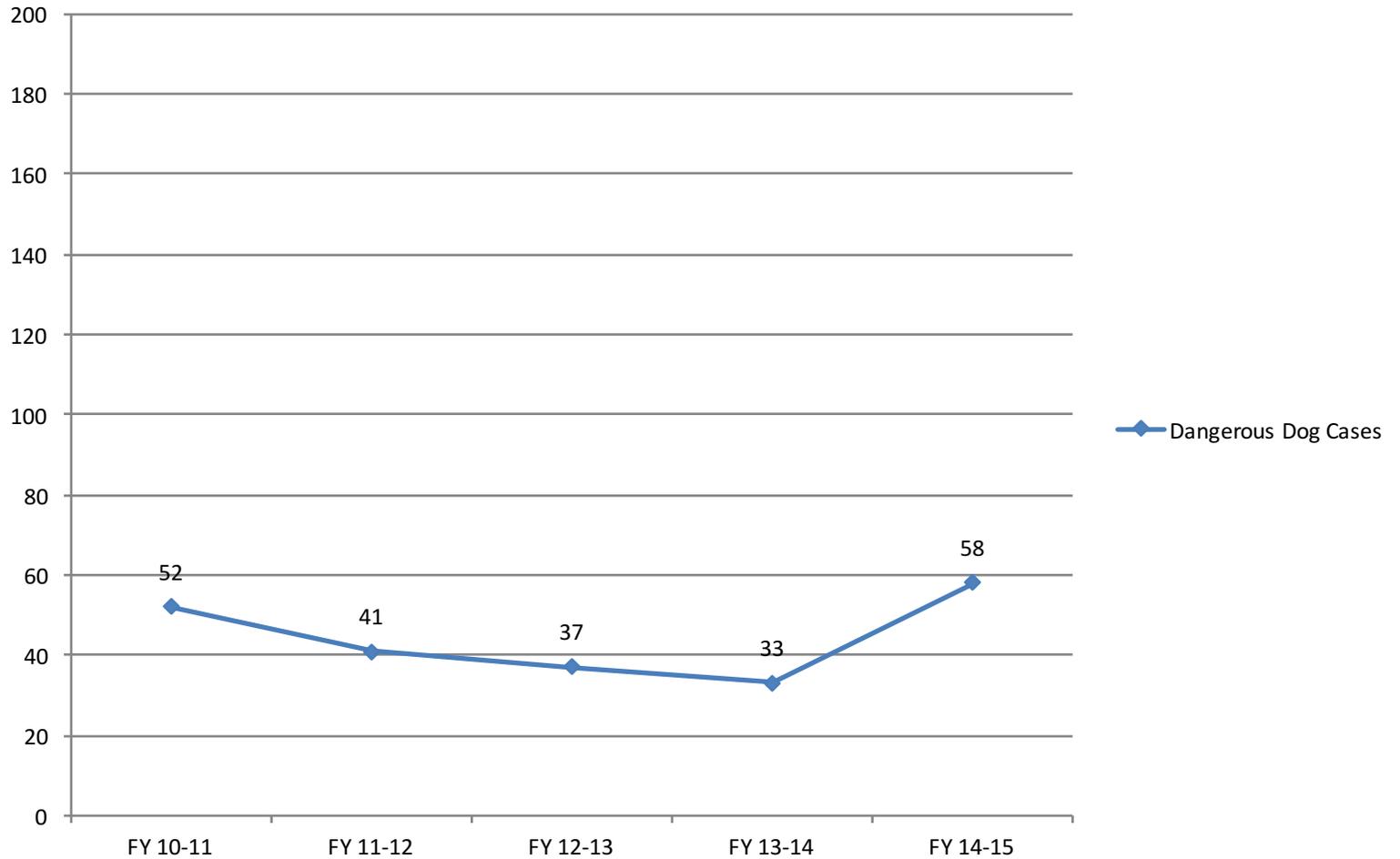
Violations



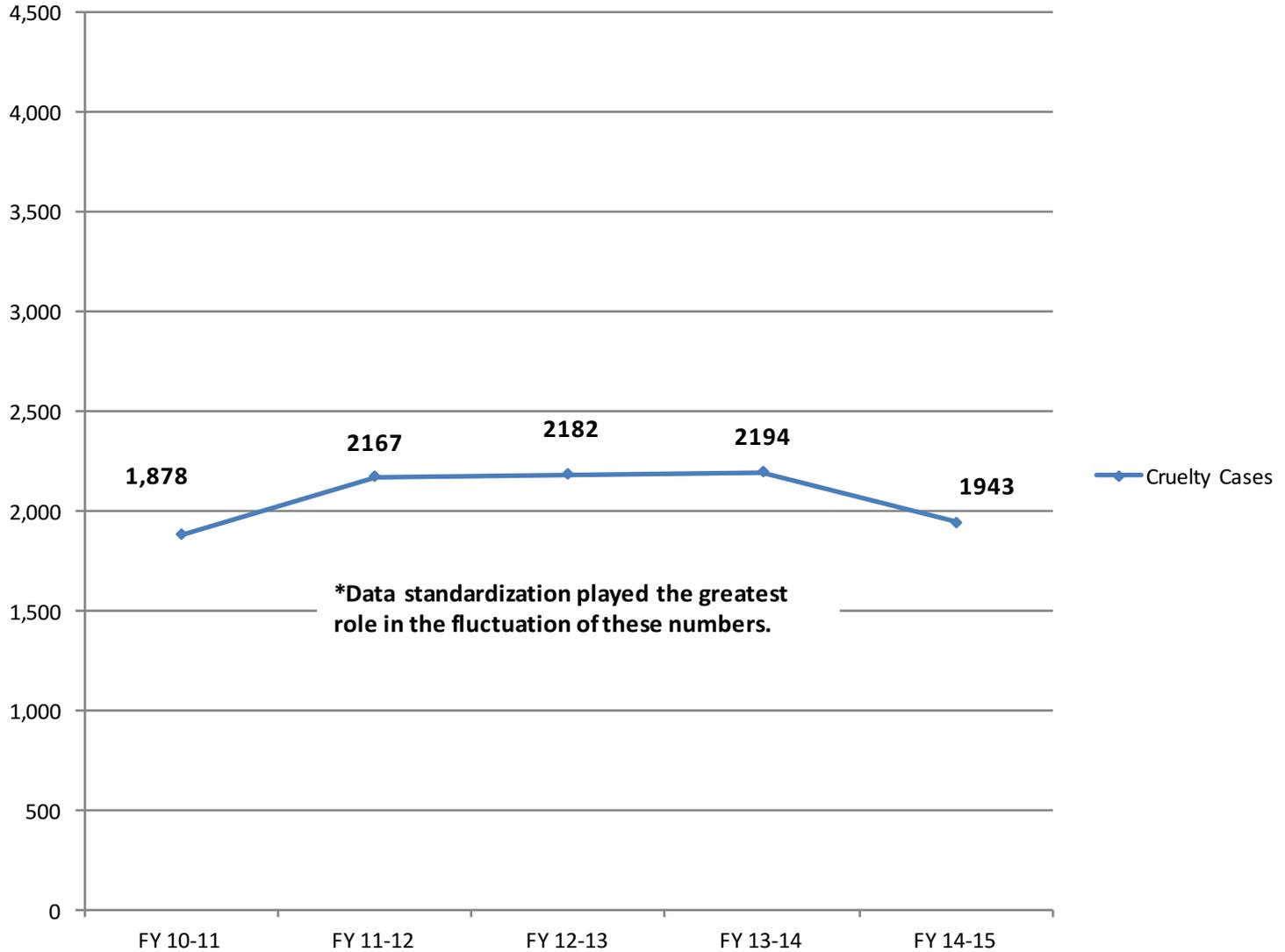
General Telephone Volumes



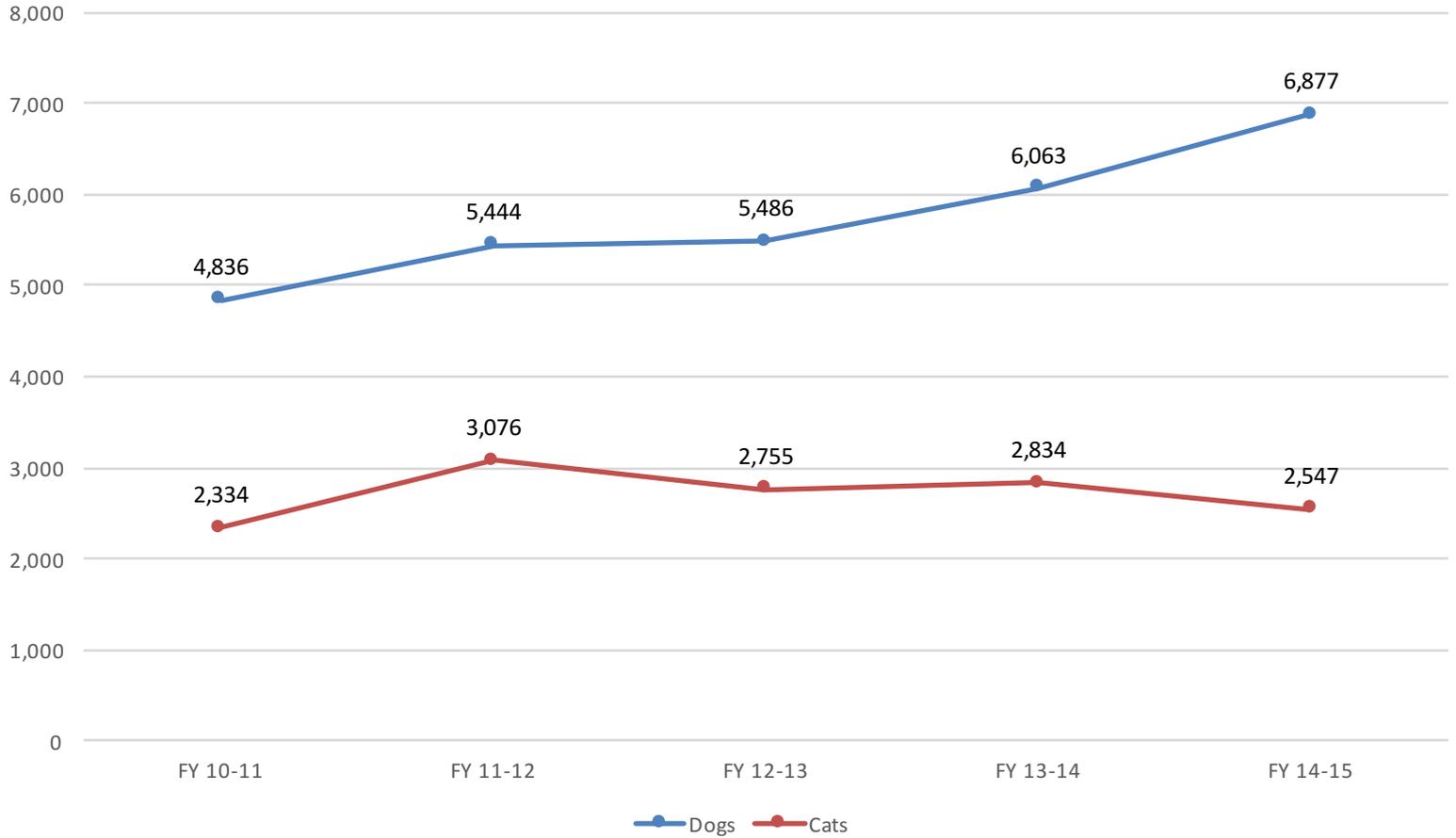
Dangerous Dog Cases



Cruelty Trends

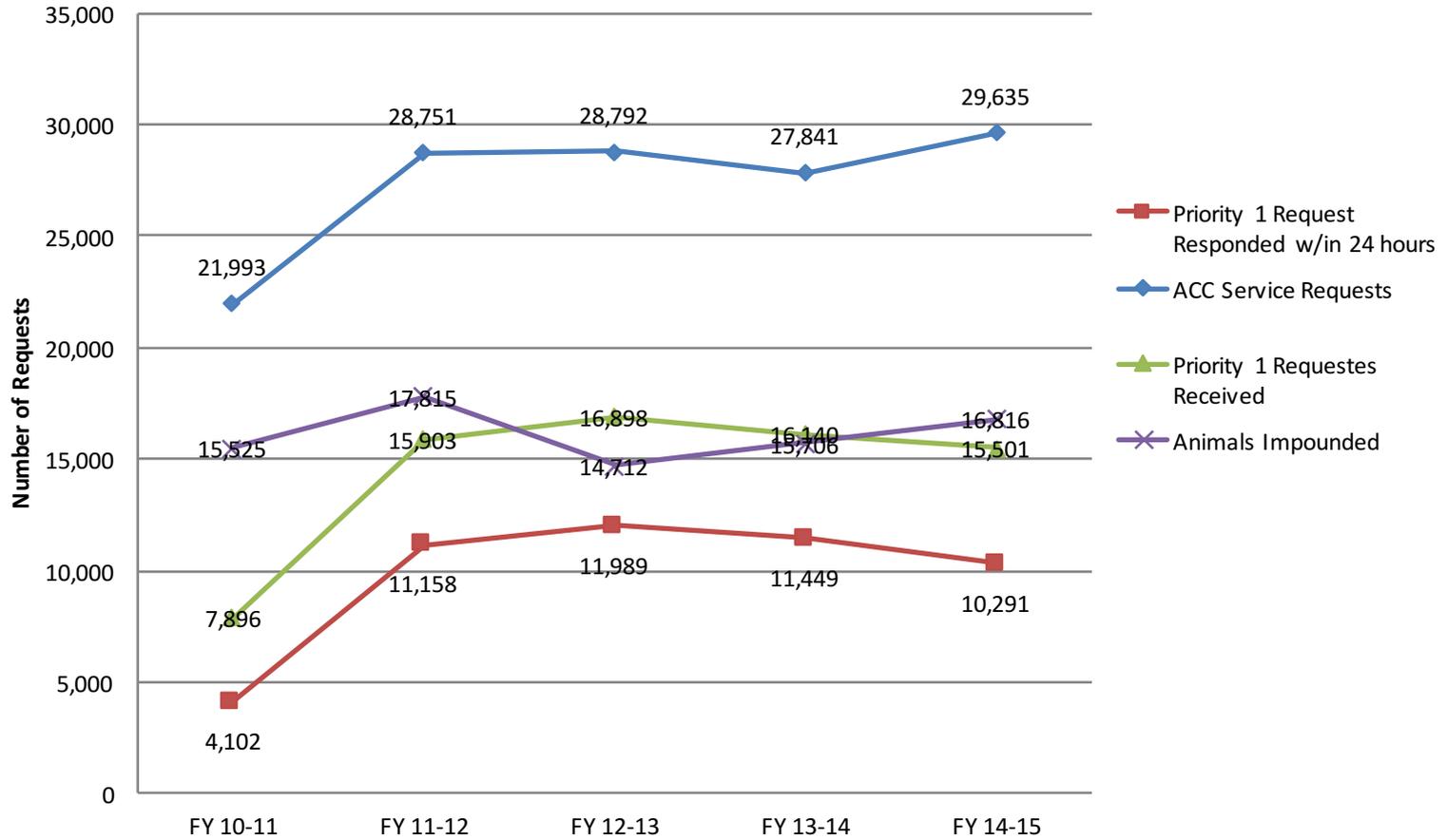


Stray Animal Capture

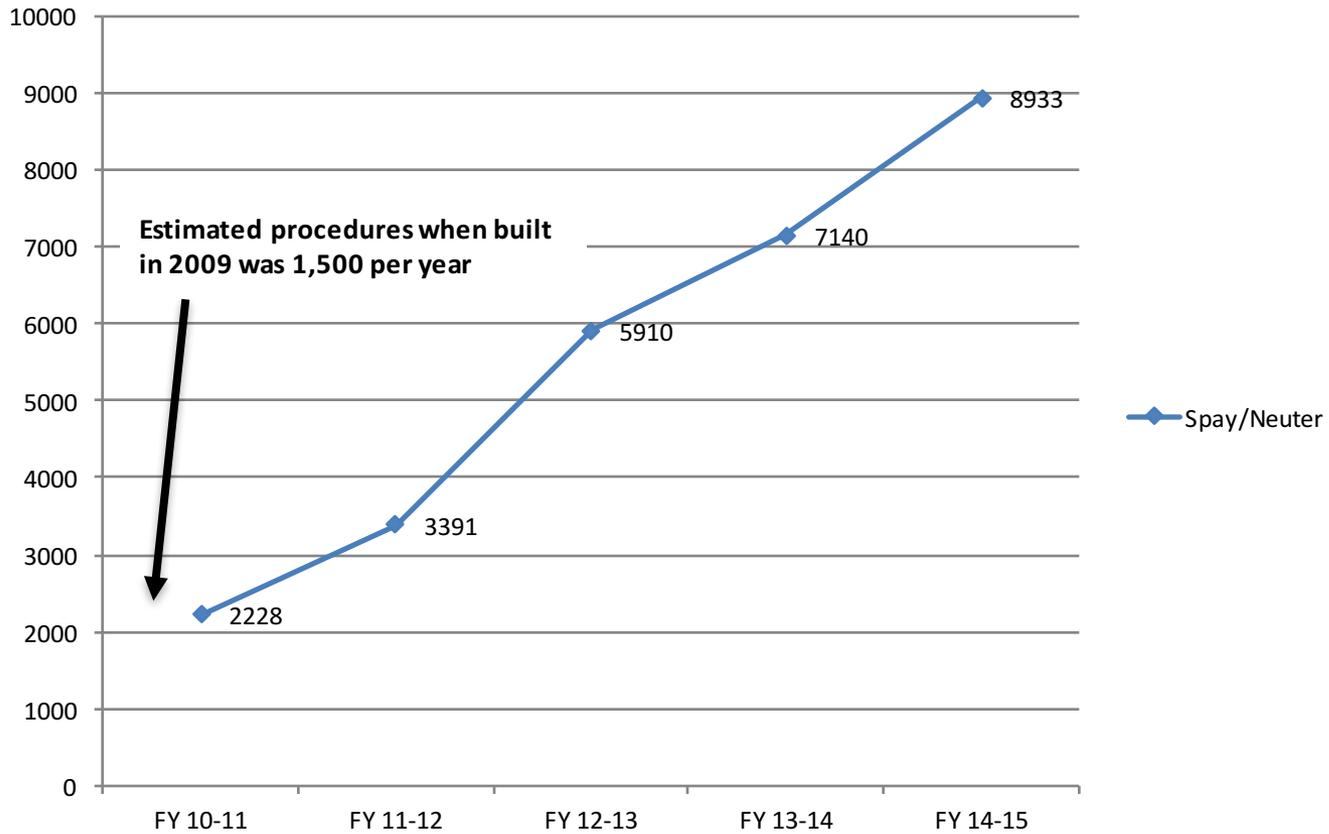


Animal Care and Control Activity Trends

Request for Service

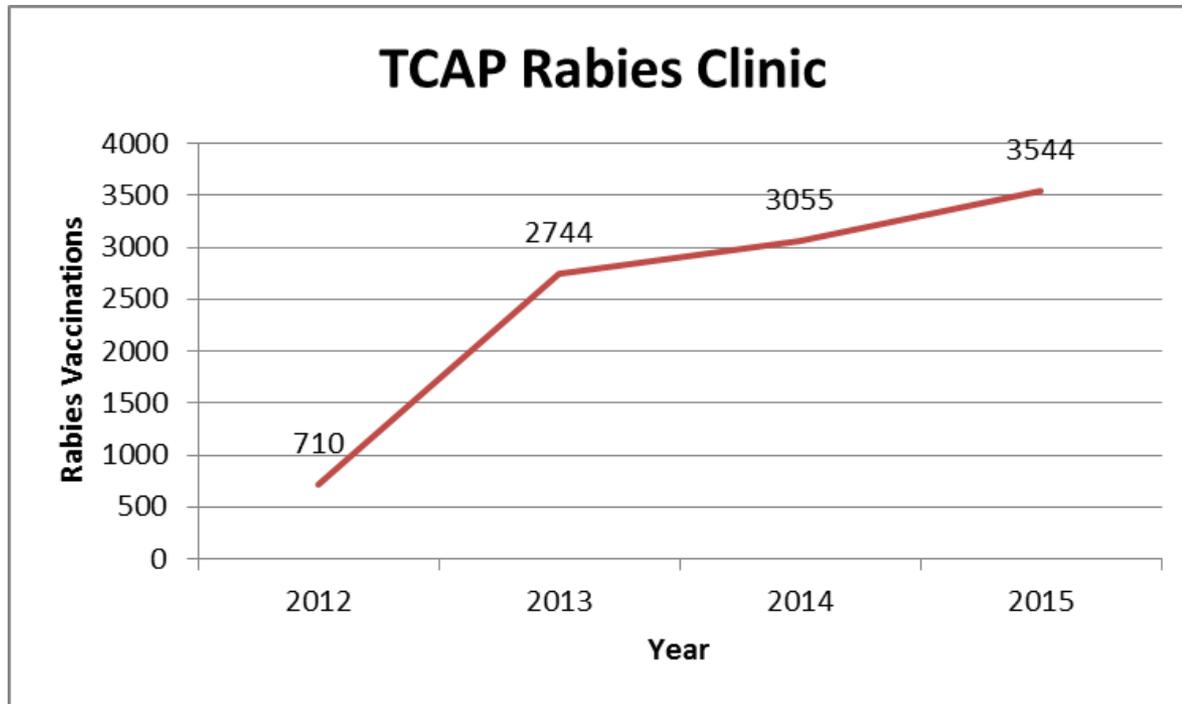


Spay and Neuter Surgeries

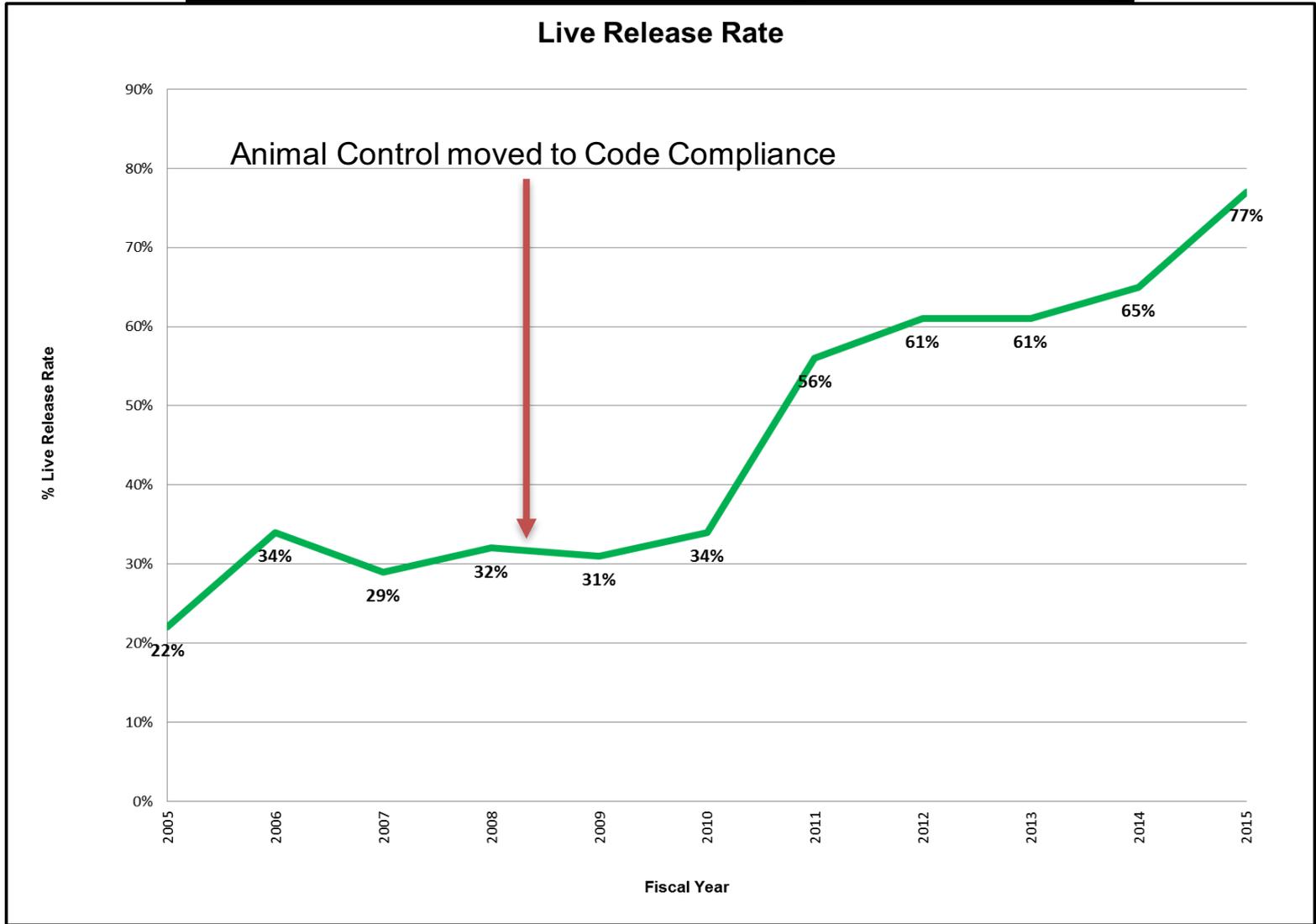


Low-Cost Vaccinations

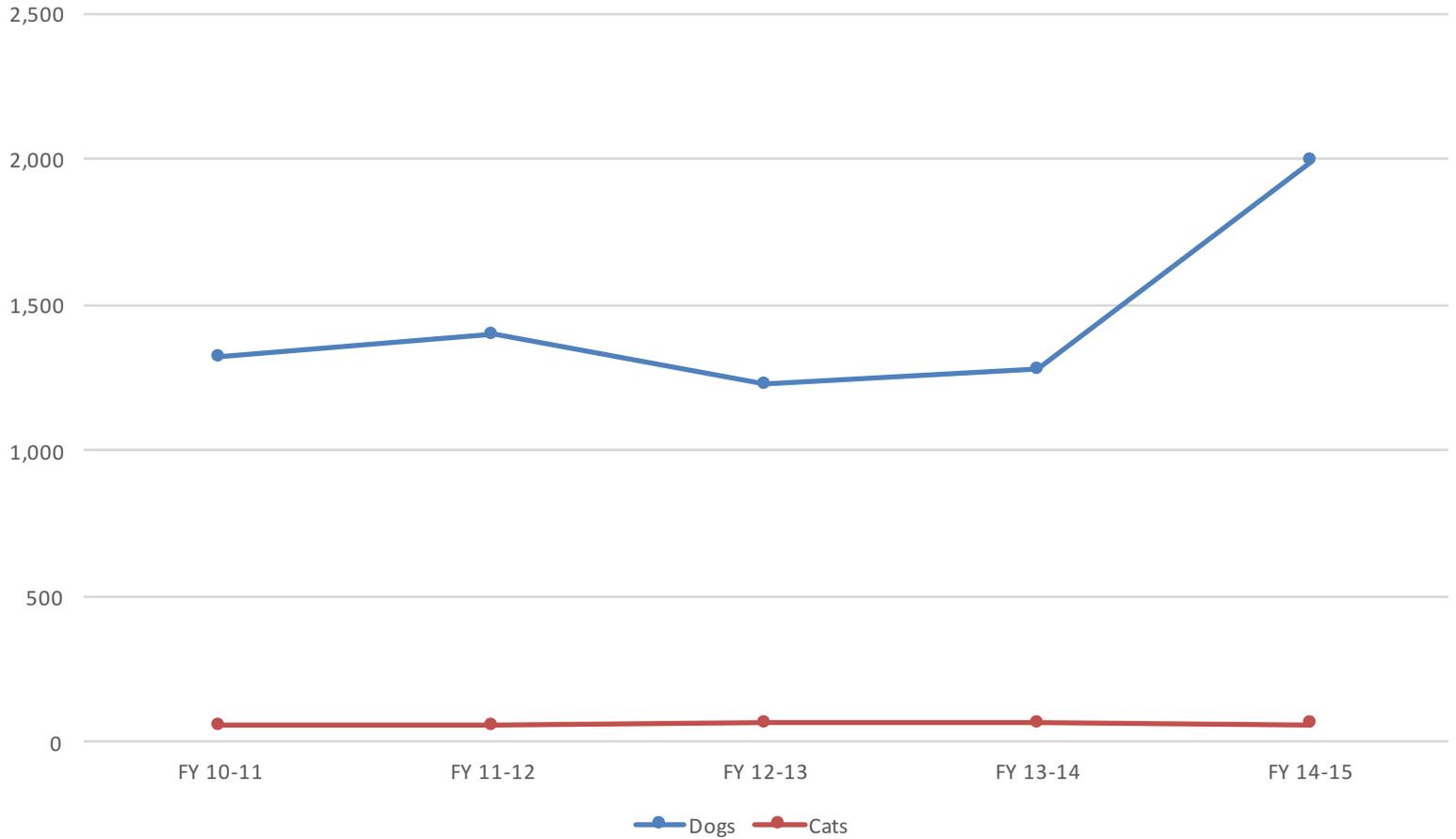
- Texas Coalition of Animal Protection
- Low-Cost vaccination clinic at shelter every Tuesday evening.



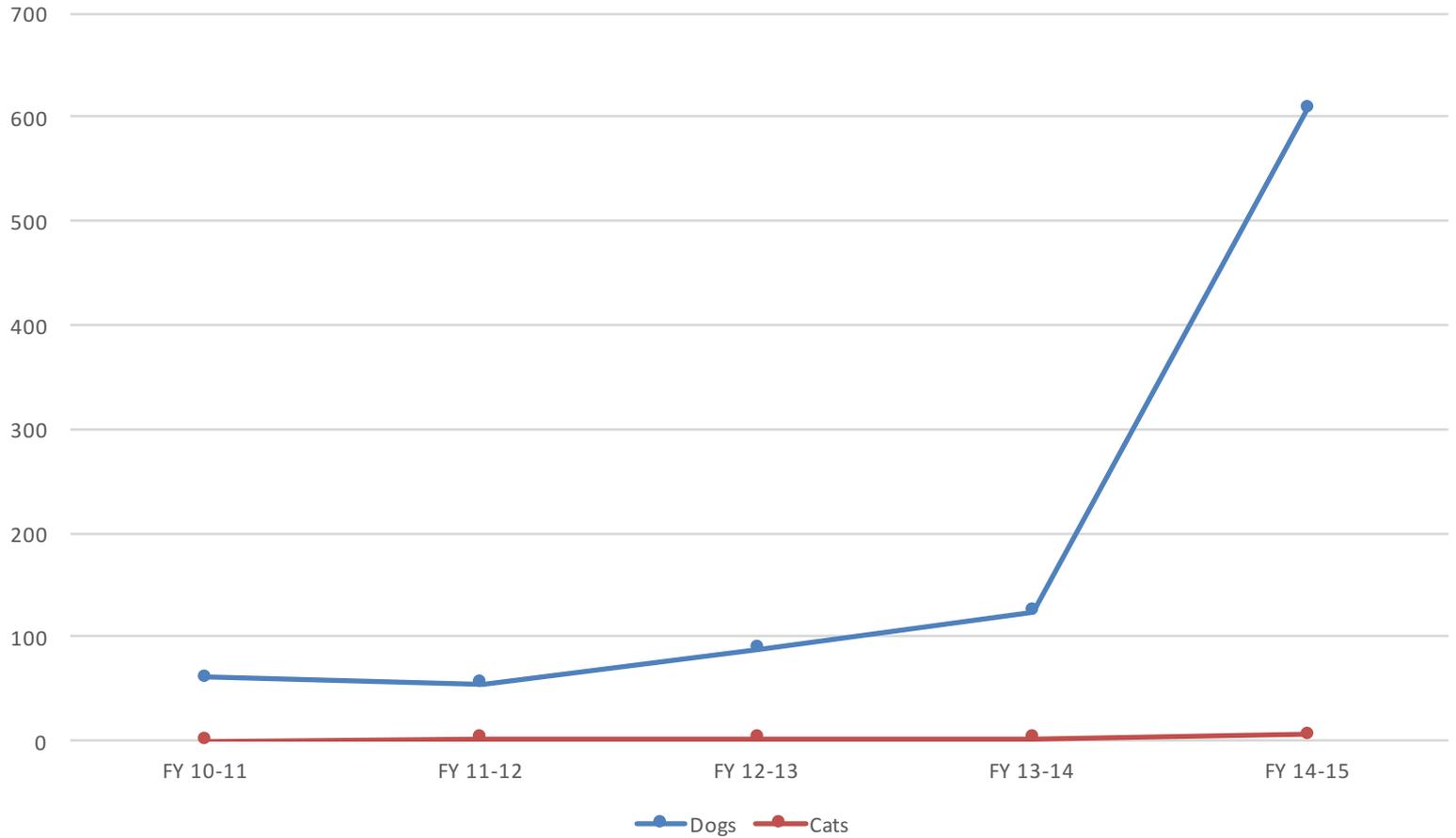
Live Release Rate (Asilomar)



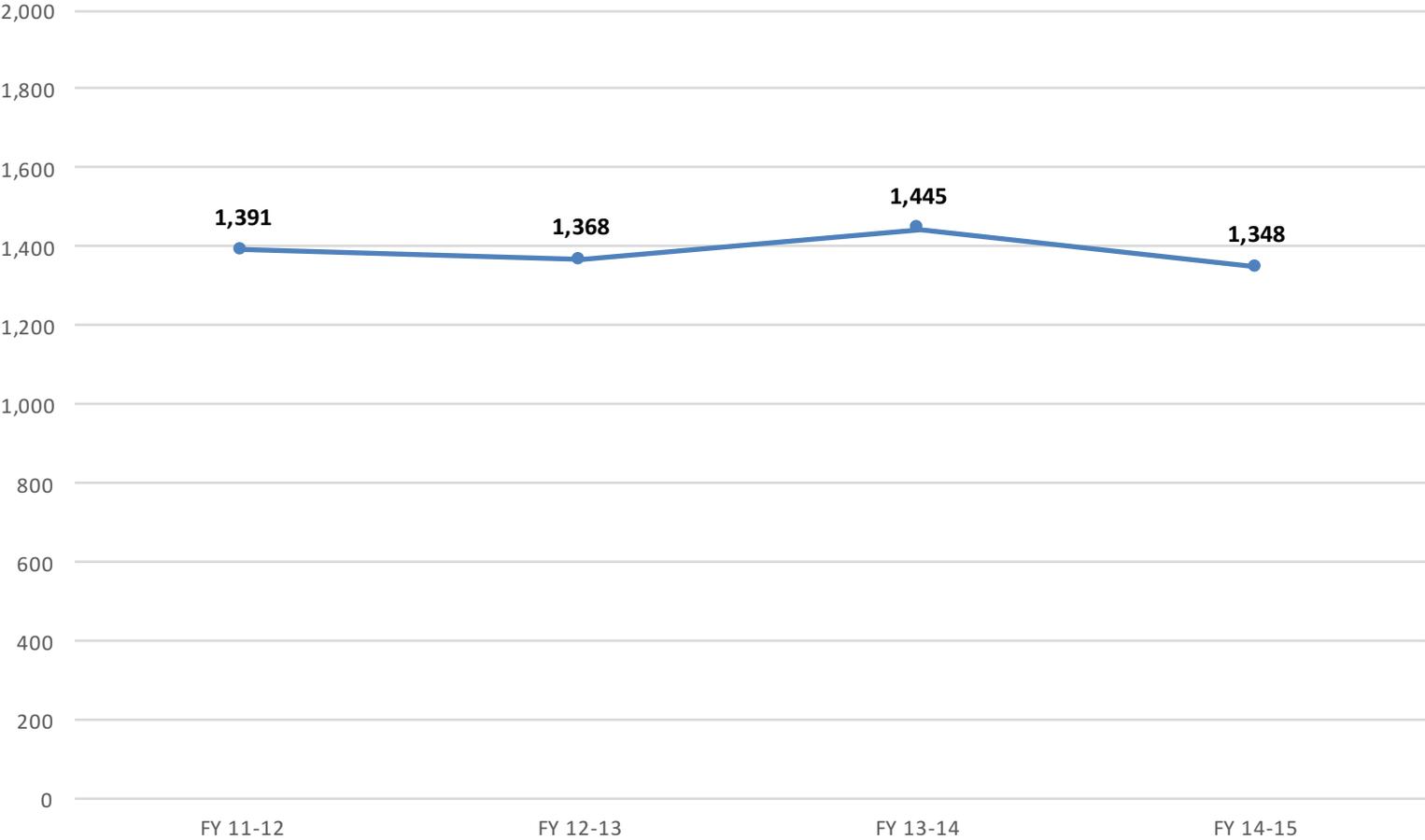
Returned to Owner



Return to Owner in Field



Dog Bites



Five Year Plan

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Shelter Expansion (\$1 mil Capital)	North Shelter Master Plan (\$1.3mil Capital)	North Shelter Funding	North Shelter Siting	North Shelter Ground Breaking
North Shelter Annex (\$500,000 Capital)	Relocate Field Staff	North Shelter Partnership		
Outdoor Runs (\$100,000 Capital)	Fresh Air Cattery (\$150,000 Capital)	West Shelter Annex (\$500,000 Capital)		
Coalition Development	New License Program			
Expand Feral Cat Program	Online Registrations			
Organizational Development	Technical Upgrades			
Shelter Software Update				
Ordinance Updates				
Medical Records				
New Shelter Medicine Program				
Online Payments				
COOP Plan Update				
Policy and Procedure Update				



2014/15 Business Plan

Item	Explanation	Status
Breakout Animal Welfare as its own Area Command	Change Assistant Director – Public Health to Assistant Director – Animal Welfare and move Public Health under the Director	Complete
Breakout Shelter Manager into two separate manager positions	Created two manager positions: Shelter Manager and Animal Control Manager	Complete
Hire new Assistant Director – Animal Welfare	Filled position	Complete
Hire new Shelter Manager	Filled position	Complete
Hire new Animal Control Manager	Filled position	Complete
Add foster/bottle programs	Basic programs implemented. Future years should grow programs	Complete
Update service contracts	Contracts with other cities updated and approved	Complete
Update Policy and Procedure Manual (multi-year)	Migrated to electronic version and started update	On-schedule
Complete construction drawings for shelter expansion	Actual construction will start 2016	Complete
Update license program (multi-year)	Reviewed best practices and spoke with vendors about privatization	On-schedule
New shelter medicine program (multi-year)	Hired Assistant Director/Veterinarian and adjusted private contracts	On-schedule



Initial Draft Concepts

Should the City allow a microchip in lieu of a displayed license tag to comply with City licensing requirements?

- Other cities have recently approved ordinances requiring pet microchips, discontinuing pet licensing, or replacing license tags with microchip requirements.

Initial Draft Concepts

Should the City amend its current Dangerous Dog Ordinance to factor in:

- 1. Home quarantine where attack caused no or minor injury to a human or other animal (serious bodily injury or death would still require City quarantine)*
- 2. Streamline the Court process where there is no or minor injury to a human or other animal*
- 3. Special circumstances that the Court can consider when a dog is found to be dangerous*

Initial Draft Concepts

Should the City follow State Statute for the quarantine of bite animals (City's ordinance is more restrictive)?



Initial Draft Concepts

Should the City include additional offenses for deferred prosecution under the Department's Educate the Offender Program, e.g., first time offenders can have the citation dismissed if they attend a class?

- In January 2001, City Council approved an Educate the Offender Program to allow certain offenders to have citations dismissed after completion of a Responsible Pet Ownership Class.

Initial Draft Concepts

Should the City allow the release of a pet to an owner and waive reclaim fees when an owner pleads no-contest and agrees to community service?

- Current State Statute allows for community service for citations but does not cover civil agreements only, e.g., just allowing an owner to work off the reclaim fee in the absence of a citation.

Initial Draft Concepts

Should the City increase intact animal fees?

- Research has found that higher intact permit fees resulted in compliant owners paying the higher fee and very little impact on nuisance animals and irresponsible pet owners. Concept would impose higher fees on intact animals that were not properly registered, licensed, etc. at the time of being picked up as a stray, bite or other nuisance (impose higher fee on violators).

Initial Draft Concepts

Should the City amend the ordinance to allow “or under immediate control by voice, gesture or other means” to the leash law?

- *Would include language that owner would have to be present with the animal, immediate means immediate and the dog, prior to recall, was not creating a nuisance by chasing other animals, humans or creating a hazard to cars, bicycles, walkers or otherwise being a nuisance.*

Initial Draft Concepts

Should small, non-public nuisance wildlife on private property be abated by property owners utilizing private contractors instead of using animal control officers?

- Many cities refer all private property wildlife issues to private contractors due to staffing restraints. This concept would still get a City response to high risk situations.

Homework

- Think about what was discussed tonight and try to capture what you believe are the **three highest priorities**.
- **Polarized views are often a roadblock** to a greater understanding of an issue and/or alternate solutions to a problem. If you are strictly opposed to a concept, that's OK, but we need you to **think about how you might be less opposed** and be ready to share your thoughts.
- Have an idea? **Be a researcher!** Find model ordinances that other cities are using, contact other cities and find out what their experience has been with their ordinances, etc. Share your findings at the next meeting.
- Next Meeting:



Fort Worth Code Compliance

