

NO-KILL SHELTER POSITIVE OUTCOME STUDY

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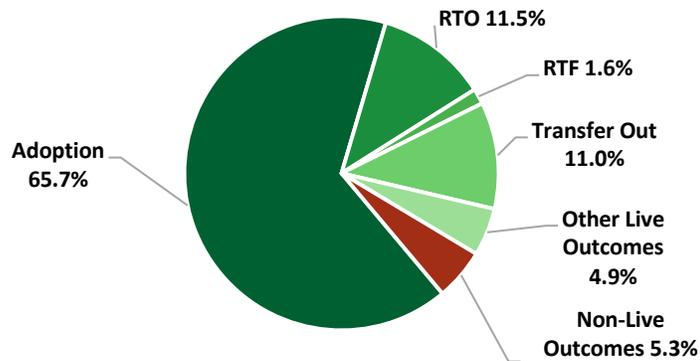
The goal of the Best Friends No-Kill Positive Outcome Study is to determine national-level benchmarks for positive outcome types in order to establish goals for increased lifesaving. The shelter data included in the study was limited to 2017–18 collected data from no-kill, brick-and-mortar* sheltering facilities with intakes higher than zero, totaling 1,844 organizations in the sample size.

*The exception is foster-based rescue groups that are contracted as municipal sheltering organizations (i.e., rescue groups with a government contract).

DATA INSIGHTS

- Adoption is the leading outcome type for all no-kill shelters, accounting for 65.7% of all outcomes.
 - This is followed by return to owner at 11.5% of outcomes.
 - Combined, these two percentages make up 77.2% of outcomes, yielding **local community-based placement as a key element to lifesaving.**
- No-kill shelters make up 57% of all shelters with data and 37% of all shelters total.
- There are more no-kill government-run animal shelters than any other no-kill organization type.**
 - There is a total of 1,181 no-kill municipal organizations (Government Animal Services plus contracted) representing almost 64% of all no-kill shelters.
- Great Plains is the region with the highest quantity and percentage of no-kill shelters.
- The South Central, Pacific and Southeast regions have the lowest percentages of no-kill shelters, which is consistent with our findings on shelter killing in their target states.
- We are missing data for 43% of South Central shelters, which could lead to an increase in no-kill percentage.

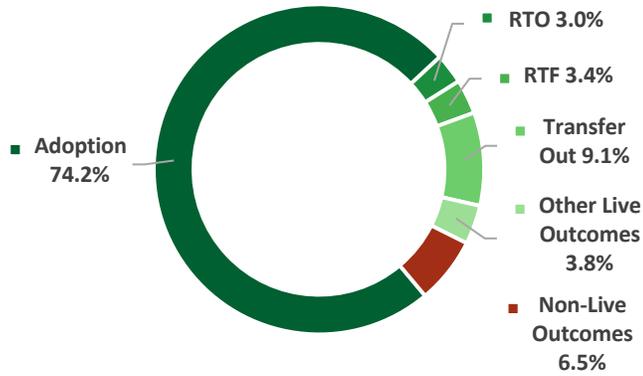
COMBINED SPECIES BENCHMARKS



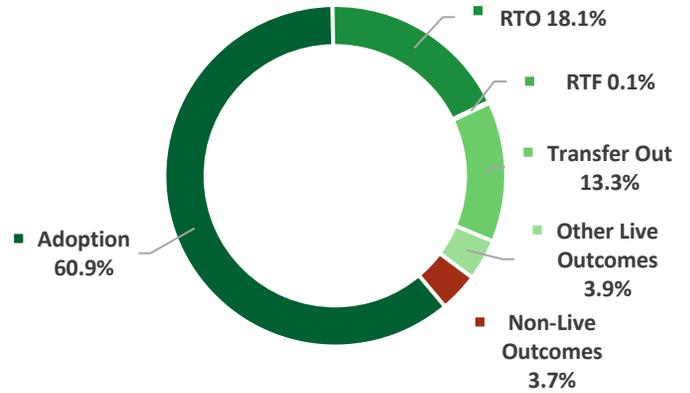
OUTCOME TYPE	COMBINED SPECIES	FELINE	CANINE
Adoption	65.7%	74.2%*	60.9%
Return to owner	11.5%	3.0%	18.1%
Return to field	1.6%	3.4%*	<.1%
Transfer out	11%	9.1%	13.3%
Other live outcomes	4.9%	3.8%	3.9%
Non-live outcomes	5.3%	6.5%	3.7%

*Some shelters may report return-to-field numbers as adoptions.

FELINE



CANINE



SAMPLE SIZE COMPOSITION

ORGANIZATION TYPE	NO-KILL SHELTERS	NOT AND NEARLY NO-KILL SHELTERS	SHELTERS WITHOUT DATA	TOTAL SHELTERS	NO-KILL% OF TOTAL
Rescue group with a government contract	3	0	0	3	100%
Shelter with a government contract	313	236	327	876	36%
Shelter without a government contract	663	138	644	1,445	46%
Government animal services	865	1,011	777	2,653	33%
GRAND TOTAL	1,844	1,385	1,748	4,977	37%

REGIONAL COMPOSITION

REGION	NO-KILL SHELTERS	SHELTERS WITHOUT DATA	TOTAL SHELTERS	NO-KILL% OF TOTAL
Great Plains	359	307	773	46%
Midwest	354	221	789	45%
Northeast	320	299	752	44%
Mid-Atlantic	195	115	560	35%
Mountain West	174	154	419	41%
South Central	157	302	715	22%
Pacific	148	126	409	36%
Southeast	137	224	560	25%
TOTAL	1,844	1,748	4,977	37%

The No-Kill Shelter Positive Outcome Study is an analysis of data included in the Best Friends data set. This data set is continually growing, changing and being updated. We intend to publish updated versions of research as frequently as possible, but this study was based on 2017 and 2018 shelter data.

If you are unsure if your shelter is contributing to the Best Friends data warehouse, you can submit your data [here](#).