



MEDIA RELEASE

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Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement introduces new intake procedure to enhance animal welfare

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – In response to the increasing number of pet intakes, Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement is taking a proactive step with a strategic shift in intake procedures, particularly focused on addressing the rise in owner surrenders. In recent years, KCASE has witnessed a significant rise in pet intakes, presenting unprecedented challenges for the facility and staff. A thorough analysis of the data showcases the magnitude of the issue:

1. **High Intake Rates:** When comparing year-to-year figures and examining data from June to the present over the past three years, we've observed a significant increase in pet intakes. Notably, the period from June to the present accounted for 55% of all intakes in 2023, emphasizing the challenges faced during the peak season.
2. **Owner Surrenders on the Rise:** Owner surrenders now make up one-third of intakes since January 2022, a notable increase from the pre-COVID era when typical surrender intakes accounted for 20-25% of the total. This rise is coupled with a 10% decrease in adoptions and a 15% increase in all types of intakes since 2022, resulting in a 30+% shift in the facility's holding capacity.
3. **Economic Factors at Play:** Inflation, rising housing costs, and escalating veterinary care expenses have contributed to the surge in pet surrenders and the decline in adoptions. These factors have placed pet owners in difficult situations, limiting their ability to provide for their beloved animals and driving up surrender rates.

To effectively address this critical situation, KCASE is implementing a strategic intake scheduling system. This initiative aims to accommodate the 30% increase in owner surrenders as space allows, ensuring that animals continue to receive the care and support they deserve while relieving some of the pressure on our dedicated staff.

KCASE understands the challenges facing pet owners and is here to provide solutions and resources to help them keep their pets in their homes whenever possible. For your convenience, KCASE has introduced an [online surrender form](#) along with [additional resources](#) to help you rehome your pet independently and connect you with the necessary support and resources.

Furthermore, KCASE is excited to announce extended "Dog Days of Summer Rates" as part of their ongoing efforts to find loving homes for the shelter animals. During this special promotion, dog adoption fees have been discounted to \$80, and cat adoption fees are reduced to \$40. KCASE invites the community to join in making a difference by adopting a furry friend.

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