



ANIMAL SERVICES

Joint Animal Services Commission Regular Meeting Agenda

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for meeting information.

Monday, June 9, 2025

5:30 PM

Lacey City Hall and Online

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. April 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes

4. Public Comment

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for instructions on how to provide public comment.

5. Business Items

- A. **Shelter Stats and Field Data April/May**
Sarah Hock, Executive Director
- B. **Volunteer Program Update**
Meagan McKay, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator
- C. **Low-Cost Spay Neuter Discussion**
Sarah Hock, Executive Director
- D. **Budget Amendment**
Sarah Hock, Executive Director

6. Director Report

- A. Sarah Hock, Executive Director

7. Adjourn

Attendance and Public Comment

Attend Remote or In-Person

The public may attend the meeting in-person, or you may view or listen to the meeting using one of the following platforms:

In-Person Council Chambers at Lacey City Hall
420 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9NPDEqTpTM-ttch_1F7Wdw

Website: <https://cityoflacey.org/government/public-meetings/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cityoflacey>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrOT3ivSrXo>
Cable: Channel 77 with your local cable provider
Phone: (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247 (Webinar ID 868 9545 1862)

Verbal Public Comment

Each speaker is limited to three minutes. Comments are welcome on matters connected to City business or specific agenda items.

Prior to starting your comments, please provide your:

- a. Name
- b. City of residence or connection to the Commission
- c. Topic or subject matter of your comments

Those wishing to provide verbal public comment may do so in-person or by Zoom.

In-Person: Use the sign-up sheet located in the meeting room.
Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9NPDEqTpTM-ttch_1F7Wdw

Written Public Comment

Public comments may also be submitted by email to Public.Comment@jointanimalservices.org. The commenting period will close two hours before the meeting time. Written comments will be provided to the Commission electronically prior to the meeting. Comments will not be addressed during the meeting; however, comments received will be added to the official record.



Joint Animal Services Commission Rescheduled Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 21, 2025

Lacey City Hall and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Malcolm Miller, City of Lacey; Vice Chair Emily Clouse, Thurston County; and Commissioners Jo MacGugan, Feline Friends of Olympia; Vicky Smith, DVM, Deschutes Animal Clinic; and Mike Murphy, DVM, Thurston County Humane Society.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Kelly Green, City of Olympia; Peter Agabi, City of Tumwater

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Lacey Assistant City Manager; Sarah Hock, Joint Animal Services Executive Director; Sierra Teas, Animal Welfare & Field Services Manager; Andrew Toledo, Joint Animal Services Operations Manager; and Elissa Fontaine, Lacey City Clerk

3. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. February 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Clouse moved to approve the agenda and consent items. Commissioner Smith seconded. The motion carried.

4. Public Comment

Verbal Public Comment

One (1) person signed up to speak at the meeting.

Ellen Dorfman provided public comment regarding spay and neuter requirements.

No (0) people registered to speak remotely, and no (0) written comments were received.

5. Business Items

A. Budget Amendment

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

The City of Lacey serves as the administrative agency for Joint Animal Services (JAS), and is a member of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) L&I Retro Program and Retro Pool. The City's experience rating increased, playing a crucial role in setting the City's L&I premium rates. An increase of \$12,900.24 is required to cover the shortage.

A lack of jurisdictional members were present to take action on the budget amendment. The item will be rescheduled for the June 9, 2025, meeting.

B. Mason County Contract Discussion

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock presented a contract proposal, initiated by Mason County. The contract is proposed for a limited term of two years with a \$175,000 funding commitment to assist with animal control services. The proposed contract currently includes one full-time animal control officer. Additional items, including operation hours and emergency calls, were outlined. Discussion ensued. The Commission expressed support in pursuing contract negotiations with Mason County.

C. February/March 2025 Shelter Statistics and Field Data

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock presented intake data by month, species, and jurisdiction. Hock reviewed the volume of field calls and clarified a misconception between dispatch calls and direct calls to Joint Animal Services. Discussion regarding spay and neuter assistance programs ensued.

6. Director Report

A. Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock reported over \$1.8 million in bequests received this year. Additional highlights include national education initiatives, staff participation in the Washington State Animal Control Academy, JAS representation at the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) Summit, key field operations and investigations, and ongoing staff onboarding and development.

7. Adjourn

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 7: 15 p.m.

Animal Services Shelter Statistics 2025

25-Apr 24-Apr

Intake

Total Animals Received (live and doa)

Dogs	115	107
Cats	131	91
Other	12	3
Wild	7	6
TOTAL	265	207

Custody-Misc Reasons

Dogs	4	6
Cats	1	0
Other	2	0
TOTAL	7	6

Strays Received

Dogs	79	68
Cats	68	56
Other	9	2
TOTAL	156	126

Owner Surrendered

Dogs	31	20
Cats	40	32
Other	1	1
TOTAL	72	53

Owner Status Refused

Dogs	0	0
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL	0	0

WILDLIFE HANDLED

Incoming

Live	2	2
Doa	5	4
TOTAL	7	6

Outgoing

Doa	5	4
Euthanized (sick/inj)	2	2
Died	0	0
Bat-Rabies check	0	0
Released/Transferred	0	0
TOTAL	7	6

Outgoing Animals

Total Animals Out, incl all categories below

Dogs	131	127
------	-----	-----

Cats	115	93
Other	4	10
Wild	7	6
Died, esc, stolen	0	3
TOTAL	257	239

Animals Adopted

Dogs	52	44
Cats	51	55
Other	2	8
TOTAL	105	107

Animals Transferred

Dogs	7	7
Cats	16	2
Other	0	1
Total	23	10

Animals Reclaimed

Dogs	26	30
Cats	0	3
Other	0	0
TOTAL	26	33

Animals DOA

Dogs	9	5
Cats	12	13
Other	6	5
TOTAL	27	23

All Euthanasia, Died, Escaped, Stolen (from pg 2)

Dogs	21	21
Cats	11	9
Other	3	5
Died, esc, stolen	0	3
Total	35	38

25-Apr 24-Apr

EUTHANASIA, DIED, ESCAPED, STOLEN

Animals Euthanized

Unhealthy/Untreatable

Dogs	16	15
Cats	9	7
Other	2	2

Treatable - Rehabilitatable

Dogs	1	3
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0

Treatable - Manageable

Dogs	4	3
Cats	2	2
Other	1	0

Healthy

Dogs	0	0
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0
SUB-TOTAL	35	32

Owner Request (E5)

Dogs	12	5
Cats	4	9
Other	0	0
SUB-TOTAL	16	14

TOTAL EUTHANASIA 35 32

Died At Shelter 0 3

Escaped/Stolen 0 0

FIELD AND OTHER SERVICES**Animals Currently**

Court Involved	Dogs	0	0
	Cats	0	0
	Other	0	0

Field Response

	Olympia	84	56
	Lacey	57	56
	Tumwater	29	21
	Thurston County	120	109
	JBLM	3	0
	Other	9	5
	Yelm	16	17
	SUB TOTAL	318	264

PDD/DD Appeals 1 0

Animal Services Shelter Statistics 2025

25-May 24-May

Intake

Total Animals Received (live and doa)

Dogs	117	104
Cats	180	122
Other	6	10
Wild	10	12
TOTAL	313	248

Custody-Misc Reasons

Dogs	2	2
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL	2	2

Strays Received

Dogs	82	76
Cats	116	99
Other	4	6
TOTAL	202	181

Owner Surrendered

Dogs	29	26
Cats	52	14
Other	2	4
TOTAL	83	44

Owner Status Refused

Dogs	0	0
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL	0	0

WILDLIFE HANDLED

Incoming

Live	5	4
Doa	5	8
TOTAL	10	12

Outgoing

Doa	5	8
Euthanized (sick/inj)	5	3
Died	0	1
Bat-Rabies check	0	0
Released/Transferred	0	0
TOTAL	10	12

Outgoing Animals

Total Animals Out, incl all categories below

Dogs	137	124
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Cats	141	119
Other	8	7
Wild	10	11
Died, esc, stolen	2	4
TOTAL	298	265

Animals Adopted

Dogs	63	50
Cats	59	64
Other	4	4
TOTAL	126	118

Animals Transferred

Dogs	5	3
Cats	23	19
Other	2	0
Total	30	22

Animals Reclaimed

Dogs	26	25
Cats	6	2
Other	0	0
TOTAL	32	27

Animals DOA

Dogs	5	5
Cats	15	15
Other	7	11
TOTAL	27	31

All Euthanasia, Died, Escaped, Stolen (from pg 2)

Dogs	26	21
Cats	27	11
Other	5	5
Died, esc, stolen	2	4
Total	60	41

25-May 24-May

EUTHANASIA, DIED, ESCAPED, STOLEN

Animals Euthanized

Unhealthy/Untreatable

Dogs	21	15
Cats	25	10
Other	5	2

Treatable - Rehabilitatable

Dogs	4	4
Cats	2	1
Other	0	0

Treatable - Manageable

Dogs	1	2
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0

Healthy

Dogs	0	0
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0
SUB-TOTAL	58	34

Owner Request (E5)

Dogs	14	10
Cats	6	2
Other	0	0
SUB-TOTAL	20	12

TOTAL EUTHANASIA 58 34

Died At Shelter 2 4

Escaped/Stolen 0 0

FIELD AND OTHER SERVICES**Animals Currently**

Court Involved	Dogs	0	0
	Cats	0	0
	Other	2	0

Field Response

Olympia	84	83
Lacey	83	56
Tumwater	28	17
Thurston County	125	112
JBLM	3	3
Other	3	1
Yelm	15	9
SUB TOTAL	341	281

PDD/DD Appeals 1 0

2025 Shelter Statistics & Field Calls

JASCOM | June 9, 2025

All data is current through May 31, 2025.

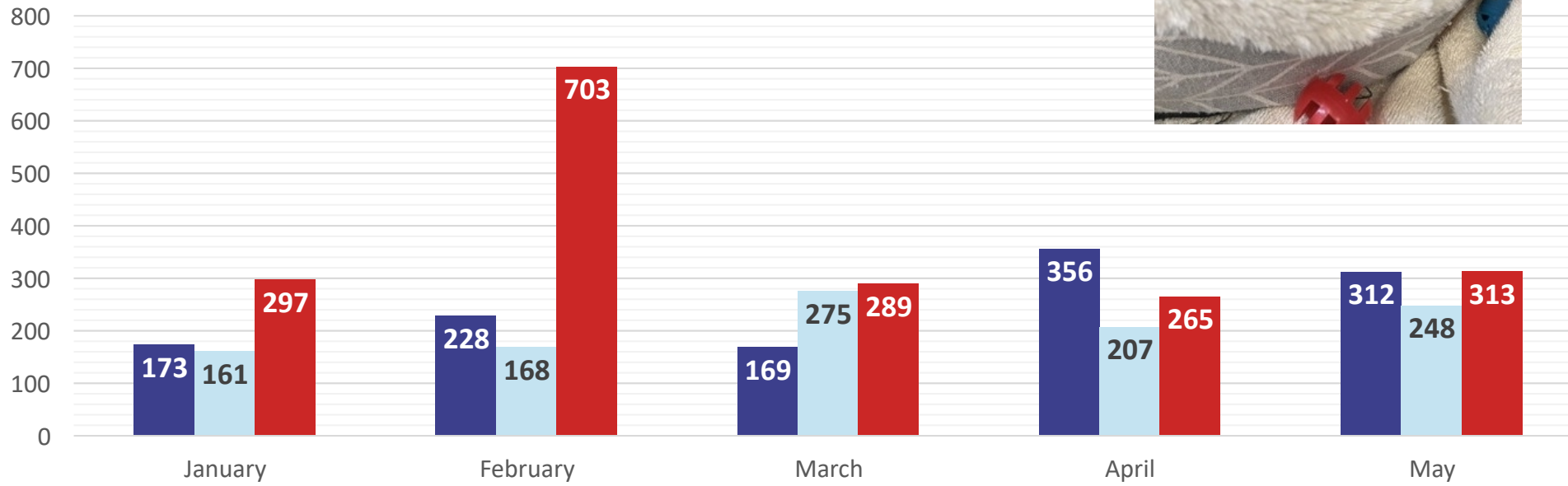


Shelter Intake



Intake by Month

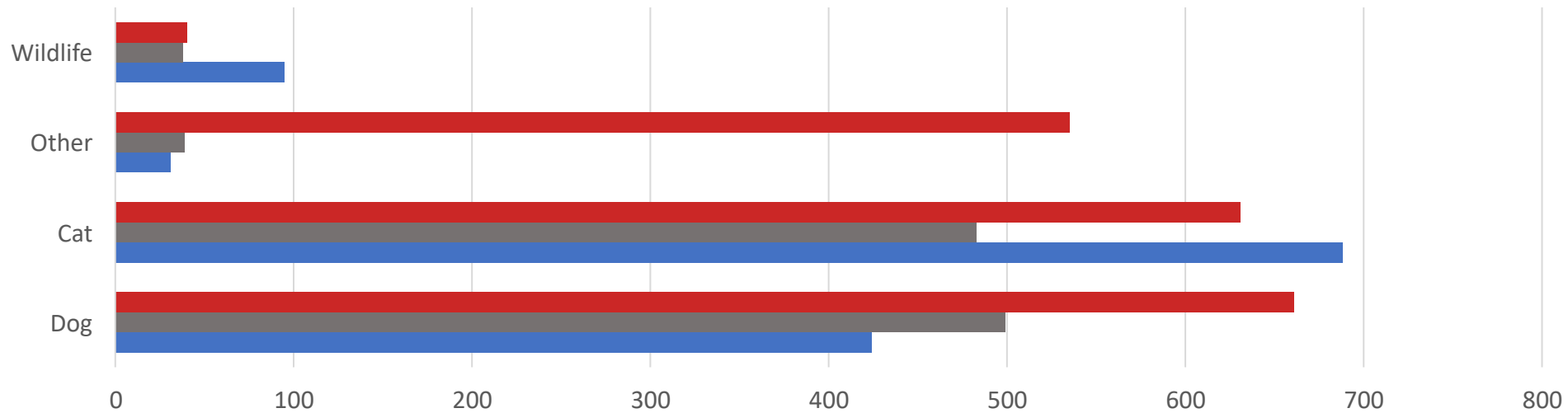
■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025



Shelter Intake

32.46% increase in dog intake

Intake by Animal

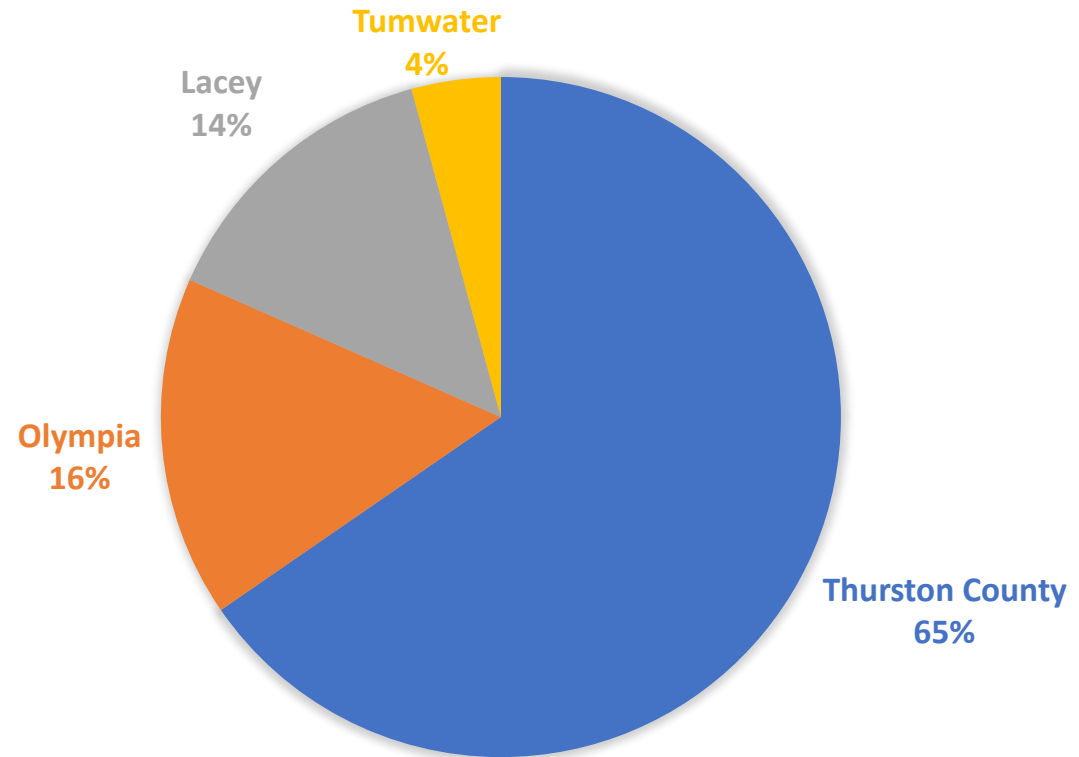


	Dog	Cat	Other	Wildlife
■ 2023	424	688	31	95
■ 2024	499	483	39	38
■ 2025	661	631	535	40

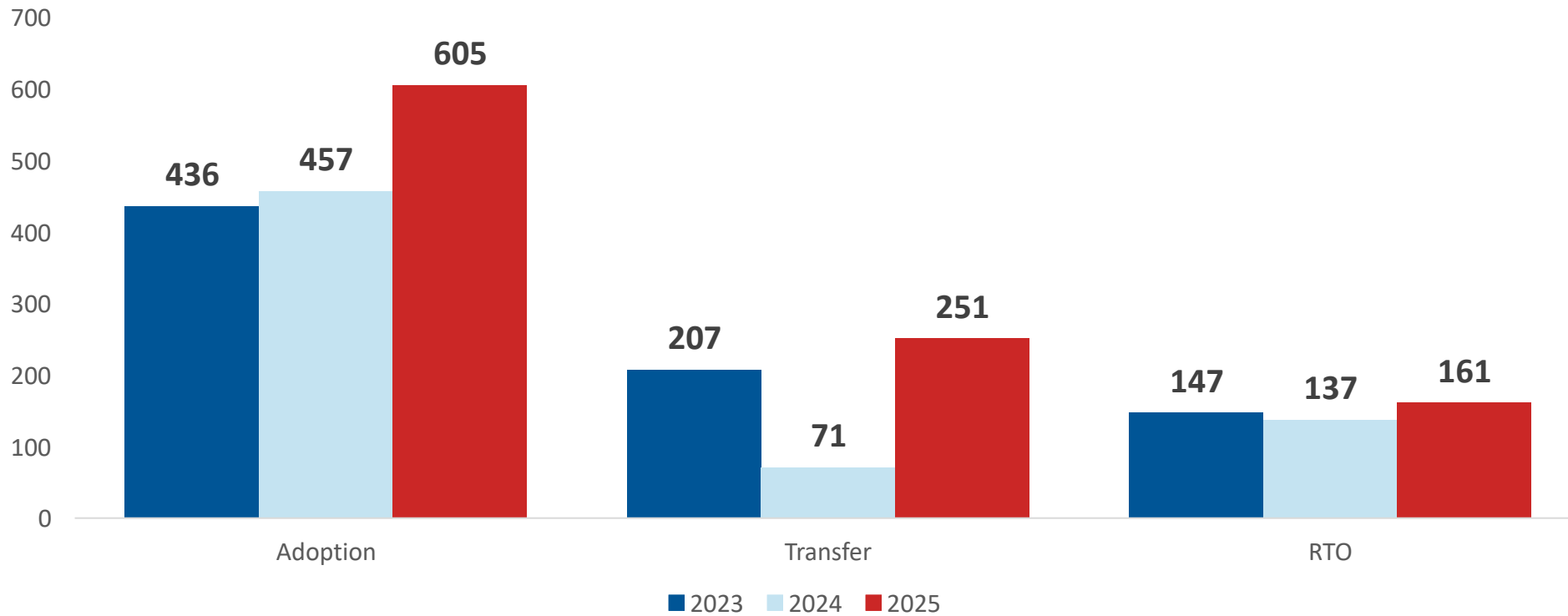


Intake by Jurisdiction

There has been a 78% increase in intake compared to last year.



Positive Outcomes



The decision making process

Capacity for Care

- Resources
- Staffing
- Kennels
- Animals coming in
- Animal moving out

Daily rounds

- Health
- Behavior
- Overall assessment
- Ensures the continued movement of animals



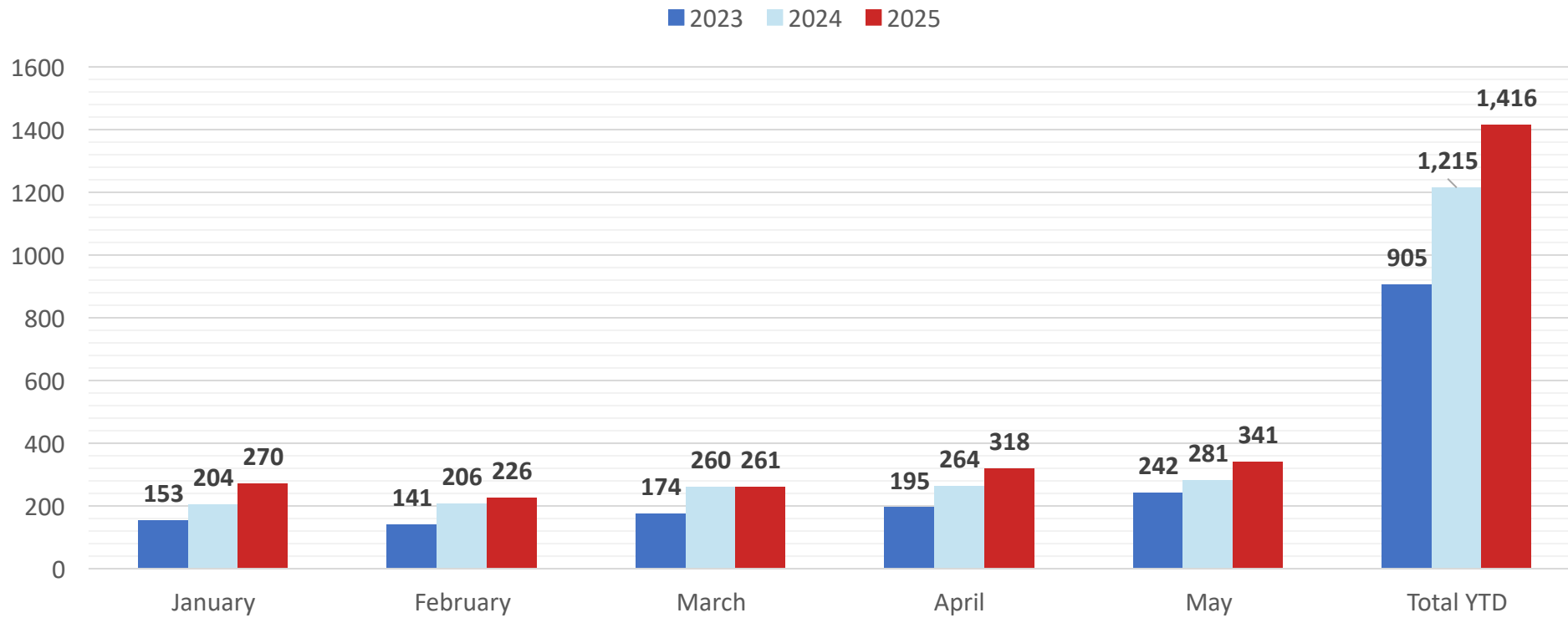
Processes for decision making

Pathway planning

- **“At-Risk” Committee** - JAS holds biweekly At-Risk meetings to evaluate animals that require individualized pathway planning, aiming to reduce the length of stay and increase life-saving outcomes.
- Members contribute specific perspectives, including leadership, operations, field services, volunteer and community outreach, positive outcomes (rescue/foster), veterinary care, and animal care, ensuring that all relevant factors are considered in decision-making.
- Before meetings, animal cases are shared for review. During meetings, records are evaluated, staff input is discussed, and a vote determines the outcome. In the event of a tie, the Executive Director will decide. Outcomes include euthanasia, medical evaluation, foster placement, rescue plea, enrollment in the Champion Dog Program, or adoption candidacy.
- All decisions are documented in the animals' Petpoint files and summarized in meeting minutes shared with the full JAS team for transparency and accountability.

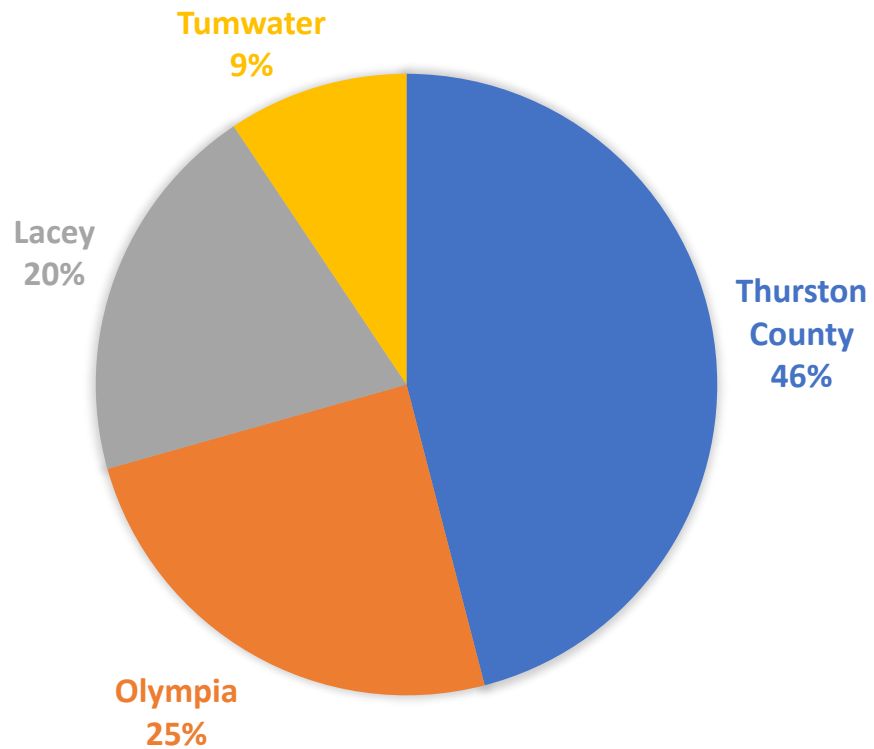


Field Calls



Field Calls by Jurisdiction

- Olympia – 15.6% increase
- Lacey – 7.32% increase
- Tumwater – 33% increase
- Thurston County – 17.18% increase



Volunteer, Outreach & Humane Education Updates

JASCOM|6.9.2025



Overview

Volunteer:

- Enrichment Volunteers
- Champion Dog Program

Outreach:

- New events:
 - Colvin Ranch Day
 - Nisqually Pet Fair
 - All American Jubilee

Humane Education:

- Yelm & Lacey Library Animal Allies Club



Volunteer

Expanding Programs:

- Enrichment Volunteers
- Champion Dog Program
 - 5 new members
 - Monthly Grief Group



Animal Cruelty Response Volunteers

- Current volunteers: 6
- New volunteers: 9



Outreach

Expanding Outreach

- 7 events attended summer of 2024*
- 9 events scheduled for summer of 2025*

*summer = April- Sept



Humane Education

Animal Allies Club

- Education
- Enrichment Crafts



Statistics

Volunteer

- 140 volunteers in 2024
 - Hours in 2024: 5698.35 hours
 - That's \$227,934!*

- 124 volunteers so far 2025
 - Hours so far: 2848.77 hours
 - That's \$113,950.80!*

*Volunteers are valued at \$40/hour in WA

Outreach

- 2 more events scheduled so far for 2025!

Humane Education

- Animal Allies Club:
 - Lacey Library started 10/2/2024
 - Yelm Library started 2/20/2025



In the works!

Enrichment Volunteers

- Focus on in-kennel enrichment utilizing scent, toys, treats



Thank you!



Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Services Overview

JASCOM|June 9, 2025



Understanding the Veterinary Crisis

Rising Costs of Care: Veterinary services have become increasingly expensive, making treatment unaffordable for many pet owners.

Veterinary Workforce Shortage: There is a national shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technicians

Geographic Disparities: Access to veterinary care is significantly worse in rural and low-income urban areas, where veterinary clinics are scarce and transportation to available services can be a significant barrier.

Lack of Financial Assistance: There are limited financial assistance programs or sliding-scale options, leaving low-income pet owners with few alternatives beyond surrendering pets or delaying necessary care.



Defining “Access to Care”

Access to care refers to the ability of owners to obtain timely, appropriate, and affordable veterinary services for their animals. This includes not only physical access to veterinary facilities but also considerations of cost, availability, and other barriers, such as transportation and communication.



Barriers to Accessing Veterinary Care



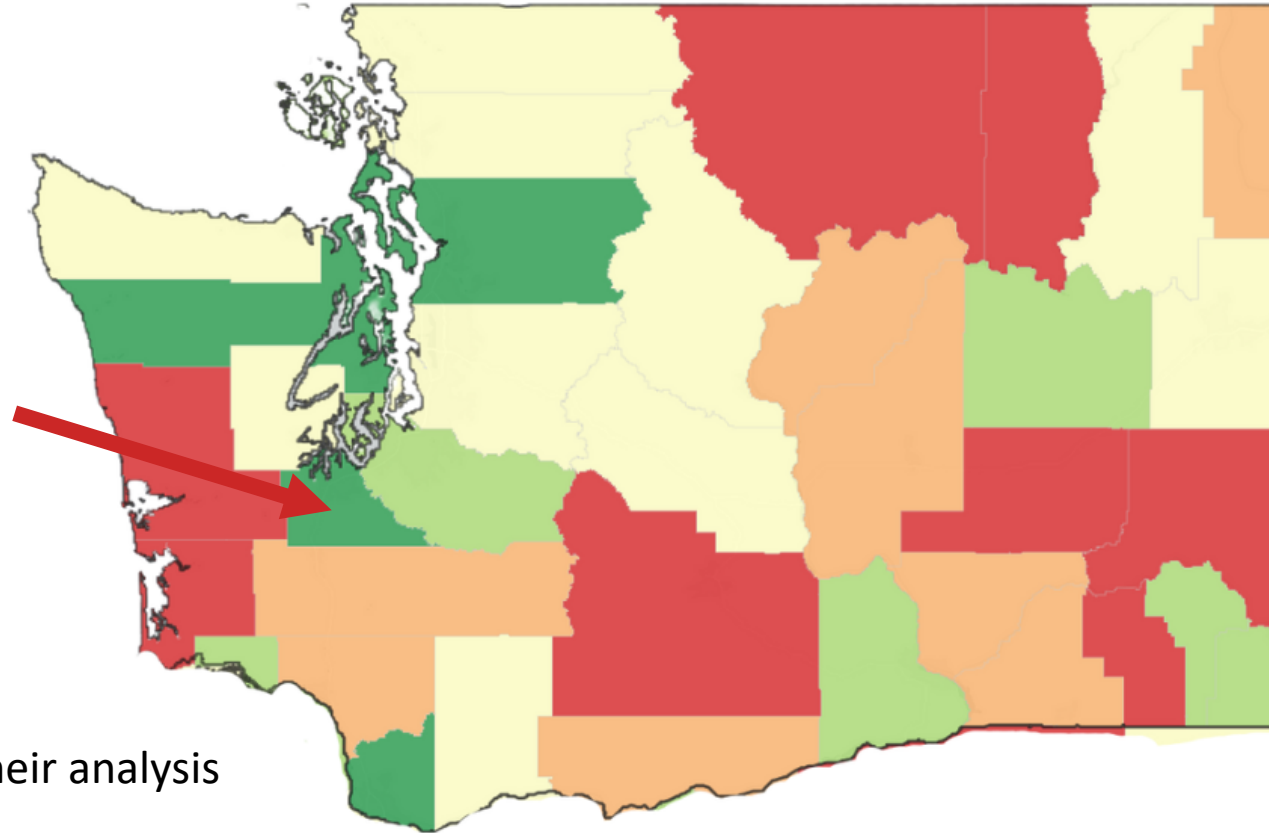
Thurston County Accessibility Score

Thurston County, Washington

**2021 Veterinary Care
Accessibility Score**

83

Possible scores range
from **0** (care is nearly
inaccessible) to **100** (care
is very accessible).



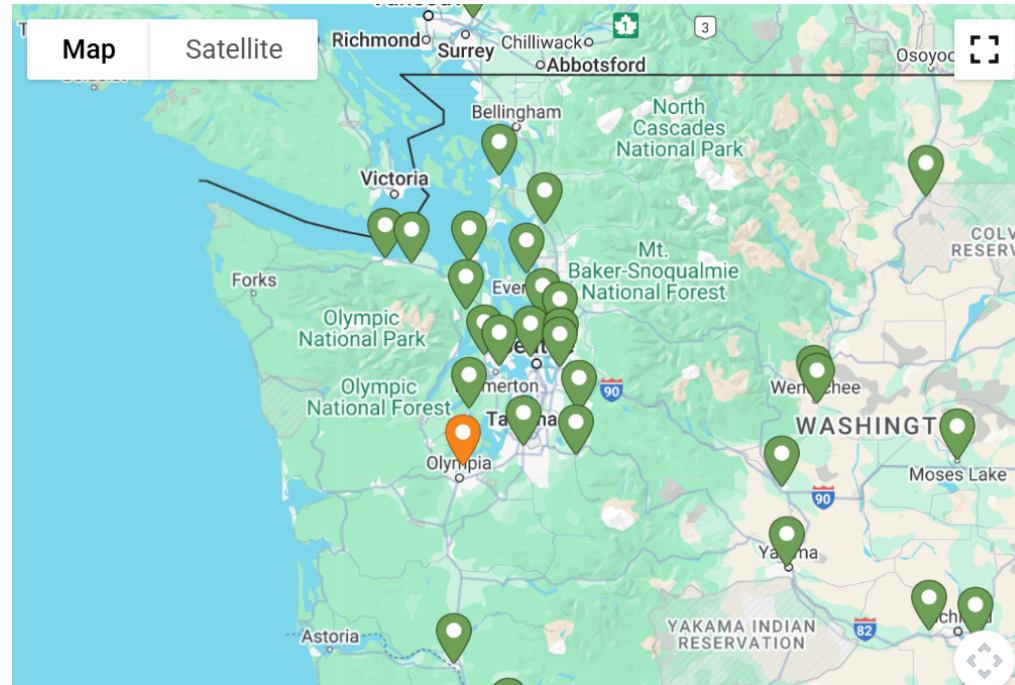
*Does not consider cost of care in their analysis



Access to low-cost spay neuter

Number of s/n clinics in WA

- 20 clinics in Western WA
- 16 clinics in Eastern WA



By the numbers

Feral Cat Project: Pasado's Spay

Lynnwood location

586 s/n surgeries

Renton Location

548 s/n surgeries

Station:

King County and
Pierce County
locations

540 s/n surgeries

Northwest Spay Neuter Center:

Tacoma:

1108 s/n surgeries

A total of 2,782 s/n surgeries were performed for Thurston County residents in 2024 at 4 out of 16 clinics in Western WA.



Questions?





STAFF REPORT June 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Budget Amendment

RECOMMENDATION: Motion to “Approve a 2025 Budget Amendment of \$12,900.24 for AWC L&I Retro Pool Assessment for JAS.”

TO: Joint Animal Services Commission

STAFF CONTACT: Sarah Hock, Animal Services Executive Director *SH*

ORIGINATED BY: Joint Animal Services

ATTACHMENTS: None

FISCAL NOTE: Use of \$12,900.24 from reserves

PRIOR REVIEW: None

BACKGROUND: The City of Lacey is a member of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) L&I Retro Program and Retro Pool. The AWC Retro Program is a cooperative group of governmental entities that join together to reduce the frequency and severity of workplace injuries through proactive claims management and loss control services. Actual gains, losses, and financial liabilities are shared among the membership according to Board-adopted formulas and policies. Members are accountable to the pool as a whole, as well as understanding how their actions may affect the program's overall success. JAS budgeted \$6,200 for the L&I Pool this budget cycle.

The assessment of \$12,900.24 stems from an increase in the City of Lacey's experience rating, which plays a crucial role in setting the City's L&I premium rates and its participation costs in the AWC Retro Pool Program.

Rating Data: A score of 1 is neutral; scores of less than 1 may receive a rebate based on how the total pool performs; scores over 1 have premium assessments.

- 2020 Experience Rating: 0.9119 (rebate, Lacey paid 9% less)
- 2024 Experience Rating: 1.4824 (premium, Lacey will pay 48.24% more)

This alteration signifies a change in the City's risk profile and will likely lead to increased costs for several years since L&I claims stay on record for three years.

The City's L&I experience rating dropped slightly in 2025 to 1.4269.

Next Steps:

1. The \$12,900.24 has been incorporated into the 2025 budget amendment ordinance for the City of Lacey.
2. This amendment must be reviewed and approved by JASCOM before it is finalized by the City Council.
3. Amend the 2025 Animal Services Budget to include \$12,900.24 for the AWC L&I Retro Pool Assessment for JAS. JAS reserves would be used to cover this amendment.
4. Future JAS budgets may increase their anticipated rate based on recent ratings.



Joint Animal Services Commission Director's report

June 9, 2025

2025 Legislative Session

Four critical animal protection bills were passed and signed into law during the 2025 Washington state legislative session. These laws will bring lasting change to animals throughout our state and help put an end to suffering:

HB 1149 Animal Fighting & Cruelty: Strengthens animal fighting laws, addresses a significant loophole in the animal neglect law, and prohibits individuals convicted of animal fighting and cruelty from owning animals.



HB 1201 Identifying Accommodations in Emergency and Extreme Weather Events: Requires towns, cities, and counties to identify accommodations that allow for sheltering with or near companion animals during emergency or extreme weather events when they update their local emergency management plans, and to provide this information on their websites.

HB 1046 Rescue of Vulnerable People and Pets from Motor Vehicles: Offers immunity from civil liability for damages resulting from the rescue of vulnerable individuals or domestic animals from motor vehicles.

SB 5065 Traveling Animal Acts: Prohibits traveling animal acts and circuses from using elephants, bears, nonhuman primates, and big cats.

Joint Animal Services Building Contribution: JAS, JASCOM, and jurisdictional partners received tremendous support this legislative session as well. The 22nd Legislative District—Representative Lisa Parshley, Representative Beth Doglio, and Senator Jessica Bateman advocated for building and design funds. Because of their efforts, the Washington State Legislature has **awarded Joint Animal Services \$1 million** for the design and construction of a new facility. This investment improves animal care services and reflects our shared commitment to animal welfare. We appreciate their efforts and are honored by their support in this endeavor.



Joint Animal Services Commission Director's report

Washington State Animal Fighting Task Force

Sierra Teas, Field Services and Animal Welfare Manager, was elected to the board of [the Washington State Animal Fighting Task Force](#) (WSAFT). WSAFT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to preventing and ending animal fighting and abuse. Comprised of animal control officers, law enforcement, veterinarians, and animal welfare advocates, the Task Force supports jurisdictions across Washington with investigative assistance, resources, and specialized training for professionals combating animal cruelty.

Animal Cruelty Response Volunteer and Foster Program

We're proud to welcome the first cohort of volunteers in our new Animal Cruelty Response Volunteer and Foster Program! These dedicated individuals recently completed a comprehensive training seminar covering key topics such as infectious animal diseases, cruelty and animal fighting investigations, field safety, and veterinary forensics.

In addition to classroom instruction, volunteers participated in ride-alongs with our Field Services Officers, gained hands-on experience with JAS staff, and attended a specialized Animal Fighting and Cruelty Investigations course led by Sierra Teas and the Washington State Animal Fighting Task Force.

Equipped with this critical knowledge and field training, these volunteers are now ready to support our officers during large-scale cruelty investigations, ensuring animals receive the protection, care, and justice they deserve.

Adoption Event

Best Friends Animal Society sponsored a fee-waived adoption event hosted by JAS from May 27-31. We were able to find loving homes for 19 cats and 17 dogs, with a total of 36 adoptions. A big congratulations to our furry friends and their new families!

Mason County

We are currently awaiting confirmation from Mason County before proceeding with a potential contract.



Joint Animal Services Commission Director's report

ANIMAL SERVICES

Happy Tails - From Bruce to Bouncy

This foster dog was the foster home's first foster animal with us. She just lost her senior pit bull a few months ago and specifically wanted foster a pit bull because they are a misunderstood breed, and wanted advocate for them.

Our first update from our foster home was this:

"Well my time with Bruce has been nonstop lol and very enjoyable... fell in love with my parents' house, parents, Coco and the whole neighborhood. And they all fell in love with Bruce. He did great with the little dogs and was so happy to go on a walk with the neighbors dogs who my parents share a fence with. It was probably the happiest and calmest I saw him, after walking with the two other big dogs. He is very dog motivated.



to
to
he



My roommate put up a cable between 2 trees in our yard so Bruce can run, smell and check all the things out. Supervised of course. Bruce needs to run. I have also been training him to fetch, sit, stay, down etc. He is SO smart and learns so fast.

Am still interested in possibly adopting Bruce, if it's a good fit for both of us. Right now I know I'd miss him if he left and I would only be happy if he had maybe like a couple

with a yard and another dog to call home.

But maybe if I continue to set up routines, socialization and good engaging enrichment and exercise Bruce, with time, will be amazing with me."

Just five days later, she came in and officially made Bruce her very own and renamed him Bouncy. Sometimes it's just a perfect match!



Director's Report

JASCOM|June 9th, 2025



2025 Legislative Session

Animal Protection Bills:

- **HB 1149** Animal Fighting & Cruelty
- **HB 1201** Identifying Accommodations in Emergency and Extreme Weather Events
- **HB 1046** Rescue of Vulnerable People and Pets from Motor Vehicles
- **SB 5065** Prohibiting Traveling Animal Acts



2025 Legislative Session

Joint Animal Services Building Contribution:

JAS secured \$1 million in state funding for the design and construction of a new facility, with support from the 22nd Legislative District.



Washington State Animal Fighting Task Force

Sierra Teas, Field Services and Animal Welfare Manager, was elected to the board of the Washington State Animal Fighting Task Force (WSAFT).

WSAFT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to preventing and ending animal fighting and abuse. Comprised of animal control officers, law enforcement, veterinarians, and animal welfare advocates, the Task Force supports jurisdictions across Washington with investigative assistance, resources, and specialized training for professionals combating animal cruelty.



Animal Cruelty Response Volunteer and Foster Program

- Welcomed the first cohort of volunteers in the new Animal Cruelty Response Volunteer and Foster Program
- Volunteers completed training on infectious diseases, cruelty investigations, field safety, and veterinary forensics
- Hands-on experience included ride-alongs with Field Services Officers and working with JAS staff
- Attended a specialized Animal Fighting and Cruelty Investigations course led by Sierra Teas and the Washington State Animal Fighting Task Force
- Volunteers are now prepared to assist in large-scale cruelty investigations



Animal Cruelty Response Volunteer and Foster Program

Best Friends Animal Society sponsored a fee-waived adoption event hosted by JAS from May 27 to 31. We were able to find loving homes for:

- **19 cats** and
- **17 dogs**, with a
- Total of **36 adoptions**.

A big congratulations to our furry friends and their new families!



Mason County

We are currently awaiting confirmation from Mason County before proceeding with a potential contract.



Happy Tails – from Bruce to Bouncy

