**Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC)**

# Report to the Community

## 2013

*Protecting Pets and People*

## Animal Intake

MACC is an open-admission municipal animal shelter. Thus, we are unable to turn any animal away that is brought to us by a member of the community or surrendered to us by a pet owner.

Because we are a municipal shelter with responsibility for public safety animal control functions for the City of Minneapolis, a larger portion of animals at our shelter are aggressive or fractious. **Approximately 25 percent of our total population falls into this category.** In fact, while other shelters in the Twin Cities can refuse animals admittance, MACC must shelter these animals for the safety of our community. Public safety is a cornerstone of our mission.

In addition, we execute search warrants for pet owners who abuse or neglect their animals, investigate aggressive incidents, including bite reports involving animal-to-animal and animal-to-human bites, and declare animals dangerous with the goal of making Minneapolis a safe place to live, work and visit.

Consequently, animals brought to MACC and impounded by Animal Control Officers include:

- Domestic companion animals - healthy, injured, and sick
- Animals involved in aggressive attacks
- Animals involved in bite incidents
- Feral cats
- Farm animals
- Injured wildlife
- Deceased animals

*Working with residents to create safe and healthy communities for people and animals*

- **Animal Care –** Provided food, shelter, and veterinary care for 3,423 animals
- **Animal Cruelty –** Investigated 38 cruelty cases
- **Domestic Violence Initiative –** Provided no-cost kenneling for domestic violence victims
- **Bites and Rabies –** Investigated animal bites and conducted rabies quarantines
- **Dangerous Dogs –** Declared and ensured compliance of 313 dangerous animals
- **Enforcement and Education of Animal Laws** Enforced cases ranging from felony animal cruelty to misdemeanor barking
- **Permits –** Issued more than 350 permits (chickens, bees, multiple animals, circuses)
- **Stray Animals –** Returned and re-homed animals

## Geographic Area Served

Minneapolis Animal Care & Control serves all animals and residents within the City of Minneapolis. We also investigate animal cruelty and abuse cases within the city boundaries. We collaborate with jurisdictions throughout the metro area and the state when animals that are declared dangerous are transferred in or out of our city.

Find us online
www.minneapolismn.gov/animals

Facebook.com/Minneapolis Animal Care & Control

# Program Accomplishments

## Cruelty Investigations – Our Animal
Crimes Investigator is a Minneapolis Police
Sergeant housed at MACC. In 2013, she
investigated 38 animal cases and charges were
brought in 11 of those cases. A total of 32 search
warrants were executed, 19 criminal charges
were brought (1 case still pending; 1 still
investigating), and 20 dogs were seized from
felons.



**Victim of Dog Fighting**

## Donations – We are grateful to the community
for donations to the animal shelter. In 2013,
financial gifts totaled $40,694 and in-kind
donations were given with an estimated value of
$4,877.

## Hoarding Cases – In 2013, Animal Control
Officers impounded nearly a hundred animals as
part of large-scale hoarding cases. Housing a
large number of animals is often considered a
mental illness, and therefore our staff works
closely with our city attorneys and the mental
health courts. The best outcome is to remove
most of the animals and leave the owner with one
to three animals and spay or neuter those
animals to prevent a recurrence of the problem in
the future. Animal Control Officers regularly
monitor addresses suspected of hoarding.

## Partnerships – MACC works collaboratively
with a wide-range of organizations and
businesses to benefit the animals in our care.
Our staff developed partnerships with 14
veterinary clinics and pet businesses to sell
license tags in the community.  We collaborate
with 44 businesses with our "I Love My Pet"
reward card program. MACC staff serve on the
following boards: Minnesota Animal Control
Association; MN Partnership for Animal Welfare;
Minnesota Alliance for Family & Animal Safety.

## Pet Licensing – The City of Minneapolis
licenses 18,694 dogs, cats, rabbits and ferrets in
our city. We do this to protect public safety; a
licensed pet means an animal is vaccinated for
rabies. Rabies is 100 percent preventable, but
unfortunately, a bite from a rabid animal has a
near 100 percent death rate.

## Staffing – We run a 24/7 operation, which is
different than most animal shelters or other
Animal Control programs. When animal
emergencies occur outside of normal business
hours, an officer is on-call for priority situations
(i.e., aggressive attacks).

We have 12 Animal Control Officers and three
managers (program manager, field services
manager and a Deputy Director). MACC employs
three veterinarians, a janitorial position, a
customer service representative, a data analyst
and our program development coordinator/
volunteer coordinator. Our Animal Crimes
Investigator position is funded in collaboration
with the Minneapolis Police Department.

## Spay Neuter Initiative – In May 2013,
MACC kicked-off a new program initiative to
surgically alter every pet that left the building
through adoption. All dogs, cats and rabbits are
sterilized prior to placement in new adoptive
homes or with rescue groups.

## Volunteers – Volunteers are essential to our
success. A total of 77 volunteers contributed
2,745 hours at the animal shelter to help us
achieve our mission. These individuals walk
dogs, cuddle cats, bath and photograph animals
to prepare them for adoption, and assist with
administrative projects.

## Website – In August 2013, MACC launched
our new website. Prior to the new site, owners
who lost pets had to physically come to the
shelter to look for their pet. The new website
shows photographs in real time of all stray and
adoptable pets, which means that anyone can
look for a lost pet from their home computer or
smartphone. Many pets are back home due to
our new website.

## Workshops on Dog Bite Prevention –
Our staff works with the Minneapolis Police
Department at local Minneapolis schools to
provide education on preventing dog bites in the
community. In 2013, we provided 39 classes to
1,055 children in Minneapolis.  In addition, our
staff provided similar training for over 500
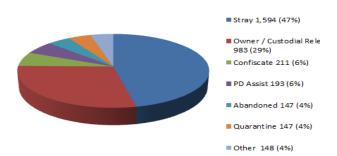children and their parents at local community and
dog events.



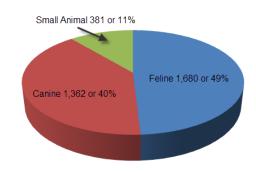Partnership between MPD, ARLP and MACC

# Animal Intake

## Live Intake by Reason for Surrender

Animals brought to MACC include domestic companion animals, injured wildlife, farm animals, as well as feral cats. All animals are included in the numbers below.

Live Intake Total                    3,423

- Stray 1,594 (47%)
- Owner / Custodial Rele 983 (29%)
- Confiscate 211 (6%)
- PD Assist 193 (6%)
- Abandoned 147 (4%)
- Quarantine 147 (4%)
- Other 148 (4%)

## Intake by Species

Small Animal 381 or 11%

Feline 1,680 or 49%

Canine 1,362 or 40%

*These figures do not include animals from owners requesting humane euthanasia for end-of-life reasons.*

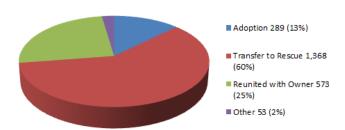*PD Assist = Assisting the Police with an animal problem*

*Quarantine involves rabies exposure*

# Animal Placement
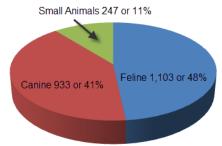
## Animal Placement Outcomes

MACC places cats, dogs and small animals into adoptive homes or transfers them to rescue groups for rehoming. Small animals include guinea pigs, rats, ferrets, domestic rabbits, chickens and reptiles.
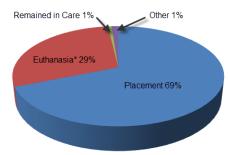
Animal Placement Total                 2,283

- Adoption 289 (13%)
- Transfer to Rescue 1,368 (60%)
- Reunited with Owner 573 (25%)
- Other 53 (2%)

## Placement by Species

Small Animals 247 or 11%

Feline 1,103 or 48%

Canine 933 or 41%

## Animal Outcomes

Remained in Care 1%        Other 1%

Euthanasia* 29%

Placement 69%
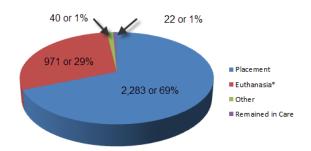
*These figures do not include animals from owners requesting humane euthanasia for end-of-life reasons.*

**Chart A - Placeable and <u>Unplaceable</u> Animals**



- Placement
- Euthanasia*
- Other
- Remained in Care

40 or 1%  22 or 1%
971 or 29%
2,283 or 69%

**Chart B - Placeable Animals Only**



- Placement
- Euthanasia*
- Other
- Remained in Care

39 or 2%  21 or <1%
436 or 17%
2,048 or 81%

The two charts above show the difference between the animal populations at MACC. Chart A is inclusive of all animals brought to Animal Control – both aggressive and non-aggressive animals. These animals could be healthy, injured or sick. Aggressive animals in our building include those that have killed, maimed or bitten another animal or bitten a human. They could also be involved in police investigations, and/or our staff cannot safety handle these animals.

Aggressive animals may be under quarantine for biting an animal or human to rule out rabies exposure. Many of these animals are involved in the administrative hearing process to determine if they are dangerous animals. Because of these reasons, animals that come to MACC as a stray animal may not able to be safely placed in the community.
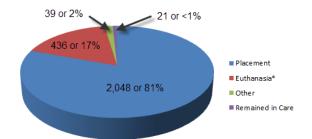
Chart B reflects only those animals with non-aggressive temperaments, meaning the aggressive or fractious animals in our restricted wards are omitted from this chart. Thus, the animals in Chart B are generally friendly and eligible to be placed in new homes. These animals could be healthy, injured or sick, or mildly shy/fearful.  By removing the most aggressive animals from the data, the rate of euthanasia decreased by 12 percent.
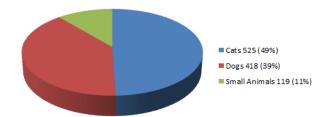
We believe it is important for the community to understand the large continuum of animals that enter our building, and that a typical non-profit animal shelter does not house the high number of aggressive animals we do. The purpose of Animal Control is to protect public safety and remove aggressive animals from the community.

## Humane Euthanasia

MACC partners with 48 animal rescue groups. When we cannot adopt an animal to the public, we give the animal to one of these groups if they express interest and have an open foster home placement.

Unfortunately, not every animal that comes through our doors can be safely placed back into the community through a second adoption or a transfer to a rescue group.  As a result, our staff makes the very hard decision to humanely euthanize some pets.
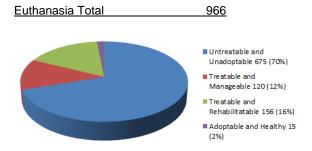
## Euthanasia by Species



- Cats 525 (49%)
- Dogs 418 (39%)
- Small Animals 119 (11%)

*These figures DO include owner requested euthanasia.*

## Euthanasia by Reason

MACC recognizes that aggressive animals shall not be made available for adoption, but instead must be humanely euthanized.

Euthanasia Total                    966



- Untreatable and Unadoptable 675 (70%)
- Treatable and Manageable 120 (12%)
- Treatable and Rehabilitatable 156 (16%)
- Adoptable and Healthy 15 (2%)

*These figures do not include animals from owners requesting humane euthanasia for end of life reasons.*

- The 15 animals considered adoptable/healthy were the only animals euthanized in 2013 due to space.
- Animals in the Treatable/Manageable or Treatable/Rehabilitatable category could have gone to rescue, but no foster placements were available.