

# CODE COMPLIANCE

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20  23

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DECEMBER REPORT



# CODE REPORT

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The monthly Code Report is an initiative of the City of Fort Worth's Code Compliance Department aimed at keeping residents of Fort Worth abreast of the department's services to the community and the results of such efforts.

The Code Compliance Department has two public service areas:

- » **Animal Care & Control**
- » **Code Enforcement**

Since the first edition published in March 2016, the Code Report has grown to the current format, which relays the monthly results of all service areas of Code Compliance. The initial issue only reported on the activities of Animal Care & Control.

**Beginning in FY2024, the Consumer Health, Environmental Quality, and Solid Waste Services Divisions' activities will be reported in the new Environmental monthly report.**

As it can be gathered from the results conveyed in the current Code Report, all areas of service continue to achieve impressive results as they strive to provide outstanding customer service to the public.

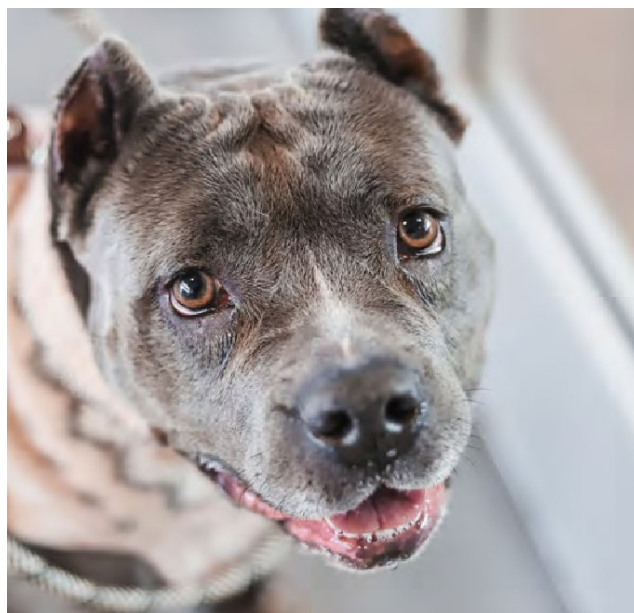
Please take the time to read the Code Report and share your thoughts with us. We value your insights and feedback on Code Compliance's various programs and look forward to hearing from you.

Please notice that, unless noted, the Code Report reports on the fiscal year instead of the calendar year. The City of Fort Worth's fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

# ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

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Animal Care & Control provides animal shelter operations, animal adoption centers, spay/ neuter and low-cost vaccination clinics, animal ordinance enforcement and public education. These programs work to reduce the number of stray animals in the city, minimize the threat of diseases, such as rabies, and prevent injuries caused by animals. It is the shelter's goal to find loving homes for all the animals that end up in its care.



## December 2023 Statistics

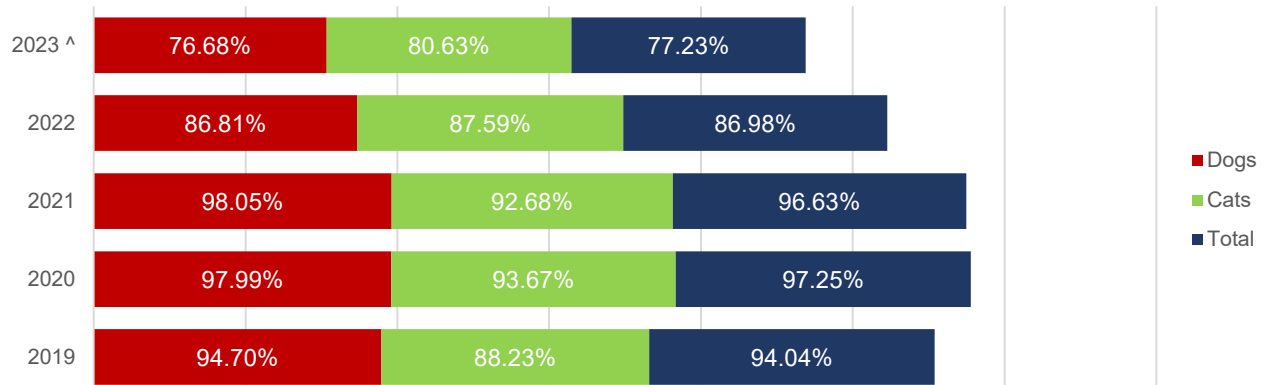
This chart reflects the monthly movement of animals in and out of the shelter. Most significant is the shelter's live release rate, which indicates how many pets successfully left the shelter either through adoption, rescue or return to owner. The daily challenge of managing a municipal shelter is daunting because Fort Worth Animal Care & Control is mandated to accept any animal that comes from within its city limits.

<b>December Live Release Rate: 85.71%</b>	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT 12/1/2023</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>1,450</b>
<b>INTAKE</b>			
From the public	1,169	262	1,431
Incoming transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition	0	44	44
Incoming transfers from Organizations outside Community/Coalition	0	2	2
From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia	32	2	34
<b>Total intake (B + C + D + E)</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1,511</b>
Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	14	1	15
<b>ADJUSTED TOTAL INTAKE (F – G)</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>1,496</b>
<b>ADOPTIONS</b>	578	271	849
<b>OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations within Community/Coalition</b>	191	22	213
<b>OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations outside Community/Coalition</b>	76	0	76
<b>RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN</b>	170	6	176
<b>DOGS &amp; CATS EUTHANIZED</b>			
Healthy (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	2	0	2
Treatable – Rehabilitable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	88	0	88
Treatable – Manageable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	25	0	25
Unhealthy & Untreatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	87	33	120
<b>Total Euthanasia (M + N + O + P)</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>235</b>
Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	15	1	16
<b>ADJUSTED TOTAL EUTHANASIA (Q – R)</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL OUTCOMES (I + J + K + L + S)</b>			
Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	<b>1,202</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>1,533</b>
<b>DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER CARE</b>	21	2	23
<b>TOTAL OUTCOMES (T + U)</b>			
Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	<b>1,223</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>1,556</b>
<b>ENDING SHELTER COUNT 12/31/2023 11:59:59 PM</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>1,389</b>

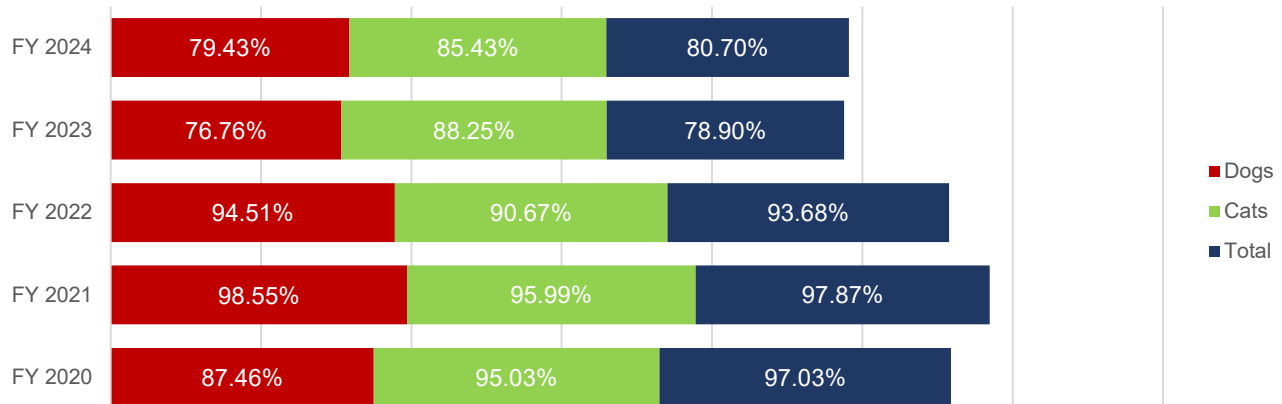
## Live Release Rate

The "live release rate" indicates how many pets successfully left the shelter either through adoption, rescue or return to owner. The FY2023 annual rate of **77.31%** reflects a higher number of animals entering a shelter system that are not ultimately adopted, returned to their owners, or transferred to rescue organizations. The national trend of high intake and lower adoption rates is affecting nearly every shelter. In Fort Worth, the shelter collaborates with non-profits and rescue groups, offering a range of resources to pet owners considering surrender.

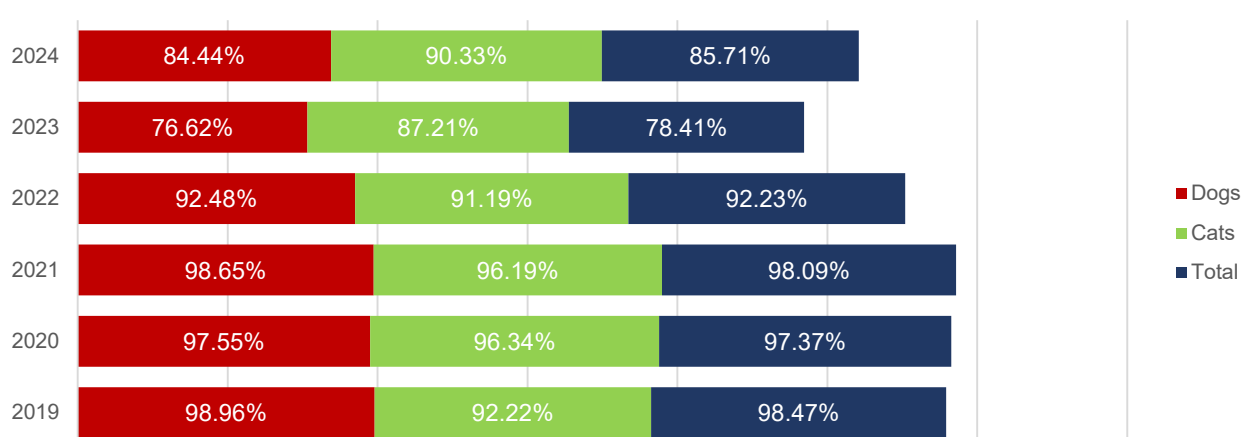
### ANNUAL LIVE RELEASE RATE COMPARISON



### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE LIVE RELEASE RATE



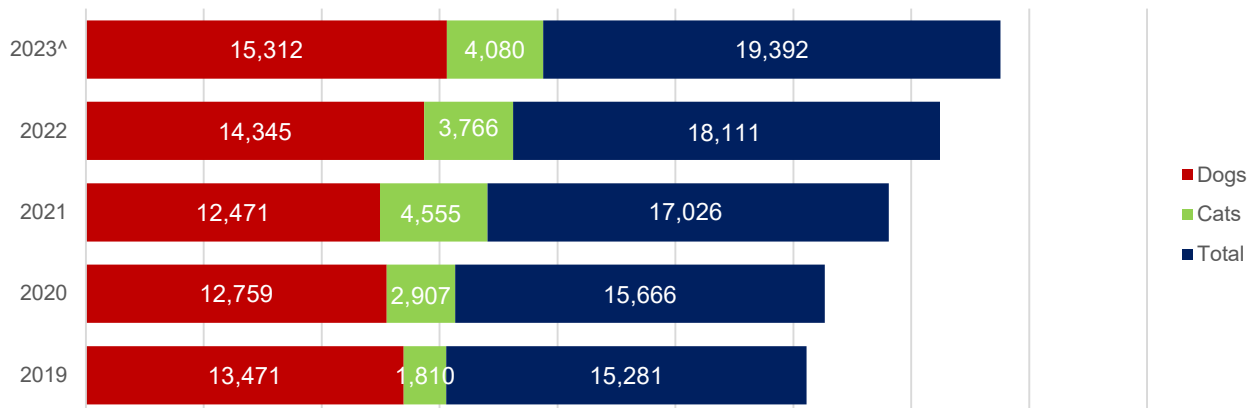
### DECEMBER LIVE RELEASE RATE



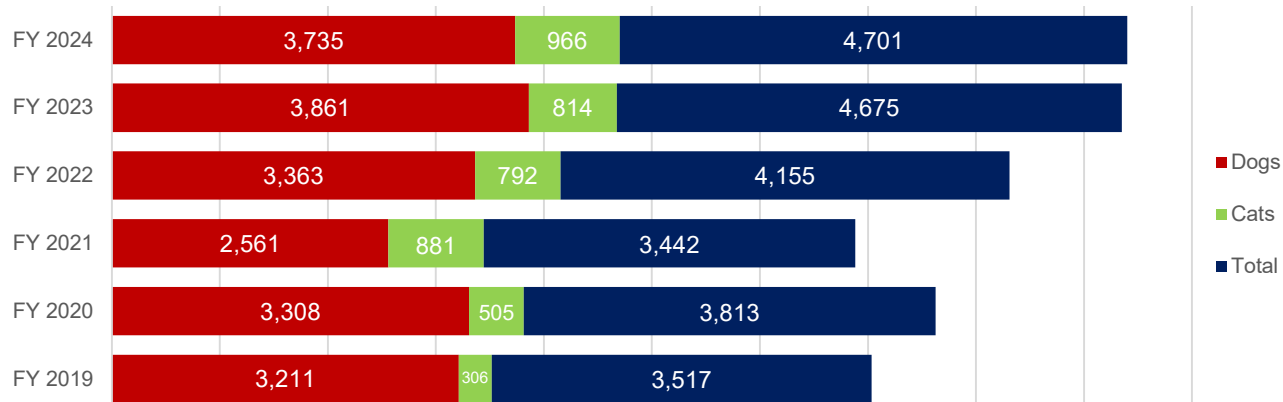
## Intakes

Animals coming into the shelter via surrenders, capture and/or adoption return.

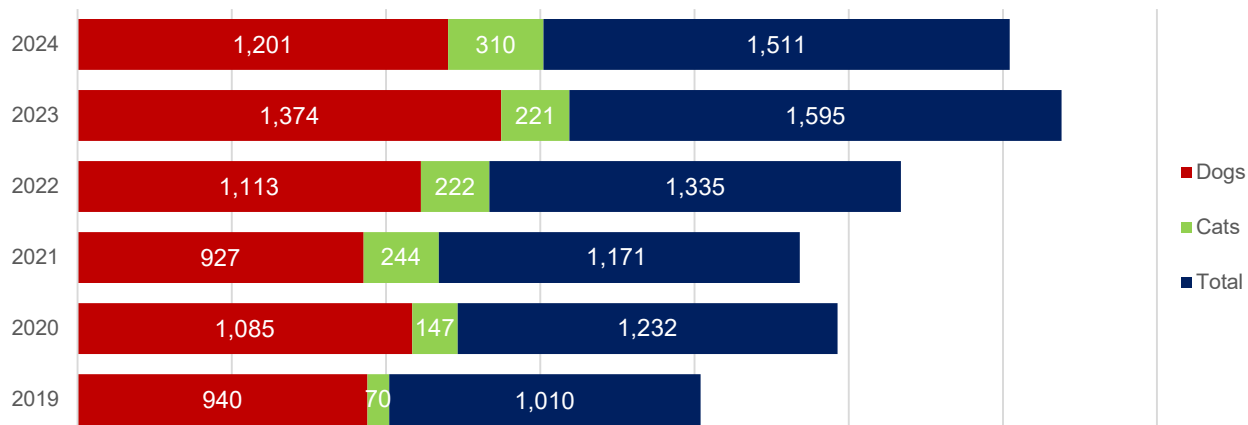
### ANNUAL INTAKES COMPARISON



### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE INTAKES



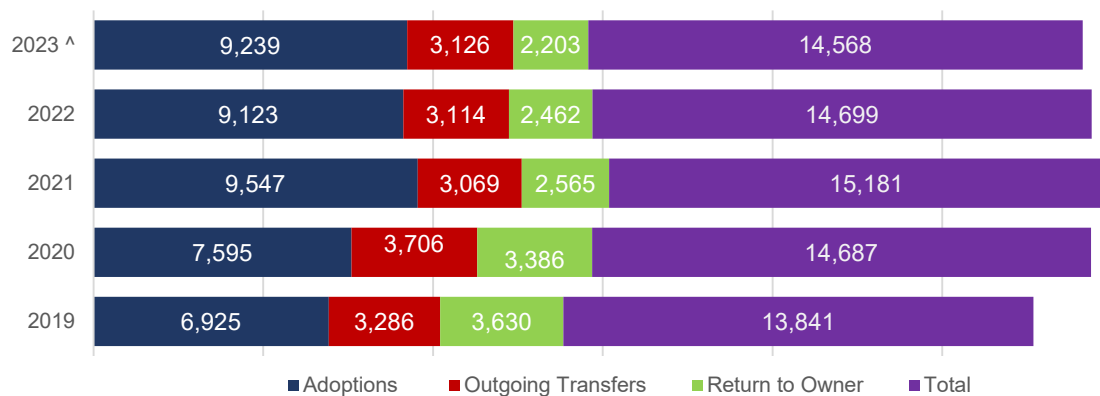
### DECEMBER INTAKES



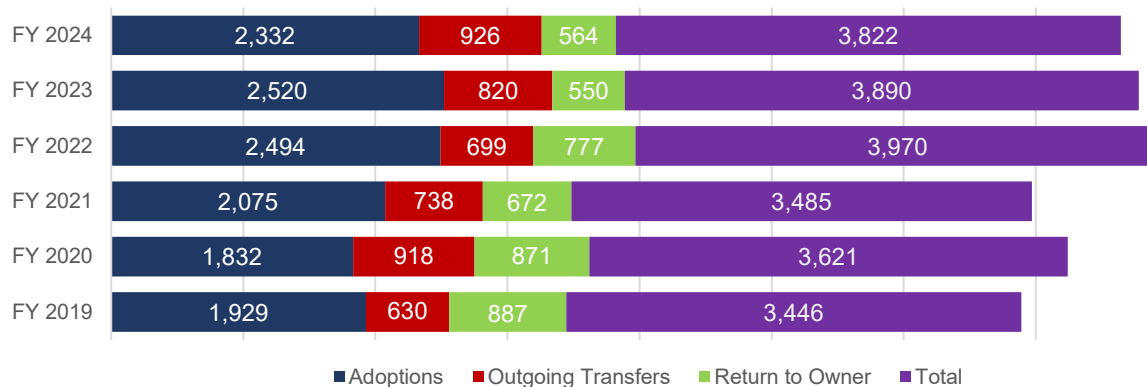
## Outcomes

Animals leaving the shelter through adoptions, outgoing transfers (rescue organizations), and return to owner.

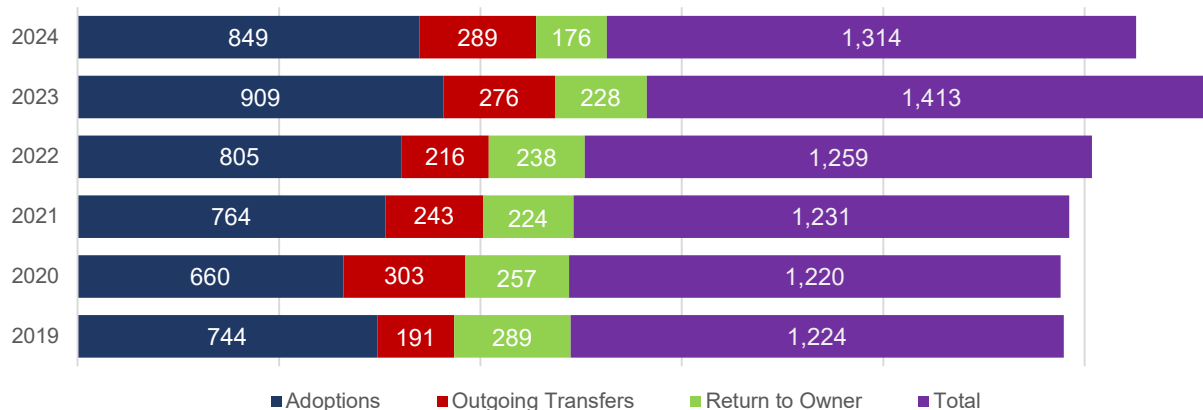
### ANNUAL OUTCOMES COMPARISON



### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE OUTCOMES



### DECEMBER OUTCOMES

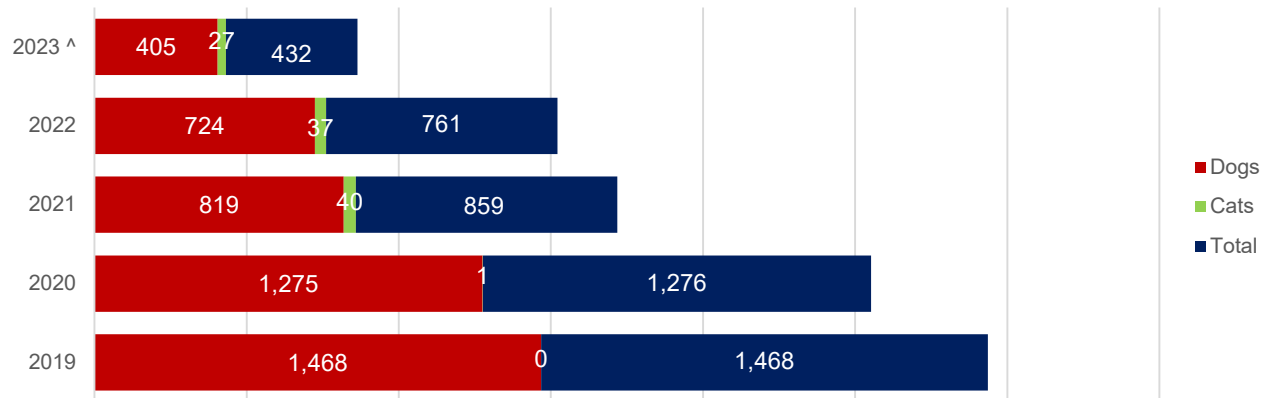




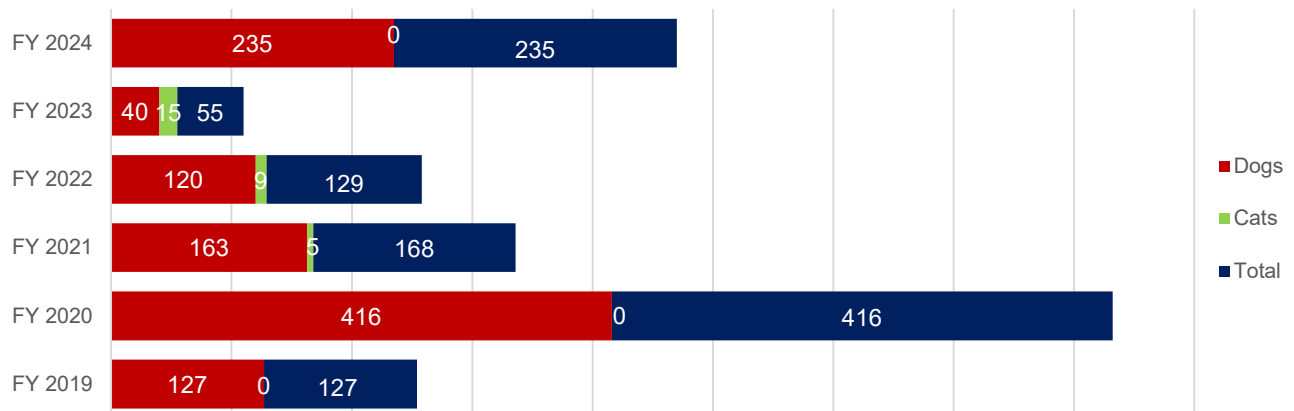
## Transports

Fort Worth Animal Care & Control partners with several rescue groups and animal organizations, both local and nationally, to help find homes for shelter pets. In 2019, the shelter began coordinating the transport of animals to these partner organizations.

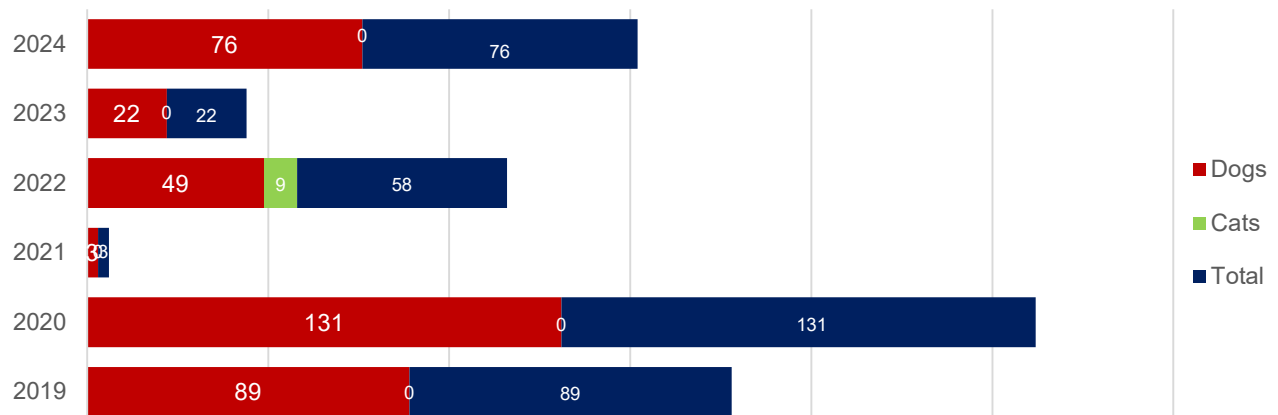
### ANNUAL TRANSPORTS



### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE TRANSPORTS



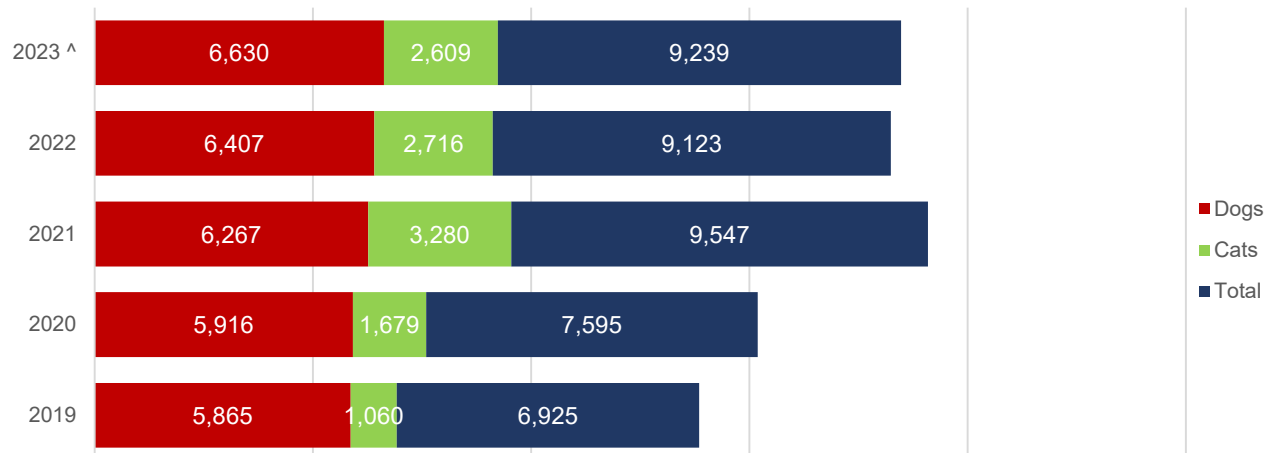
### DECEMBER TRANSPORTS



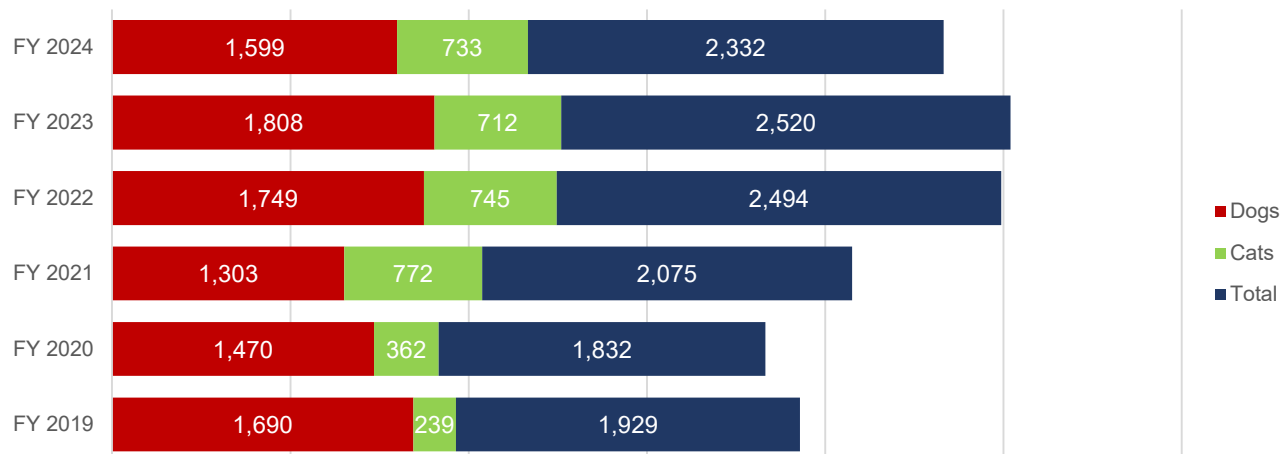


## ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

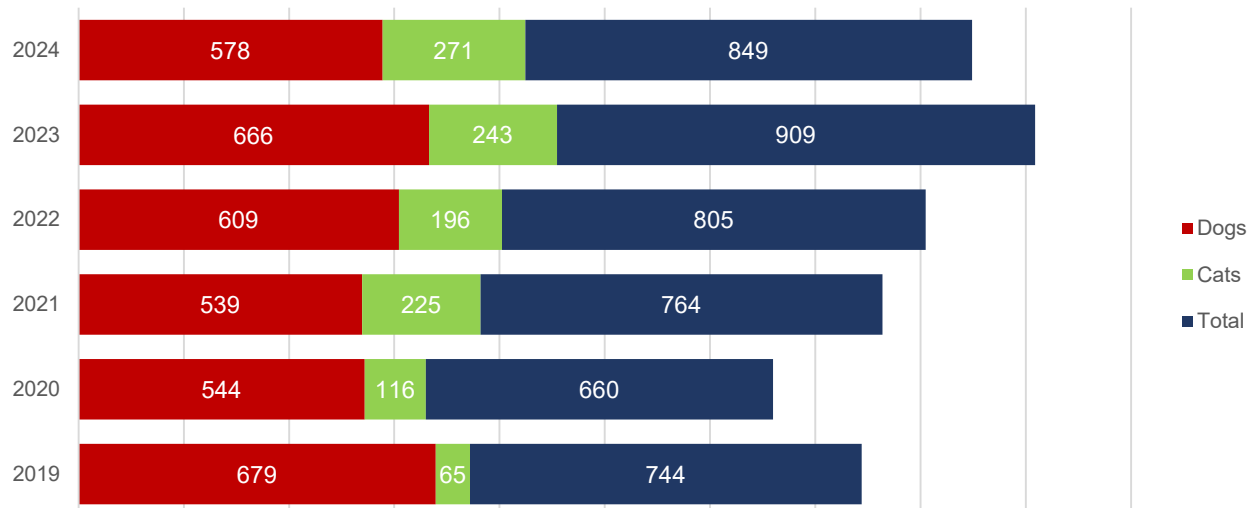
### ANNUAL ADOPTIONS



### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE ADOPTIONS



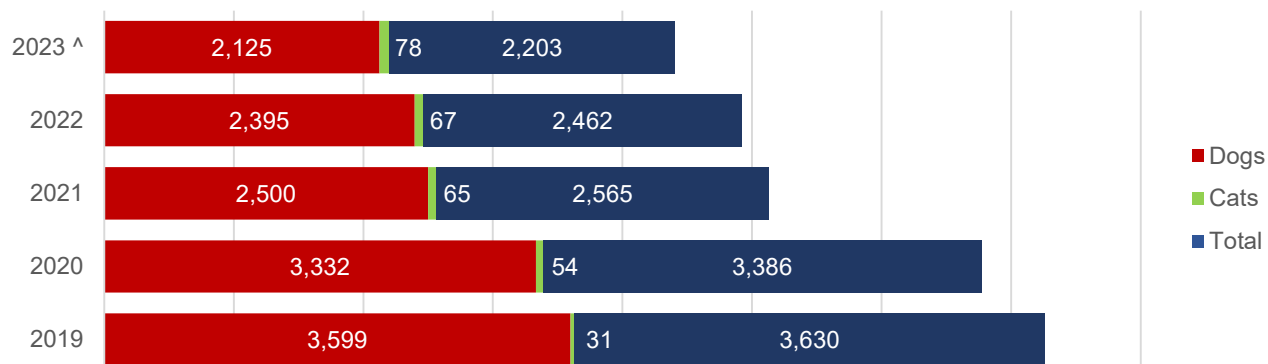
### DECEMBER ADOPTIONS



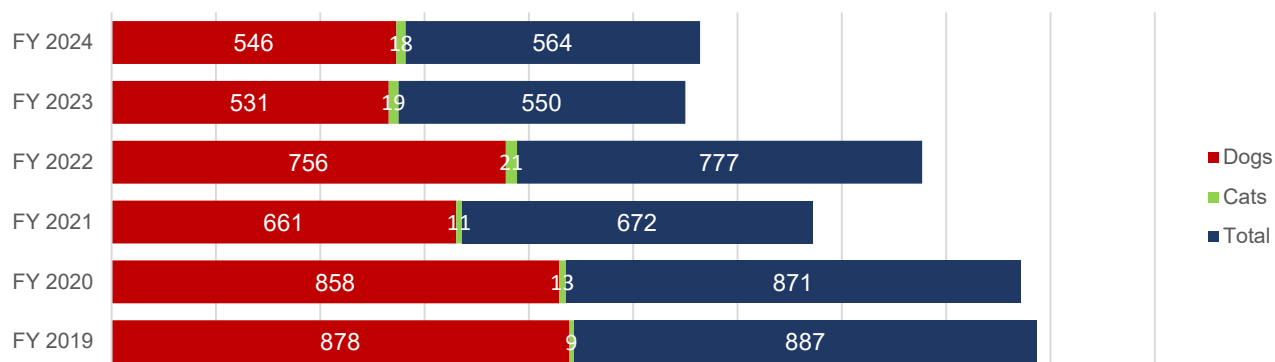
## Return to Owner

A huge effort is made by animal control officers working within the neighborhoods to return stray/lost pets to their owners without impounding the pets at the shelter. Pets who wear collars with city license tags or pets who are microchipped have a higher rate of being returned to their owners.

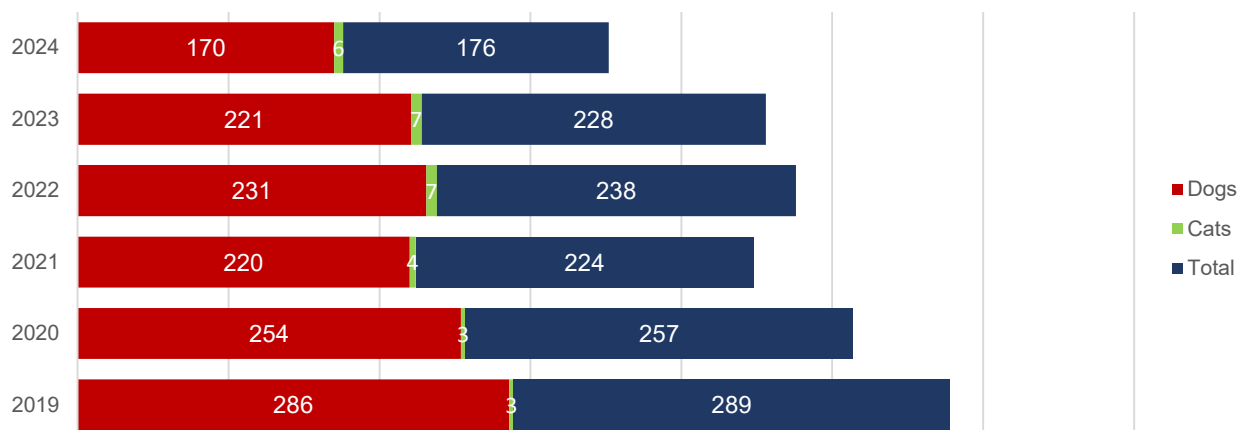
### ANNUAL RETURNED TO OWNER



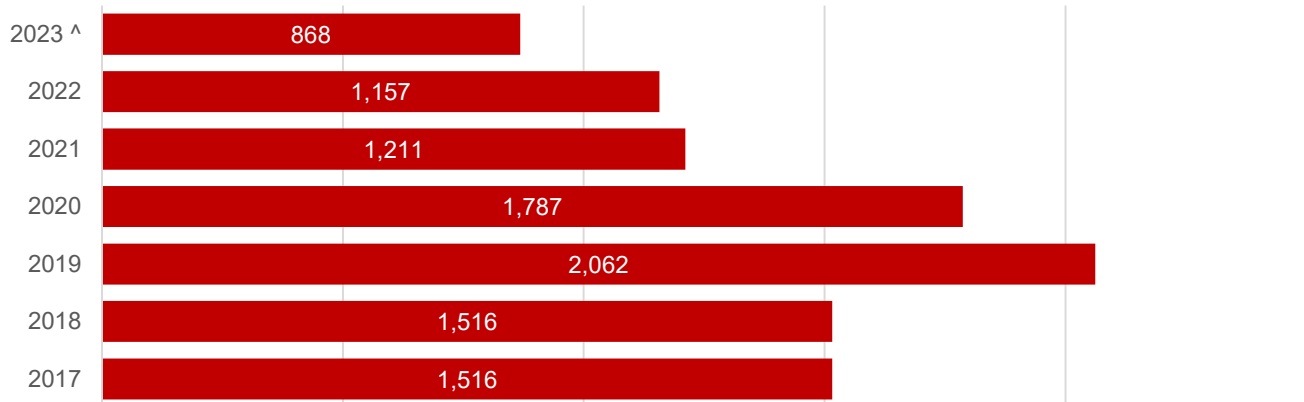
### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE RETURNED TO OWNER



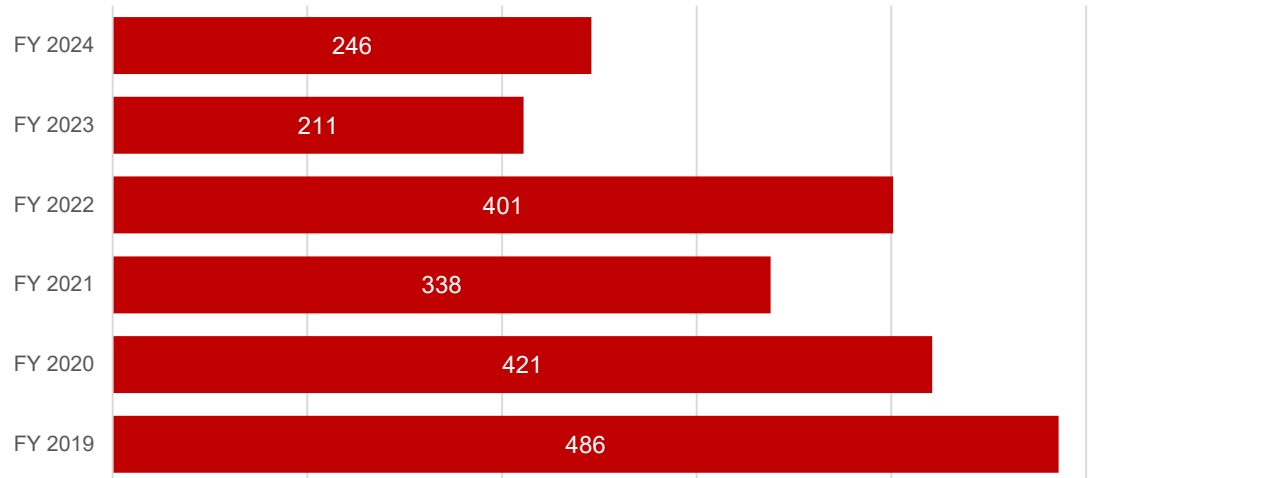
### DECEMBER RETURNED TO OWNER



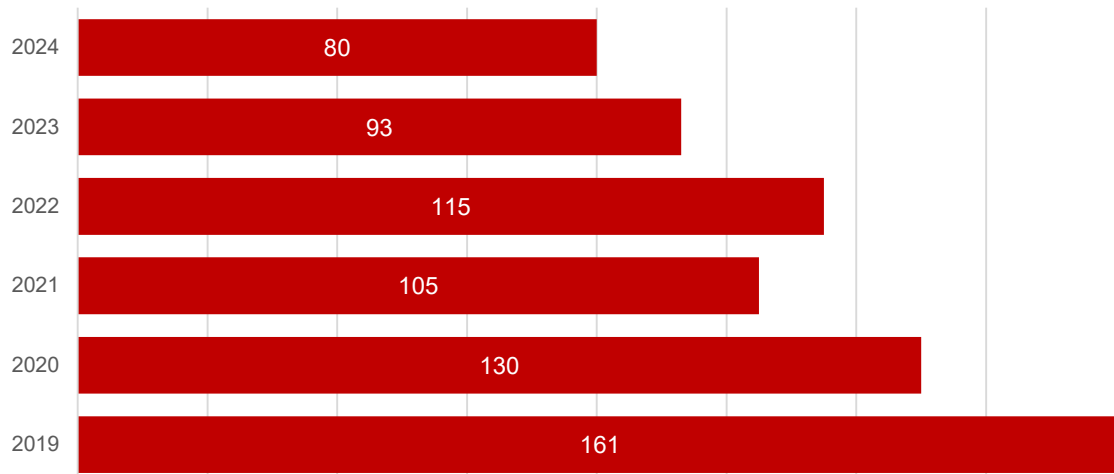
### ANNUAL DOGS RETURNED TO OWNER IN FIELD



### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE DOGS RETURNED TO OWNER IN FIELD



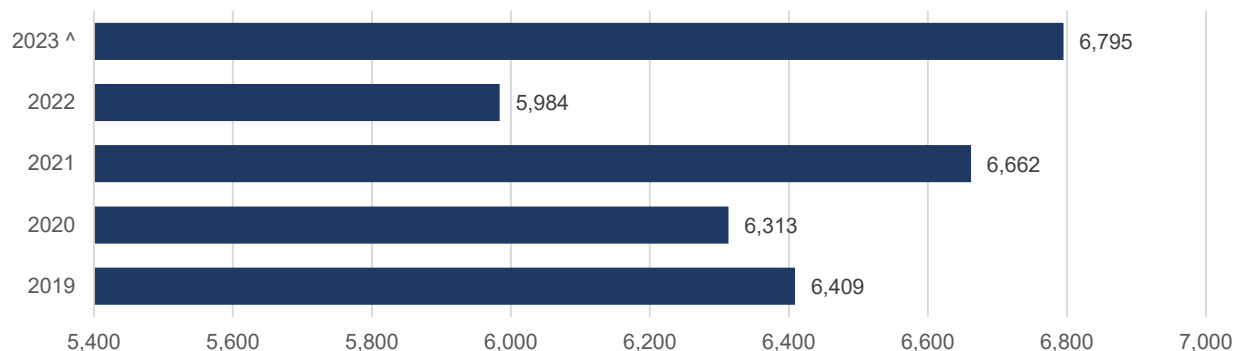
### DECEMBER DOGS RETURNED TO OWNER IN FIELD



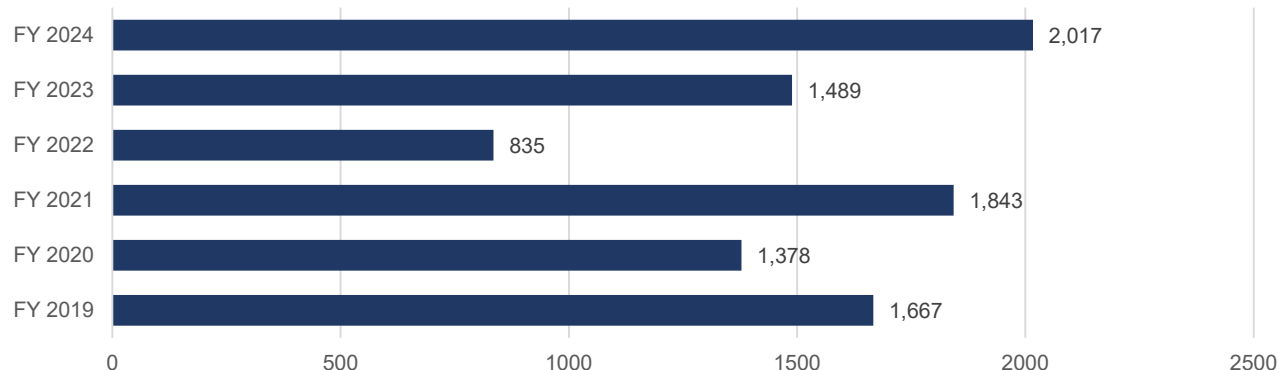
## Annual Spay and Neuter Surgeries

In order to reduce the stray pet population and to protect the public from safety issues that can occur because of unaltered stray animals, all pets that land in Fort Worth Animal Care & Control are spayed or neutered before they are adopted, rescued or returned to owners. This chart provides an overview of the dramatic intake of animals coming into the shelter and the mandatory spay/neuter surgeries.

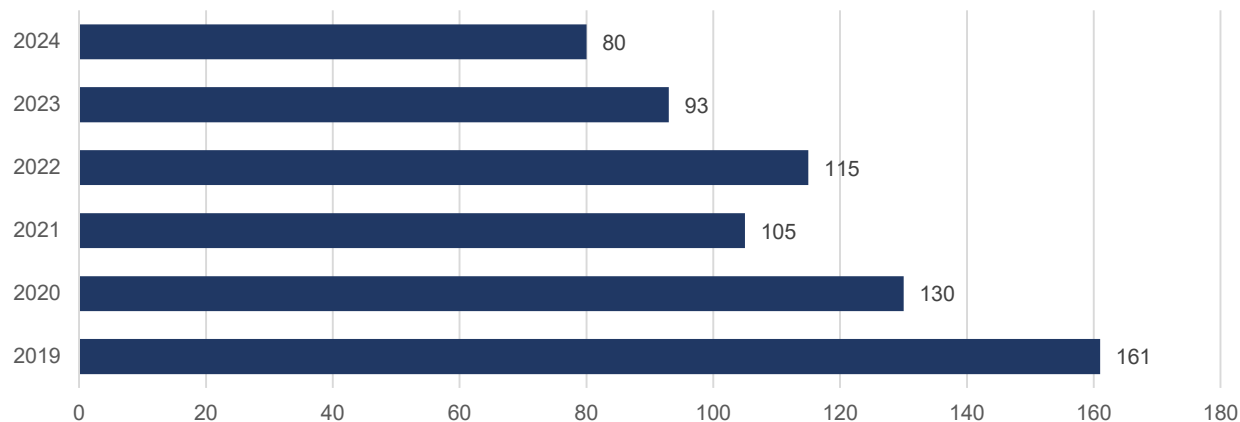
### ANNUAL SPAY AND NEUTER



### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE SPAY AND NEUTER



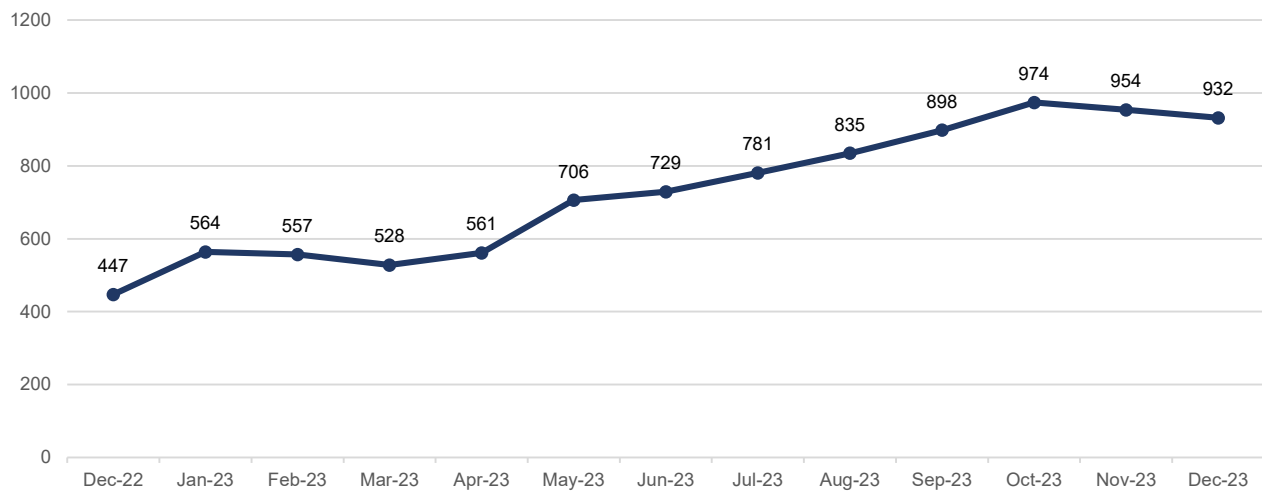
### DECEMBER SPAY AND NEUTER



## Foster Program

In 2015, Fort Worth Animal Care & Control created its first foster care program in answer to the growing number of animals entering the shelter. The program has expanded to include the Out & About program where residents can stop by, select a dog and take him/her out for the day. Our Slumber Parties allow residents to enjoy one of our shelter pets by keeping the dog overnight or the weekend. The dogs come back much more relaxed and we learn more about their personality from the foster family – all this helps the pets have a better chance of being adopted.

### ANIMALS IN FOSTER CARE



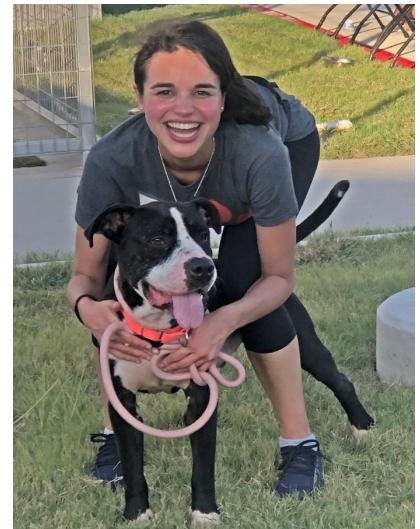
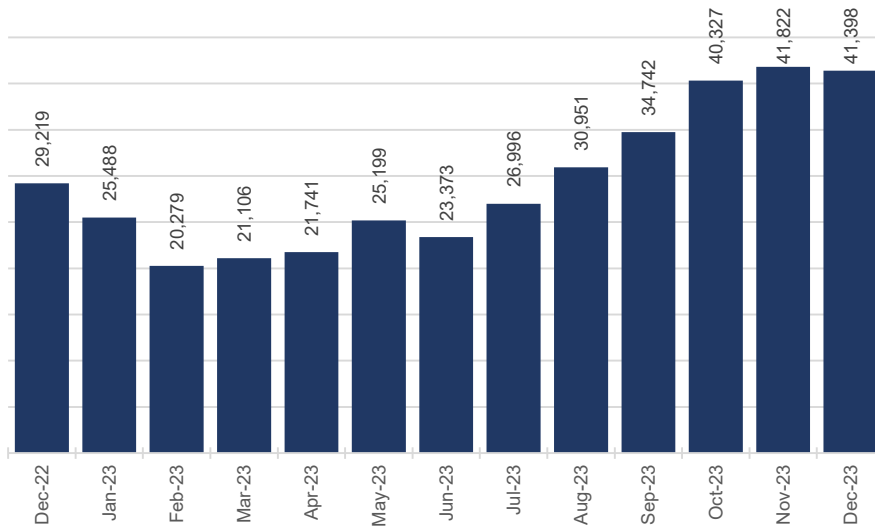
*Note: Chart reflects calendar year data*



## Volunteer Program

Since 2014, a volunteer program has been established to provide much needed assistance at the animal shelter, as well as its two PetSmart Adoption Centers. The program has steadily grown to include volunteers who regularly play with and socialize the pets, offer support to staff members, and assist with special adoption events, such as Clear the Shelters, Shelter Pets Rock and the PetSmart Charities National Adoption Weekends throughout the year.

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

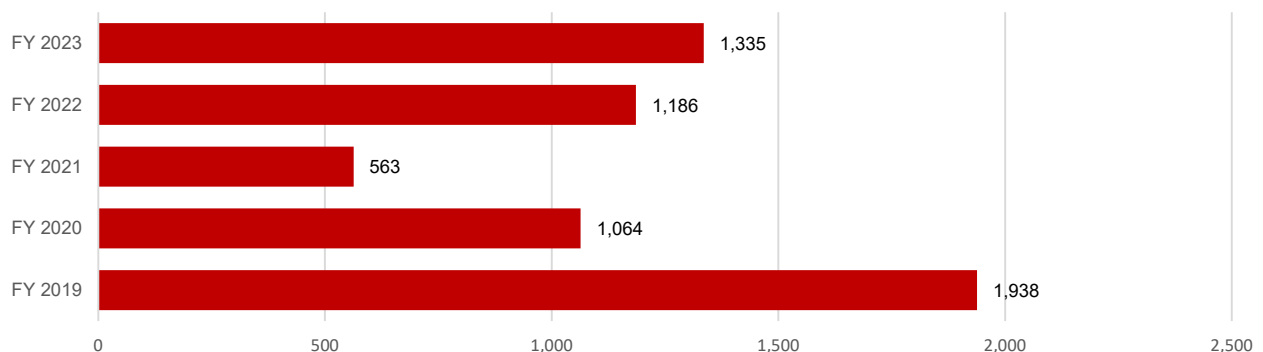


## Enforcement and General Citations

Fort Worth Animal Care & Control provides enforcement of a number of state laws and city ordinances to protect the community at large.

### ANNUAL CITATIONS ISSUED

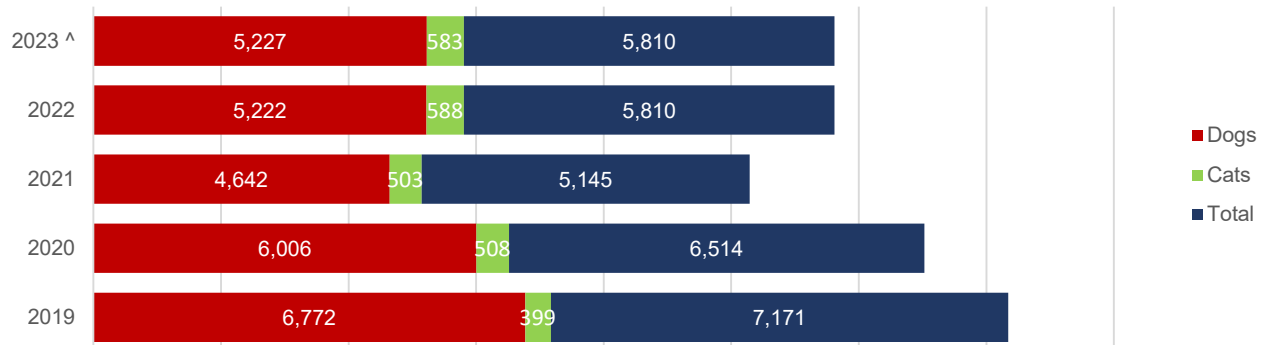
The number of citations issued depends on the number of stray animals reported in the City of Fort Worth. In 2015, FWACC implemented a new program of returning dogs to their owners in the field. This program, combined with the addition of a stray team program in 2014, resulted in a decrease in the number of citations written since its implementation.



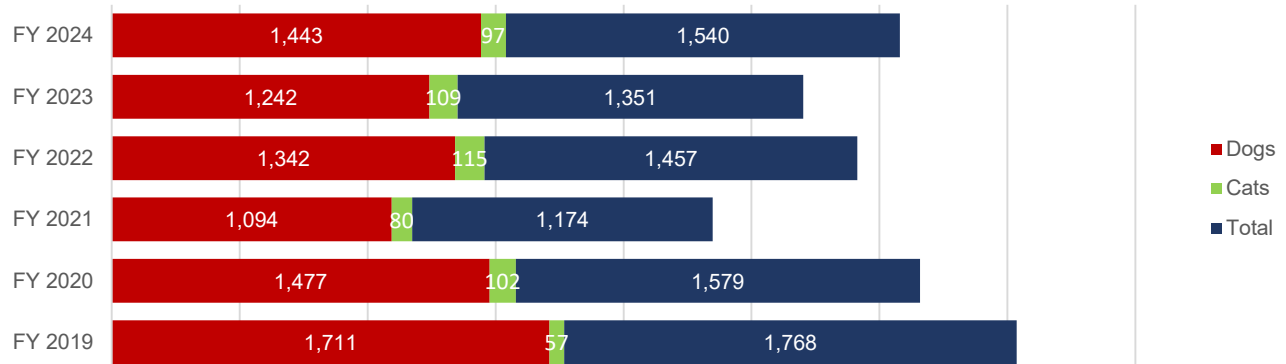
## Stray Animal Capture

In 2014, Fort Worth Animal Care & Control furthered its efforts with a new focus on removing stray animals from the streets in our community and implemented the stray team program. The stray teams' singular focus is to capture stray animals within the city. There are currently two teams of three officers each. Their efforts, in conjunction with other animal control officers' efforts, have also included record-setting numbers of dogs returned to their owners in the field.

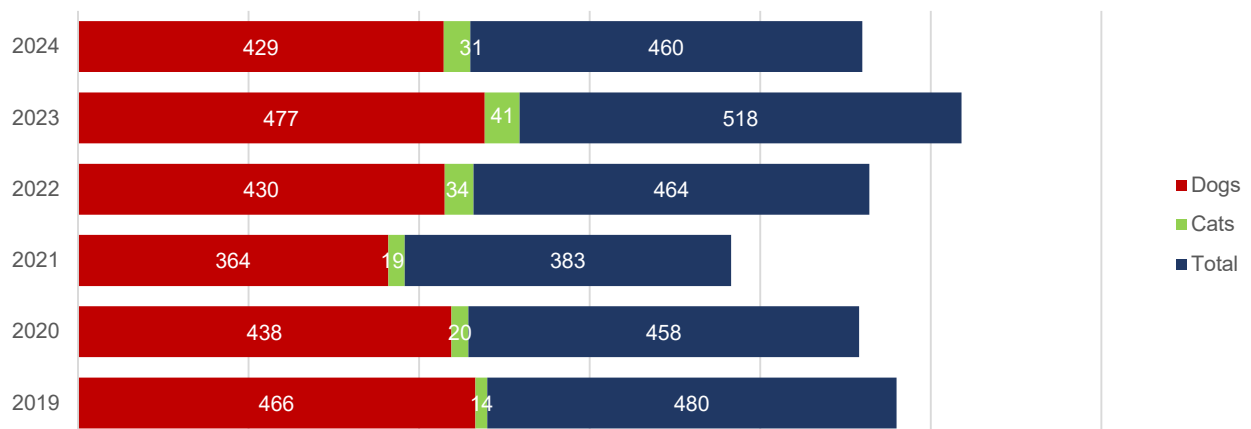
### ANNUAL STRAY ANIMAL CAPTURE



### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE STRAY ANIMAL CAPTURE



### DECEMBER STRAY ANIMAL CAPTURE

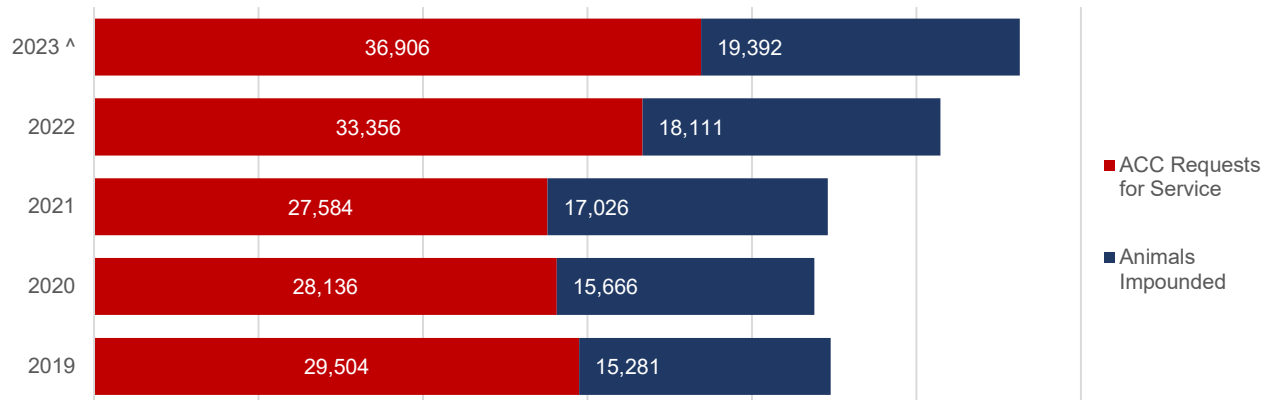




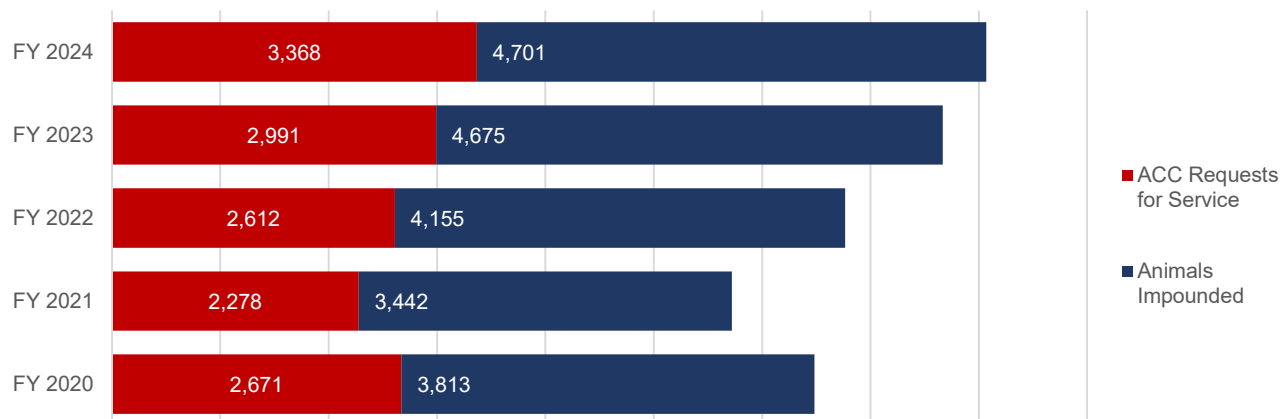
## Requests for Service

Requests for service typically include all animal welfare issues, such as stray or injured animals, animals in danger, or wildlife and livestock issues.

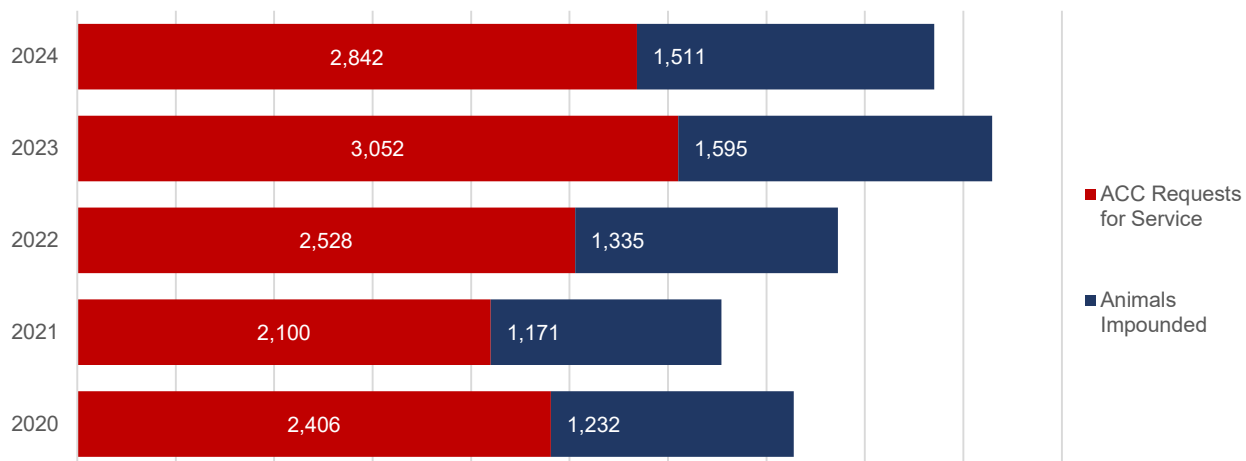
### ANNUAL REQUESTS FOR SERVICE



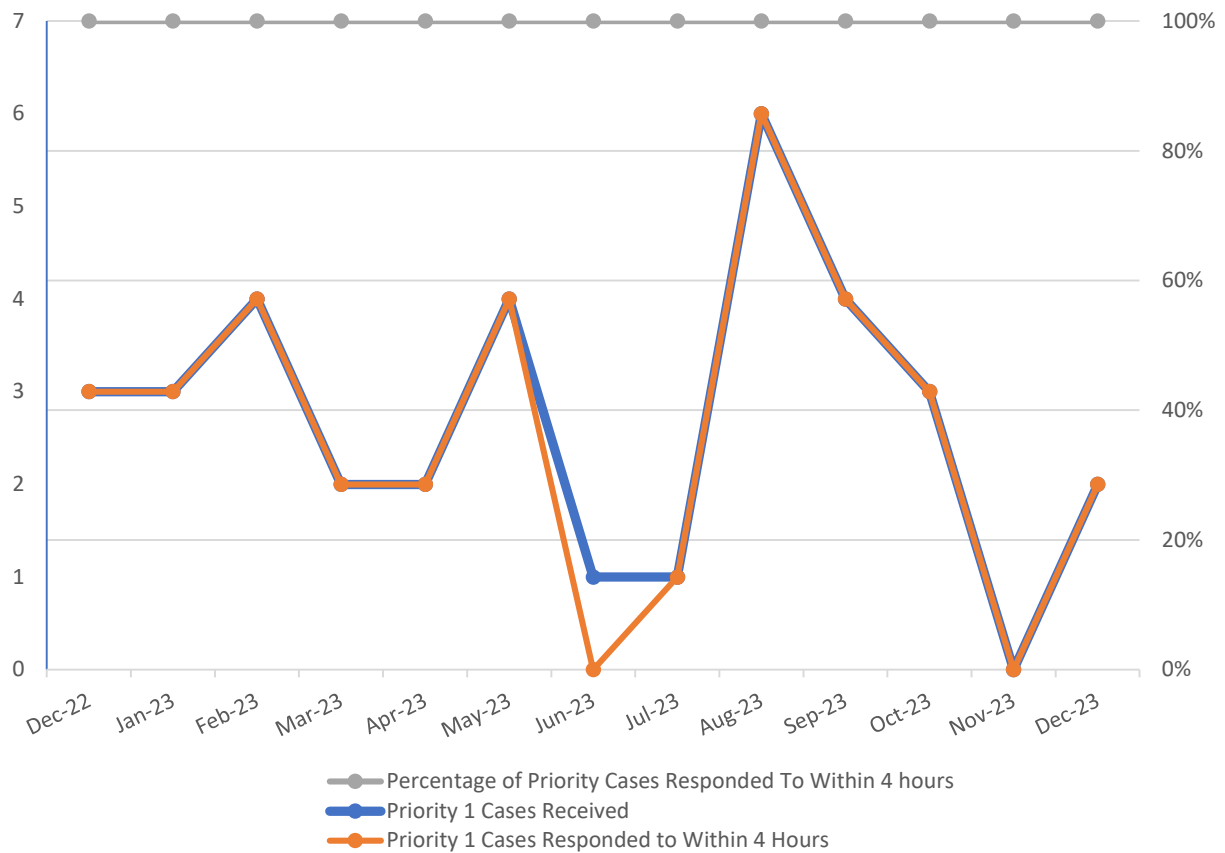
### FISCAL YEAR TO DATE REQUESTS FOR SERVICE



### DECEMBER REQUESTS FOR SERVICE



## PRIORITY 1 CASES RESPONDED TO WITHIN 4 HOURS



## Resources

### DATA QUALITY & CONTROL

Joe Riney

817-392-7030

[Joe.Riney@FortWorthTexas.gov](mailto:Joe.Riney@FortWorthTexas.gov)

### FOR ANIMAL QUESTIONS:

817-392-1234

### ADOPT A PET

[www.FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/animals/adoptable](http://www.FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/animals/adoptable)   [www.Facebook.com/fortworthacc](https://www.Facebook.com/fortworthacc)

### REPORT AN ANIMAL ISSUE

[CityOfFortWorth.wufoo.com/forms/animal-issue-report-form](http://CityOfFortWorth.wufoo.com/forms/animal-issue-report-form)

### FIND AN ADOPTION CENTER

[FortWorthTexas.gov/animals](http://FortWorthTexas.gov/animals)

[www.Facebook.com/fortworthacc](https://www.Facebook.com/fortworthacc)

### LICENSE YOUR PET

[FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/animals/service/fees](http://FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/animals/service/fees)

### DONATE TO FRIENDS OF HENRY AND SCOUT TO HELP SHELTER PETS

[FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/animals/policy-initiative/animal-welfare](http://FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/animals/policy-initiative/animal-welfare)

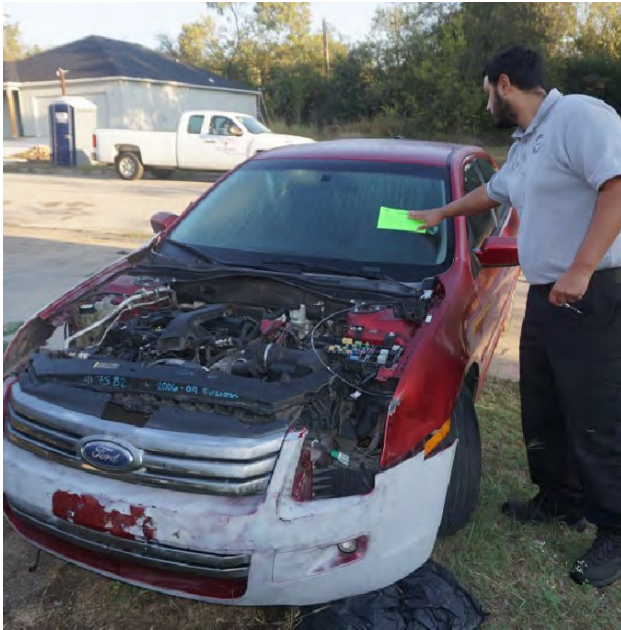
### LOST AND FOUND PETS

[FortWorthTexas.gov/animals/foundpets](http://FortWorthTexas.gov/animals/foundpets)

# CODE ENFORCEMENT

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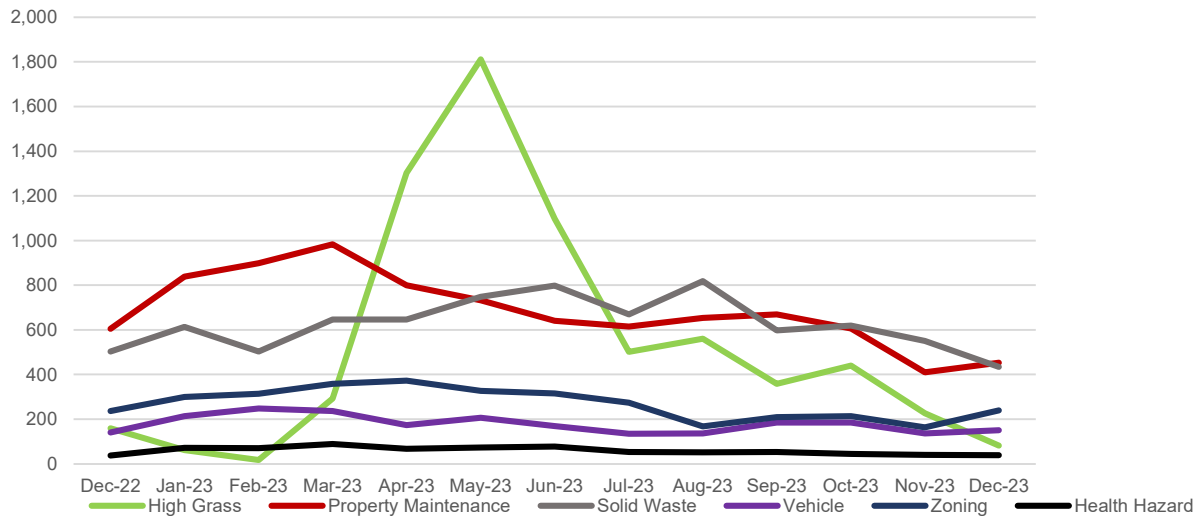
Code Enforcement has two divisions: the Neighborhood Investigations Division and the Building Standards Division. These divisions maintain Fort Worth's status as a clean, livable and attractive city.



## Neighborhood Investigations Division

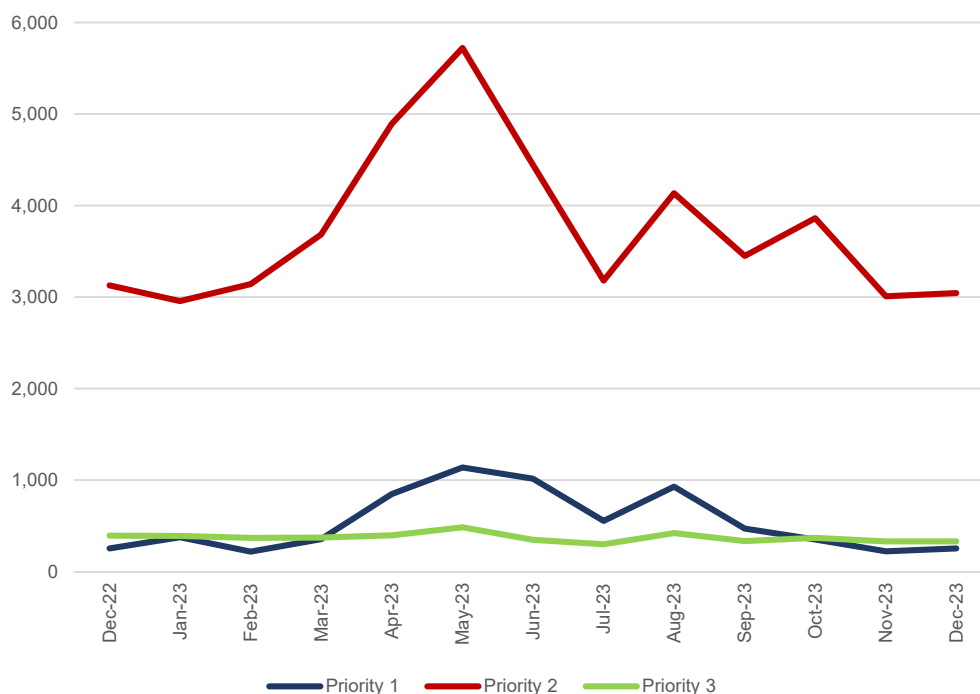
Neighborhood Investigations Division consists of the neighborhood Code Officers who investigate violations, such as high grass and weeds, open and vacant structures, junk vehicles, accumulation of debris, contaminated bulk waste, and zoning issues.

### VIOLATIONS WORKED



### VIOLATIONS BY PRIORITY

The Neighborhood Code Officers work violations based on priority.



*Priority 1 violations are the most dangerous, such as sewage leaks, stagnant water, open/vacant structures, and grass more than 24 inches tall.*

*Priority 2 violations include accumulation of debris, bulk waste violations, junk vehicles, animal violations, and grass between 18 and 24 inches tall.*

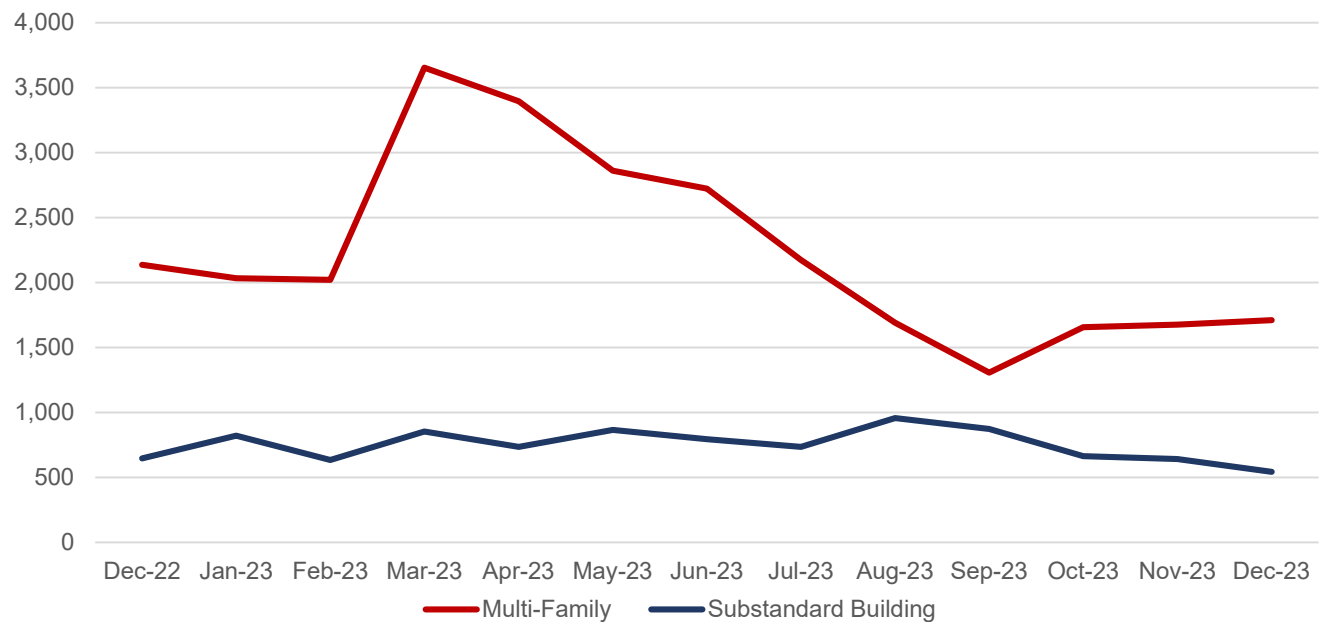
*Priority 3 violations include garbage/recycling cart violations, garage sales and grass between 12 and 18 inches tall.*



## Building Standards Division

The Building Standards Division consists of the Substandard Buildings Section and the Multi-Family Registration and Inspection Program. The substandard building Code Officers inspect residential and commercial structures while the multi-family Code Officers focus on apartment complexes and properties with three or more units.

### VIOLATIONS WORKED



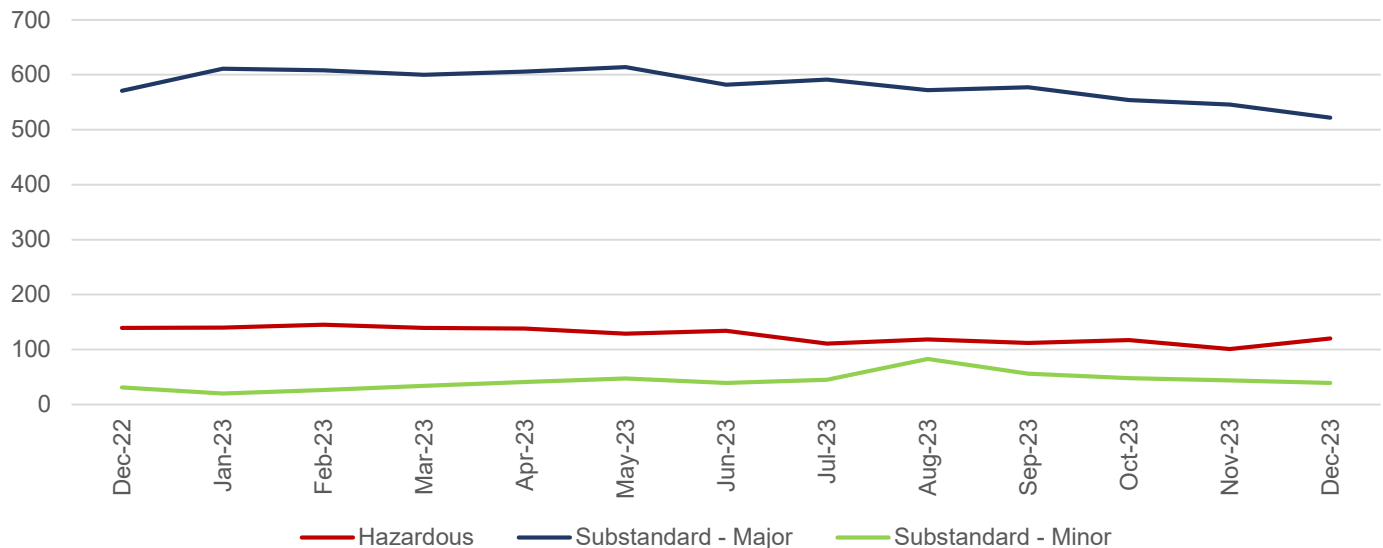
*A substandard structure is any building that does not meet the standards or specifications established in the building, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical codes that may endanger the life, health, and safety of residents.*

## Substandard Structures

A substandard structure is any building that does not meet the standards or specifications established in the building, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical codes and endangers the life, health, and safety of the public.

### SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURE CASES BY CATEGORY

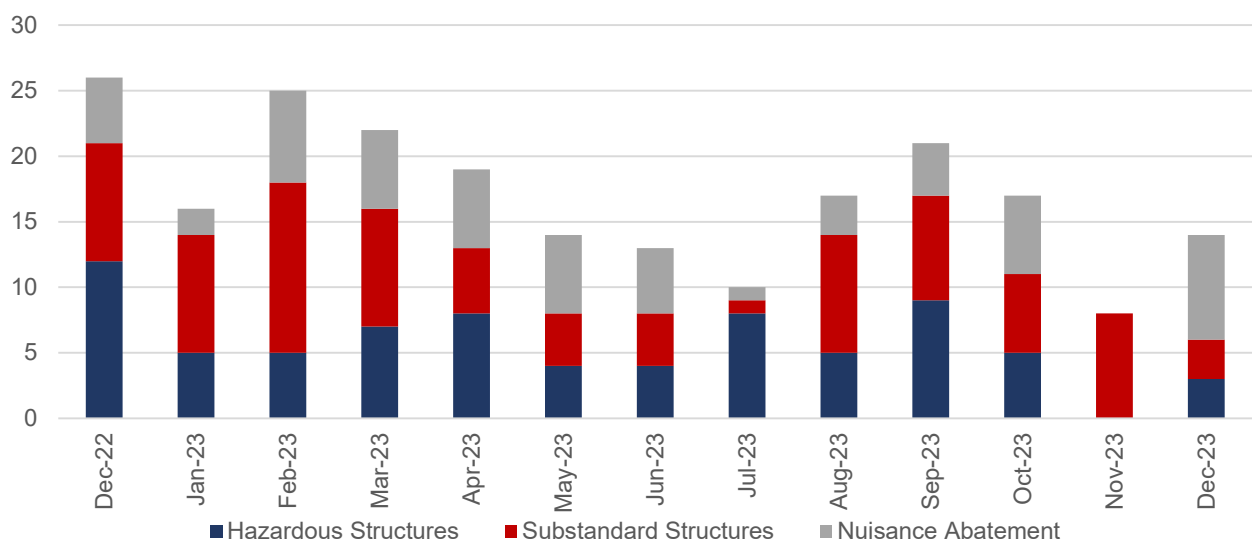
Structures are prioritized based on three categories. Hazardous structures are the most dangerous and need to be repaired or demolished as soon as possible.



### BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION & MUNICIPLA COURT ORDERS BY CATEGORY

When property owners fail to repair or demolish substandard structures, the property may be taken before the Building Standards Commission or before the Municipal Court. The Building Standards Commission and the Municipal Court hearing Judge possess the authority to order an owner to comply with all applicable laws and ordinances, including repair or demolition of a structure, and to order a property owner to remove or abate a nuisance.

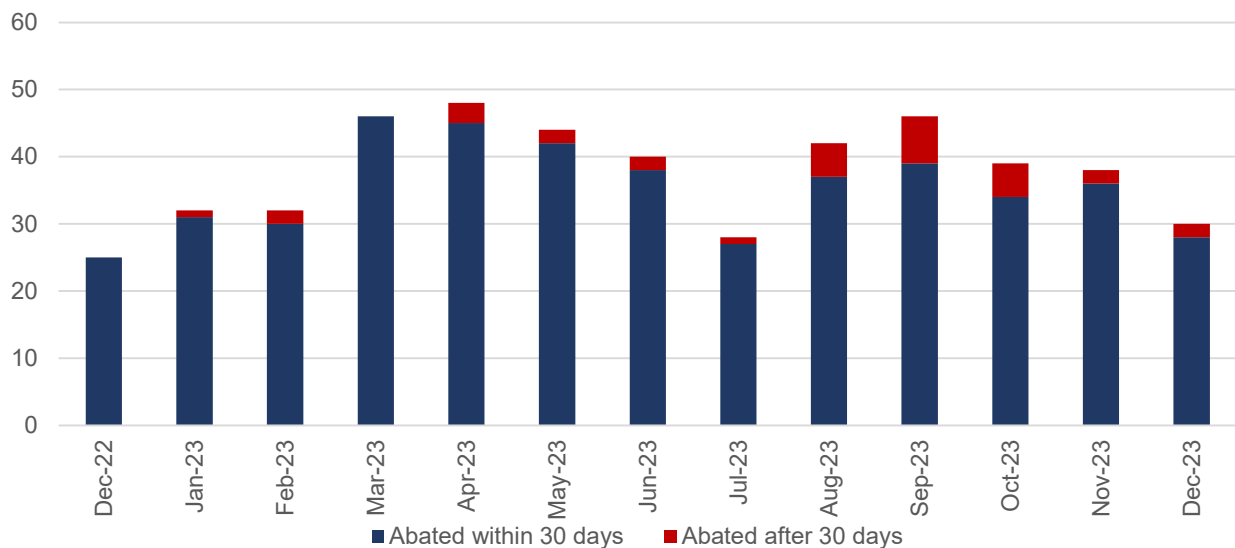
The Building Standards Commission does not meet in November or during inclement weather.





## Open and Vacant Structure Violations

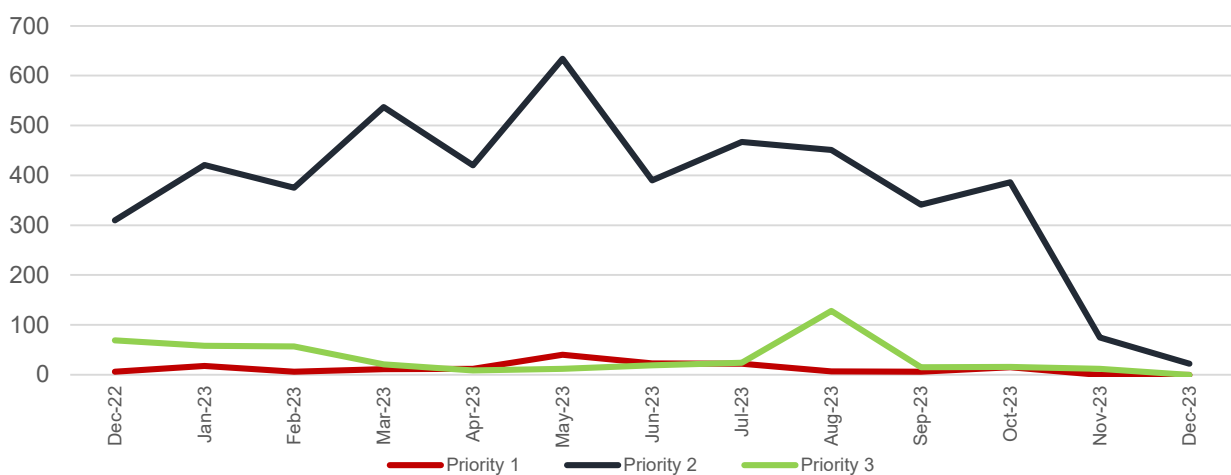
When abandoned structures remain open and unsecured, they provide opportunities for illegal activities, such as prostitution and drug sales. Sometimes vagrants gain access and burn structures down while trying to stay warm in winter months. Abandoned structures also can deteriorate, becoming eyesores, and contributing to urban blight.



## Code Enforcement Safe Neighborhood Initiatives

A Safe Neighborhood Initiative is a concentrated educational effort to remove blight and improve a neighborhood by encouraging cooperation and increasing neighborhood pride. Code Officers go door-to-door educating residents about code violations. Residents are given an opportunity to abate any existing violations identified during the discussion. If not abated within a given time frame, property owners and residents are issued notices of violation. If necessary, enforcement action is taken.

### VIOLATIONS BY PRIORITY



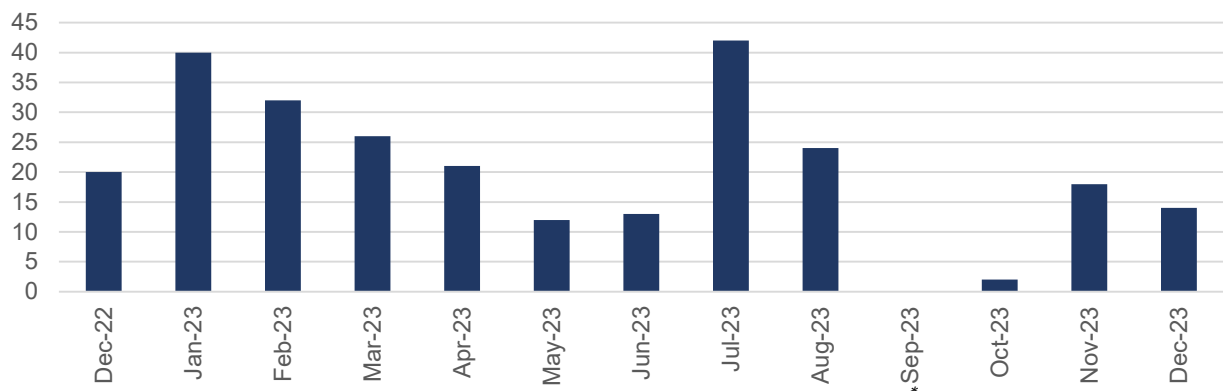
## Fort Worth Code Rangers

The Fort Worth Code Rangers is a voluntary program that seeks to promote healthy neighborhoods through community empowerment and action by establishing and maintaining a strong relationship between citizen organizations and the Code Compliance Department.

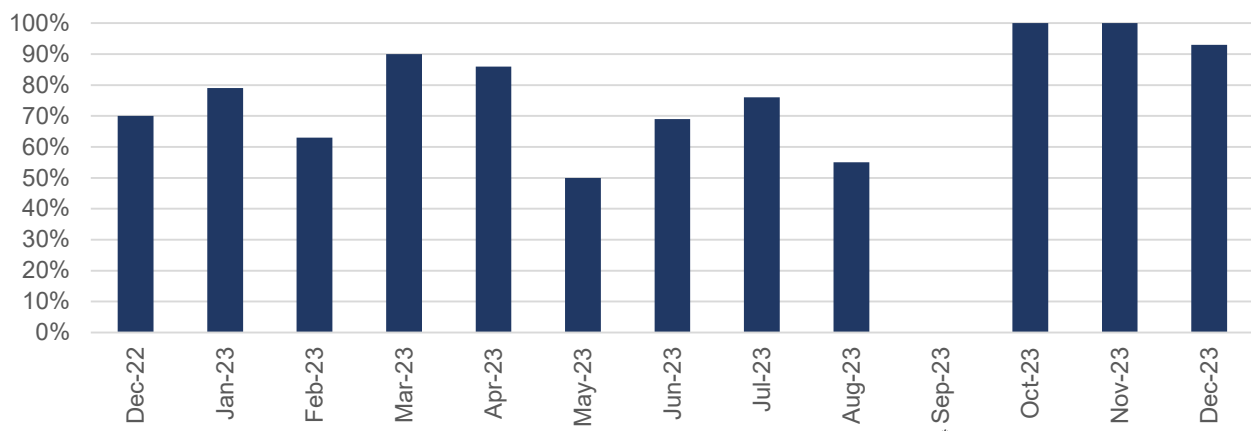
Trained Code Rangers provide reports of suspected code violations. The city then sends courtesy letters to property owners and residents regarding possible code violations in an effort to improve the appearance and safety of the neighborhood. The goals of the program are to:

- Encourage residents and property owners to maintain their homes and yards in order to preserve property values and discourage crime.
- Allow Code Officers the opportunity to devote more time to chronic, dangerous, or complicated issues affecting the neighborhood.
- Create a greater sense of community in each neighborhood by encouraging cooperation and increasing neighborhood pride.
- Make Fort Worth a cleaner, safer, and more attractive place for all residents.

### VIOLATIONS IDENTIFIED BY CODE RANGERS



### CODE RANGER-IDENTIFIED VIOLATIONS ABATED



\* Pause in the program due to upgrades in the CodeOps system.

## MyFW App



Fort Worth residents and visitors have a quick and easy way to report issues to the city with the My Fort Worth app.

After downloading the app, users can provide a brief description, photos and use a map-based location feature to submit issues like graffiti, potholes or high grass. Once submitted, the request will go directly to the appropriate city work team for a quick response. The user can view the status of the request in the app and receive a notification when the work is complete.

Service requests for Code Compliance, Human Resources, Park & Recreation and Transportation & Public Works are all currently available on the app.

MyFW also saves time and money by automating many employee tasks. It saves gas and eliminates travel by enabling city staff to instantly upload reports and photo documentation from the worksite. Employees can initiate work orders from their office or in the field. The app interfaces with many existing workflow systems, making responses to residents more efficient and accurate.

Download MyFW app on the App Store or Google Play. To learn more about the features available on the app visit the [Customer Care webpage - Go Mobile!](#)



### Reporting Made Easy!

- Text HELLO to 817-835-MYFW (6939)
- Online reporting and chat at [fortworthtexas.gov/customer-care](http://fortworthtexas.gov/customer-care)
- Call the City Call Center at 817-392-1234

Download the App!  

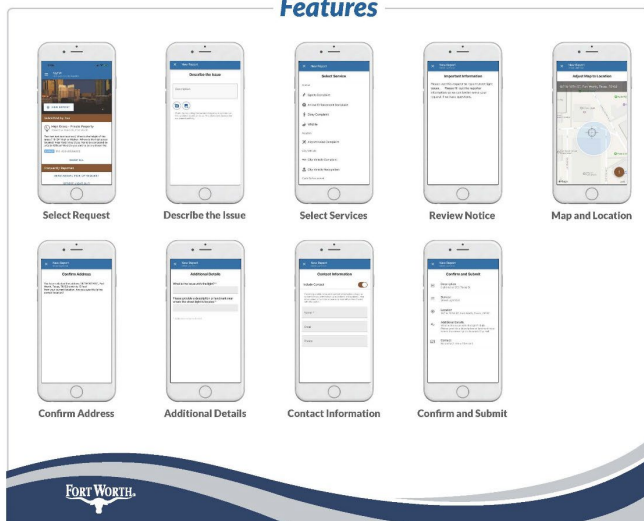


### ¡Reportar de forma fácil!

- Envíe HELLO al 817-835-MYFW (6939)
- Reportar en línea y chat en [fortworthtexas.gov/customer-care](http://fortworthtexas.gov/customer-care)
- Llame al Centro de Llamadas de la Ciudad al 817-392-1234

¡Descarga la aplicación!  

### Features



### características



## Resources

### NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATIONS DATA QUALITY AND CONTROL

Anthony Hiller

817-392-6981

[Tony.Hiller@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Tony.Hiller@fortworthtexas.gov)

### BUILDING STANDARDS DATA QUALITY AND CONTROL

Oscar Reyes

817-392-2215

[Oscar.Reyes@FortWorthTexas.gov](mailto:Oscar.Reyes@FortWorthTexas.gov)

### FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT

817-392-1234

### SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

[FortWorthTexas.gov/codecompliance](http://FortWorthTexas.gov/codecompliance)

### CHECK COMPLAINT STATUS

[FortWorthTexas.gov/codecompliance](http://FortWorthTexas.gov/codecompliance)

### FIND YOUR CODE OFFICER

[FortWorthTexas.gov/codecompliance](http://FortWorthTexas.gov/codecompliance)

### ONE ADDRESS

From trash day to permits to crime around your home, find it by entering your address at

[OneAddress.FortWorthTexas.gov](http://OneAddress.FortWorthTexas.gov)

### CODE RANGERS PROGRAM

[FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/events/code-rangers](http://FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/events/code-rangers)



City of Fort Worth

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## Code Compliance Department

The Code Compliance Department maintains Fort Worth's status as a clean, livable city by ensuring property complies with rules set by City Council. Code Officers routinely patrol assigned neighborhoods for code violations and investigate complaints with a mission of abating issues and educating residents.

**818 Missouri Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76104**  
[FortWorthTexas.gov/codecompliance](http://FortWorthTexas.gov/codecompliance)

