

Intake Definitions

Stray: An animal picked up by Ottawa County Animal Control Officers or the general public and the owner is not known. All stray animals are held for 4 days if they have no signs of identification or 7 days with identification before final disposition is determined.

We do not count the day the animal came in or days we are closed as part of the stray hold.

Owner Surrender: An animal who is surrendered to the shelter by his or her owner.

Transferred In: Animals who are transferred in from other agencies. Typically transfers come from overcrowded shelters who have adoptable animals in danger of being euthanized.

Returns: Usually included in other intakes, these are animals that were adopted from our shelter and the adopter/owner is no longer able to keep them.

Outcome Definitions

Adoption: A process where a person takes in the animal to their home to care for it and assumes all responsibility for the animal.

Returned to Owner: An animal who was usually brought to the shelter as a stray is returned to the owner that lost him or her.

Transferred Out: Animals who are transferred out to another agency that may be able to better care for that animal or transferred out because the original shelter may be overcrowded.

Returned to Field: Typically used as an outcome for community or feral cats. Animals are spayed or neutered, ear-tipped and returned to where they came from or to a feral colony.

Died in Care: An animal who was in care of the agency and died at the agency. Animals that die in care at Harbor Humane Society typically are neonate kittens who were orphaned and were being bottle fed by foster parents. This also may include animals who are currently under medical treatment but are not strong enough to survive.

Shelter Euthanasia: Animals who are not able to be placed for adoption are humanely euthanized by an intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital administered by a trained professional. Harbor Humane Society only euthanizes animals who are gravely ill or temperamentally unsound for placement, or pose a threat or danger to the community.