

County Animal Shelter Survey

Source: SCAC Survey, November 2016

COUNTY	County-operated Animal Shelter	Services Provided				Method Animals Leave Shelter (estimated % for past year)				Services Offered at Reduced Rate for Low Income Residents	Shelter Limited by Resources or Funding	Most Common Cause of Animal Cruelty Cases	Underserved Areas in County	Comments
		Kenneling	Grooming	Veterinary Services	Other	Adoption	Transported to Other States	Euthanized	Percentage of Euthanized Animals "Unadoptable"					
Abbeville	Abbeville County does not currently operate a shelter facility. The county has a partnership arrangement with the City of Abbeville to provide animal sheltering services.	Yes			Yes - public micro-chipping for pet owners	7.10%	9.10%	72%	40%	The city partners with Animal Allies Low Cost Spay and Neuter clinic to provide monthly service for local pet owners to have their animals fixed at the Spartanburg-based clinic.	The city animal shelter is limited in size and amenities, comprised of just 16 kennels. Due to lack of funding and resources, the shelter is run by just one animal control officer who performs field duties to managing the shelter. This is comprised of care and cleaning, euthanasia, recordkeeping, and social media promotions for an intake of 65-80 animals per month.	The majority of animal cruelty cases that we encounter are due to lack of pet ownership education, poor or lower income pet owners who cannot afford proper veterinary care and instances of mental illness, or a combination of all three factors.	Yes, extremely. There are only two veterinary practices in Abbeville County and both of them keep limited hours. We find that basic vaccinations such as rabies are rarely completed and most locals use a mobile clinic, which is only in the area typically six times per year.	
Anderson	Yes			Yes		19%	26%	42%	80%	Yes - The county provides \$75,000 in funding to the Anderson Humane Society for low income spay and neuter programs.	Yes	Mental health and lack of resources - mental health issues can lead to hoarding and lack of money can lead to lack of veterinary care.	Yes - Starr, Ivan, and Homeland Park all lack in basic veterinary services provided.	
Calhoun	Yes	Yes		Yes - shelter dogs only		10%	80%	10%	100%	No	Yes - lack of funding and minimal budget	All cruelty cases are referred to the Sheriff's Department. People are irresponsible and do not care. We offer rabies clinics 3 times per year, but we do not receive a lot of response.	Yes	

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Charleston	County contracts the humane disposition of animals to the Charleston Animal Society			Yes	Yes - dog training, spay/neuter, behavior intervention, surrender prevention services, transportation, information and referral	57%		6%	100%	Charleston Animal Society offers reduced pricing to all its customers across all lines of service.	Yes, funding only covers about a third of the cost to save the animals identified for intake in the contract with the county.	Most animal cruelty, which is unintentional neglect (approximately 80%), is addressed through education. However, law enforcement lacks training in animal cruelty and outreach.	Yes, mostly rural areas and lower income communities.	Methods for leaving shelter not requested: Return to Owner (15%), Transported in State (2%), Free Roaming Cats Returned to Habitat (18%)
Cherokee	Yes				Impound only	68%	0%	24%	90%	No	There is always the need for funds and grants. It would help citizens by providing animal food banks, dog house banks, and fence banks. As well as non-vet services like deworming, heartworm prevention, and microchip placement at a low cost.	Our shelter doesn't directly handle cruelty cases. Our Sheriff's Department/Animal Control does. This department is separate from our shelter. When an animal from a case does arrive at our facility it seems to be for many reasons. It's a combination of mental health issues and lack of resources, as well as some don't care and others lack pet ownership knowledge.	Yes - our county needs a veterinarian that provides services for low income citizens. At the very least, we need a low cost spay/neuter clinic.	
Chesterfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes - public intake of strays and surrenders	4%	97%	3%	100%	Yes, spay and neuter services	Yes - the county can only fund so much public services	We do not find that it is due to mental health issues. Most always it is a lack of education, resources, or they just don't care.	No	

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Clarendon	The county contracts with the Clarendon County Animal Shelter--an independent, non-profit organization--for shelter services. The county does operate an animal control facility where animals are held until they are retrieved by their owners, sent to a recognized shelter facility, or euthanized.						3%	100%		The Clarendon County Animal Shelter offers reduced rate services for spay and neuter.		Unable to assess root cause	Currently, Clarendon County only has one practicing veterinarian.	Methods for leaving shelter not requested: 19% of the animals are transferred over to local animal shelter; 3% are returned to owners; and 75% are transferred to regional animal rescue organizations.
Colleton	Yes	Yes		Yes		13%	21%	66%	40%	No, we have a non-profit group that helps with fundraisers and donations for spay and neuter services and some surgery.	Yes - limited by funds and budgeting	Mental health and lack of care for animals	No	
Dillon	Yes	Yes		Yes		75%	10%	15%	12%	Yes - adoption events at \$10 to \$20 for dogs and cats; free spay and neuter services offered by Humane Society	Yes - due to lack of funding we cannot always treat the sick and injured animals	Most people just can't afford to take care pets; lack of resources	No	
Edgefield	No animal shelter; contract with the Aiken County Animal Shelter to impound animals													

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Florence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes - standard vaccines and dewormer	10%	20%	70%	14%	Yes - spay and neuter all animals before adopting them out. We offer spay and neuter vouchers.	Yes	20% are a result of mental health issues; 40% are due to lack of resources; 20% are a result of intentional cruelty and fighting; 20% are a result of irresponsible pet owners	No	
Greenville	Yes, county operates an open-admission animal shelter that serves all municipalities within Greenville County, as well as the unincorporated areas in the county and in Spartanburg County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes - pet adoption, foster care, volunteer opportunities, pet surrender prevention, food bank, community cat diversion/TNR, micro-chipping and pet reclamation assistance, educational programs, etc.	37%	20%	28%	10%	Low cost wellness and sick care for owned pets, and low and no cost spay\neuter services	The following services are not covered by county funding: community cat diversion/TNR; government assistance spay/neuter; treating heart worm disease in shelter dogs; special medical procedures and surgeries for shelter animals beyond preventative care; shelter animal enrichment programs; surrender prevention services; fundraising expenses; and most advertising costs beyond the website, social media and print costs for brochures/flyers.	Our experience has been that most incidents of animal cruelty are cases of neglect often due to owners having more animals than they can realistically care for; not having access to affordable pet care; and lacking the decision making and problem solving skills needed to respond to a condition or situation with their pet(s) before it becomes neglectful. Neglect most often occurs with pet owners who view their pets a personal property item rather than a living creature dependent upon their care.	There are areas where most incidents of animal cruelty are cases of neglect where basic veterinary services are unaffordable for the demographic of people living in those areas.	Other methods for leaving the shelter not requested: 6% returned to owner; 5% other services outcomes; 4% died/DOA/MIA and wildlife outcomes

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Greenwood	Yes				Yes - impound, adoption, lost/found, microchipping, euthanasia requests	19%	21%	52% (includes animals that died or were DOA)	30%	No	Management of the county shelter is outsourced to the Humane Society of Greenwood. The county is collaborating to build a new shelter in 2017. The current county shelter is the most significant lack of resources.	Mental health issues and drug use are the main causes of the cruelty cases. Education of pet care, financial problems, cultural, mental health and drug use are the main causes of neglect cases.	Those in the low socio-economic sector of our county cannot afford basic vet care including vaccinations, spay/neuter, and wellness visits.	Method animals leave shelter not requested: 8% returned to owner
Lancaster	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Dogs - 90%, of which 60% go to out-of-state rescue groups; cats - 20% of which most are in-state		Dogs - 10%; cats - 80%	Dogs - of that percentage roughly 40% are put down due to lack of space and the remaining 60% are for aggression or medical reasons.	We operate with fees based on cost recovery of medicines and vaccines, so we do not offer any discounts based on income. Other operating costs are handled with ad valorem tax dollars.	Yes - in regards to personnel we have two FTE and one PTE positions. We also use inmate labor for cleanup duties. Given the current workload we need more positions and additional run space and rooms. We need a TNR program and spay/neuter program. County council would like to offer more animal services but they are handcuffed by Act 388 tax caps.	Lack of resources by owners is a problem. Lack of education for care of animals and mental health issues also play a factor.	No	Kenneling, grooming and veterinary services only provided for impounded animals
Laurens	Yes				Yes - owner surrender, adoptions, euthanasia, lost/found, etc.	10%	50%	40%	About one-third of animals euthanized each year would be classified as adoptable.	Yes, our officers take into consideration the income of citizens when charging fees for owner surrender.	Yes, services are limited by funding. Veterinary care is limited to funds available and condition and adoptability of the animal.	Most cases are ignorance or lack of concern for the animals' well-being, or individuals who are raising animals for the purpose of fighting.	There are plenty of vets in the county and these vets offer services at reduced rates for low income individuals. Most individuals choose to not dedicate the funds necessary for proper care of their animals.	

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Lee	Yes	Yes			Yes - county houses stray/homeless animals brought in by ACO and the public.	20%	70%	10%	100% - aggressive, injured, or sick	No	Yes - vetting is paid for by donations given by the public, which is limited at times.	Animal control is under the Sheriff's Office, not animal shelter.	Low income residents are more likely to not provide basic vet care for their pets.	
Lexington	Yes				Yes - rabies vaccinations for animals being reclaimed. No public services provided otherwise beyond adoption program.	12.60%	23.20%	54.80%	Approximately 50% (feral cats and unsocialized dogs)	No public services are offered. We do occasionally waive fees for reclaiming an animal from the shelter.	Yes - we are only able to provide limited care to animals impounded. We do not have any diagnostic capabilities beyond basic routine diagnostics. We do not have the resources to build isolation wards to treat infectious diseased animals.	Our officers describe an even mix of general apathy towards the animal, honest concern but no money, and mental health issues. Often people obtain several animals they cannot care for in response to the death of a spouse or family member.	Yes - rural areas of the county	
Richland	County has an arrangement with the City of Columbia for animal shelter services				Yes - the city shelter provides adoptions, lost/found, and has a fulltime vet that oversees care for all shelter animals	21%	23% (includes transported to other states and other local agencies)	48%	10-20%	Yes, the city shelter runs adoption specials and offers reduced fees, if needed, for owners to reclaim lost pets.	No	Mental health and owners' lack of resources cause some of these incidents. Others are truly concerned.	Yes	
Spartanburg	No, the county contracts with Greenville County Animal Care											A majority of the minor animal cruelty cases are the result of lack of monetary resources by the owner or caretaker to care for the pets. Mental health issues of the owner are the primary cause of the larger animal cruelty cases in the county. Extreme animal cruelty cases are the direct result of domestic related issues.	Areas in the county aren't underserved, but there are areas where residents do not use services provided.	

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Sumter	Yes				Yes - pick up stray dogs and dogs from animal abuse cases	Yes		Yes		No	Yes - we have limited services. We also have volunteers who are a great help in getting animals adopted.	We do not have animal cruelty cases; mainly dog fighting cases and a few malnourished cases	No, we have several veterinarians in our community	
York	Yes	Yes	Yes - limited to in-house animals	Yes - limited to in-house animals		36%		52%	100% (27% were medical cases requested from owner or picked up injured)	No	Yes - we would like to offer more educational services and low cost spay/neuter programs to the public.	Most common causes are dog fighters, puppy mills, animal hoarders and uneducated in proper care and discipline of animals. Some cases are a result of mental health issues or lack of resources.	Yes - many low income residents who cannot afford vet care.	

Note: 21 counties responded yielding a 45.7% response rate.