

Did you know that currently if you surrender a dog or cat, puppy or kitten to a Wythe County Animal Shelter or Wytheville Town Cat Shelter it can be euthanized immediately? Owner surrenders are not required to be kept for any length of time. Space limitations may be a factor on how long they may be kept. Our tax money goes toward killing these animals and more goes to dispose of them. They GET an adoption fee for dogs and a boarding fee for cats when they adopt them out, and this could save the expense of killing these animals. Does this make sense to anyone? Please make an attempt to find a home for any pet you are unable to keep before taking it to a kill shelter. Spay or neuter your pet to prevent unwanted dogs and cats. The following stats are from the Virginia Dept of Agriculture. Wytheville Town Cat Shelter, Cats only 228-3300:

2004

On hand 1/1/04= 0

Strays picked up = 129

Surrendered by Owner= 226

Reclaimed by Owner= 8

Adopted= 4

Euthanized = 347

On Hand 1/31/04= 0

Total= 359

2005

On hand 1/1/05= 0

Strays picked up= 89

Surrendered by Owner= 230

Reclaimed by Owner= 9

Adopted= 6

Euthanized = 246

\*Miscellaneous =60 Does not say what this is.

On Hand 1/31/05= 0

Total= 321

2006

On hand 1/1/06= 0

Strays picked up= 73

Surrendered by Owner= 220

Reclaimed by Owner= 18

Transferred to Another Virginia Releasing Agency= 5

Adopted= 0

Euthanized = 270

On Hand 1/31/06= 0

Total= 293

I would like to thank Captain Arnold for the 2007 information.

Cats on hand 1/1/07= 0

Strays picked up= 130

surrendered by owners= 178

Reclaimed by owner= 4

cats given to Humane Society= 5

Euthanized= 242

On hand 12/31/07= 0

Removed from highway/homes dead= 61

As seen by these stats only a very few cats were adopted or rescued, the vast majority were euthanized. I was shocked to see how many cats were euthanized over the last four years. It cost money to run and maintain the shelter and more to kill, store and dispose of these helpless creatures. Think twice and make every effort to find a home for any animal before taking it to a kill shelter. As these stats tell us, if a cat goes in, it has a very little chance of coming out again. A quote from Captain Arnold "They (people) can call or come by to observe the cats in holding and make their own decision to adopt. We do not bar anyone from coming down to look at animals for a possible adoption. Adoption hours are 8-9 am and 2-3 pm Monday through Friday for pick-up or release." If you do decide to adopt, check around for prices for shots and spay or neutering, some Vets are cheaper than others. In Wythe County a Male cat can be neutered for around \$26 up and a female for \$41 and up so check around!

Wythe County Animal Shelter stats, Dogs only, from the Virginia Dept of Agriculture.

228-6003:

2005

On Hand 1/1/05= 8

Strays Picked up= 384

Surrendered by Owner= 352

Received from another Virginia agency= 183

Reclaimed by Owner= 93

Adopted= 134

Euthanized= 691

On Hand 12/31/05 = 9

Total= 927

2006

On Hand 1/1/06= 9

Strays Picked up= 544

Surrendered by Owner= 376

Received from another Virginia agency= 0

Reclaimed by Owner= 148

Adopted= 229

Transferred to Another Virginia Releasing Agency = 261 (Wythe Co Humane Society)

Euthanized= 266

On Hand 12/31/06 = 27

Total= 939

2007

On Hand 1/1/07= 27

Strays Picked up= 432

Surrendered by Owner= 217

Received from another Virginia agency= 0

Reclaimed by Owner= 129

Adopted= 109

Transferred to Another Virginia Releasing Agency = 272 (Wythe Co Humane Society)

Euthanized= 145

On Hand 12/31/07 = 10

Total= 676

Thanks to the efforts of the Wythe County Humane Society and Animal Shelter the euthanized percentage has dropped greatly. The Wythe County Humane Society took in a lot of dogs before they went to the shelter. The Wythe County Humane Society has to bear the financial burden of every animal they save until it is adopted or sent to a rescue. They save the County a lot of money by saving these dogs. Please help them save your money! It's cheaper to save these animals than to kill them. Don't buy pets while shelter pets die! "Would you want to be treated the same way you treat your dog if your positions were reversed?" ~John Witt