



Annual Report - Statistics
Fiscal Year 2013 – Mid Year Fiscal Year 2015
Through December 2014

The Great Falls Animal Shelter is an open admission municipal animal shelter which serves the residents of Great Falls, Cascade County and surrounding areas. The Mission of the Shelter is to *ensure the health, safety and welfare of the animals and citizens of our community through the education of responsible pet ownership*. The Shelter serves over 1,600 animals a year.

Each year the Great Falls Animal Shelter collects data relating to the animals that enter the Shelter. This document provides a snapshot of the past 2 ½ years.

The Shelter is now providing statistical data based on a fiscal year time frame (July – June), which will allow the Shelter to be consistent with the City’s financial reporting methods. Previously, the Shelter reported data on a calendar year basis (January-December). Older Shelter annual reports are still available online (data dates back to calendar year 2008). Those reviewing the data should distinguish the difference in reporting structure when making comparisons.

Starting in FY16 the Shelter’s Annual Reports will be updated once a year after the fiscal year has ended; not at the midyear point.

Shelter Statistics Fiscal Year 2013 – 2015 (through December)

Great Falls Animal Shelter Fiscal Year Statistics								
Fiscal Year	Total Impounded	Adoptions	Redemptions	Rescue	Euthanasia	Dead on Arrival	Died in Shelter	Carryover*
2013	1605	625	423	0	427	50	14	66
2014	1622	635	460	19	317	70	26	95
2015 (through December)	785	234	215	1	214	38	13	70

*Carryover – This term refers to animals that enter the Great Falls Animal Shelter during one Fiscal Year and remain into the next.

Fiscal Year Comparison by Percentage

Fiscal Year 2013 Percentages	
Adoptions	39%
Redemptions	26%
Rescue	0
Euthanasia	27%
Dead on Arrival	3%
Died in Shelter	1%
Carryover	4%
Total	100%

Fiscal Year 2014 Percentages	
Adoptions	39%
Redemptions	28%
Rescue	1%
Euthanasia	20%
Dead on Arrival	4%
Died in Shelter	2%
Carryover	6%
Total	100%

Fiscal Year 2015 Percentages (through December)	
Adoptions	30%
Redemptions	27%
Rescue	0%
Euthanasia	27%
Dead on Arrival	5%
Died in Shelter	2%
Carryover	9%
Total	100%

Shelter Highlights

Shelter Averages

- *The Shelter has an annual average intake of 1,613 animals; with about 134 animals entering the facility each month.
- *The average number of animals adopted each year is 630.
- *On average 441 animals are reunited with their owners each year.
- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, 68% of the animals entering the Shelter were returned to their owners, adopted or placed with a rescue organization.

*Averages were based on fiscal year 2013 and 2014 figures. When fiscal year 2015 is completed the averages will be updated.

- Adoptions have held steady at 39% for the past two fiscal years. Through December of FY15, the Shelter has a 30% adoption rate. With six months remaining, the Shelter anticipates meeting or surpassing 39% this year.
- Each year the Shelter continues to reunite more pets with their owners. In FY13, 26% of the dogs and cats entering the Shelter were returned to their owners and 28% in FY14. As of December FY15 27% of the pets coming into the Shelter have been redeemed. With another 6 months in the fiscal year, it is anticipated that this will be a record breaking year for redemptions at the Shelter.

Health & Euthanasia

- Euthanasia rates decreased 26% from FY13 to FY14. As of December FY15, the rate is at 27%. This figure is often impacted by the overall Shelter impound numbers as well as the health of the animals coming into the Shelter. Staff at the Shelter anticipates that this number will continue to decrease over the next few months, as long as animals at the Shelter continue to stay healthy.
- In reviewing euthanasia rates over the past 2½ years, 3 factors stand out. Since 2014, dogs and cats have rarely if ever been euthanized based on space, very few dogs have been euthanized unless absolutely necessary (aggressive, health issues or bite cases) and while the data shows cats make up the largest percentage of euthanasia cases, it's primarily due to health and sickness issues.
- This year a number of the cats entering the Shelter suffered from an upper respiratory virus as well as feline calicivirus. Staff worked closely with the Shelter veterinarian to keep the cats healthy and keep the viruses under control. One of the biggest concerns in a Shelter environment is the concern of spreading disease and viruses to other animals. Due to the contagious nature and the severity of the illnesses many of the cats that contracted these viruses died or had to be euthanized, which in turn impacted the Shelter's euthanasia rates.

Operations & Staffing

- In February 2014, the City of Great Falls adopted a new fee structure for the Animal Shelter. The new Adoption Fee is \$140 for dogs and \$50 for cats. The adoption fee includes the cost of spaying/neutering, a microchip, vaccinations and a nametag.
- The Shelter Sidekicks, the Shelter's Volunteer Program, continues to thrive in its third year of operation. With over 100+ volunteers, they continue to provide a valuable service to the Shelter and have helped develop and implement special events, promotions and fundraisers. They assist in walking dogs, educational programs, and creating a positive image in the community.
- A new Animal Shelter Manager and a new veterinarian technician were hired in 2013. Both have helped improve Shelter processes and procedures. In FY15, four kennel technicians were brought on board as full-time employees instead of contract employees. This has helped streamline and improve operations at the Shelter.
- The Shelter has continued to grow its social media presence on Facebook. Currently the Shelter has over 1,434 followers. The Shelter has also implemented a number of new adoption and educational programs, including a foster program.
- This year, the HVAC system in the cat room was replaced and a new dryer was purchased for the Shelter. Since FY13, a number of other facility improvements have been completed including ongoing HVAC repairs in the office area and the installation of an improved security system. In the dog kennel area new lighting was installed, noise reduction improvements were made and safety gates were installed. The drains at the Shelter were snaked/cleaned and repairs to the incinerator were made. Outside the Shelter new landscaping and trees have been installed.

Help Us Grow Project

- In FY14 staff began working on a new master plan for facility improvements, and during the summer of 2014 the *Help Us Grow (HUG) Project* kicked off to begin fundraising efforts for future improvements at the Shelter. The goal of the *HUG Project* is to create a healthier and less stressful environment for Shelter pets. The primary features of the project include a cattery addition, enhancements to the canine area and front office renovations. The cattery is the first funding priority of the *HUG Project*. The Shelter has currently raised \$21,932 towards the cattery, in addition to receiving *\$274,182 through planned giving, wills and estate gifts.

**This total includes a generous gift of \$30,000 from a donor, which is forthcoming. The Shelter has been notified and will receive the cash donation once the estate has been properly processed.*

Euthanasia Detail & Comparison by Fiscal Year

Euthanasia Detail Fiscal Year 2013		
Cats	340	80%
<i>Aggressive</i>	74	22%
<i>Space</i>	26	8%
<i>Behavior</i>	49	14%
<i>Feral</i>	65	19%
<i>Health/sick</i>	112	33%
<i>Pregnant</i>	8	2%
<i>Bite Case</i>	6	2%
Dogs	81	19%
<i>Aggressive</i>	29	36%
<i>Space</i>	2	2%
<i>Behavior</i>	22	27%
<i>Feral</i>	0	0
<i>Health/sick</i>	17	21%
<i>Pregnant</i>	0	0
<i>Bite Case</i>	11	14%
Other	6	1%
<i>Aggressive</i>	0	0
<i>Space</i>	0	0
<i>Behavior</i>	0	0
<i>Feral</i>	0	0
<i>Health/sick</i>	3	50%
<i>Pregnant</i>	3	50%
<i>Bite Case</i>	0	0

Euthanasia Detail Fiscal Year 2014		
Cats	291	92%
<i>Aggressive</i>	8	3%
<i>Space</i>	0	0
<i>Behavior</i>	72	25%
<i>Feral</i>	65	22%
<i>Health/sick</i>	135	46%
<i>Pregnant</i>	1	0
<i>Bite Case</i>	11	4%
Dogs	26	8%
<i>Aggressive</i>	1	3.8%
<i>Space</i>	0	
<i>Behavior</i>	2	7.6%
<i>Feral</i>	0	
<i>Health/sick</i>	9	34.6%
<i>Pregnant</i>	0	
<i>Bite Case</i>	14	54%
Other	0	0%
<i>Aggressive</i>	0	0
<i>Space</i>	0	0
<i>Behavior</i>	0	0
<i>Feral</i>	0	0
<i>Health/sick</i>	0	0
<i>Pregnant</i>	0	0
<i>Bite Case</i>	0	0

Euthanasia Detail Fiscal Year 2015 through December		
Cats	202	94%
<i>Aggressive</i>	1	.5%
<i>Space</i>	0	0
<i>Behavior</i>	27	13%
<i>Feral</i>	50	25%
<i>Health/sick</i>	121	60%
<i>Pregnant</i>	0	0
<i>Bite Case</i>	3	1.5%
Dogs	10	5%
<i>Aggressive</i>	4	40%
<i>Space</i>	0	0
<i>Behavior</i>	0	0
<i>Feral</i>	0	0
<i>Health/sick</i>	3	30%
<i>Pregnant</i>	0	0
<i>Bite Case</i>	3	30%
Other	2	1%
<i>Aggressive</i>	0	0
<i>Space</i>	0	0
<i>Behavior</i>	0	0
<i>Feral</i>	0	0
<i>Health/sick</i>	2	100%
<i>Pregnant</i>	0	0
<i>Bite Case</i>	0	0