

Animal Shelter Stats: Did COVID-19 make a difference?

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**“Did the pandemic really
spark a public interest in pet
adoption?”**





The Data





National Shelter Data

- State level reportings from over 1000 animal welfare organizations
- Includes all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands
- Data collected from 2019-2021
- Data matrix includes numerous categories of intakes and outcomes

BASIC ANIMAL DATA MATRIX 2021: COMPANION ANIMAL INTAKE & OUTCOME (VRS 1.2021)

FOR ALL SPECIES

LIVE INTAKES	ADULT	UP TO 5 MONTHS	AGE UNKNOWN	TOTAL	DEFINITIONS
Stray/At Large					Stated to be unowned or free-roaming.
Relinquished by Owner					Admitted by owner, including adoption returns. All returns should be tracked as owner relinquishment.
Owner Intended Euthanasia					Intake of pets whose owner brought the pet to the shelter with the INTENT of requesting euthanasia. OIE provided as a service outside of intake is not counted here.
Transferred in from agency (in state)					Admission from another agency within the same state, for adoption, large scale seizure support, etc.
Transferred in from agency (out of state)					Admission from another agency in a different state, for adoption, large scale seizure support, etc.
Transferred in from agency (international)					Admission from another agency outside the US, for adoption, large scale seizure support, etc.
Impound/Seizure					Impounds for pets seized during cruelty cases or for protective custody. This does not include pets relinquished by their owners.
Other Intakes					Pets born while in care and other types of admission not captured above.
TOTAL LIVE INTAKES					

LIVE OUTCOMES	ADULT	UP TO 5 MONTHS	AGE UNKNOWN	TOTAL	DEFINITIONS
Adoption					Final adoptions, having permanently left the agency's possession, including barn cat programs resulting in adoption. It does NOT include animals in foster care or 'trial' stays.
Returned to Owner (RTO)					Stray or Owner Relinquished animals returned to their owner.
Transferred out to agency (in state)					Transferred out of the agency's possession to another entity within the same state or territory.
Transferred out to agency (out of state)					Transferred out of the agency's possession to another entity in a different state or territory.
Transferred out to agency (international)					Transferred out of the agency's possession to another entity outside the US.
Returned to Field (RTF)					Animals included in intake, already altered or altered after intake, and returned to stray capture location to be released (often referred to as SNR). This is not TNR, see definitions.
Other live outcomes					Other types of live outcome not captured above.
TOTAL LIVE OUTCOMES					

OTHER OUTCOMES	ADULT	UP TO 5 MONTHS	AGE UNKNOWN	TOTAL	DEFINITIONS
Died in Care					Animals who die, unassisted, while sheltered or fostered.
Lost in Care					Animals outcome is unknown (escaped the shelter, outcome not recorded and unknown).
Shelter Euthanasia					All euthanasia other than that performed by the definition below as owner intended euthanasia.
Owner Intended Euthanasia					Animals included in intake whose owner brought the pet to the shelter with the INTENT of requesting euthanasia. OIE provided as a service outside of intake is not counted here.
TOTAL OTHER OUTCOMES					
TOTAL LIVE	TOTAL OTHER		TOTAL OUTCOMES		

United States[®] Census 2020

2020 Census Data

- Resident population for all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico
- Did not include Virgin Islands

U.S. Department of Commerce

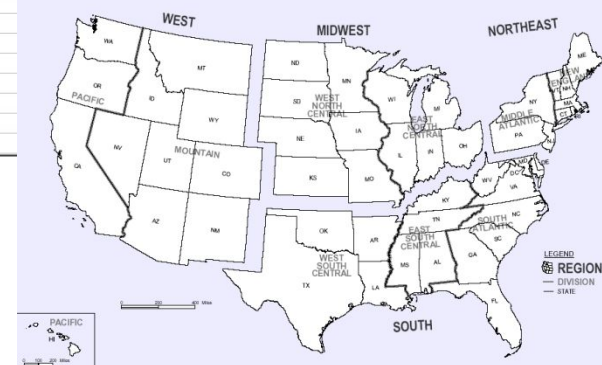
U.S. Census Bureau

Table 2. RESIDENT POPULATION FOR THE 50 STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND PUERTO RICO: 2020 CENSUS

AREA	RESIDENT POPULATION (APRIL 1, 2020)
Alabama	5,024,279
Alaska	733,391
Arizona	7,151,502
Arkansas	3,011,524
California	39,538,223
Colorado	5,773,714
Connecticut	3,605,944
Delaware	989,948
District of Columbia	689,545
Florida	21,538,187
Georgia	10,711,908
Hawaii	1,455,271
Idaho	1,839,106
Illinois	12,812,508
Indiana	6,785,528
Iowa	
Kansas	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	
Maine	
Maryland	
Massachusetts	
Michigan	
Minnesota	
Mississippi	
Missouri	
Montana	



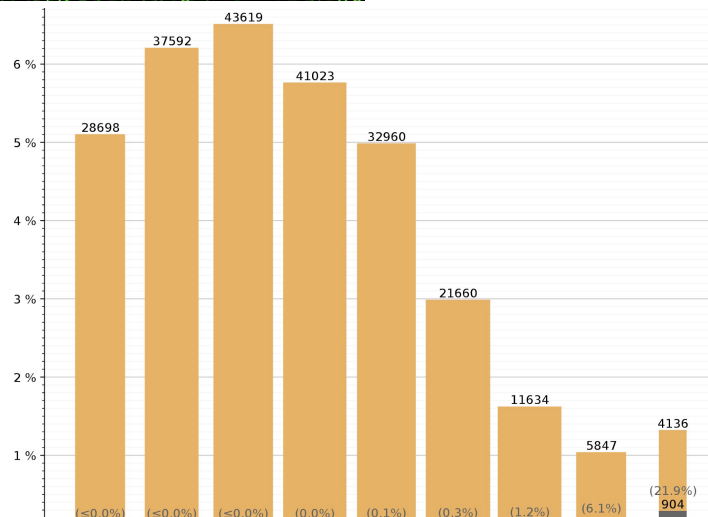
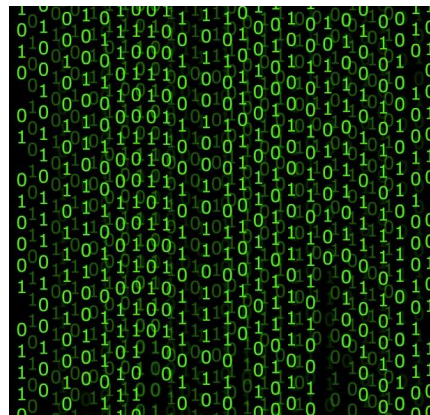
Census Regions and Divisions of the United States





Finding the Question:

- Data on 2019-2021, immediately considered COVID timing
- What columns/values had the biggest change, if any, between years?
- If there was a drastic change, was it national, or were specific regions/states affected more?

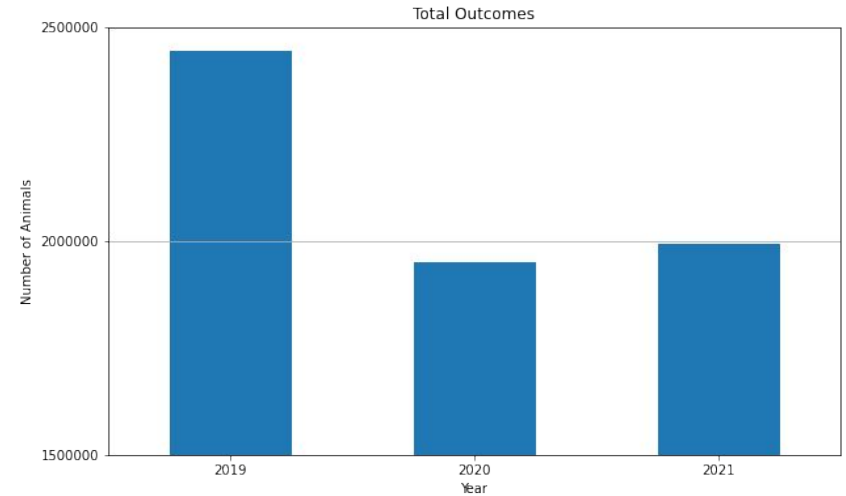
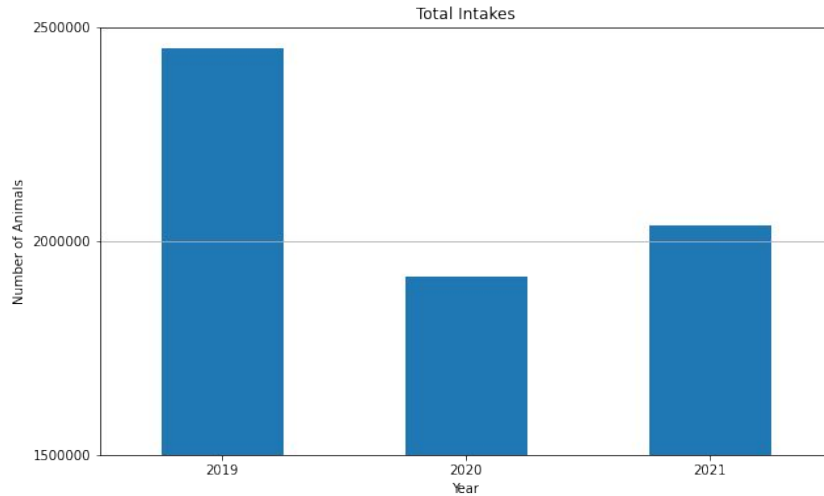




Data Visualization

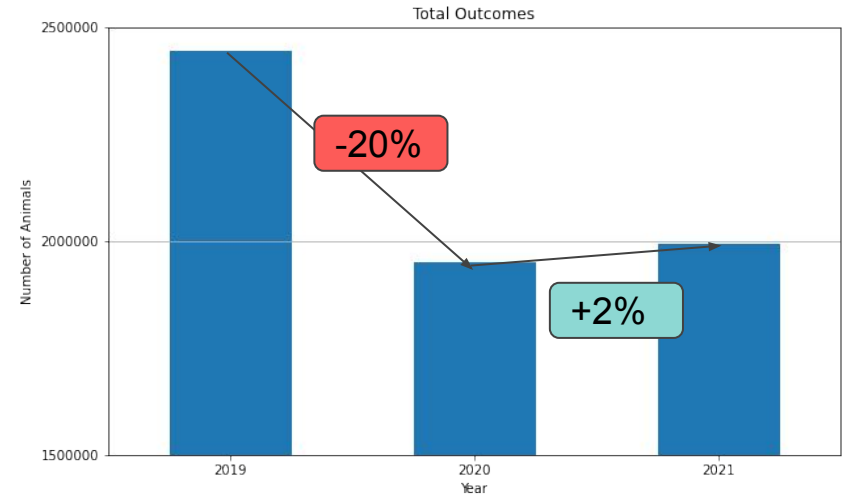
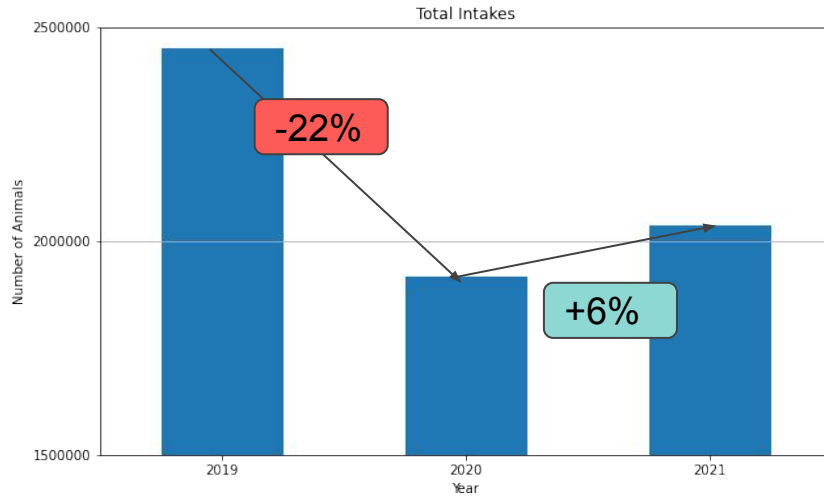


Total National Intakes and Outcomes 2019-2021



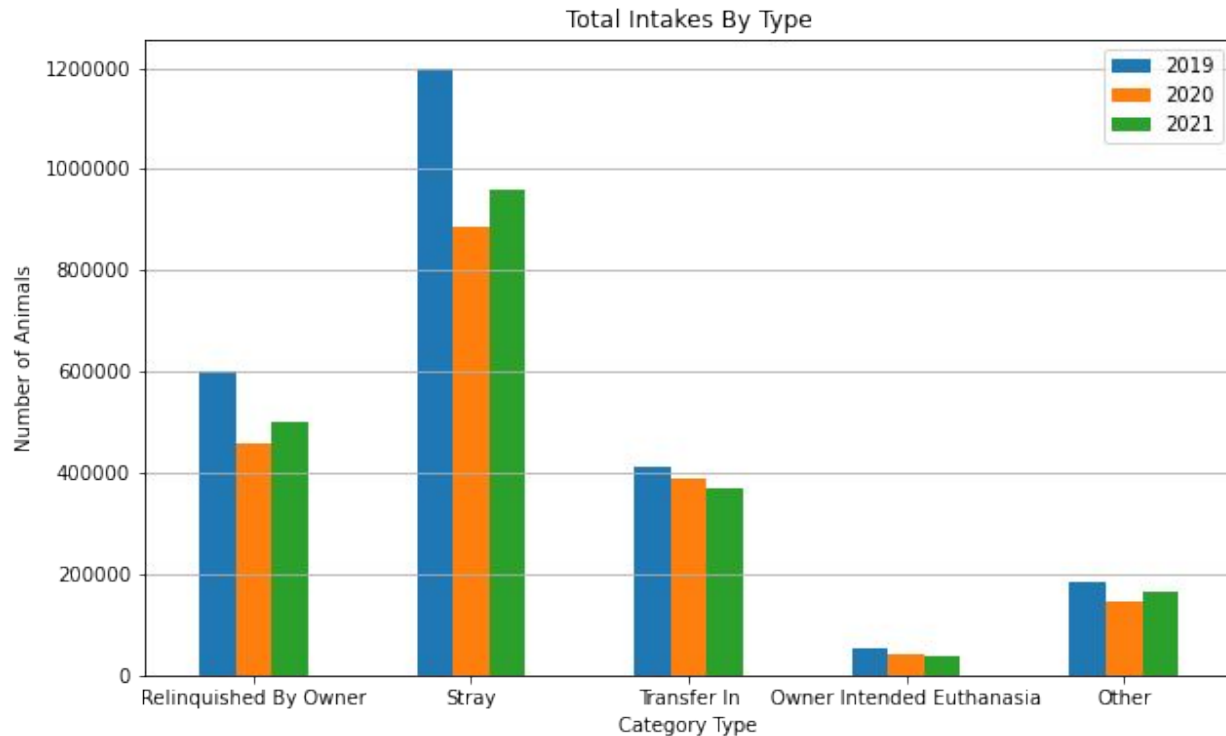
Year	2019	2020	2021
Total Intakes	2450920	1918441	2035665
Total Outcomes	2444019	1950698	1994873

Total National Intakes and Outcomes 2019-2021



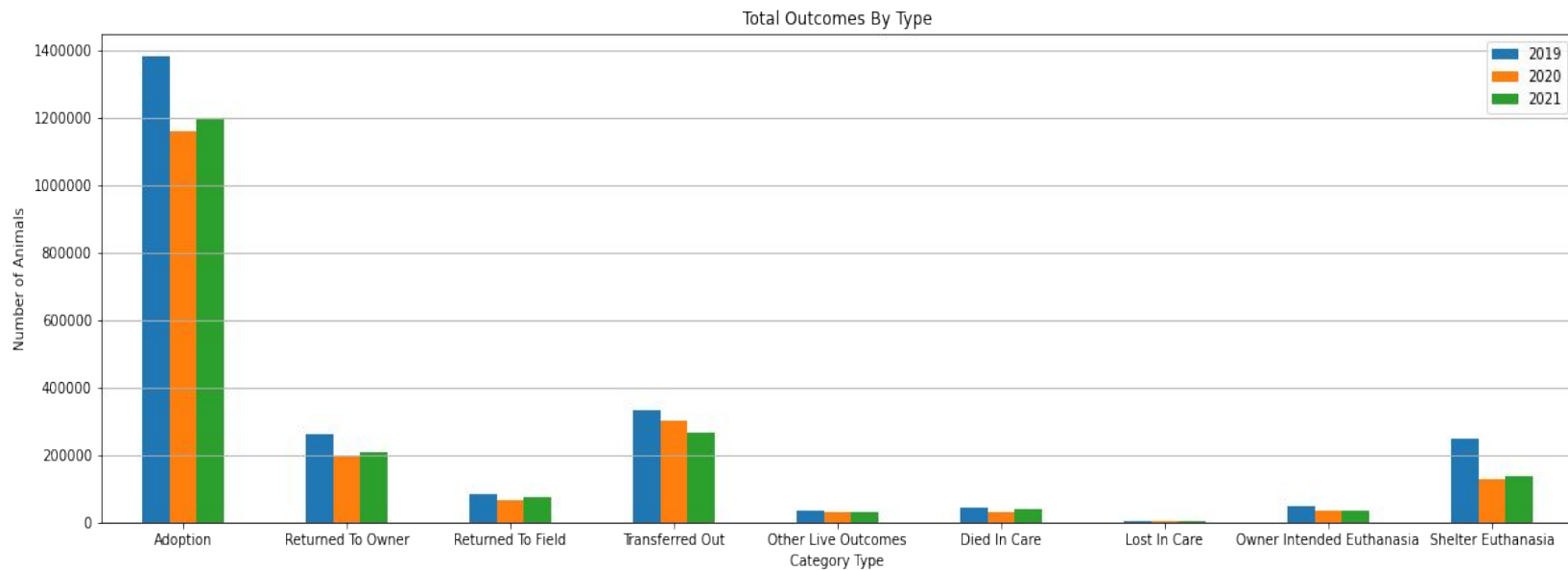
Year	2019	2020	2021
Total Intakes	2450920	1918441	2035665
Total Outcomes	2444019	1950698	1994873

Total National Intakes by Type 2019-2021



	Relinquished By Owner	Stray	Transfer In	Owner Intended Euthanasia	Other
Year					
2019	600427	1196734	414140	55140	184479
2020	457405	885350	387474	41406	146806
2021	501527	960927	369066	40031	164114

Total National Outcomes by Type 2019-2021



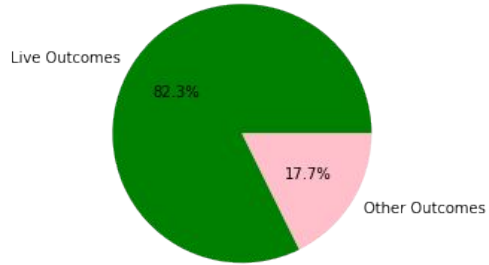
Adoption Returned To Owner Returned To Field Transferred Out Other Live Outcomes Died In Care Lost In Care Owner Intended Euthanasia Shelter Euthanasia

Year

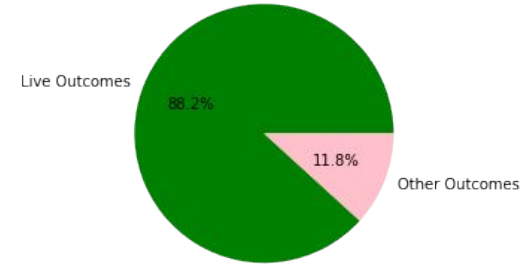
Year	Adoption	Returned To Owner	Returned To Field	Transferred Out	Other Live Outcomes	Died In Care	Lost In Care	Owner Intended Euthanasia	Shelter Euthanasia
2019	1380898	262045	82412	333536	34088	45727	4985	50049	250279
2020	1159473	194171	65850	300799	28897	31687	3276	37090	129455
2021	1194844	207101	75269	268725	33226	38035	2477	35830	139366

Cat Live Outcomes Vs. Other Outcomes for 2019-2021

Feline Outcome Comparison 2019



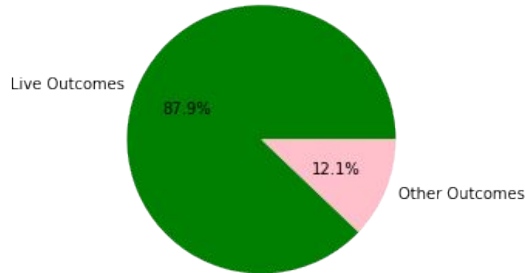
Feline Outcome Comparison 2020



Live Outcomes:

- Adoption
- Returned to Owner
- Transferred Out to Agency
- Returned to Field

Feline Outcome Comparison 2021



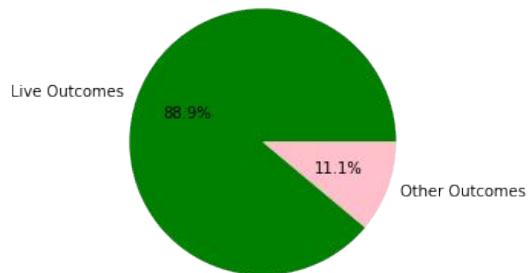
Other Outcomes:

- Died in Care
- Lost in Care
- Shelter Euthanasia
- Owner Intended Euthanasia

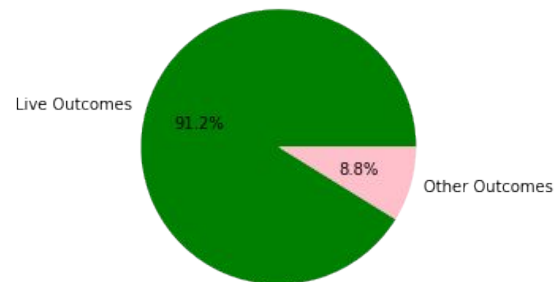


Dog Live Outcomes vs. Other Outcomes for 2019-2022

Canine Outcome Comparison 2019



Canine Outcome Comparison 2020



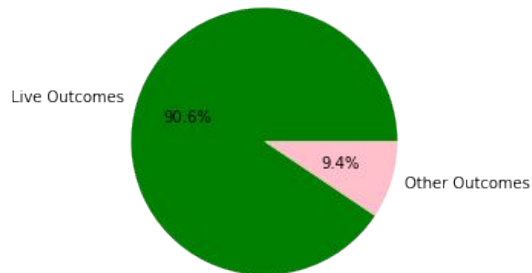
Live Outcomes:

- Adoption
- Returned to Owner
- Transferred Out to Agency
- Returned to Field

Other Outcomes:

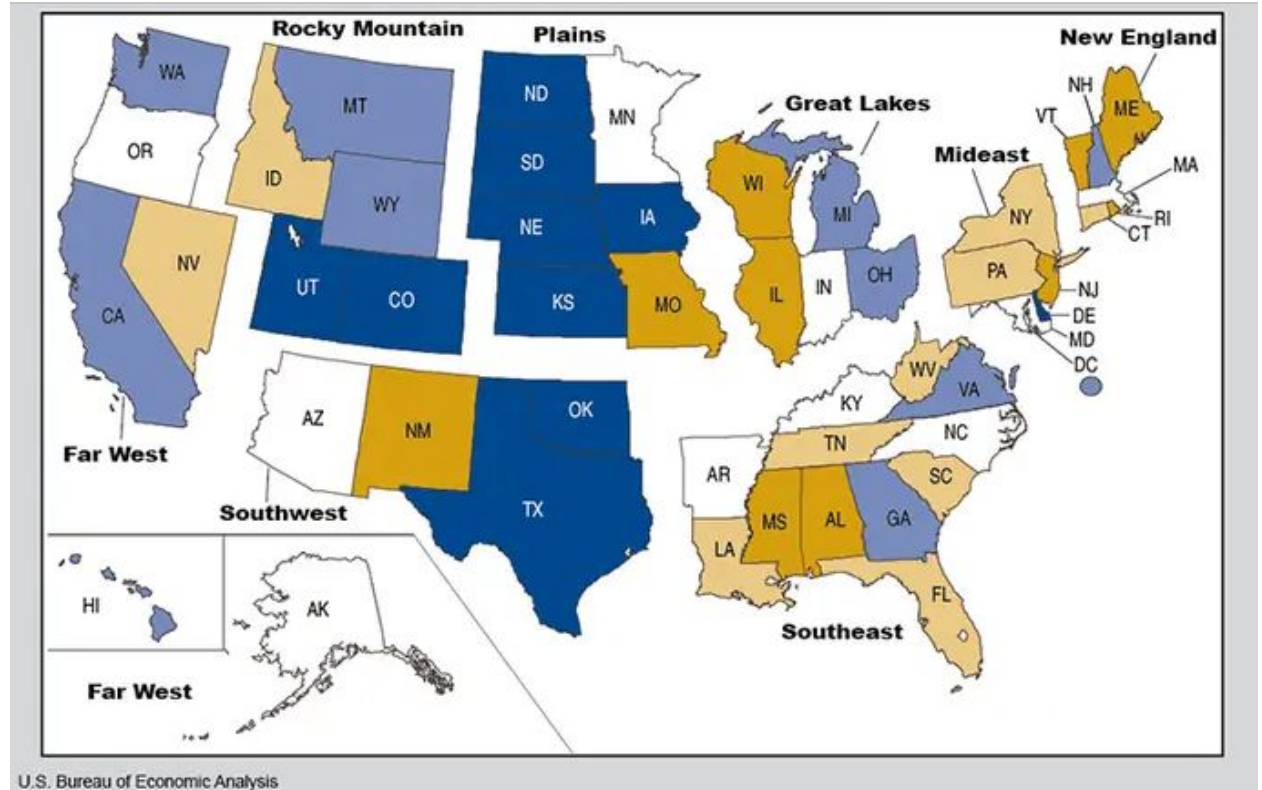
- Died in Care
- Lost in Care
- Shelter Euthanasia
- Owner Intended Euthanasia

Canine Outcome Comparison 2021

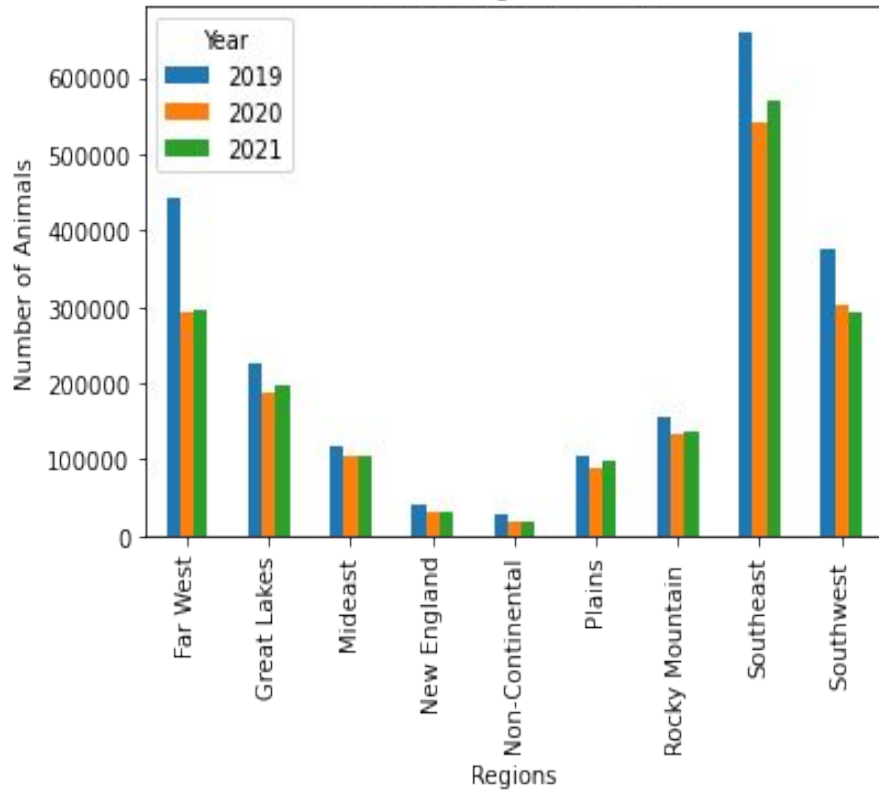


Analysis on a Regional Level

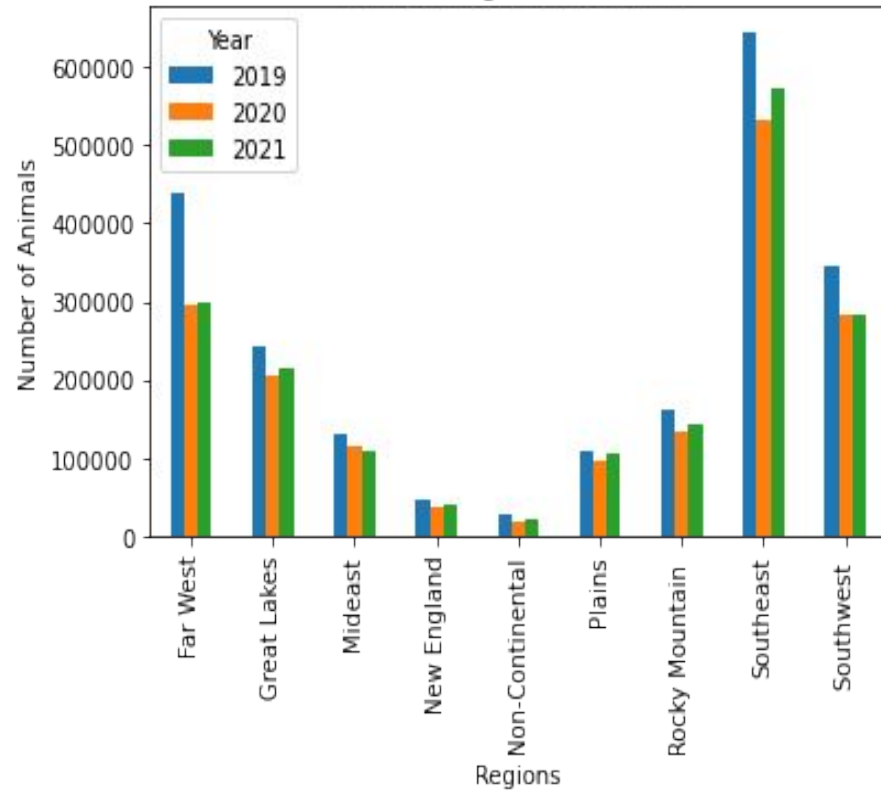
Regions determined using
The Bureau of Economic
Analysis Regional Map



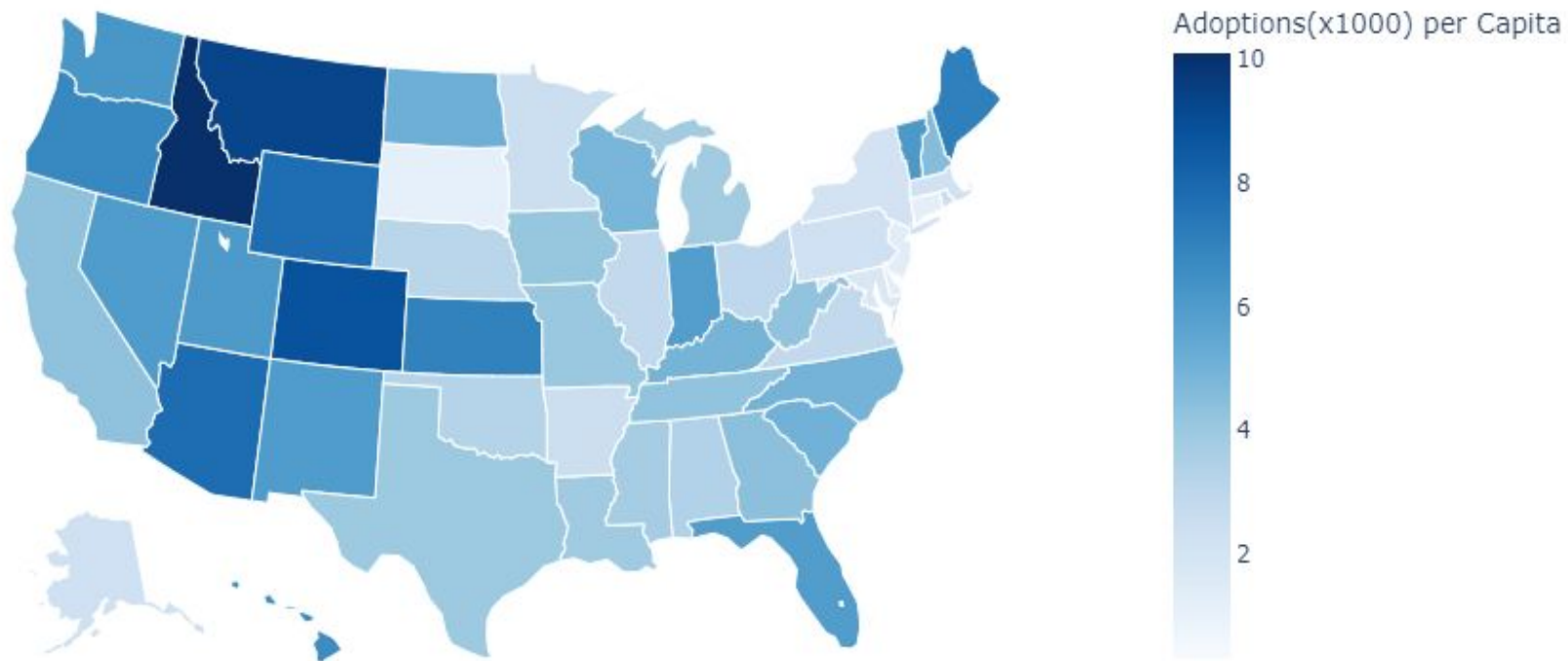
Annual Regional Intake



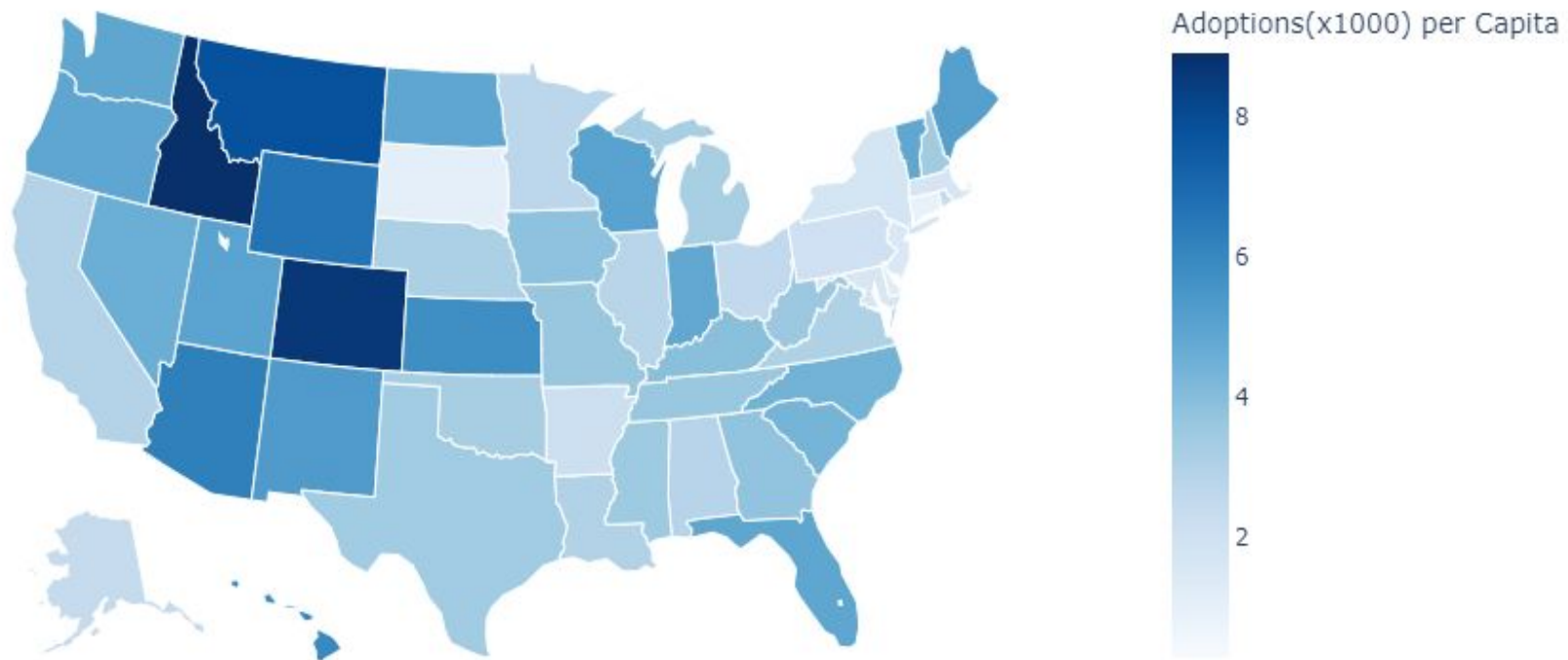
Annual Regional Outcome



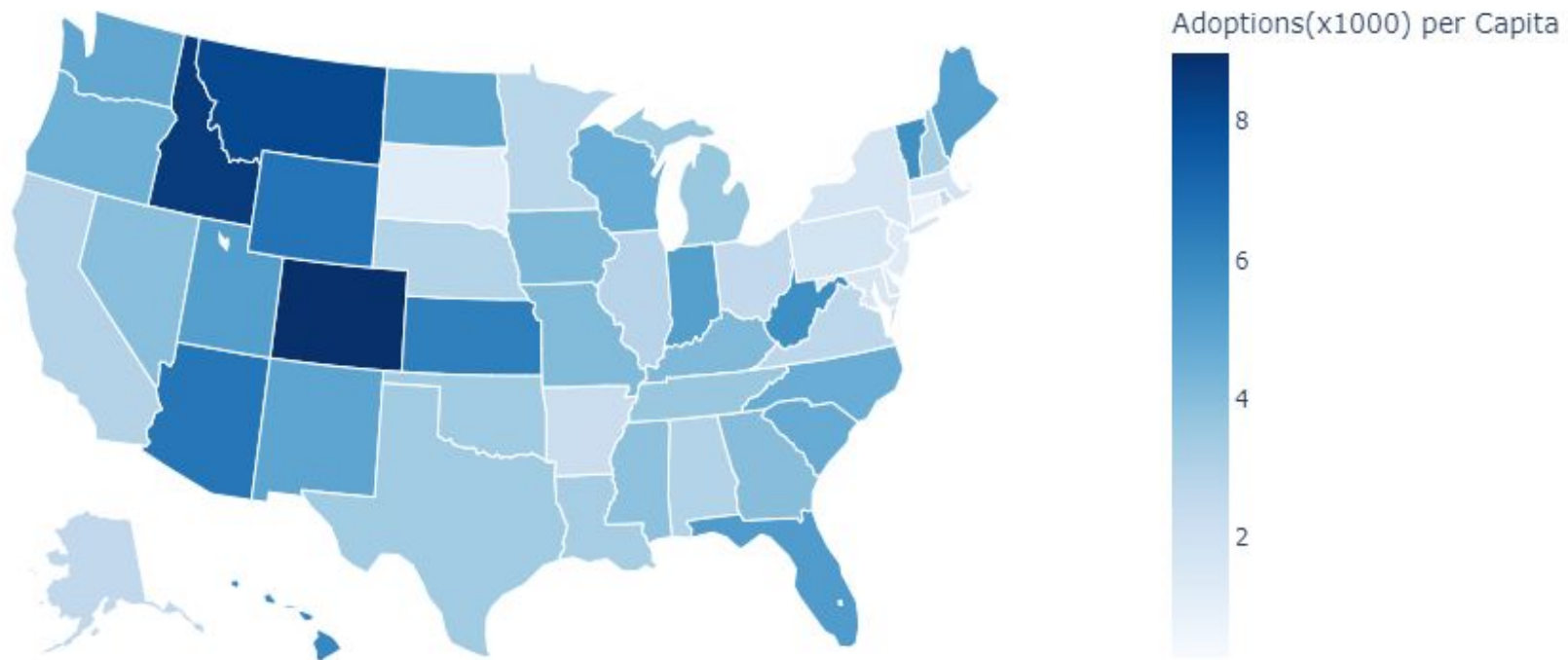
2019 Adoptions per Capita By State



2020 Adoptions per Capita By State



2021 Adoptions per Capita By State





Analysis



What effects, if any, were noticed?

Nationally:

- Overall intakes change from 2019 to 2021 was -16.94%
- Overall outcomes change from 2019 to 2021 was -18.38%

Regionally:

- Every region experienced a drop in volume from 2019 to 2020
- The Far West had the largest change from 2019 to 2020

States:

- CO, VA, OK, WI had increased adoptions from 2019-2020
- Adoptions increased overall in 2021 but not back to 2019 rates

Species:

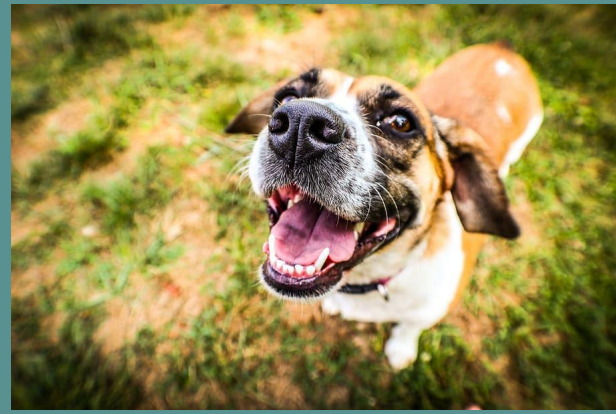
- No noticeable differences between outcome comparisons of cats and dogs across all three years

	Total Cat Adoptions	Total Dog Adoptions	Total Adoptions	Total Relinquished Cats	Total Relinquished Dogs	Total Relinquished
Year						
2019.0	731828.0	649070.0	1380898.0	299209.0	301218.0	600427.0
2020.0	650855.0	508618.0	1159473.0	242015.0	215390.0	457405.0
2021.0	683916.0	510928.0	1194844.0	266553.0	234974.0	501527.0

Did the pandemic cause an effect on animal shelter intakes/outcomes?

There was a noticeable decrease in both shelter intakes and outcomes from 2019 to 2020, presumably due to the beginning of the pandemic.

From 2020 to 2021, there is an uptick in intakes and outcomes, but more data is needed to confirm the ongoing relationship between the pandemic and animal shelter activity.



**Shop less,
adopt more.**