

The Louisiana SPCA faces criticism from members of the No-Kill movement because of its decision to operate as an open admission shelter. This means they accept any animal that is brought through their doors requiring them to make euthanasia decisions to maintain the quality of life for all animals in their care. According to Best Friends animal shelter, a leader in the animal welfare community, an organization is considered no-kill when 90% of the animals entering their shelter are successfully placed. [best friends] Louisiana SPCA intake and outcome records from 2015-2019 were used to perform preliminary analysis on animals that entered the shelter, placed alive or euthanized. The euthanasia and live release rates were compared to both the nationally recognized benchmark live release rate and the live release rate of Austin Pets Alive, a successful no-kill agency. The Louisiana SPCA has chosen to embrace being open admission and has no desire to use the no-kill label due to its divisive nature; however, my goal with this analysis is to make a case for support from the community that they are still enhancing the quality of animals' lives and are worthy of support regardless of their label.

The attached dashboard presents the results of my preliminary review. The overall metrics for the last five years are summarized at the top of the dashboard:

- # of Intakes: This includes all animals that entered the shelter between 2015 and 2019, including cats, dogs, wildlife and exotics
- # of Live Releases: Animals that were placed through one of the following channels: Adoption, Transfer Out, Return to Owner/Guardian, Clinic Out, Service Out, Wildlife Release
- Live Release Rate: the percent of animals taken in that were placed through a live release channel
- # Euthanasias: Animals that were euthanized (animals that died of natural causes or dead at intake were not included in this number)
- Euthanasia Rate: the percent of animals taken in that were euthanized
- # Healthy Euthanasias: The number of animals with an outcome Asilomar status of healthy that were euthanized.
- Healthy Euthanasia Rate: The percent of animals euthanized that were healthy.

A line chart was chosen to represent the numbers of animals who arrived, placed through live release and euthanized to identify any trends over time. We can see that overall intakes have gone down since 2015 and the number of live releases and euthanasias also reflect that change. From 2017 through 2019, we can see a widening between the live release and euthanasia numbers indicating that our placements are increasing. This is also evidenced by the intake line and the live release line getting closer, meaning more intakes are being placed.

The graph to the right is a treemap showing the distribution of animals euthanized by their outcome Asilomar status. The Asilomar accords were developed in 2004 as a standard way for different shelters to categorize the health status of animals in their care so their statistics could be compiled and analyzed. [asilomar] The Louisiana SPCA responds to animal control emergencies which can result in a larger number of animals with health and behavior issues. The tree map demonstrates that the majority of animals euthanized fell in the unhealthy/untreatable category and only .36% of animals euthanized

were considered healthy. A special note is that the Asilomar accords apply to cats and dog so any exotics or wildlife may have an Asilomar status of null or unknown.

The next bar chart plots the live release rate for each year comparing it to the euthanasia rate and the benchmark for achieving a no-kill status. We can see that live release has improved significantly each year and is nearing the no-kill benchmark. At the same time, the euthanasia rate is decreasing. This indicates that the Louisiana SPCA is doing the work to save more animals every year.

Finally, the second line chart displays the number of intakes, live releases and euthanasias for Austin Pets Alive, a no-kill agency whose data is made available through Austin's Open Data Initiative. Some interesting things to note are that Austin's intake is 3 times that of the Louisiana SPCA, yet their euthanasia numbers are the same resulting in a higher live release rate. A deeper dive into their placement programs would be helpful in determining where they are successful.

Throughout the dashboard, a colorblind friendly color scheme was used. Blue consistently represents live releases while orange represents euthanasia. Unnecessary lines were removed to help the data lines in the line charts stand out. The top row of graphs display the numbers for Louisiana SPCA alone while the bottom two graphs compare their data to the benchmark and fellow shelter. The line charts were placed diagonally from each other to purposefully create whitespace between the color dense treemap and bar chart.

The next step in this analysis would include further prodding into the programs that are successfully used to place animals at both the Louisiana SPCA and Austin Pets Alive. Additionally, the Asilomar statuses of Treatable-Manageable and Treatable-Rehabilitatable may offer areas of improvement in reducing euthanasia overall if any noted illnesses can be treated effectively. The demonstration of the increase in live release over the years plus emphasis on programs and services that are working can provide a case to the community that the Louisiana SPCA is working towards the goals of many other no-kill rescues in the area. Additionally, they can appeal to the community for support of new programs aimed to improve the live release rate among the Treatable rated animals.