



Community-Based Reunification

A New Shelter Initiative





About AAC

Austin Animal Center is the largest municipal no-kill shelter in the US

Fiscal Year 2019 Stats

- Intake: 17,946

	Dogs	Cats
Stray	7,581	5,989
OS	2,379	1,397

- Live release rate: 97.3%
 - Dogs: 98.3%
 - Cats: 95.8%

Lifesaving Partnerships

Friends of Austin Animal Center

- Behavior/medical vouchers
- Kitten kits
- Special project funding

Austin Pets Alive!

- Neonates
- Behavior pulls
- Space pulls

Austin Humane Society

- Shelter-Neuter-Return
- TNR
- Space pulls



Pet Resource Center

- Intake
 - OS by appointment if able
- Pet food
- Basic care supplies
- Medical vouchers
- Found reports

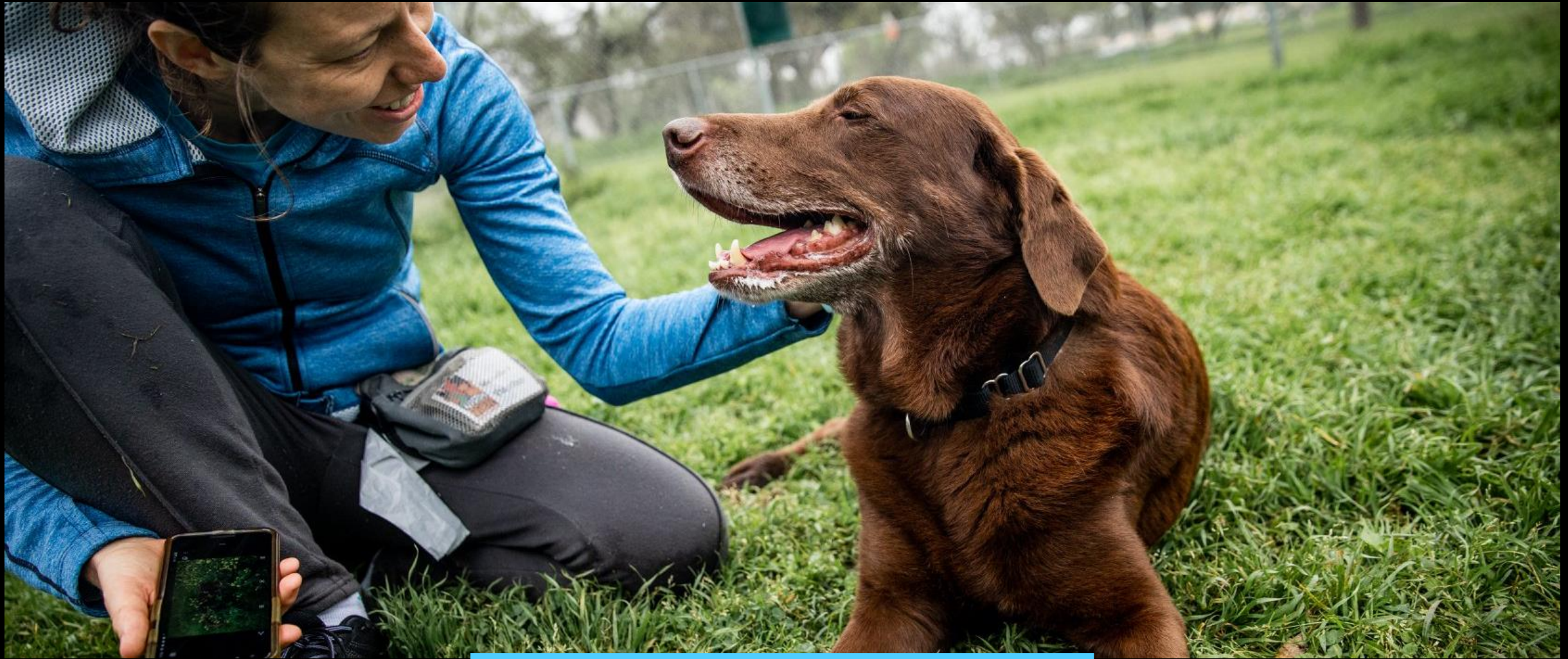




The Problem

Stray animals are the largest percentage of intake.

- Low reclaim rate (~24% for med/lg dogs)
- Large jurisdictional area means pets taken out of their neighborhood 20+ miles away
- Space issues affect care for the animals who truly need sheltering
- Bulk of resources spent on animal care instead of pet retention



We need the community's help in keeping stray animals, especially medium-large dogs, out of the shelter.

Found Reports



[Back](#)

This DOG - ID#A816991

I am a white and brown, unaltered male, who looks like a Pit Bull Terrier.

The finder thinks I am 1 year old.

I am not at the Austin Animal Center, but I am currently with the person who found me. Contact customer service in order to get more information.

I have been at the shelter since May 05, 2020.

This information is 1 hour old.

For more information about this animal, visit:

[Austin Animal Center](#)

Ask for information about animal ID number: A816991

- Submitted online or via phone
- Allows animal to be posted on website for 14 days while finder keeps pet in community
- Animal is not impounded
- Pet Resource Center can provide crate, food, and other basic care supplies
- Average 171 reports/month

We followed up with Found
Reports filed between
Sept 1, 2019 and Mar 9, 2020.

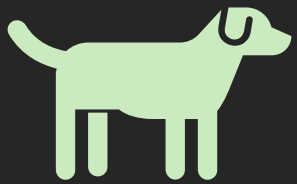
210 responses / 33% response rate



86%

found the pet in the neighborhood where the finder lives or works

51%
found the
owner



55.7%



37.9%





44%

found the owner
the same day

20%

found the
owner the
next day

17%

found the
owner in
2-3 days

17%

found the
owner after
4+ days



How did they find the owner?

29%
microchip

27%
Nextdoor

14%
walking
around

10%
Facebook

8%
flyers





Community members are more than
twice as likely to get a pet home
than the shelter is.



Neighbors helping neighbors.

Empowering Community-Based Reunification

- Create ability for lost and found reports
- Two-pronged response from animal control to non-urgent confined stray calls
- Supply fire stations with microchip scanners
- Partner with Lost and Found groups



A woman with long brown hair is smiling and looking at a small white puppy she is holding. The puppy is looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with concrete steps.

Why It Matters

Better for the animal

- No shelter stay means less likely to get sick or stressed
- Gets them home quicker to their family

Better for the owner

- Removes transportation and financial barriers for reclaim

Better for the shelter

- Reduces overcrowding
- Significant cost savings
- Doesn't create pet vacuum by removing animal



Always chasing the ball: Data collection never stops

What we're looking at now:

- How close were animals found to home?
- How often (and how soon) are calls to Animal Protection closed because the finders located the owners?

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