

## FY20 Annual Performance

The City of San Angelo Animal Services division has some big news to celebrate this year! For fiscal year 2019-20, the San Angelo Pets Alive! coalition exceeded our goal of animals released alive. 82.10% of animals left the animal shelter via adoption, owner redemption or transfer to reputable rescue.

This is particularly noteworthy since as recently as FY13 only about 20% of animals were released alive. It's also a big increase from last year's live release rate of 60.77% and 47.29% the prior year.

We attribute this accelerated success to our partnership with American Pets Alive!, a data driven program that develops best practices to save more animals faster. Texas continues to be one of the worst performing states related to animal releases. West Texas, in particular, has experienced difficulty in increasing its live release of animals.

San Angelo officially joined American Pets Alive! programming in April 2019 and has enjoyed successes such as:

- Broke a threshold with less than 1,000 deceased animals (825 in FY20)
- Almost doubled owner redemptions with 1,561 in FY20 – 472 of which were SNR community cats

To become a true no-kill community, San Angelo must achieve and maintain a 90% live release rate. This will take even more support and work from the partnership between the City and our rescue partner Concho Valley PAWS. We aim to achieve our first ever no-kill year in fiscal year 2020-21 and will need to address:

- Decreasing intake – we took in 4,560 animals in FY20 which is only a 6% decrease from the prior year. APA! best practices recommends 1,660 for a community our size.
- Continued funding for the shelter/neuter/return of community cats, a program that was originally funded with seed money and has no financial allocation for FY21.
- Increased adoptions with Concho Valley PAWS' new facility and family friendly hours.
- Increased owner redemptions with social media initiatives like Claim Your Canine, a daily post of new arrivals reaching on more than 8,000 people.

Thank you to all the adopters, donors and volunteers who have helped San Angelo's pets so far on this journey. Finally getting to 90% is a feather in all our hats. Being a no-kill community points to the overall health of San Angelo – families are financially stable enough to adopt or keep their pets year after year. Once we've achieved and maintained 90%, we hope to become a community resource to families in need.

*This article was written by Morgan Chegwidder, Neighborhood & Family Services assistant director.*