



Goal 2: Public Safety

Desired Community Condition: Domestic animals are responsibly cared for and provided safe and healthy home environments.



Indicator: Number of Animals Impounded, Reclaimed, Adopted or Euthanized; Number of Bite Cases

Progress Rating: Local Trend: POSITIVE National Comparison: SIMILAR

Indicator Description

This indicator measures the number of animals impounded, euthanized, reclaimed, and adopted for years 2002 and 2003. It also includes the number of total bite cases. The Albuquerque Animal Care Center accepts animals from outside the city limits, so any ratios to population may be exaggerated. The Albuquerque Animal Care Center recently implemented new software to accurately track the number and types of animals received at the facility. Therefore, data prior to 2002 is inconsistent with later years and is not presented. Data was also obtained from various cities throughout the country.

Why is this indicator important?

People are responsible for caring for their pets and controlling pet overpopulation. Puppy mills, pet stores, backyard breeders, people who simply won't, don't bother, or "forget" to have their animals spayed or neutered -- all contribute to the problem of overpopulation. Pet overpopulation may lead to an increase in stray animals, animal shelter overcrowding, and improper care of animals. Stray animals may carry and spread disease including rabies, and are also a traffic safety problem. Animal shelter overcrowding may lead to an increase in euthanasia as shelters need to make room for more animals. Improper care of animals may make them aggressive, which may lead to the animals attacking people and other animals.

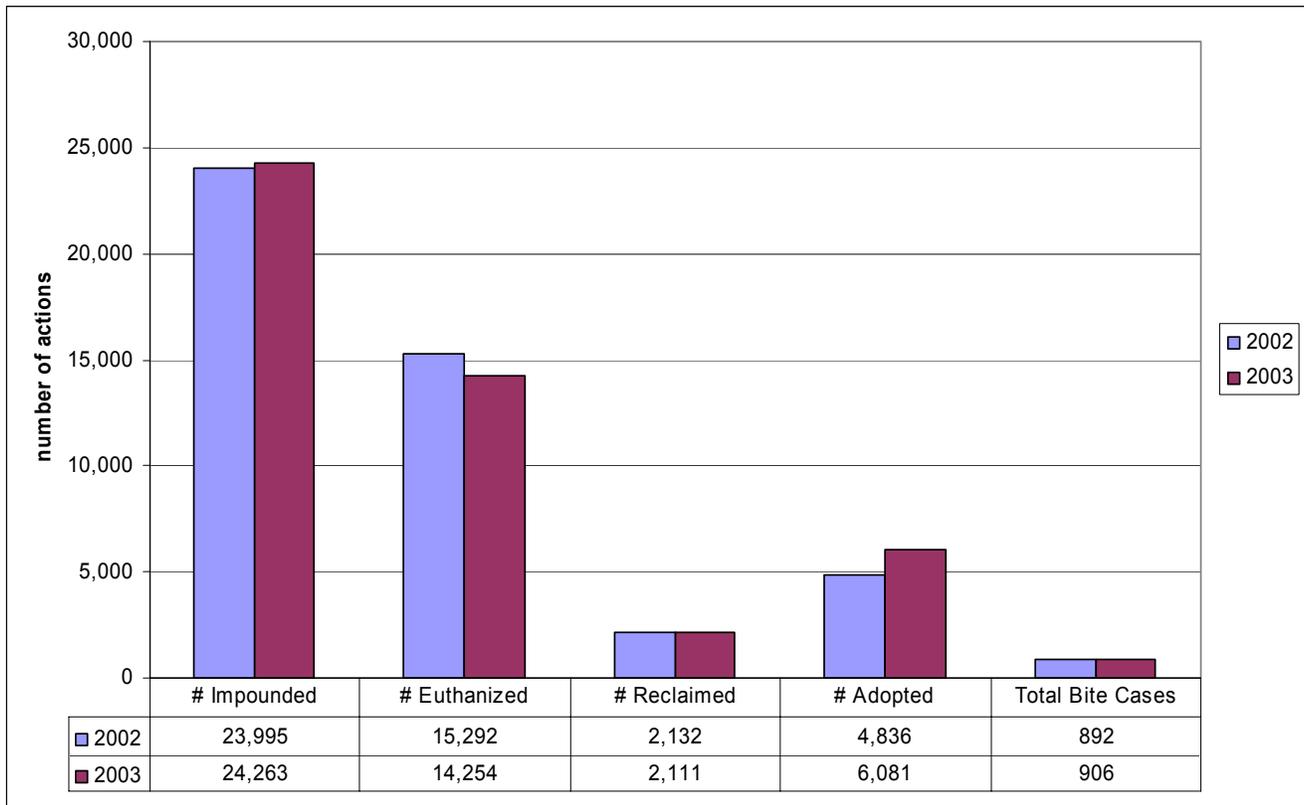
Data Sources

City of Albuquerque Animal Services Division; "Euthanasia and the Animal Shelter," Animal Protection Institute; Texas Department of Health; Maricopa County Animal Care and Control; City of Wichita; Las Vegas Valley Humane Society; "Estimating your Community's Pet Population," The Humane Society of the United States

What can we tell from the data?

- In Albuquerque, the number of euthanized animals decreased 6.8%, the number of adopted animals increased 25.7%, and the number of Total Bite Cases rose slightly, 1.6%, from 2002 to 2003.
- Albuquerque's euthanasia rate is slightly higher than the average for the jurisdictions listed.
- According to the Humane Society of the United States, the estimated dog and cat population for Bernalillo County is 158,506 dogs and 170,699 cats.

Albuquerque Animal Care Center Statistics for 2002 and 2003



Percent of Impounded Animals Euthanized in Albuquerque and other Jurisdictions for Year 2002, unless indicated.

Jurisdiction	% Euthanized
Las Vegas	35.3%
Clark County, Nevada	50.3%
Maricopa County, Florida	51.5%
Albuquerque	63.7% (58.7% in 2003)
Wichita	65.0%
Various Texas Animal Control Organizations	67.3% (2000)