



Delaware Animal Services

Annual Performance Report
2023



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Office of Animal Welfare

DAS - Animal Welfare Law Enforcement Unit

Established 2016

Mission

To make Delaware communities safer for animals and the public through the professional delivery of animal related services, innovative problem solving, and cooperative partnerships.

Staffing:

Certified Animal Welfare Officers - 24 FT, 7 PT
Dispatchers - 7 PT

Hours:

- 9:00am-7:00pm weekdays
- 10:00am-6:00pm weekends
- 24/7 Emergencies

Contact:

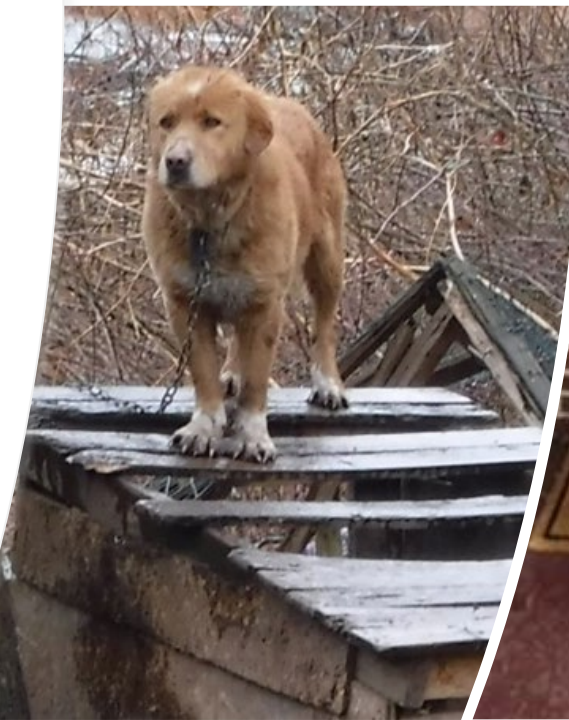
(302) 255-4646

animalservices.delaware.gov



Services

- Stray dogs/Dogs at large
- Dangerous dogs
- Housing and care violations
- Welfare checks
- Animal cruelty
- Rabies control
- Cats in peril
- Police/Agency assists
- Emergency response

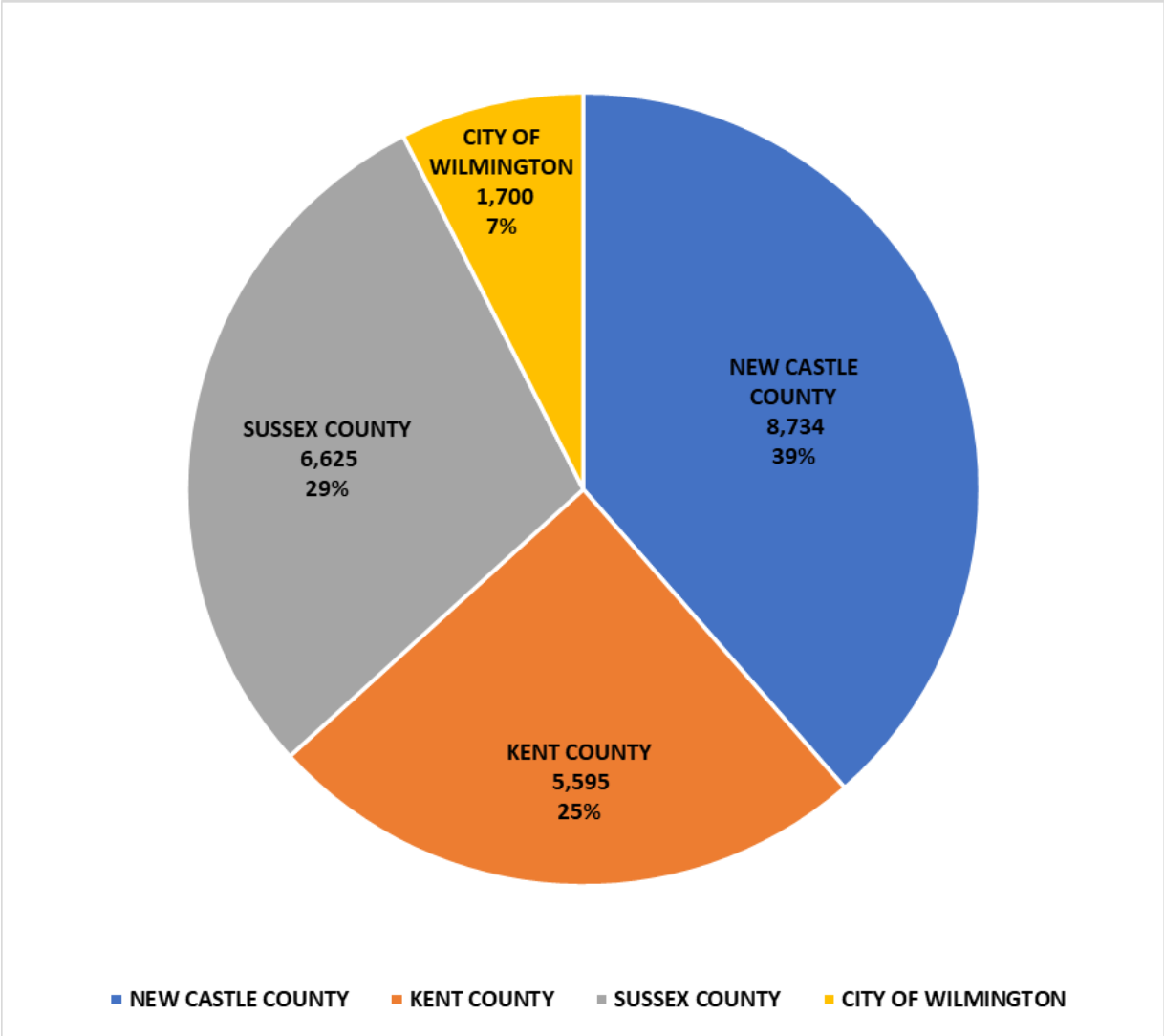


2023 CALLS FOR SERVICE BY TYPE

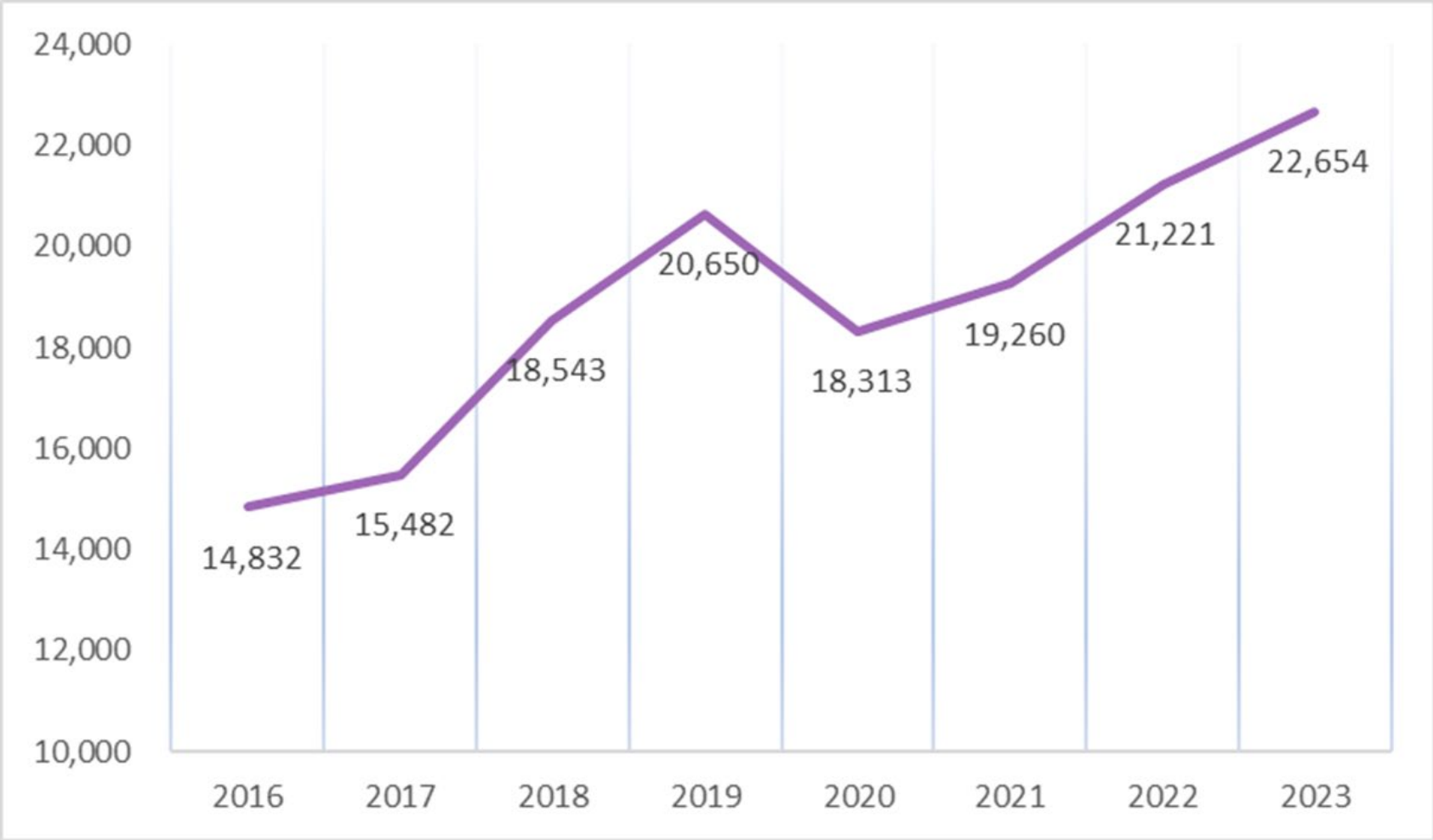
CATEGORY	NEW CASTLE COUNTY	KENT COUNTY	SUSSEX COUNTY	CITY OF WILMINGTON	TOTALS
Admin Activity	448	527	408	13	1,396
Animal Control	5,055	3,639	4,171	1,062	13,927
Animal Cruelty	291	247	204	104	846
Case Follow Up	1,356	1,522	1,348	178	4,404
Police/Agency Assist	404	377	334	164	1,279
Proactive Patrol	1,229	2,456	1,160	79	4,924
Public Assistance/Education	1,750	834	911	245	3,740
Rabies Control	1,234	498	1,005	125	2,862
TOTAL ACTIVITY	11,767	10,100	9,541	1,970	33,378
NEW CALLS FOR SERVICE	8,734	5,595	6,625	1,700	22,654

Note: Some calls for service involve multiple categories, but only one can be assigned.

2023 TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE BY LOCATION



2023 TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE BY YEAR



ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- **Dogs Returned to Owner (RTO) – 1,677 or 49%**
 - Number of dogs returned to owner in the field: 669
 - Number of dogs returned to owner at shelter: 1,008

Every dog returned to its owner without being impounded reduces stress to the animal, cost to the owner and the state, and frees up shelter space for other animals.

- **Criminal Charges and Citations**
 - Animal cruelty and animal fighting criminal charges: 99
 - Citations issued for dog control and rabies violations: 1,952
 - Dangerous Dog cases: 68
- **Specimens transported to Public Health Lab for rabies testing: 155**
- **Resources provided to many Delawareans – pet food, dog houses, bedding.**
- **Dog Licensing**
 - Dog Licenses Sold 2023: 29,848
 - Number of Active Dog Licenses: 46,853
 - Number of Active Kennel Licenses: 54



Resource Website: www.AnimalServices.delaware.gov



Delaware Animal Services

Delaware Animal Services is a section of the Office of Animal Welfare that promotes and works to ensure the health and safety of animals, people and the community. Our lost and found service gives the public a centralized resource for reuniting people with their lost pets.



Is it me you're looking for?

Enter words that describe your lost pet.



All animals rescued by Animal Welfare Officers are posted to the new Lost and Found Pet Registry. The public can visit the registry to look for a lost pet or post a lost or found pet notification.



Animal Welfare Office Certification

Delaware Animal Services Academy
Criminal Justice Institute, Wilmington University



Community Outreach
Constituent Relations
Conflict Resolution

Emergency Response

- Assisting pets in disasters
- Working with local and state emergency responders and NGOs
- Working to keep pets and people safe





Shelter Services

- Updated shelter facility in every county
- Positive outcomes– 90% live release rate
- Length of Stay Avg: Dogs 18.5 days, Cats 28.3 days
- Additional Community Services:
 - ✓ Low-cost spay/neuter & wellness
 - ✓ Vaccine and microchip clinics
 - ✓ Pet food banks
 - ✓ Grants to keep pets with owners



LIVE ANIMAL INTAKE BY YEAR

DOGS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
bite quarantine	132	163	159	142	176	164
dangerous dog	0	9	24	14	29	36
safekeeping	23	81	105	190	308	261
seizure	203	288	101	149	257	278
surrender in field	115	142	135	180	332	146
Stray	2,540	2,391	1,916	2,005	2,411	2,703
TOTAL DOGS	3,013	3,074	2,440	2,680	3,513	3,588
CATS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
bite quarantine	32	42	37	27	17	30
safekeeping	6	14	45	69	133	110
seizure	99	81	259	75	122	89
surrender in field	57	13	22	245	218	148
unowned endangered	308	470	538	668	706	582
TOTAL CATS	502	620	901	1,084	1,196	959
Total LIVE INTAKE	3,515	3,694	3,341	3,764	4,709	4,547
Increase Total Animals 2018-2023						29.4%

