



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner



Animal
Care Centers
of NYC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ANIMAL CARE CENTERS OF NYC RELEASES FIRST QUARTER 2017 DATA, LEADS NATION IN PLACEMENT OF DOGS AND CATS

*Along with adoption partner programs, overall placement
rate reached 94.3 percent – the highest in the nation for an open-admissions shelter*

Innovative surrender counseling has decreased animal intake by 24 percent over last year

April 26, 2017 – Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC), the only open-admissions animal shelter serving all five boroughs, today announced its 2017 first quarter data, available to the public [here](#). The overall placement rate for cats and dogs reached 94.3 percent with 95.5 percent of cats and 92.6 percent of dogs in its centers being placed either through adoptions to the public or through its adoption partner program. This historic placement rate puts New York City as the nation’s leader in the placement of dogs and cats among shelters that publicly report data and have an annual average intake exceeding 25,000 animals. ACC attributes the increase in placement to a variety of factors, including a focus on providing services and resources designed to keep families and their pets together and efforts to mitigate pet surrender in the first place. Intake has decreased by 24 percent over the last year, with 1,345 fewer animals entering the shelter system than in the first quarter of 2016.

"Animal Care Centers of NYC is leading the way to create a new understanding of what is possible in open-admission shelters. The leadership of ACC and Mayor de Blasio’s investments in the shelter system are paying off and saving animals," said **Dr. Herminia Palacio, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services**. "I commend ACC and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s joint efforts to make New York City a more humane place for the animals that live here."

"These latest data are an encouraging sign that this administration’s commitment to animal welfare is leading to real results," said **Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett**. "I thank ACC and its partners for their excellent work in providing the best services available to New Yorkers looking for new animal companions. I thank Mayor de Blasio for his commitment to support and expand the animal welfare system in this city."

"With fewer animals coming into the shelter system, we are able to focus resources on a smaller population," said **ACC’s President and CEO Risa Weinstock**. "We have instituted new adoption protocols to make it easier for New Yorkers to find their perfect pet, and with a generous grant from Maddie’s Fund, we were able to update existing cat cages to give our feline

residents more room while they wait for their forever home. These efforts, combined with a tremendous support network of partners like the ASPCA and our 200 active New Hope adoption partners, enable ACC to place more and more animals.”

“All animals deserve safe, loving homes,” said **Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito**. “These numbers are promising, and it is my hope that this will encourage more and more New Yorkers to seek Animal Care Centers as a primary place to adopt a pet. I want to thank the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Animal Care Centers of NYC for their continued commitment in providing services to pet owners and future pet owners.”

“This is further proof that ACC does incredible work, and they do it well,” said **Council Member Corey Johnson, Chair of the Committee on Health**. “And while the numbers are incredibly impressive, it’s important to remember that there’s a story behind every one of these adoptions. As someone who has adopted a pet from ACC myself, I can attest to the fact that each adoption makes a profound impact in the life of the pet and the life of the adoptive parent. I thank ACC for its incredible work.”

"The numbers released by ACC demonstrate the impressive hard work they do to find homes for cats and dogs," said **State Senator Jeff Klein**. "Working with communities and providing resources to those who adopt animals has clearly made it easier for more people to add another member to their families. While the Bronx is currently served by a mobile animal adoption center that I helped secure, a permanent full service shelter would help to continue the great work by ACC."

“As a proud momma to Mr. Puds, my life saving rescue who rescued me right back, I commend DOHMH and ACC on their dog and cat placement efforts throughout our City,” said **Assembly Member Yuh-Line Niou**. “It is critical that we encourage the humane treatment of pets, and I am thankful for the various programs that shelter and treat the most vulnerable animals, and the counseling services meant to educate and support individuals looking to surrender their pets. I look forward to working with the City and partners to increase the welfare of animals here in New York.”

“Leading the nation in the placement of dogs and cats is no small feat, and I applaud ACC for their work to achieve this,” said **Council Member Paul Vallone**. “We must keep fighting to end animal homelessness, and I look forward to continuing to be part of that fight. To that end, I will continue advocating to make full service animal shelters in Queens and the Bronx a reality for the benefit of all our city’s pets.”

Admissions counseling for those facing animal surrender, as well as programs like Community Dogs going directly into underserved neighborhoods and providing vaccinations and microchips, are all part of the various ways ACC is proactively addressing pet overpopulation in New York City.

Ending animal homelessness in a major metropolitan city like New York involves much more than simply increasing adoptions. ACC serves the community in a variety of ways, including

providing humane education, field rescue, counseling services, lost and found assistance as well as operating the only shelters to accept all animals in need.

New Yorkers are encouraged to play an active role in animal welfare by adopting, fostering, volunteering and/or donating to animals in need. For more information, please visit nycacc.org.

ACC animal available for adoption can be viewed online at <http://nycacc.org/AdoptionSearch.htm>, or on ACC's free mobile app (available on Google Play and iTunes).

About Animal Care Centers of NYC

Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that rescues, cares for and finds loving homes for animals throughout the five boroughs. ACC is an open-admissions organization, which means it never turns away any homeless, abandoned, injured or sick animal in need of help, including cats, dogs, rabbits, small mammals, reptiles, birds, farm animals and wildlife. It is the only organization in NYC with this unique responsibility. For more information, please visit www.nycacc.org, and be sure to follow NYCACC on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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