



Yellowstone Valley  
**ANIMAL SHELTER**

2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

---

*Building a community where every animal is cared for*

---



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY: 2023



## YOUR SUPPORT + OUR PROGRAMS = LIVES SAVED

Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter (YVAS) continues to advance animal welfare and shape the way organizations care for animals and engage their communities. Because of our supporters, we are that much closer to meeting our vision of building a community where every animal is cared for.

### *Adoptions & Surrenders*

YVAS helps thousands of dogs, cats, and other companion animals in need find loving homes each year. In 2023, we placed more than 95 percent of the animals entrusted to our care. Together we helped 2,445 animals find new homes and served thousands of Yellowstone County families through free and affordable programs for people and pets.

The success of YVAS' shelter program is reflected in three key measures: the total number of animals admitted for rehoming, the percentage of animals with live placements (save-rate), and the average length of stay in the shelter. YVAS continues to achieve strong results across all three metrics.

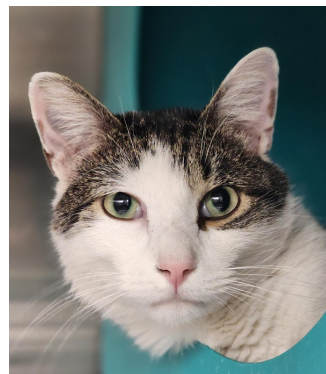
WE'RE PROUD TO  
REPORT A

**95%**

SAVE-RATE FOR  
THE ANIMALS IN  
OUR CARE



**4,937** ANIMALS  
ARRIVED AT YVAS



**6 DAYS** IS THE AVERAGE  
AMOUNT OF TIME  
THAT A CAT WILL STAY  
AT YVAS

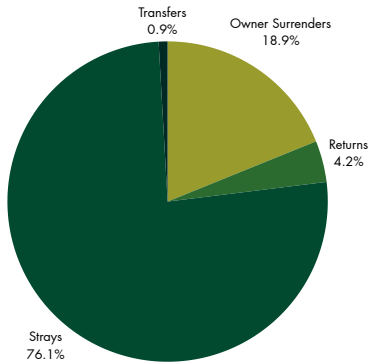


**4 DAYS** IS THE AVERAGE  
AMOUNT OF TIME  
THAT A DOG WILL STAY  
AT YVAS

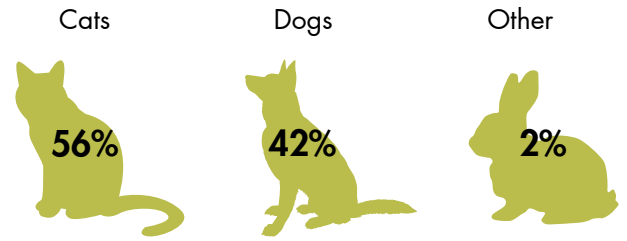


# COMPANION ANIMAL INTAKE

Companion animals by intake:



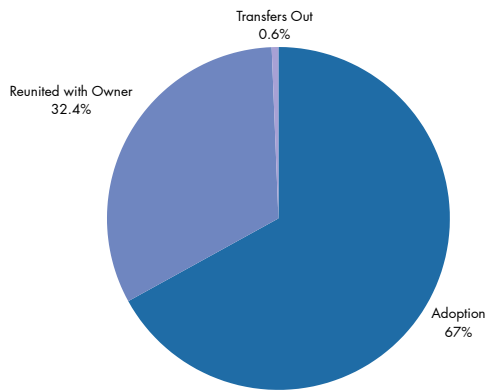
Companion animal intake by species:



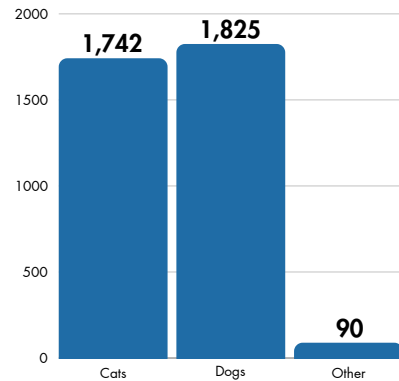
\*\*\* Other animals, also called "Pocket Pets", include small companion animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, reptiles, etc. \*\*\*

# COMPANION ANIMAL PLACEMENT

Companion animal placement by type:

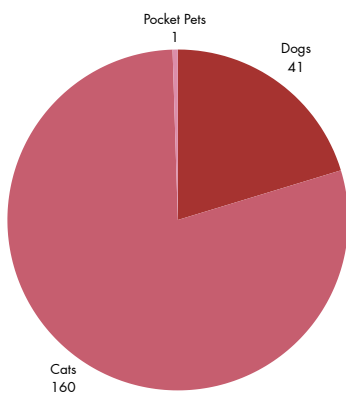


Companion animal placement by species:



# COMPANION ANIMAL EUTHANASIA

Euthanasia by species:



\*\*\* YVAS is committed to taking in every animal in need. Unfortunately, some animals come to us with severe or untreatable illnesses or behavior issues that prevent us from placing them in the community. If we cannot help an animal become healthy or if it is not suitable for placement, humane euthanasia is the most compassionate alternative. At all costs, YVAS avoids euthanizing healthy animals. There is also no time limit for animals in our care. \*\*\*



# Community Engagement

YVAS works with individuals and organizations to create a more humane world for animals. Our community outreach programs aim to increase the overall health and well-being of animals by empowering animal lovers and pet owners alike.



**29**

Teams completed 6-week obedience courses, taught by our Humane Education Coordinator.



**124**

Children attended Feline Fan Clubs. These events allow children to develop their reading skills & boost self-esteem while providing valuable socialization to animals.



**38**

Various outreach & educational events held throughout the Billings & Yellowstone County community.

## Shelter Diversion

We believe that the best place for a pet is with the families that love them. This is why we've greatly expanded our shelter diversion programs. These programs are designed to keep pets in their own homes or provide other alternatives to prevent them from entering shelters.

**72** SENIOR OWNERS & PETS HELPED BY THE PALS PROGRAM



**263** ANIMALS LISTED VIA OUR HOME TO HOME PROGRAM

**2,794** FREE ID TAGS GIVEN OUT





# Public Veterinary Services

Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter believes that all pet parents should have access to basic medical care for their furry family members. Sometimes that cost of care is more than many can afford, causing owners to make sacrifices so their pets can have necessary medical treatments. YVAS is proud to offer a variety of low-cost veterinary services for publicly-owned pets to better meet the needs of pets within our community.

## LOW-COST SERVICES:



934

PUBLIC VACCINES  
ADMINISTERED



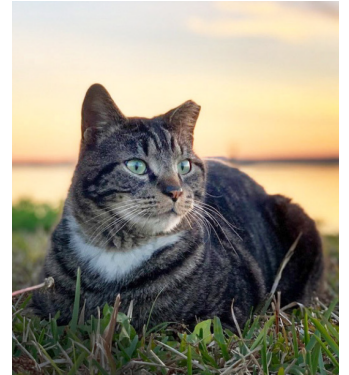
137

MICROCHIPS GIVEN  
AT CLINICS



517

SPAYED & NEUTERED  
AT LOW-COST CLINICS



45

CATS FIXED & VACCINATED  
VIA TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN  
PROGRAM



## COMPASSIONATE CARE:

In an effort to extend compassionate care beyond adoption services, our shelter proudly introduced a Pet Loss Bereavement Specialist in 2023. We recognize that pet owners often experience anticipatory grief & profound sorrow when faced with the decision to say goodbye to a pet; this specialized service aims to provide support during those challenging moments. Additionally, YVAS recognizes the importance of destigmatizing tough decisions like euthanasia, aiming to create an environment where pet owners feel supported rather than burdened by societal judgments. By embracing open and empathetic dialogue, YVAS provides critical medical services and fosters a community that values both the well-being of its pets & the emotional welfare of their devoted human companions.

# Shelter Veterinary Services

---

YVAS provides comprehensive medical care for all of our animals, from the moment they enter our facility to the day they find their forever home. Our dedicated veterinary team works tirelessly to ensure that each animal receives the care and attention they need to recover from illness, injury, or neglect. From routine vaccinations to complex surgeries, we are committed to providing the highest quality of care for every animal in our shelter. Even after an animal is adopted, we continue to provide post-adoption medical support to ensure a smooth transition into their new home.

## INTAKE:

All animals entering our facility will receive a full intake: meaning they get a basic exam, checked for a microchip, dewormed, & vaccinated.

In 2023, **7,733** vaccines were administered by YVAS.



## MEDICAL:

All animals are spayed or neutered prior to being adopted. In fact, last year **2,287** animals were spayed & neutered at YVAS. Animals also receive additional medical services when needed such as dentals, bloodwork, x-rays, repairing broken limbs, etc.



## HOUSING:

Each day, our trained staff monitor animals' health & behavior to make sure everyone stays happy & healthy. Animals also receive daily enrichment opportunities. We hope our animals' time with us is short, but as pleasant & stress-free as possible before finding their fur-ever homes!



## POST-ADOPTION:

In some special cases, YVAS will provide post-adoption medical care for our animals and their new families. This allows us to place animals with challenging medical needs, & avoid putting financial strains on adopters that might force them to surrender a loved pet.

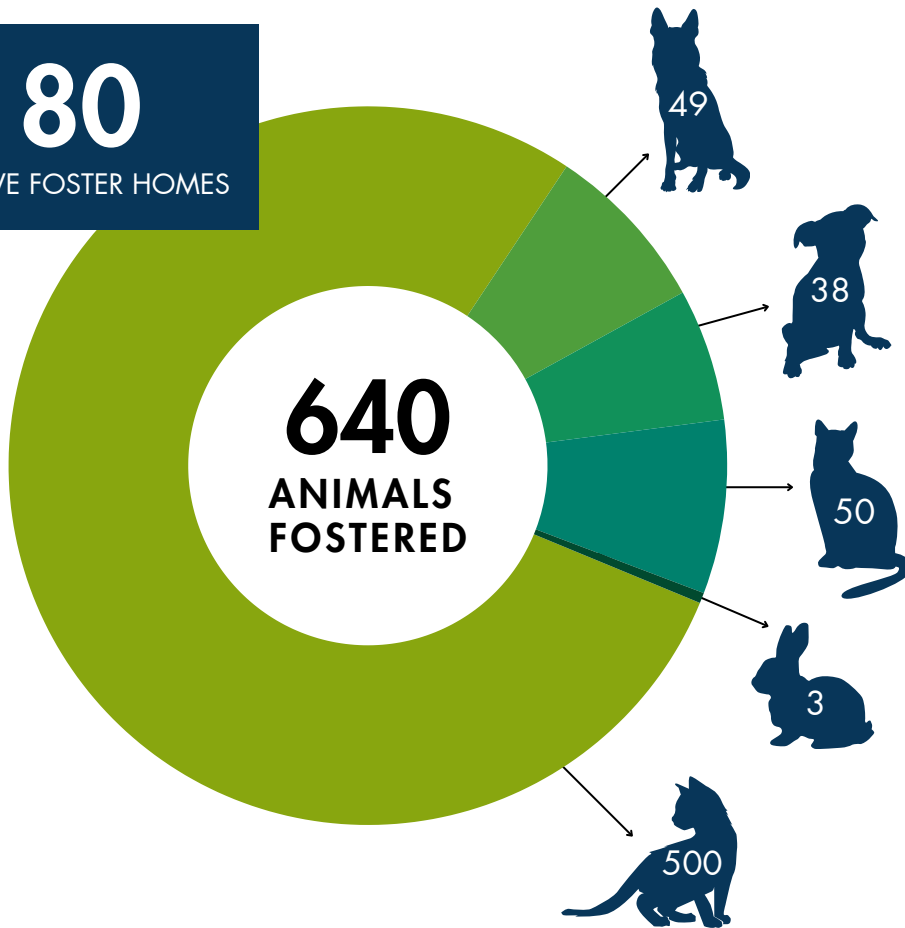




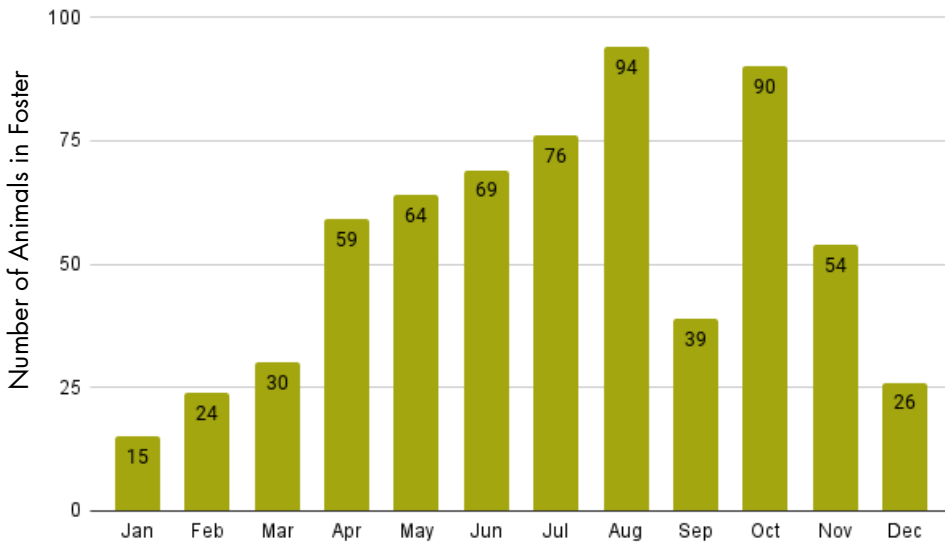
# Foster Program

The YVAS foster program is a network of families who are dedicated to providing temporary care to shelter animals in their own homes. The animals that are sent out to foster are all compromised in some way and are not yet considered “adoptable” whether they are underage or underweight, nursing, semi-feral and need individualized socialization, or recovering from an illness or medical procedure. Foster families provide care and attention to these animals until they are ready to come back to the shelter and find their forever homes.

**80**  
ACTIVE FOSTER HOMES



Animals Sent to Foster by Month



# Financials

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES:

### SUPPORT & REVENUES

Adoption fees & program revenue	\$391,265.69
Donations	\$262,782.18
Corporate sponsors	\$7,500.00
Legacies & bequests	\$35,597.95
Grants	\$79,163.40
Government contracts	\$345,587.96
Investments	\$4,782.88
Retail sales	\$43,742.46
Restricted capital campaign donations	\$272,487.48
Released restricted funds	\$193,013.17
Misc./other income	\$1,338.42
Endowment donations	\$10,000.00
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUES</b>	<b>\$1,647,261.59</b>

### EXPENSES

Program services:	
Sheltering	\$564,851.26
Public medical	\$66,896.48
Outreach & education	\$22,403.87
Foster & volunteer	\$78,624.39
Retail sales	\$25,455.55
Supporting services:	
General & admin.	\$434,852.77
Fundraising	\$15,308.08
Capital Campaign	\$138,213.17
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,346,605.57</b>



# Partners



Montana



# Community Support

The support of donors, friends, and advocates makes our work possible.

## VOLUNTEERS:



**126**

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



**2,351**

VOLUNTEERS HOURS



**\$74,754**

WORTH OF VOL. HOURS

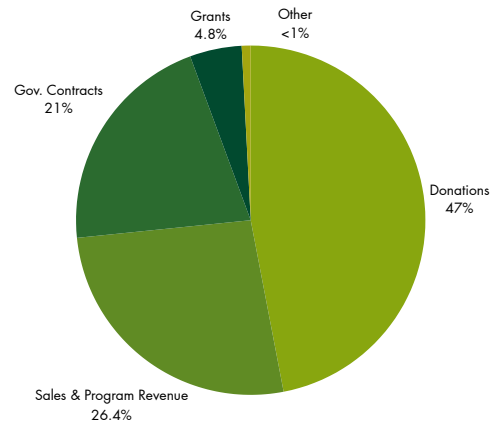


**2,456**

ADOPTION FOLDERS  
MADE BY VOLUNTEERS

## DONORS:

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, YVAS relies heavily on the support we receive from our community. While we maintain municipal contracts with the City of Billings, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office, & the Laurel Police Department, you'll see that our revenue primarily comes from generous donations. These contributions enable us to provide essential care, medical attention, and shelter for animals in need. Your support is instrumental in our vision to build a community where every animal is cared for.



## OUR REACH:



32,000+ followers on social media



100,000+ website views in 2023



1,800+ email subscribers



6,200+ mailing households



Visit us @ [WWW.YVAS.ORG](http://WWW.YVAS.ORG)





## AREA SERVED:

Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter serves the animals & people within the city limits of Billings. YVAS also maintains a contract with Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office & the Laurel Police Department to house & reunite lost dogs. YVAS hopes to one day provide an open-door policy to County cats. We will accept cats from outside Billings city limits on a case-by-case basis, depending on adoptability and availability of space.

## LEADERSHIP:

Triniti Halverson, Executive Director  
Tiffany Smith, Development Director  
Gabi Fry, Director of Operations  
Karis Hunt, Office Manager  
Katie Pauli, Foster Coordinator  
Rebekah Wong, Volunteer Coordinator  
Derek Wulf, Human Education Coordinator  
Dr. Lisa Brinlee, Veterinarian  
Jennifer Bradley, Lead Veterinary Technician  
Katie Laddusaw, Animal Care Manager - Feline  
Summer Simpson, Animal Care Manager - Canine



## SUPPORT STAFF:

Assist. Animal Care Managers (2)  
Per Diem Veterinarians (4)  
Veterinary Technicians (5)  
Public Services Coordinator & Pet Loss Specialist (1)  
Spay & Neuter Clinic Manager (1)  
Full-Time Kennel Attendants (5)  
Part-Time Kennel Attendants (4)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Katie Huso, President  
Steve Durrett, Treasurer  
Stacey Frost, Secretary  
Justin Hutchinson  
Shelley Pierce  
Mike Pigg  
Clarene Westburg



1735 Monad Road • P.O. Box 20920 • Billings, MT 59104 • 406-294-7387 • [www.yvas.org](http://www.yvas.org)