

**Regional Center  
for  
Animal Care and Protection  
(RCACP)  
Euthanasia Practices  
Special Report**

August 26, 2016

# Mission

The Executive Committee directs the Fiscal Affairs and Advisory Committee to review the concerns of the volunteers and citizens, along with input from RCACP staff, regarding euthanasia decision making practices, and report back to the Executive Committee as to the propriety of such decisions.

# Fiscal Affairs and Advisory Committee

## Botetourt County

Anthony (Tony) G. Zerrilla, Director of Finance

## Roanoke, City of

Andrea F. Trent, Assistant Director of Finance

## Roanoke County

Anne Marie Green, Director of Human Resources

## Vinton, Town of

Anne W. Cantrell, CPA, Interim Finance Director

# Background

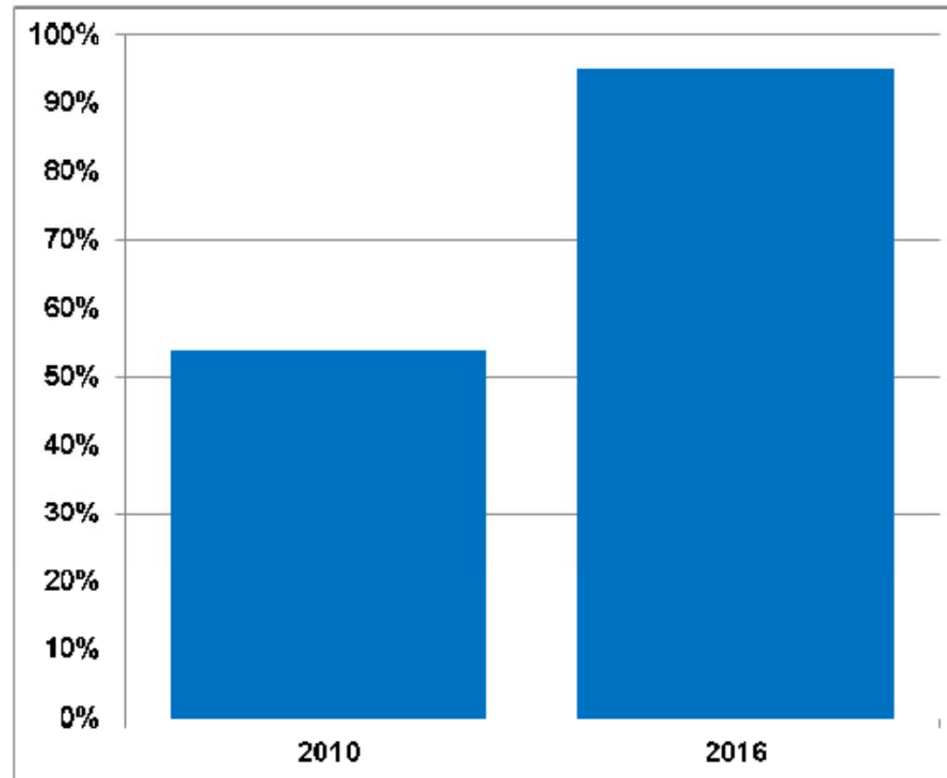
- \* 2,378 - Average number of dogs per year
- \* 3,321 - Average number of cats per year
- \* 5,699 - Average number of dogs and cats
- \* \$ 1.3 M Operating Budget
- \* \$ 177K Capital Expenditure - Roof
- \* Capital Expenditure - HVAC - Pending
- \* 19 Member Staff

# Research

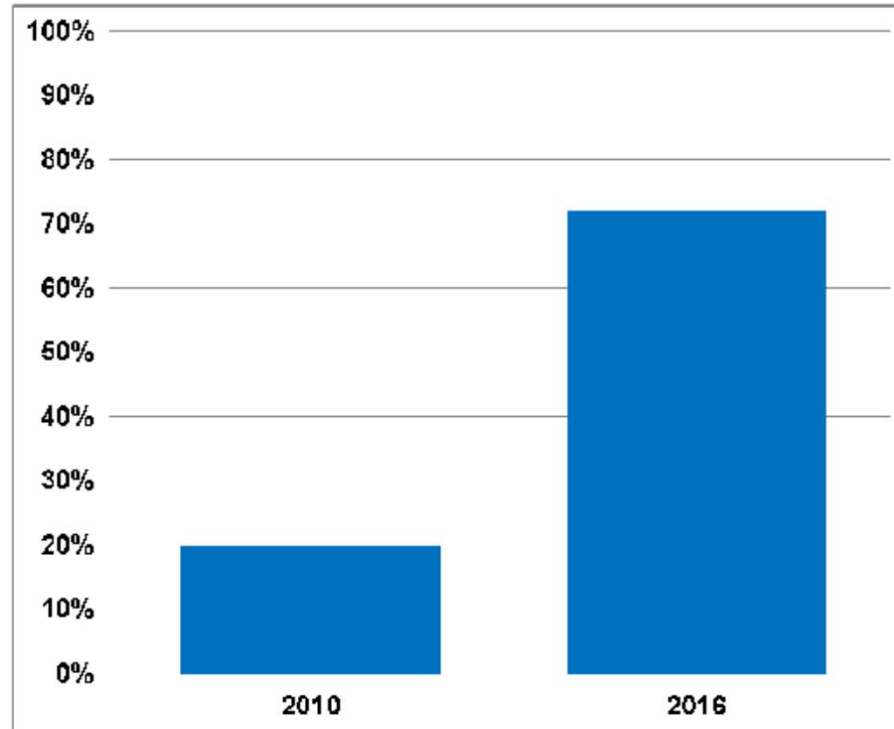
The Fiscal Affairs and Advisory Committee along with staff used numerous sources to research best practices, standing operating procedures and basis protocols:

- \* Code of VA
- \* RCACP
- \* ASPCA
- \* American Humane Society
- \* ASPCA SAFER® Aggression Assessment (SAFER™ )
- \* Asilomar Accords
- \* Peer open intake facilities

### Live Release Rate: Dogs



### Live Release Rate: Cats



# 2015

## Live Release Rates

Shelter Location	Combined	Dogs	Cats
Charlottesville (cats not reported)	94%	94%	N/A
Williamsburg/James City/York	79%	85%	75%
Lynchburg	79%	90%	70%
Bedford County	74%	91%	60%
<b>RCACP</b>	<b>73%</b>	88%	60%
State of Virginia	71%		
Virginia Beach	70%	90%	48%
City of Salem	70%	85%	51%
Franklin County	63%	86%	42%
Norfolk	60%	73%	47%
Campbell County	51%	83%	28%
Henry County	50%	65%	13%
Rockbridge County	41%	85%	20%
Harrisonburg/Rockingham County	41%	61%	28%
Danville	21%	53%	5%



# Euthanasia

A difficult decision

# Behavioral Assessments

## Credentialed staff

- \* Four PetSmart Charities Canine Behavior Assessment (CBA) Certified
- \* Two seeking ASPCA SAFER® Aggression Assessment certifications

## Industry recognized standards

- \* ASPCA SAFER® Aggression Assessment
- \* Asilomar Accords
- \* Canine Behavioral Assessment (CBA)

# Findings

It is critical for staff and volunteers who do not make euthanasia decisions to understand the pain, emotion, and distress associated with this role. The decision-makers face a difficult task, and their selections must be respected, even if they are different from those who are not making the difficult decision, including other staff, volunteers and citizens.

# Summary

The Fiscal Affairs and Advisory Committee recognized the number initiatives accomplished from the point of transition from the RVSPCA to date:

- \* Improvement in the live release rate,
- \* Credentialed staff making behavioral assessments,
- \* An interactive volunteer program,
- \* An animal fostering program,
- \* Development of a Rescue Review List,
- \* Relationships with numerous rescue agencies,
- \* Capital Improvements
  - \* HVAC
  - \* Adoption Center
  - \* Cat Play Area
  - \* Commercial Washer / Dryer
  - \* Roof - Work in Process
  - \* HVAC - Pending

# Summary

The Fiscal Affairs and Advisory Committee recognized the number initiatives accomplished from the point of transition from the RVSPCA to date:

- \* Spay/neuter coupon program,
- \* Adoption program,
- \* Increased budget dedicated to veterinarian and emergency medical services,
- \* Establishment of an Executive Committee,
- \* Establishment of the Fiscal Affairs and Advisory Committee,
- \* Establishment of an Operations Committee (Animal Control Officers/Wardens)

# Summary

The Fiscal Affairs and Advisory Committee

- \* find the euthanasia practices to be in order and according to guidelines as established by a number of credentialed sources.
- \* RCACP's standing operating procedures are established, in written format, easy to read with understandable guidelines and measurable accountabilities and tasks, unlike a number of resources consulted during this review.

# Recommendations

- \* Continue and Enhance Training - Behavioral Assessment Training and Certification/Recertification - Key Focus
- \* Prioritize documentation/recordkeeping and ensure maintenance/compliance with legislative requirements
- \* Investigate a Play Yard/Area and prioritize this enhancement to provide optimal opportunity for the most advantageous behavioral assessments
- \* Improve Volunteer Program allowing this committee an opportunity to work with the RCACP Executive Director, staff, rescue agencies and volunteers to create a program to provide for the most advantageous outcome for those animals who find themselves housed at the center



**REGIONAL CENTER**

FOR

**ANIMAL CONTROL & PROTECTION**

- ◆ City of Roanoke
- ◆ Botetourt County
- ◆ Roanoke County
- ◆ Town of Vinton