



Numbers in Shelter and Standards of Care:

The number of animals that the Toronto Humane Society (THS) can humanely care for is based on the **Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters** produced by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. According to the guidelines, a primary enclosure must allow an animal to sleep and eat away from the area where they urinate and defecate; the amount of space that should be allocated between food, urination and defecation and resting areas is 2 ft; the amount of space between enclosures should be 5 ft. Based on these internationally supported standards, **the acceptable number of animals for the THS to house is 320 – 215 cats; 65 dogs, and 40 special species.** By adapting these standards, eliminating overcrowding and improving space and sanitation, THS has significantly **reduced the spread of infectious diseases between animals in the shelter.**

During the past year, THS has reduced the average length of stay of animals in the shelter; the average length of stay is currently 4.5 days for dogs and less than one month for cats. At the THS, animals are **never euthanized due to long shelter stays or a lack of space and healthy animals are never euthanized.** The **euthanasia rate** is low at 2.38%. THS never surrenders animals for research or other commercial use.

On May 31, 2011, the THS has **301 animals in the shelter on River Street and 144 animals in foster homes.**

Wildlife, Strays and Rescues at THS:

The THS cannot currently accept wildlife due to violations to our license made by a previous administration. The Society is working collaboratively with the Ministry of Natural Resources and will be in a position to **reapply for its wildlife license** in January 2012. The THS does rescue animals. In fact, THS provides shelter to more than **80 animals** transferred to the shelter from **rescue partners** monthly. These are animals that might otherwise be euthanized.

The THS **provides immediate medical care for any animal** that requires it. Strays received at THS are transferred to Toronto Animal Services (TAS) after they receive the required medical attention. They are frequently returned to our shelter from TAS once they are eligible for adoption. On average we accept **100 strays** on transfer a month. The Society has an agreement with TAS that allows THS to **keep all immature kittens** weighing less than 600 grams or not able to eat on their own.

Fostering and Volunteers:

The Society currently has **500 trained volunteers** and more than **200 foster families.** Dogs are now walked four times per day and kittens are housed in the nursery as well as in foster homes until they are ready for adoption.

About THS:

The mission of the Toronto Humane Society (THS) is to **promote the humane care and protection of all animals** and to prevent cruelty and suffering. The Society's vision is to be one of Canada's **leading animal advocacy, animal care and adoption agencies.** The THS provides **high quality care** to the animals who are surrendered to the shelter and finds them **forever homes** as quickly as possible. THS provides **expert veterinary care** – from emergency support to chronic and palliative care. The THS receives no government funding and is operated entirely through private donors and sponsors.

For more information contact THS at 416-392-2273 or visit our website at www.torontohumanesociety.com