



2023

Comparative Report on Shelter Care Operations & The Current State of Sheltering in Canada

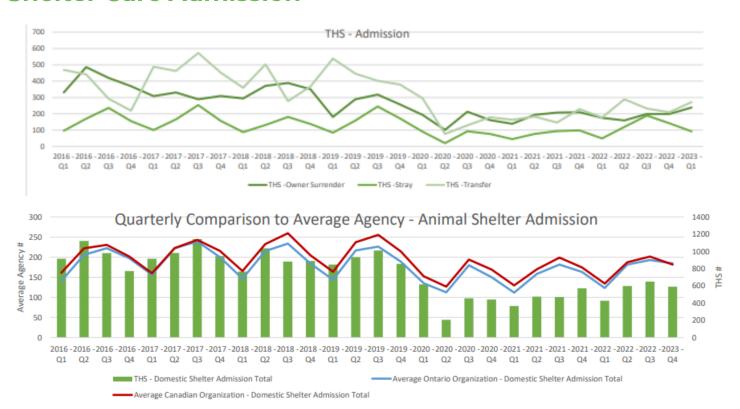
Comparative data is sourced from Animal Welfare Organizations nationally that are using PetPoint as their shelter database.



## Introduction

These quarterly reports compare Toronto Humane Society's shelter care admissions and adoption statistics with other animal welfare organizations on a municipal, provincial, and national level.

## **Shelter Care Admission**

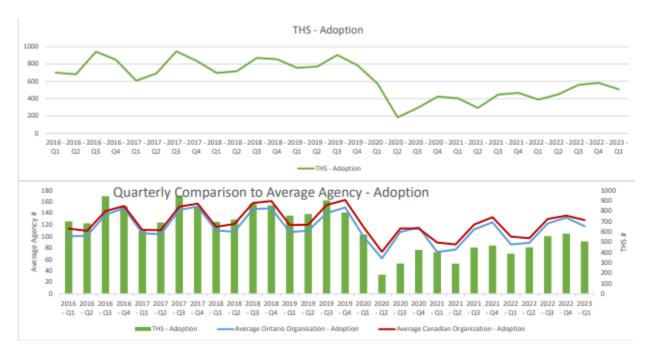


### **Key Notes:**

- 2023 has started and we are seeing the normal seasonal trends with our Stray admissions coming down as we exit winter. Steadily we are still seeing our transfer admissions return to full programmatic operation. Owner Surrenders have returned to just above our 2019 Q1 volume, however it is important to note that Q1 2019 appears to be a bit of an outlier. This is a data point we will evaluate more in-depth when comparing to adoption trends.
- Overall admission streams across the province continue to show seasonal norms. Of note for this report is a substantial drop in the number of PetPoint reporting shelters (15%) over last quarter. When comparing to pre-pandemic volumes, we see a drop of 5 (7%) reporting organizations. The bottom most graph show the average # per agency to normalize the data. The result is a 5% increase in admissions for the average reporting shelter. This increase is driven by both transfer admissions (27%) and Owner Surrenders (15%) to Q1 of 2019.
- Nationally, we continue to see very similar trends to the Ontario data. The two data sets tend
  to follow similar patterns due to the high concentration of reporting agencies in Ontario
  relative to the country. The same drop in reporting agencies will therefore also influence the
  number of total admissions reported nationally as well.



# **Adoption**

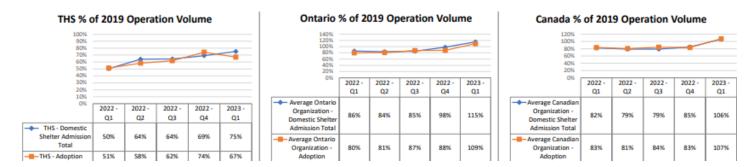


### **Key Notes:**

2023 started the year similar to our admissions, following seasonal trends. The normal seasonal drop in adoptions for Q1 against Q4 is historically due to the impact of kitten season adoptions maintaining influence through October. What is concerning in what we are seeing within the data is the sluggish return Toronto Humane Society is showing to pre-pandemic adoption volumes in comparison to the return we have experienced within our local admissions services. It's likely that this is due to the slower return of our transport program. Locally admitted animals tend to have higher rates of medical and behavioural challenges, bringing with them a longer length of stay. Where our transport animals typically will have shorter lengths of stay and be more readily adopted. As we have not yet resumed full transport programming, the delayed return of adoption volumes should not be surprising.



## **General Assessment**



### **Key Notes:**

Across Ontario and Canada, we are seeing a rise in the number of shelter admissions compared to Q1 2019. This is a concerning data point, and one that we will need to continue to monitor. The silver lining against the backdrop of the nominal admissions increase, is the comparable rise in the average number of adoptions per agency, a trend being experienced more broadly on the national level. Locally in Ontario and at Toronto Humane Society we are seeing an imbalance in the rates of return. It is worrying that the adoption programs are showing rates of return at 6, and 8% admissions programs. However, for Toronto Humane Society this could be due to a low population in care volume entering into the new year, bolstered by strong adoptions through the end of 2022. For Ontario however, this is the second quarter in a row that we have seen adoptions lag behind admissions and is a trend that is very concerning. This is concerning a trend to closely monitor over the beginning of 2023, potentially indicating over-crowding, and or rising euthanasia across the province. Organizationally, it is imperative that we continue to focus on adoption and maintaining/decreasing out length of stay, in order to support the guardians and animals within our community.