Richmond Animal Care & Control

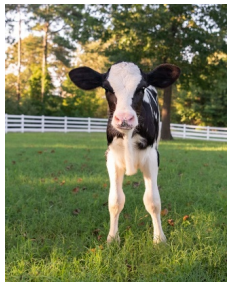
Public Safety Committee

Presented by Christie Chipps Peters, Director
July 25, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Richmond Animal Care & Control at a glance

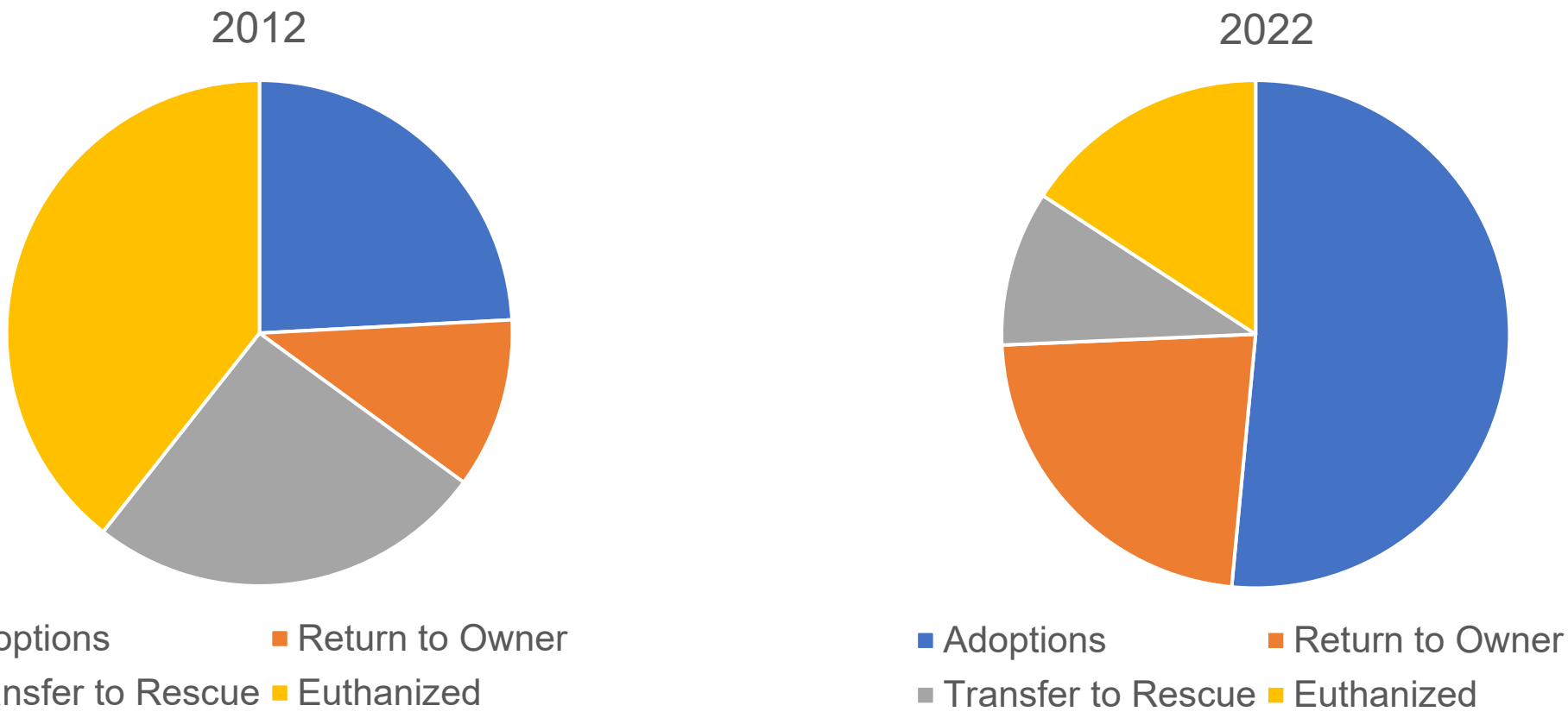
- Richmond Animal Care & Control (RACC) **provides care to an average of 3,000 animals each year**
- RACC provides an important public safety role in the City in addition to rehabilitation and life saving interventions for abused, neglected and sick animals in need.
- In 2022, 8 Animal Control officers responded to over **11,000 calls for service**
  - Bite calls through 2022: **539**
- **Goal: 90% save rate**
  - Prior to 2013: annual number of animals euthanized was 1,500
  - Current average is 300 per year



History

- Richmond Animal Care & Control (RACC) was established as the first city pound on **June 5, 1902**
- Since then, it has served as the **only** open-admission public animal shelter in the City of Richmond. We take in every animal in need regardless of health or temperament
- Animal Control fell under many departments over the years and in 2013 became a stand alone City department ☺

Animal Disposition History



Shelter

- **2005**: Current shelter (1600 Chamberlayne Ave) gifted to the City after serviceable life was expired by the Richmond SPCA
- **2012/13**: Shelter renovations brought dog kennels into compliance
- The Shelter has capacity to house 90 large dogs, 166 small dogs/cats
  - Operate with a daily in-care number of over 300
- **Shelter is staffed 24/7 365.**
  - Administration 8-5pm 7 days a week
  - Officers 7-5pm 5-7am-on call
  - Open to the public for adoptions:
    - Fri 1-6pm
    - Sat 12-5pm
    - Sun 12-4pm
    - appointment based adoption Mon-Thurs

Staff

DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL CARE
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DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL
Organization Chart

Director
024 Chipps Peters

Program & Ops Supervisor
006 Leinberger

Customer Service Technician
025 Giles

Field Supervisor
020 Campbell

Animal Control Ofc SR (1)
014 Jones

Animal Control Ofc (6)
005 Doran
007 Norman
013 Ransdell
017 Leech
021 Washington
022 Skeens

Contract Vet
Vacant

Vet Temp

Management Analyst, Associate (Outreach Manager)
019 Young

Management Analyst, Associate (Office Manager)
010 Stallings

Administrative Tech Sr (Placement Coordinator)
018 Hemsworth

Customer Service Technician (Intake & Redemption Coord)
023 Vacant

PT Administrative Tech (Intake & Redemption Coord)
02 Barnett

Shelter Supervisor
Reallocation from 023

Customer Service Tech
004 Adkins

AC Kennel Assistants (8)
001 Bowman
003 Hughes
008 Langon
009 Mitchell
011 Vacant-unfunded
012 Houston
015 Vacant-unfunded
026 Vacant-unfunded

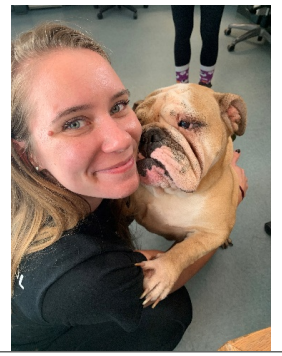
Temps

Officer Responsibilities

- Patrol/respond to on average 30 calls for service per day
  - Ranges from stray dogs to severe abuse/neglect to dogfighting (and everything in between)
- Enforcement/prosecution includes all levels of code/law violation, conduct search warrants and evidence gathering for investigations
- Respond to all injured/sick wildlife calls
- Respond and facilitate each bite/exposure, report (quarantine and release)
- Pick up all dead animals on the roadways (deer are contracted out)
- Immediate response with Sherriff for evictions and RPD for homicides/suicides/arrests where animals are in residence with out care or next of kin (2-5 times a week)

Shelter Staff Responsibilities

- Provide sanitary and compassionate care to more than 200 animals in house per day
- All animals cages/kennels are cleaned twice per day and dogs are walked three times per day
- Part time shelter vet provides oversight and direct animal care interventions
- Staff the front desk and respond to all citizen calls
- Conduct adoptions/redemption/foster/rescue coordination
- Coordinate in house volunteers



RACC Community Outreach

- Officer outreach/food /dog house/ straw/dog pen delivery and set up (foundation pays for this)
- Community food/supply pantry 8-5pm 7 days for any resident in need
- Free vaccine clinic each Friday 12-1pm for any resident pet in need
- Reduced fee reclaims/adoption case by case for anyone in financial need

RACC Foundation

- Established in 2005 as the “Friends of RACC”
- In 2012 the foundation was raising an average of $15k a year
- YTD donations 2022- $655,048 ☺
- All donations subsidize emergency medical veterinary care for City animals in need
- The Foundation spent $398,404 on emergency vet care in 2022, plus gifted the City with a Spay/Neuter Mobile unit ☺

RACC Tommie Fund

- 2019: A sad criminal case brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations
- 2020: The RACC Foundation established the Tommie Fund to help offset the costs of emergency medical care services at municipal shelters and public animal control agencies in Virginia who have stray, unclaimed and/or abandoned animals in need of emergency medical care services.
- 2021: Created the Team Tommie license plate through DMV to generate revenue from plate sales the to support the Tommie Fund

RACC “In the News”

- **2022 Media Coverage:**
  - ABC World News Tonight with David Muir
  - The Kelly Clarkson Show
  - Good Morning America
  - The Today Show (Digital)
  - Washington Post
  - Drew Barrymore Show
  - Fox News
  - New York Post
  - NPR
  - Southern Living
  - LadBible (Manchester, England
  - Amore A Zampe (Italian digital new source)
- Local press is consistent and our social media followers (FB & IG=150,000+)
- RACC hosts two closed FB Groups as well (each with more than 5,000 followers); RACC Medical Pics and RACC Team Tommie

RACC Challenges

- Increased call volume
- Record breaking intake numbers (260 more than last YTD)
- Increased number of sick/abandoned/abused cases (30 parvo cases & Flu)
- Cannot respond quickly to low level priority calls (off leash dogs, stray etc)
- We are drowning ☺