



Delaware Animal Services

Annual Performance Report 2023



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Office of Animal Welfare

2023 Calls for Service Totals

CATEGORY	NEW CASTLE COUNTY	KENT COUNTY	SUSSEX COUNTY	CITY OF WILMINGTON	TOTALS
Admin Activity	448	527	408	13	1,396
Police/Agency Assist	404	377	334	164	1,279
Public Assistance/Education	1,750	834	911	245	3,740
Animal Cruelty	291	247	204	104	846
Animal Control	5,055	3,639	4,171	1,062	13,927
Case Follow Up	1,356	1,522	1,348	178	4,404
Proactive Patrol	1,229	2,456	1,160	79	4,924
Rabies Control	1,234	498	1,005	125	2,862
TOTAL ACTIVITY	11,767	10,100	9,541	1,970	33,378
NEW CALLS FOR SERVICE	8,734	5,595	6,625	1,700	22,654

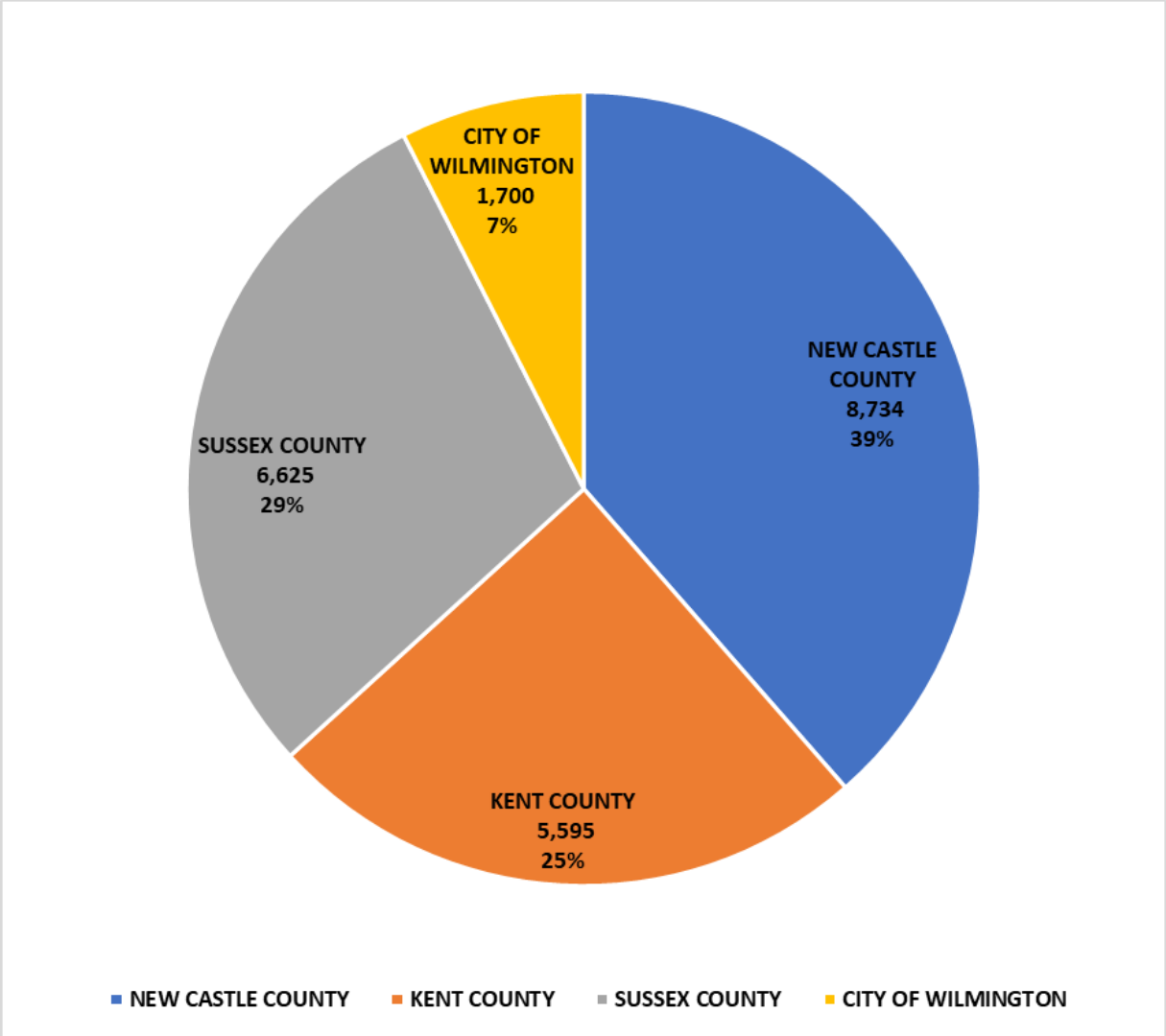
Note: Some calls for service involve multiple categories, but only one can be assigned.

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

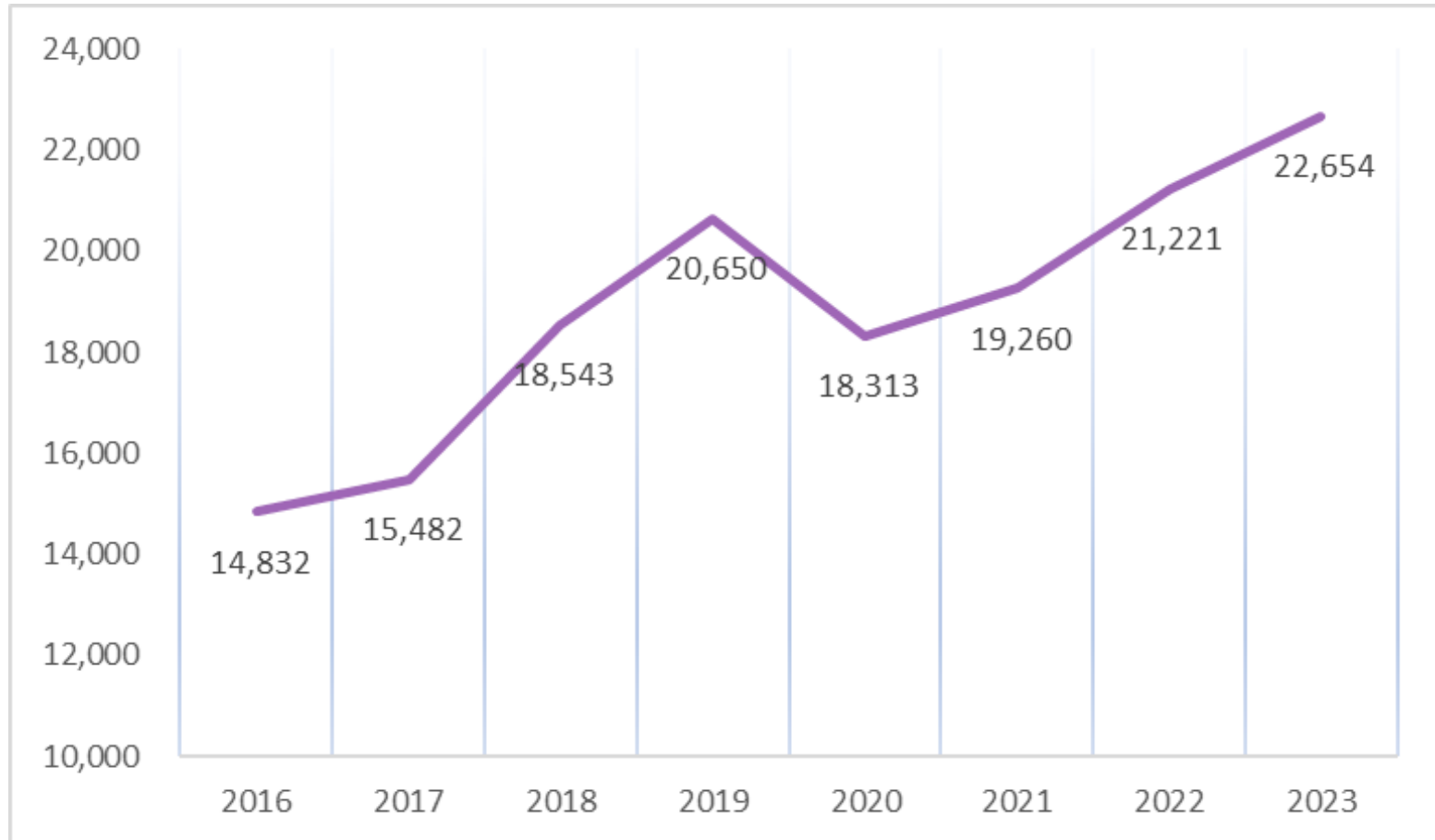
- **Administrative Activity** – Court, arrests, search warrants, reports, and other administrative responsibilities
- **Animal Control** – stray dogs, dangerous dogs, housing and welfare enforcement.
- **Animal Cruelty** – abuse, abandonment, cruel neglect, or animal fighting.
- **Case Follow Up** - Supplemental investigative activities on prior complaints, gathering evidence and information, monitoring animal health and welfare, public safety.
- **Police & Agency Assist** – Calls from police, Fire/EMS, Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and others that request assistance with animal emergencies.
- **Proactive Patrol** – Aimed at preventing and reducing animal incidents and improving relations between officers and the communities they serve.
- **Public Assistance/Education** – Information, education, resources, and referrals regarding animal-related complaints.
- **Rabies Control** – Investigation and enforcement of potential human exposures to rabies, quarantine of animals, capture and transportation of rabies specimens for testing.



2023 NEW CALLS FOR SERVICE BY LOCATION



2023 TOTAL NEW CALLS FOR SERVICE BY YEAR



ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- **Dogs Returned to Owner (RTO) – 1,677 or 49%**
 - Number of dogs returned to owner in the field: 669
 - Number of dogs returned to owner at shelter: 1,008

Every dog returned to its owner without being impounded reduces stress to the animal, cost to the owner and the state, and frees up shelter space for other animals.

- **Charges and Citations**
 - Animal cruelty and animal fighting criminal charges: 99
 - Citations issued for dog control and rabies violations: 1,952
 - Dangerous Dogs: 68
- **Specimens transported to Public Health Lab for rabies testing: 155**
- **Resources provided to many Delawareans – pet food, dog houses, bedding.**
- **Dog Licensing**
 - Dog Licenses Sold 2023: 29,848
 - Number of Active Dog Licenses: 46,853
 - Number of Active Kennel Licenses: 54



ANIMAL SHELTER STATISTICS

Brandywine Valley SPCA (BVSPCA) is the contracted shelter partner for Delaware Animal Services (DAS).

BVSPCA provides all medical, nutritional, and behavioral care for animals rescued by DAS.

For more information on BVSPCA statistics please visit:

<https://bvspca.org/about/by-the-numbers/>



DAS Animal Intake

DOGS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
bite quarantine	43	59	29	33	164
dangerous dog	9	8	12	7	36
safekeeping	58	62	86	55	261
seizure	64	60	113	41	278
Surrender	54	43	34	15	146
Stray	659	656	732	656	2,703
TOTAL DOGS	887	888	1,006	807	3,588
CATS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
bite quarantine	7	8	10	5	30
safekeeping	22	43	32	13	110
seizure	14	27	41	7	89
surrender	56	43	47	2	148
unowned endangered	87	206	216	73	582
TOTAL CATS	186	327	346	100	959
TOTAL LIVE INTAKE	1,073	1,215	1,352	907	4,547

