

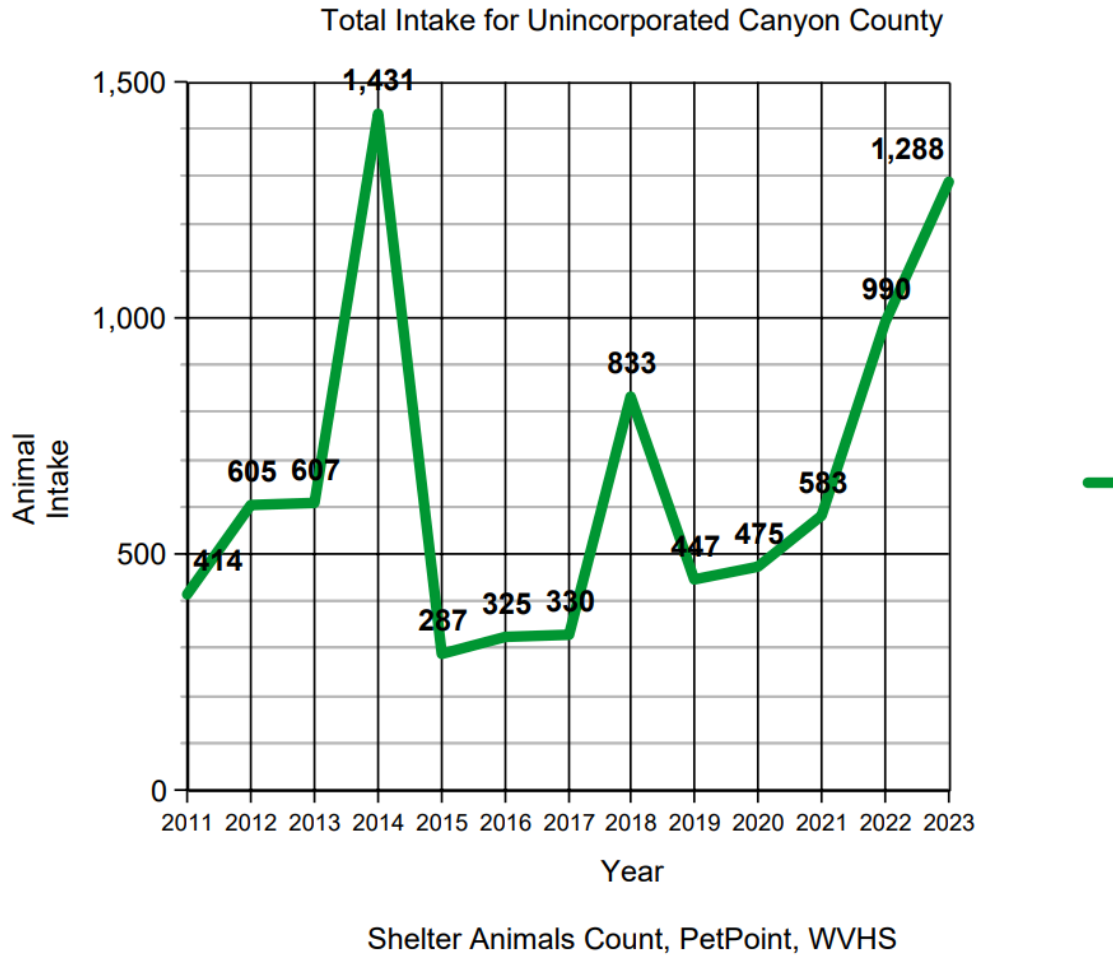


2024 Budget Workshop
For Fiscal Year 2025

Canyon County Commissioners
May 29, 2024

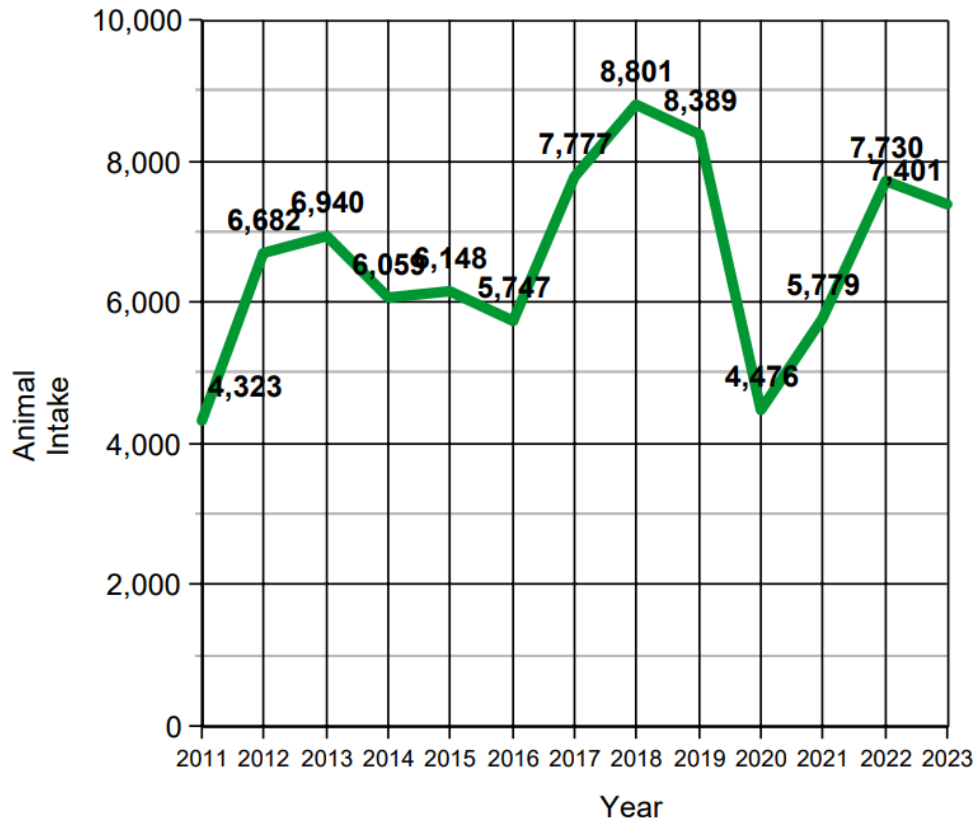
Intake Rate

West Valley Humane Society is no stranger to the national trends of increasing numbers of displaced pets entering animal shelters. When the shelter privatized in 2011, the organization took in 414 animals from unincorporated Canyon County. By 2023, that number rose to 1288 – a 211% increase. Financial support (both by municipal/governmental contracts and by private donations) have not kept pace with that kind of increase.



The total intake from 2011 across all jurisdictions was 4,323. WVHS had a total intake of 7,401 for an increase of 71%.

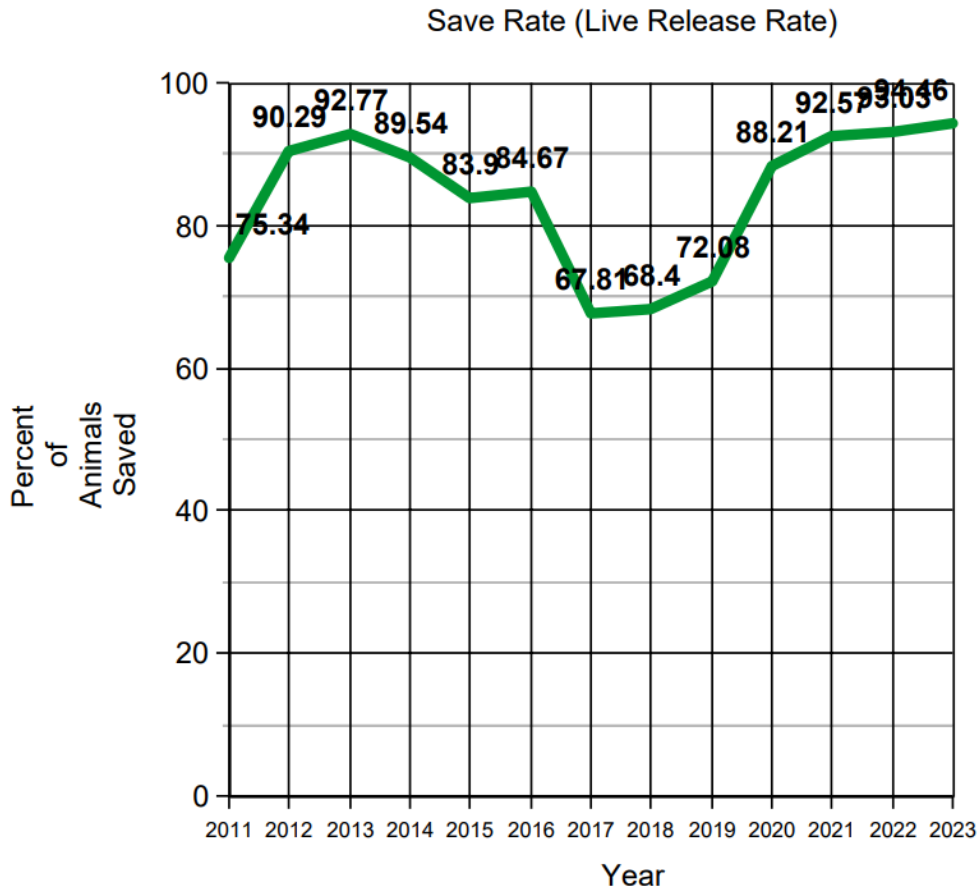
Total Intake from All Jurisdictions



Shelter Animals Count, PetPoint, WVHS

Save Rate

WVHS prides itself on its ability to meet the national benchmark of “no-kill” status – meaning that over 90% of all the animals entering the shelter have a live and happy outcome. This, however, has not always been the case. WVHS achieved no-kill status in 2021 after years of hovering in the mid 70s and 80s. Community members want to see no-kill practices from their animal services organizations. The ability to achieve and maintain no-kill status relies on the organization’s progressive programming, all fueled by financial support by municipalities and private donors alike.



Shelter Animals Count, PetPoint, WVHS

Lifesaving Programming

In addition to offering standard animal shelter services to municipalities and their constituents such as stray intake, lost and found services, and adoption services, West Valley Humane Society offers a variety of other community-focused, lifesaving programs that Canyon County residents have grown to depend on. These programs include, but are not limited to:

Foster care – providing temporary housing outside of the shelter for pets requiring additional medical care, neonatal care, behavioral modification, and more

Low-cost spay/neuter – providing pet owners spay/neuter services at a fraction of what private veterinary clinics charge, ensuring accessibility for lower income families and preventing overpopulation and unintended litters

Low-cost vaccines – providing pet owners vaccine services for common canine and feline diseases (like distemper, parvo, panleukopenia, bordetella, and rabies) at a fraction of what private veterinary clinics charge, ensuring accessibility for lower income families and preventing the spread of communicable disease through our community's pet populations

Low-cost microchip services – providing pet owners lower-cost microchipping to ensure they can be reunited with their pets if they become lost

Spay-The-Mama – offering free spay/neuter services to those who have had an unintended litter of puppies and kittens by relinquishing the litter to the shelter for adoption while sterilizing the parents of the litter, preventing further litters from being born

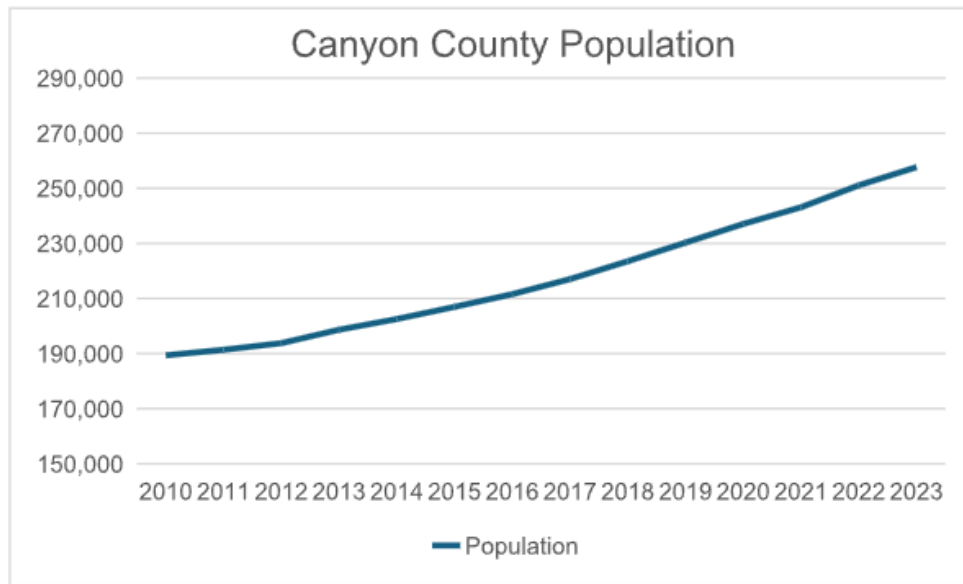
Pet Food Pantry – offering pet food at no cost to families experiencing food insecurity for their pets and ensuring that they are able to keep their beloved pets in their homes

Community Cat Programming – providing trap, neuter, return services to free-roaming cats of Canyon County at a lower cost (or sometimes free if funding permits), to decrease the overall population of free-roaming (feral) cats and prevent future litters and spread of communicable disease

Financials

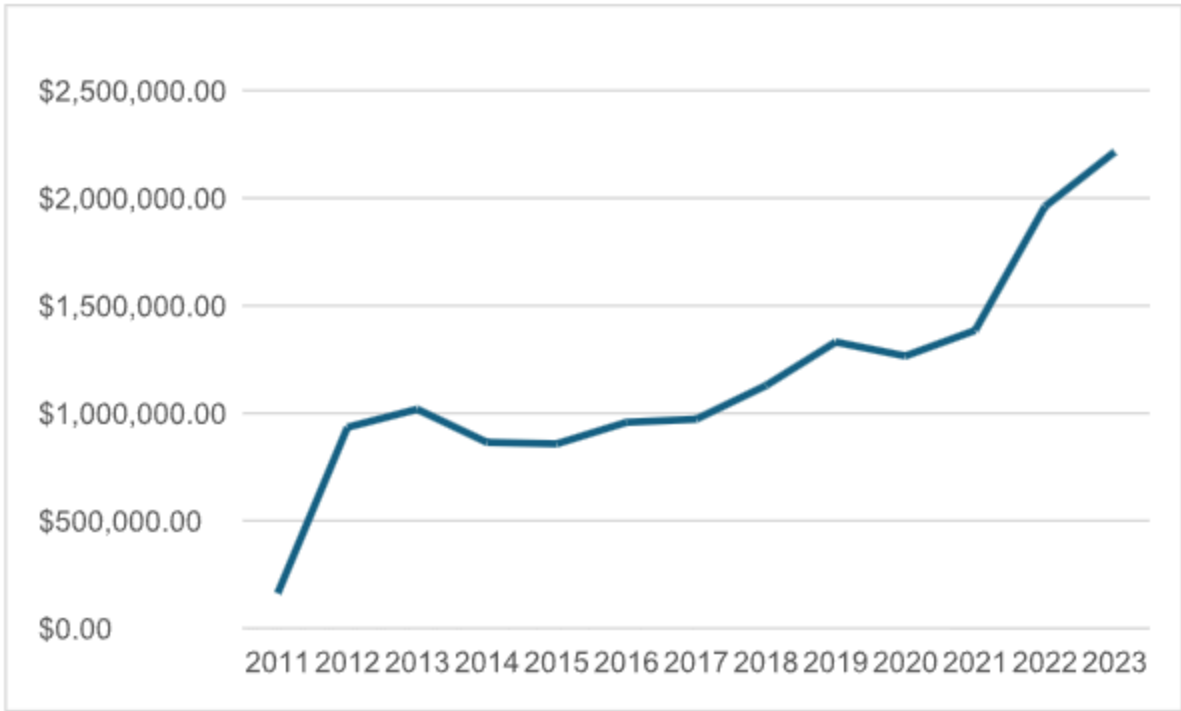
West Valley Humane Society in recent years has been dramatically impacted by the changing circumstances around our community, the country, and the world. As we all have attempted to reset after Covid19 and our area has seen a high volume of individuals relocating, the strain has become greater than ever. There are several factors that contribute to the difficulty in maintaining operations for Canyon County.

Canyon County has seen constant and significant growth in recent years, with an average increase in population of 2.8% at roughly 6,800 individuals per year over the last five years, as most in the area are aware and the pains can be felt everywhere. West Valley Humane Society is no different as the increase in population, roughly 66,000 since 2011, means an increase in residents to Canyon County who require our services and an increase in animal population

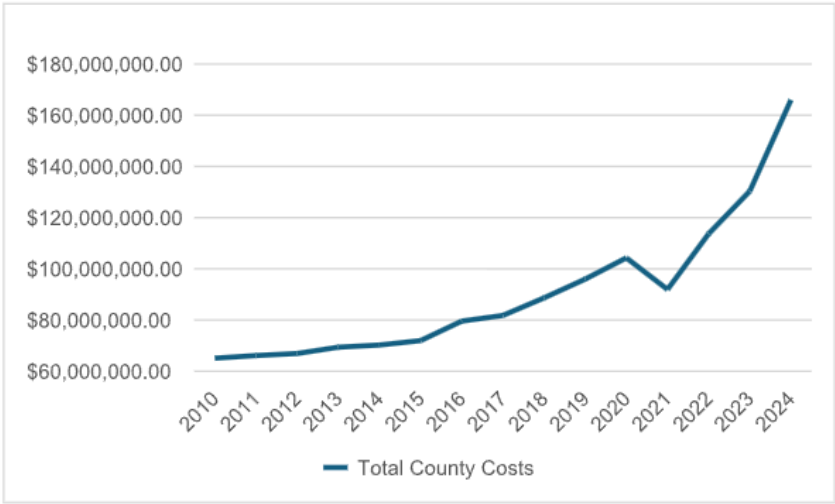


These increases are bringing with them not only an increase in services that need to be provided, but additional difficulties for our community. With the renter and housing markets seeing a similar increase across the Treasure Valley, this means there are more people who cannot keep their animals when their only options do not allow it. While these are a few examples, there are many more variables that the increases in our population impact West Valley Humane Society.

Since West Valley Humane Society assumed control of the operations for the county shelter, and particularly after Covid19, there have been significant increases to costs across all categories. Inflation and increased prices are an issue that can be felt by all individuals and businesses. West Valley Humane Society saw an increase of roughly \$250,000 in total expenses from 2022 to 2023



West Valley Humane Society is not the only organization that has seen the pains of these increases. Canyon County itself has been just as impacted as every other business, seeing a dramatic increase in expenditures over the past 14 years, from \$65,094,970 in 2010 to a budgeted \$165,988,676 in 2024.



Numbers from Canyon County Auditor Website

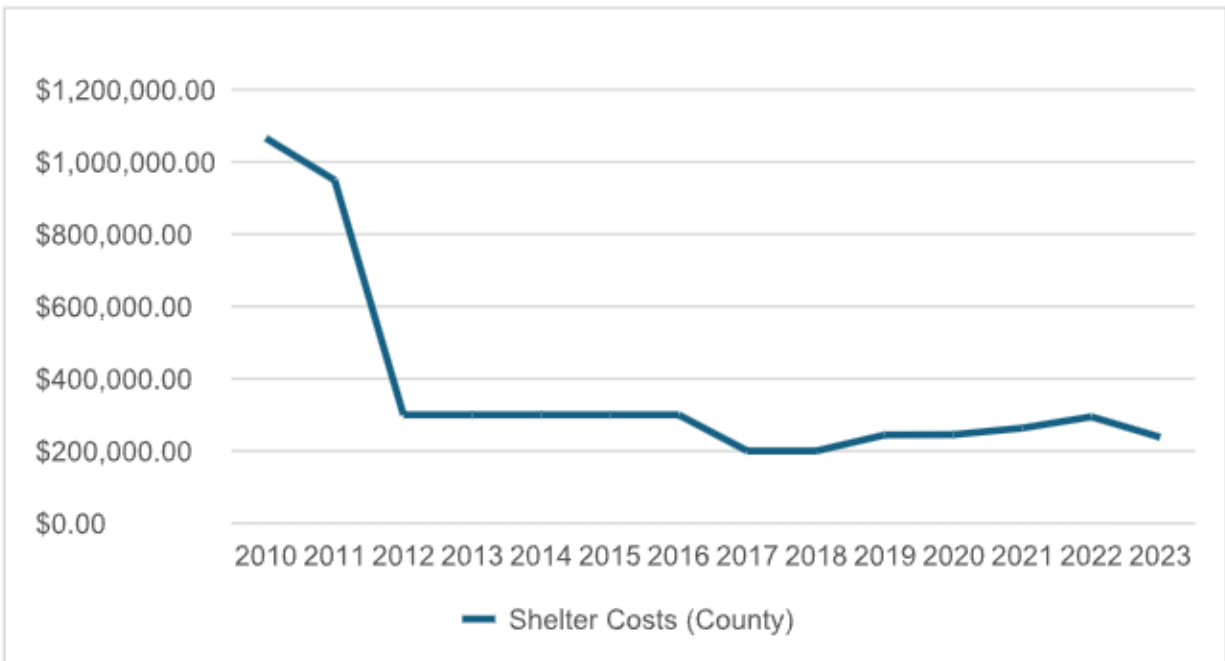
When West Valley Humane Society began operational control of the animal shelter, we began receiving \$200,000, with \$100,000 allocated for maintenance costs. That amount has not

changed since then. Calculating the change in dollar amount via the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the same purchasing power today has increased to approximately \$278,000

CPI Inflation Calculator from Bureau of Labor Statistics:

CPI Inflation Calculator			
\$	<input type="text" value="200,000.00"/>		
in	April	2011	
has the same buying power as			
		<input type="text" value="\$278,825.82"/>	
in	April	2024	

With these significant increases in expenses for the county, the West Valley Humane Society has not seen an increase in our contracted amount with the count since 2011. In fact, it has been lower compared to 10 years ago.



Numbers from Canyon County Auditor Website

The savings that the county received from the organization were roughly \$700,000 annually per the 2011 Canyon County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. All of those numbers only increase as you factor in all of the changes over the years. With the increases due to inflation and using the county's increases in total costs to reflect, that original \$200,000 can be calculated to roughly \$700,000 itself.

We are not asking for a drastic increase as we understand that the budgetary constraints are felt by all, which is why we are asking for \$300,000 plus the \$100,000 allocation for maintenance costs.

West Valley Humane Society has hit a difficult patch over the past few months. There was a considerable increase in costs and significant changes within our organization that has put us in a rough financial position. Our organization is currently reviewing all our policies and procedures, particularly those surrounding accounting and finance and operations. We are striving to be better and do better, not only for the animals, but for our community.

Our focus is shifting to better our fundraising and development efforts across the valley to prevent this type of situation from happening again. However, as a non-profit organization we are heavily dependent upon the generosity of our community through donations, and non-profit organizations across the country have seen declines in giving over the past two years. Per Giving USA: The Annual Report on Philanthropy, giving in 2022 decreased which has only occurred three other times in the last 40 years: 1987, 2008, and 2009. We need the help, and we provide an important service to our community and the county.

The West Valley Humane Society and its Board of Directors thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, and reiterate our gratitude for the relationship we have built and maintained with Canyon County over the last 14 years. We look forward to continuing that partnership and seeing the growth in both the organization and the community as a whole as a result of our work together.