



MANAGED INTAKE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I've heard ARC isn't picking up lost and stray dogs – is that true?

That is not true. Every year, we impound over a thousand stray dogs. Our total yearly intakes can be found in our annual reports shared on [the statistics page of our website](#).

The Animal Resource Center upholds and enforces Ohio Revised Code Chapter 955. Our goal is to work with our community to keep pets and people together. We patrol 461 square miles of the county and calls for service are prioritized daily to maintain public safety while operating within our capacity for care. (approximately 80 dogs).

Q: Is the shelter at capacity?

The shelter has the capacity to humanely and safely house and care for approximately 80 dogs and is *often* at or over capacity, which is part of the reason we must prioritize and manage the dogs we impound. Ensuring the safety of our staff is also a top priority, and maintaining our capacity for care helps create a safe environment for both our staff and the animals in our care.

Q: What is the shelter's maximum capacity?

Without compromising the health and safety of our staff or animals, we have space to house approximately 80 dogs. To put it into perspective, that is not even .5% of the estimated 140,000 dogs living in Montgomery County.

Q: When walking through your adoption area, why are some kennels empty, but you say you are full?

To increase visibility and the chances of a dog finding a forever home, we strive to place adoptable dogs in all available kennel spaces on our adoption floor. Certain kennels may not be used to house a dog for a variety of reasons (e.g., the kennel needs maintenance and is temporarily unavailable or it is inappropriately sized for an available dog, etc.). The kennels in our puppy mall are a good example of this; because they are not enclosed at the top, they are not appropriate for housing larger dogs with the ability to escape.

Q: What is the purpose of a kennel run?

A kennel run is an enclosure with separate areas that let animals sit, sleep, and eat away from where they go to the bathroom. This setup gives animals more choice, helps keep the space cleaner, reduces the spread of germs, and makes it safer for staff to care for them. Because of these benefits, the Association of Shelter Veterinarians recommends one kennel run per dog in most cases, except for situations like a mother with her puppies or bonded dogs that do better together.

Q: Why doesn't the County just build a bigger shelter?

No individual shelter, no matter how big, is likely to accommodate the vast number of lost and stray dogs in our county (approximately 140,000 dogs reside in Montgomery County). Doing so would only result in Montgomery County spending more money while the issue of limited shelter space continued. Controlling the dog population within our community is the key. There are affordable spay and neuter options out there, some of which we share under the spay/neuter resources tab on our website. It is critical all of us spay and neuter our pets, so we avoid the needless killing of animals in shelters.

Q: Why does the ARC not have a plan for when they are over capacity?

The issue of capacity is not unique to the ARC. Shelters across the United States struggle with kennel capacity often. Although we continue to partner with rescues and shelters, they too are being flooded with requests to take in dogs. The key is for more people in the community to help adopt, foster and rescue these dogs, and to promote responsible ownership including spay/neuter.

Q: Has the ARC reached out to other area organizations for help managing the shelter population?

Yes, we have a network of rescue partners and shelters we regularly reach out to for help with capacity. Unfortunately, they too are feeling the pressure of increased lost, stray and abandoned dogs, and are doing their best to assist where possible.

Q: Isn't the ARC legally obligated to take in all strays?

It's a common misconception that because municipal shelters receive taxpayer funding, they are obligated to impound every stray dog. This simply is not true. Historically, animal control and shelters existed to ensure public safety and control the spread of rabies. This was achieved by impounding an animal, holding them for the legal stray period and often euthanizing them if they were not claimed by their owner. Even when a

canine rabies vaccine was finally invented, many shelters continued to operate under the old model. We operated like this up until 2018 when we and our community agreed that we will no longer euthanize otherwise happy, healthy, adoptable pets for the sake of space. Our role in animal welfare today is keeping people and pets together and providing shelter for those who have no other alternative.

Q: Who's responsible for rounding up and picking up these animals?

The responsibility begins with owners following the law and ensuring their dogs are properly confined to prevent escape. Our officers are responsible for patrolling the county and picking up loose and stray dogs; but like any shelter, there is limited kennel capacity, so requests are prioritized and processed accordingly. The shelter is a last resort for those dogs who truly have no alternative.

Q: So what am I supposed to do when I see a lost or stray dog? Leave them?

If you find a stray dog and you're unable to help, the best thing you can do is call the Animal Resource Center to report the location of the dog. While we're on the phone, we will gather facts and information to determine the next steps and will coordinate to have an Animal Care and Control Officer respond as soon as possible.

If you want to help, the best thing you can do is spend some time helping the dog get home to their family – many lost dogs are within only one mile of their home. Report the found dog to the Animal Resource Center so the dog's picture and description appear online to make the owner aware their dog has been found. For more information on how to help a dog get home to their family, visit our website and check out the tips at [What to do if you find a dog | Montgomery County Animal Resource Center](#).

If you have any doubts about safely handling a stray dog, do not approach them; call us.

Q: Why is the shelter so bad for dogs?

Through studies, we now know dogs' stress levels skyrocket in the shelter. They are locked in small kennels most of the day, surrounded by noisy neighbors, and constantly exposed to new and unfamiliar experiences, not to mention all the smells and increased risks for disease. All these factors contribute to a dog's deterioration, which is why shelters must only be utilized as a last resort.

Q: What constitutes a "high priority" call?

The answer to this question is not a perfect science. "High priority" depends on the circumstances and each situation is assessed on a case-by-case basis. Some

examples are police assists; clearly abused, neglected, sick or injured dogs; suspected dog fighting; animal hoarding; court-ordered impoundment; and situations in which a dog is an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of citizens.

Q: Since you can't take every dog, what *is* ARC doing to help?

ARC works feverishly with our community to keep pets and people together. This often includes problem-solving, connecting folks with supplies/services, and ensuring owners have the tools and knowledge they need to be successful. From microchipping, licensing, and guidance regarding behavioral challenges to low-cost veterinary care, spay/neuter, and rehoming, ARC educates pet owners on where to find these much-needed services. Although we have room to house and care for approximately 80 dogs, we support all of Montgomery County (estimated 140,000 dogs) to ensure the lives of pets and people continue to be enriched.

Q: How can I help?

There are so many ways to help.

Ensure your dog(s) are licensed and spayed/neutered and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

Adopt, foster or rescue your next pet and encourage friends and family to do the same! Sign up to foster online at mcanimals.org/get-involved.

If you find a stray dog and want to help, visit <https://mcanimals.org/lost-and-found/> for tips and information to help reunite them with their owner.

If you do not find an owner right away, please consider providing a temporary home for the dog or ask neighbors, family and friends if they can keep them until the owner is found. As a last resort, you may try contacting local rescues, some of which are listed on our website. Please understand that these groups also have finite resources and may not be able to assist you.

Q: Can I take a stray/lost dog to another county shelter?

We do not recommend that, as other county shelters struggle with kennel capacity too. In many cases, a lost dog is within one mile of their home, so taking them to another county's shelter only decreases their chances of being reunited with their family. Taking the extra time to help a lost dog get home is a win-win for everyone.

Q: How successful has the ARC been in returning dogs home and rehoming dogs they've picked up?

In 2023 ARC impounded 1,496 dogs. 336 of those pups were returned home, 83 of whom were returned in the field without being brought to the shelter! Another 660 were adopted and 95 were transferred to Rescue after spending some time in the shelter. To follow our progress, visit [Statistics | Montgomery County Animal Resource Center](#).