

Decrease in proportion of dogs entering sheltering organizations post-pandemic



Dataset:
1,136,021 dogs
Five years (2019-2023)
256 organizations in
the U.S.

Influential factors

Size
Intake Type
Sex
Age
Intake Year
(2019-2023)

Altered Status at
Intake (unaltered
or prealtered)



The percentage of dogs
entering shelters
prealtered declined
from 33.2% in 2019 to
22.3% in 2023.



Multiple factors influenced the odds of a dog being sterilized prior to intake at a sheltering organization. Overall the percentage of dogs prealtered at intake decreased year over year post-pandemic, which may impact time spent in care. Animal welfare organizations should consider assessing prealter status at intake to predict shelter capacity and identify trends in access to sterilization services.