Burke County Animal Services

Commissioners Monthly Report – May 2026

Executive Summary

May marked the beginning of peak kitten season and brought the annual increase in feline intake experienced by shelters across North Carolina. Burke County Animal Services received 279 animals during the month, including 211 cats and kittens. Despite seasonal pressures, staff and community partners continued to move animals efficiently through the system, achieving 205 outcomes and 143 adoptions.

Community Impact

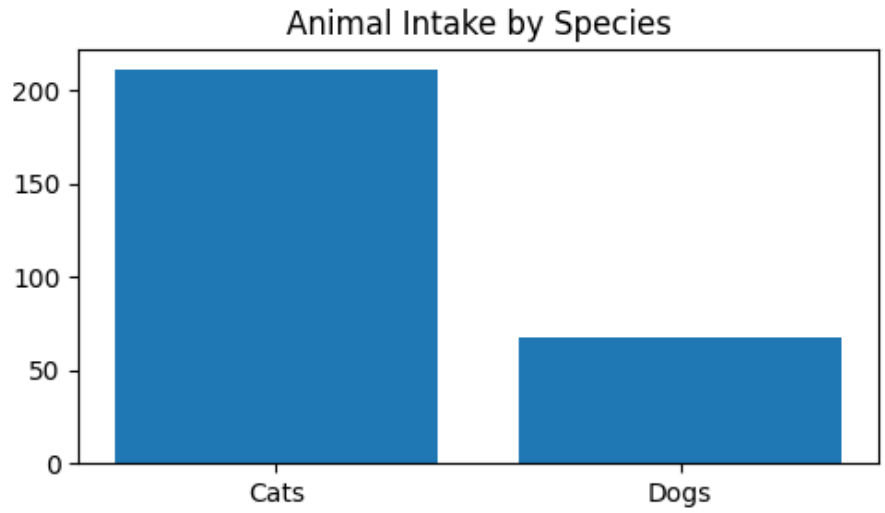
The foster program remains one of the department's most valuable resources. During May, 314 foster caregivers provided 7,623 days of care through 466 foster placements. Without this network, the shelter would not have sufficient physical space to manage kitten season. At month end, nearly three quarters of all animals in care were being housed in foster homes, allowing animals to receive individualized care while preserving shelter capacity for emergencies.

The department continues to focus on keeping pets and people together whenever possible. Managed intake practices, community resources, return-to-home efforts, and foster recruitment allow staff to prioritize the most vulnerable animals while reducing unnecessary shelter admissions.

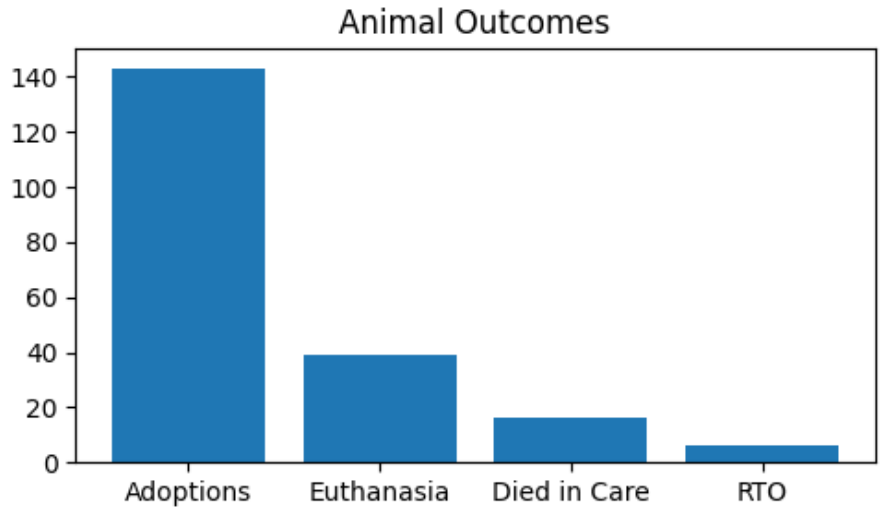
Shelter Operations

The shelter population increased from 286 animals at the beginning of May to 371 animals at the end of the month. This growth was driven almost entirely by kittens and juvenile cats. While the feline population increased substantially, the canine population decreased slightly, demonstrating continued success in dog adoptions and population management.

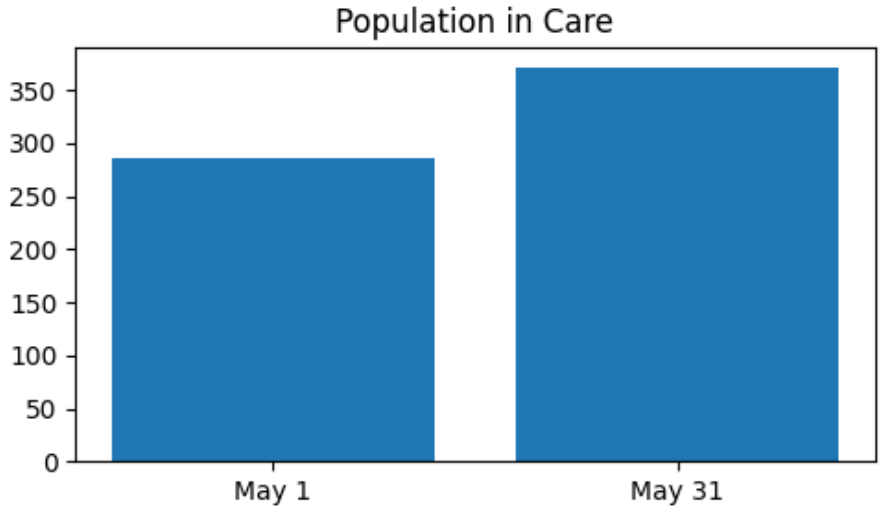
Animal Intake by Species



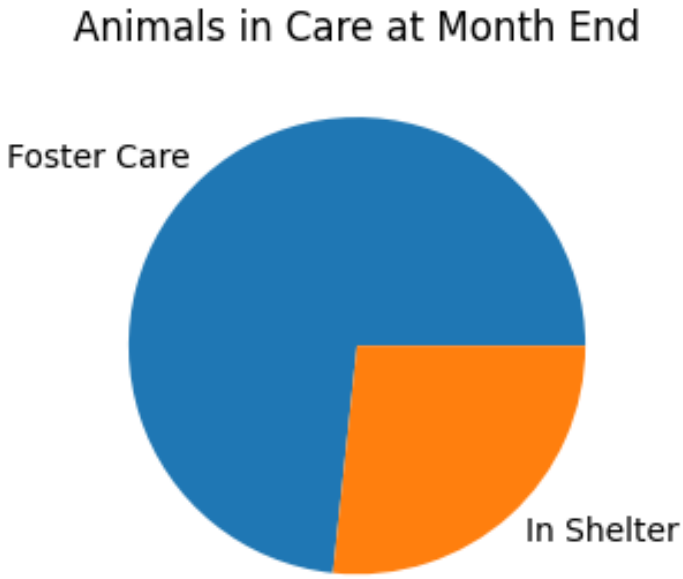
Animal Outcomes



Population in Care



Housing Distribution



Animal Control Services

Field Services opened 73 new cases and resolved 60 cases during May. Enforcement and stray animal complaints represented the largest portion of field activity. Officers also conducted bite investigations, welfare checks, and community outreach efforts that support public safety and responsible pet ownership.

Looking Ahead

Staff anticipate continued elevated feline intake through the summer months. Priorities will include foster recruitment, adoption promotion, support for responsible pet ownership, and strategic use of community resources to maintain lifesaving capacity while providing excellent customer service.