



**PETA:
25 YEARS OF
KILLING PETS**

SUMMARY

Despite its name, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has a shocking hypocrisy: It kills pets by the thousands at its animal shelter. In 2022, PETA killed 2,092 cats and dogs at its headquarters in the USA. This is PETA's highest killing year since 2014.

PETA only adopted out 58 animals last year, representing a meager 2.1% adoption rate. PETA's kill rate was 74%.

Since 1998, PETA has killed nearly 50,000 animals, according to official documents.

On PETA's 25th anniversary of pet killing, the group is still unrepentantly killing around 2,000 animals a year, on average. Based on our calculations, PETA's more than 47,000 victims would fill 225 dump trucks.

PETA'S BODY COUNT

Year	Received †	Transferred	Adopted		Killed	
2022	2,828	663	58	2.1%	2,092	74.0%
2021	2,355	623	27	1.1%	1,699	71.1%
2020	2,595	836	33	1.2%	1,719	66.2%
2019	2,421	807	29	1.1%	1,578	65.2%
2018	2,470	658	35	1.42%	1,771	71.7%
2017	2,445	585	44	1.8%	1,809	74.0%
2016	1,963	488	57	2.9%	1,411	71.9%
2015	1,974	446	60	3.0%	1,456	73.8%
2014	2,631	252	39	1.5%	2,324	88.3%
2013	2,175	311	46	2.1%	1,792	82.4%
2012	1,843	130	19	1.0%	1,647	89.4%
2011	1,992	34	24	1.2%	1,911	95.9%
2010	2,345	63	44	1.9%	2,200	93.8%
2009	2,366	31	8	0.3%	2,301	97.3%
2008	2,216	34	7	0.3%	2,124	95.8%
2007	1,997	35	17	0.9%	1,815	90.9%
2006	3,061	46	12	0.4%	2,981	97.4%
2005	2,165	69	146	6.7%	1,946	89.9%
2004	2,655	1	361	13.6%	2,278	85.8%
2003	2,224	1	312	14.0%	1,911	85.9%
2002	2,680	2	382	14.3%	2,298	85.7%
2001	2,685	14	703	26.2%	1,944	72.4%
2000	2,681	28	624	23.3%	2,029	75.7%
1999	1,805	91	386	21.4%	1,328	73.6%
1998*	943	125	133	14.1%	685	72.6%
Total	57,515	6,373	3,606	6.27%	47,049	81.8%

* figures represent the second half of 1998 only

† Other than spay/neuter animals

THE EVIDENCE

All animal shelters in the state of Virginia must file animal custody records every year with the state government declaring how many animals they took in and what happened to the animals. These numbers come from PETA's own filings.

PETA'S KILL RATE VASTLY EXCEEDS OTHER SHELTERS

For decades, animal shelters in the United States have worked to lower their kill rates and save more animals. Yet PETA continues to kill animals at a high rate.

Norfolk Animal Care & Adoption Center, located just 5 miles from PETA, took in 4,337 animals in 2022—more than PETA. The Center is an “open admission” shelter. And its euthanasia rate for cats and dogs was just 10%, while PETA's was 74%.

Statewide, Virginia animal shelters had an 8% euthanasia rate for cats and dogs. PETA's kill rate is nine times the average.

PETA COMPARED TO EUTHANASIA CLINIC

Given its high kill rate, a government inspector compared PETA to a “euthanasia clinic.” The inspector discovered that PETA's shelter did not meet PETA's own published guidelines for operating a humane animal shelter.

The inspector also found that PETA kills the vast majority of animals within 24 hours of receiving them. In other words, PETA doesn't give these animals a chance.



Pictures: Investigators recover bodies of dogs killed and dumped by PETA

PETA CALLS FOR MASS KILLING OF STRAY CATS

While PETA claims that it euthanizes “unadoptable” animals, it has killed healthy animals and advocates for the mass killing of healthy animals.

In an interview, PETA co-founder and president Ingrid Newkirk advocated that outdoor cats be rounded up and killed. “People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals...says euthanizing outdoor cats is more humane than releasing them back into the community,” the Post reported. According to Newkirk, outdoor cats would be better off dead because they might contract a future illness or be hit by a car in the future.

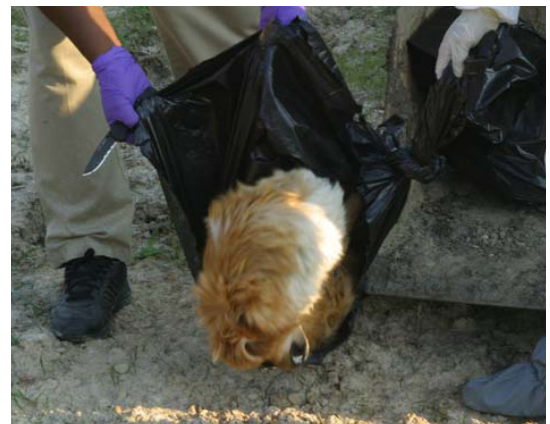
In PETA’s logic, it’s better to kill animals than let them live.

PETA SUED FOR STEALING AND KILLING FAMILY’S DOG

In 2014, PETA was sued after its representatives stole a chihuahua off of a family’s front porch and killed it. The little dog had been a Christmas present to a nine-year-old girl. PETA paid \$50,000 to settle the lawsuit.

PETA EMPLOYEES ARRESTED FOR KILLING ANIMALS

In 2007, two PETA employees were arrested in North Carolina after they were caught killing animals and tossing the bodies in a shopping center dumpster over the course of several weeks. They were charged with 31 counts of felony animal cruelty. A deputy sheriff stated that the PETA employees told a local animal shelter “they were picking up the dogs to take them back to Norfolk where they would find them good homes.” The pair eventually had their convictions overturned on appeal.



Pictures: Investigators recover bodies of dogs killed and dumped by PETA

A PETA spokeswoman defended the duo, calling them “two young people who simply performed the humanitarian act of putting animals out of their misery” and “the trial never should have happened.” However, photos show that the animals appeared healthy.

WHY PETA KILLS

Why does PETA kill cats and dogs by the thousands instead of finding them homes? Simply, PETA does not believe in pet ownership. Ingrid Newkirk has called pet ownership “an abysmal situation.” She further elaborated on her goal for destroying the human-pet bond: “If people want toys, they should buy inanimate objects. If they want companionship, they should seek it with their own kind.”

“We believe that it would have been in the animals’ best interests if the institution of ‘pet keeping’—i.e., breeding animals to be kept and regarded as ‘pets’—never existed,” PETA has said.

Ridiculously, PETA has argued that outdoor cats should be summarily killed instead of allowed to live. In a 2014 interview, Newkirk argued that outdoor cats would be better off dead because they might contract a future illness or be hit by a car in the future. In PETA’s twisted mind, it’s more humane to just euthanize the animals than for a hypothetical harm to befall them in the future.

PETA also attacks “no kill” advocates who try to reduce shelter euthanasia rates. PETA is “pro kill”—and it should shock any animal lover.

Based on our calculations, the 47,000 pets PETA has killed would fill 225 dump trucks.

