

# Data-Driven Animal Protection

**The Animal Conference**  
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# Brief Background for WBI & Talk

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- **WellBeing International was founded in 2018 to “seek solutions for animals, people and the environment.**
- **Today – hope to provide a few examples of the use of data to examine animal protection progress in the US.**
- **In particular, will look at the growth of US animal protection and examine US dog & cat population trends and, in particular, what is happening today in US shelters and rescues.**



# Outline of Talk

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- **US Animal Protection Movement**
  - Growth in numbers
  - Growth in income/resources
- **US Pet Demographics**
  - Trends – 1910 to Present (last 110 years)
  - Some Oklahoma Data
- **US Shelter Intakes and Outcomes**
  - 1973 to Present
  - Current Stress in US Shelter/Rescue Community
- **Concluding Comments**



# US Animal Protection Movement

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**In 1910, there were – ca. 600 APM organizations.**

**In 1960, there were – ca. 1,000 organizations (& 600 shelters)  
(brick & mortar facilities holding rescued dogs and cats).**

**In 2004, there were – ca. 5,500 organizations (& 3,500 shelters).  
Today, there are – ca. 22,000 organizations (& 4,500 shelters).**

**In 1960, APM spending ca. \$2 per capita (\$ 2020)**

**In 1980, APM spending ca. \$6 per capita (\$ 2020)**

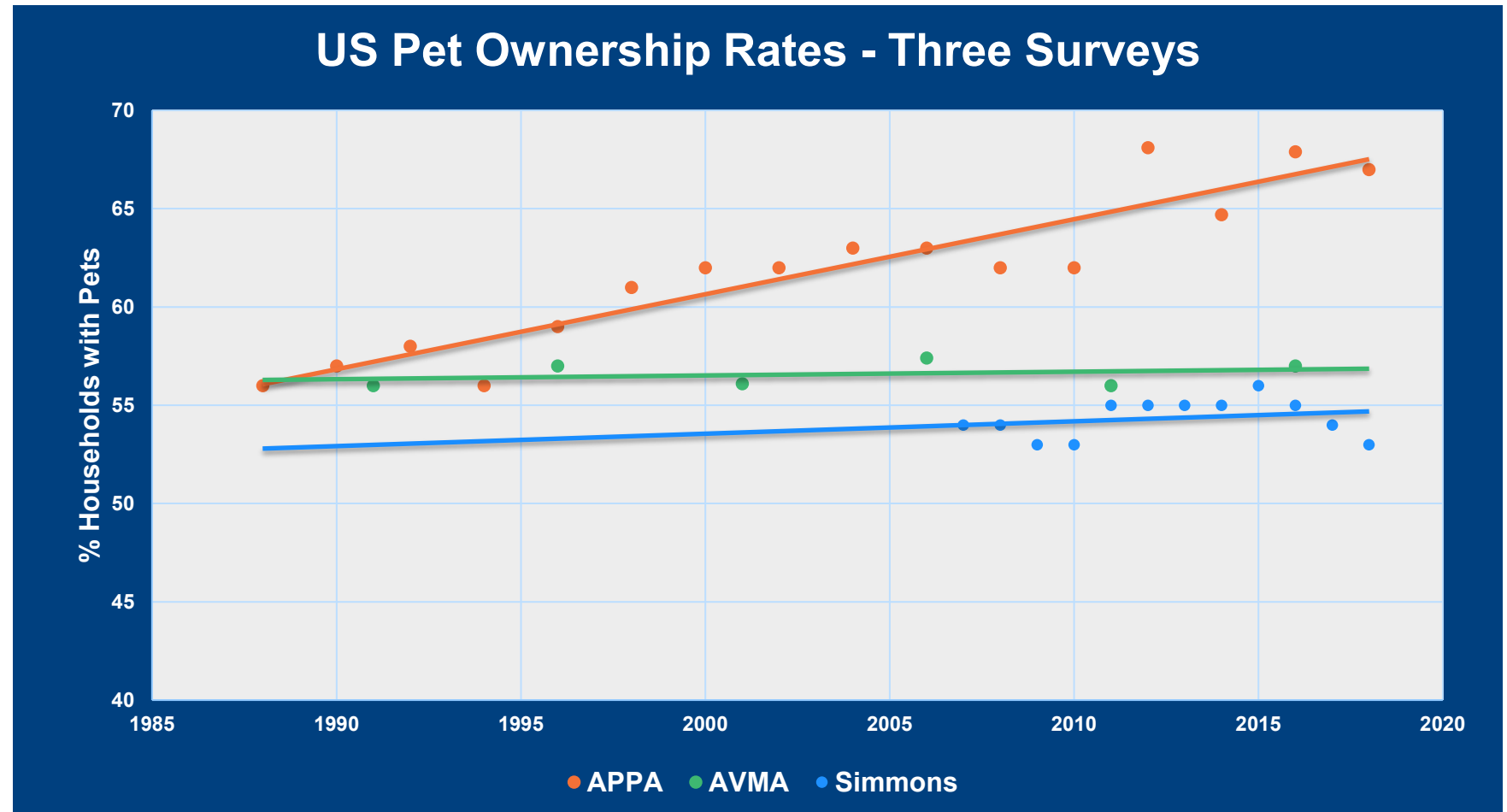
**In 2000, APM spending ca. \$7.5 per capita (\$ 2020)**

**In 2020, APM spending ca. \$12 per capita – or around \$3.7  
billion in total – mainly (80%+) on dog, cat & other pet rescue  
& advocacy**



# US Pet Ownership Rates

The chart shows the percentages of US households with pets over time. Note that two of the national surveys find no/little change in ownership rates. One reports significant increases.

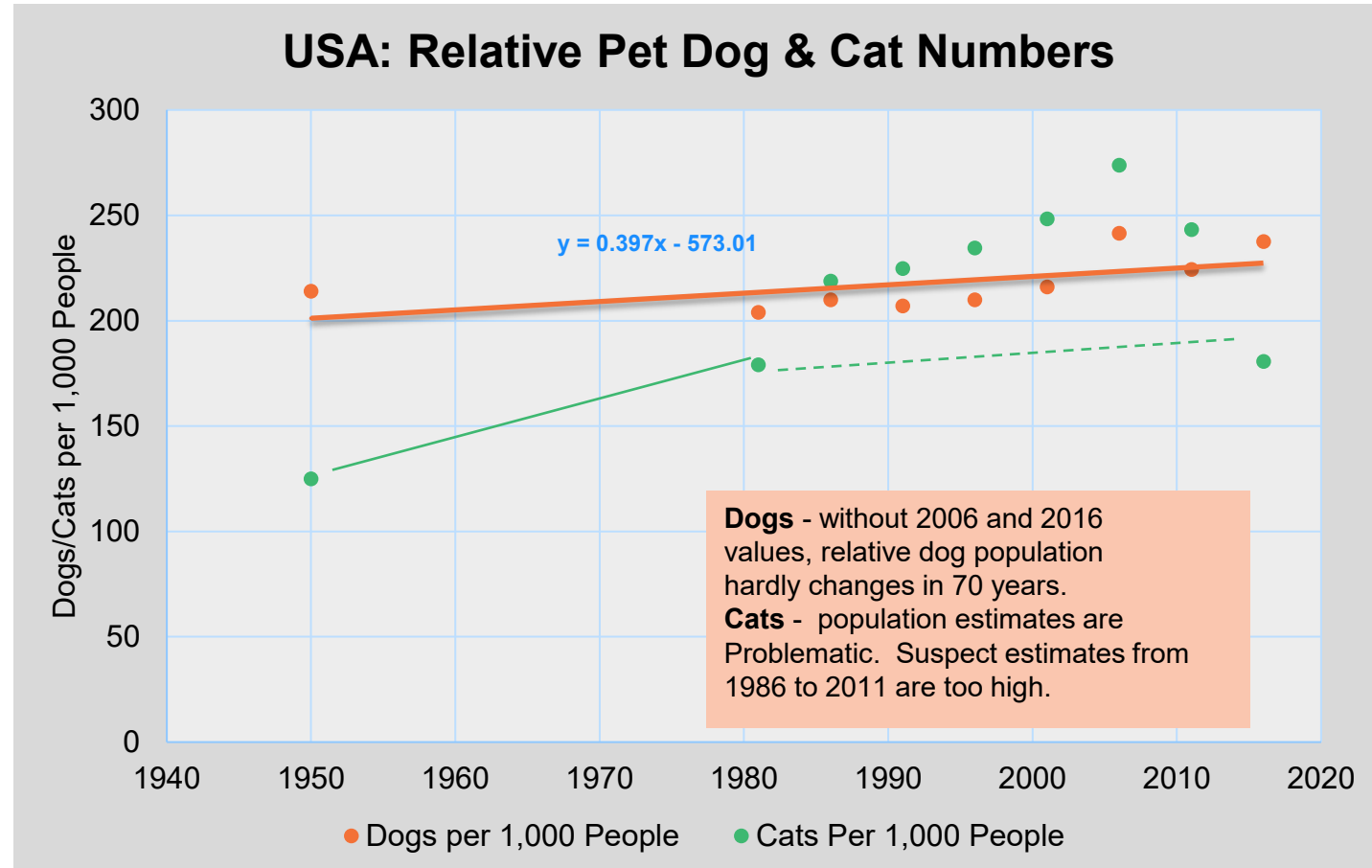




# Tracking **RELATIVE** Pet Populations

(dogs and cats per 1,000 people)

- People routinely take the latest survey estimate and then assume that reflects the correct dog/cat population.

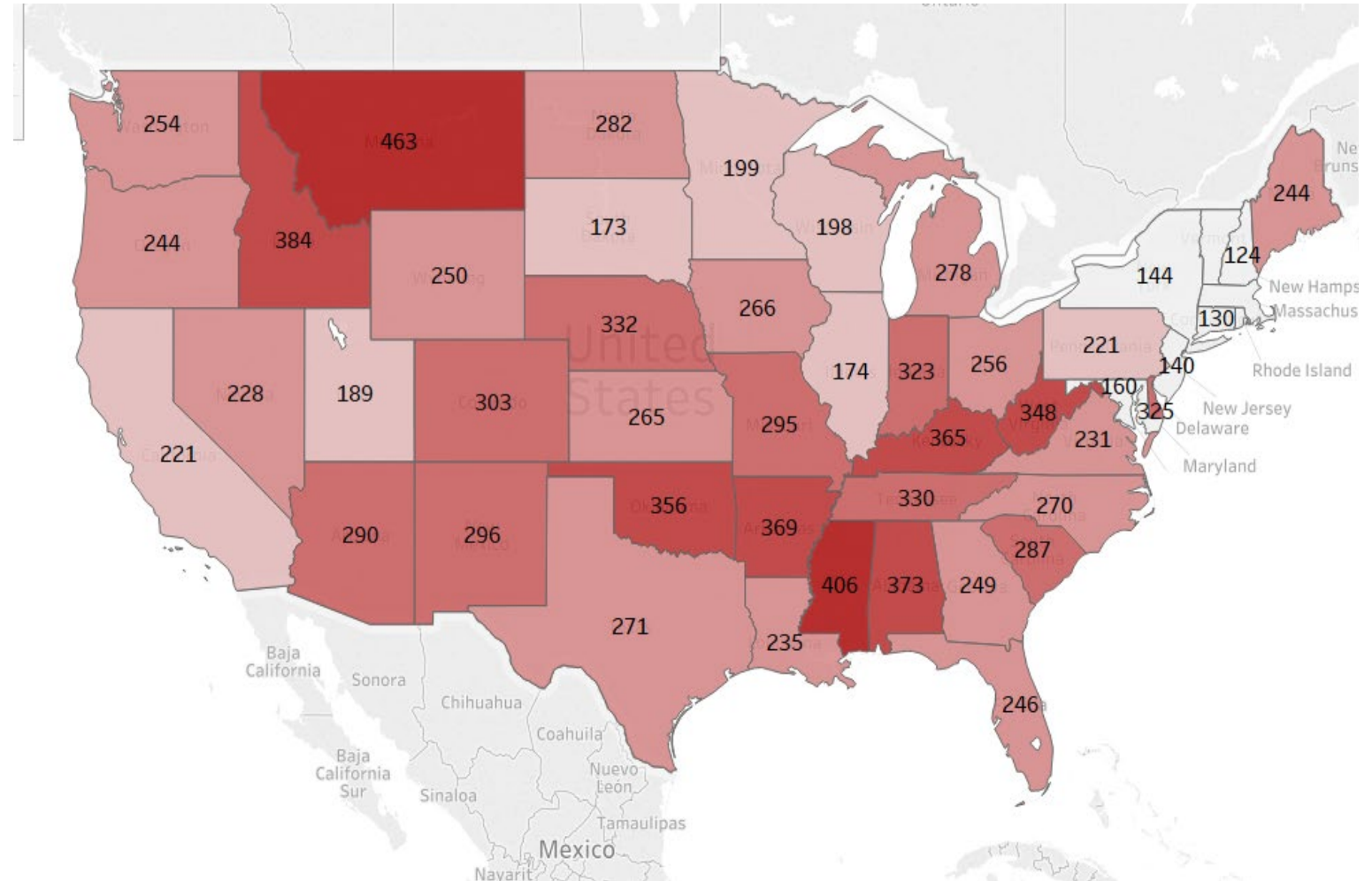




# RELATIVE Dog Numbers

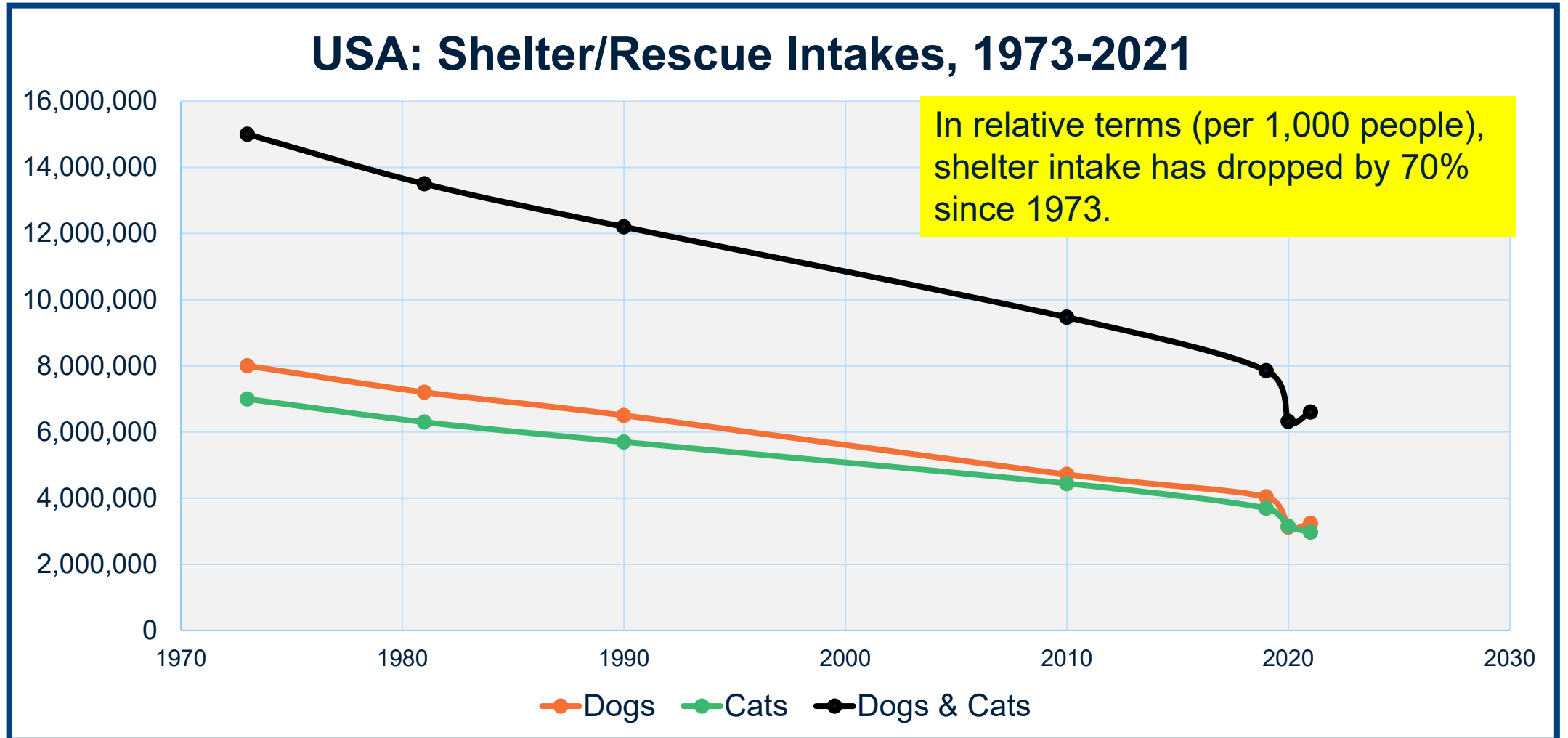
(dogs per 1,000 people)

- According to the 2016 AVMA survey of US dog and cat populations, the map at right shows dogs per 1,000 people for each state.





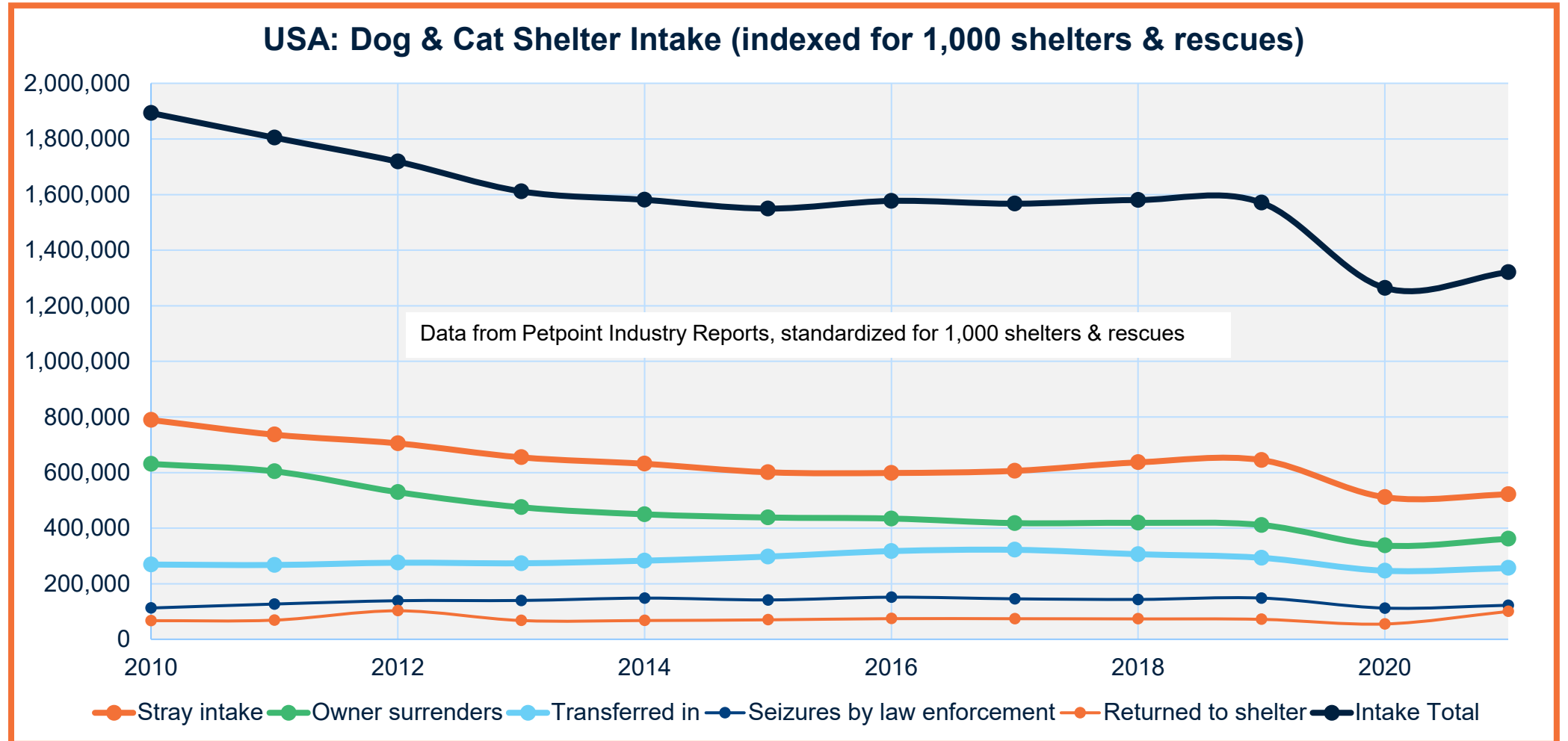
# Shelter/Rescue Intake History







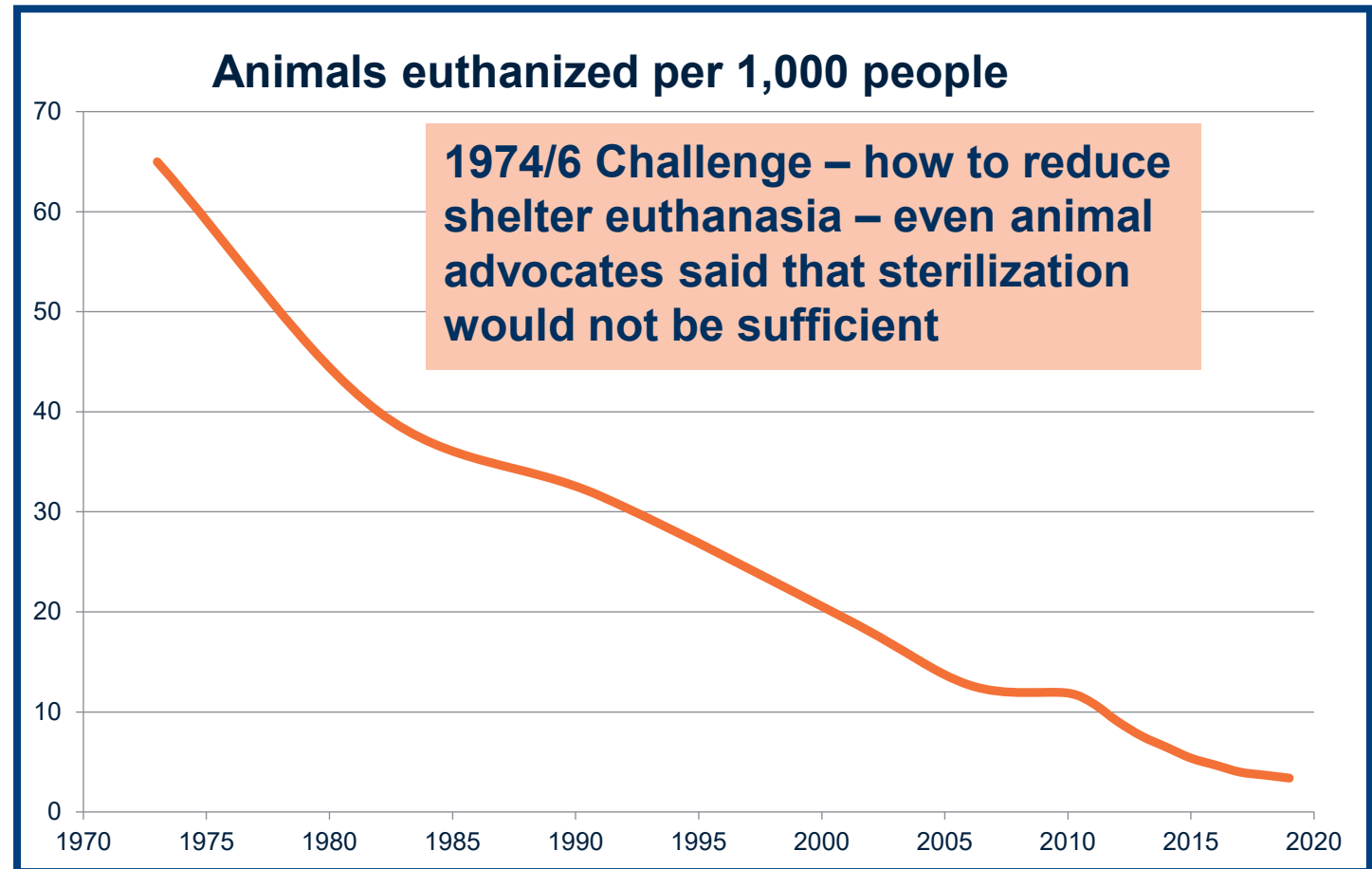
# Recent Dog & Cat Intake Trends





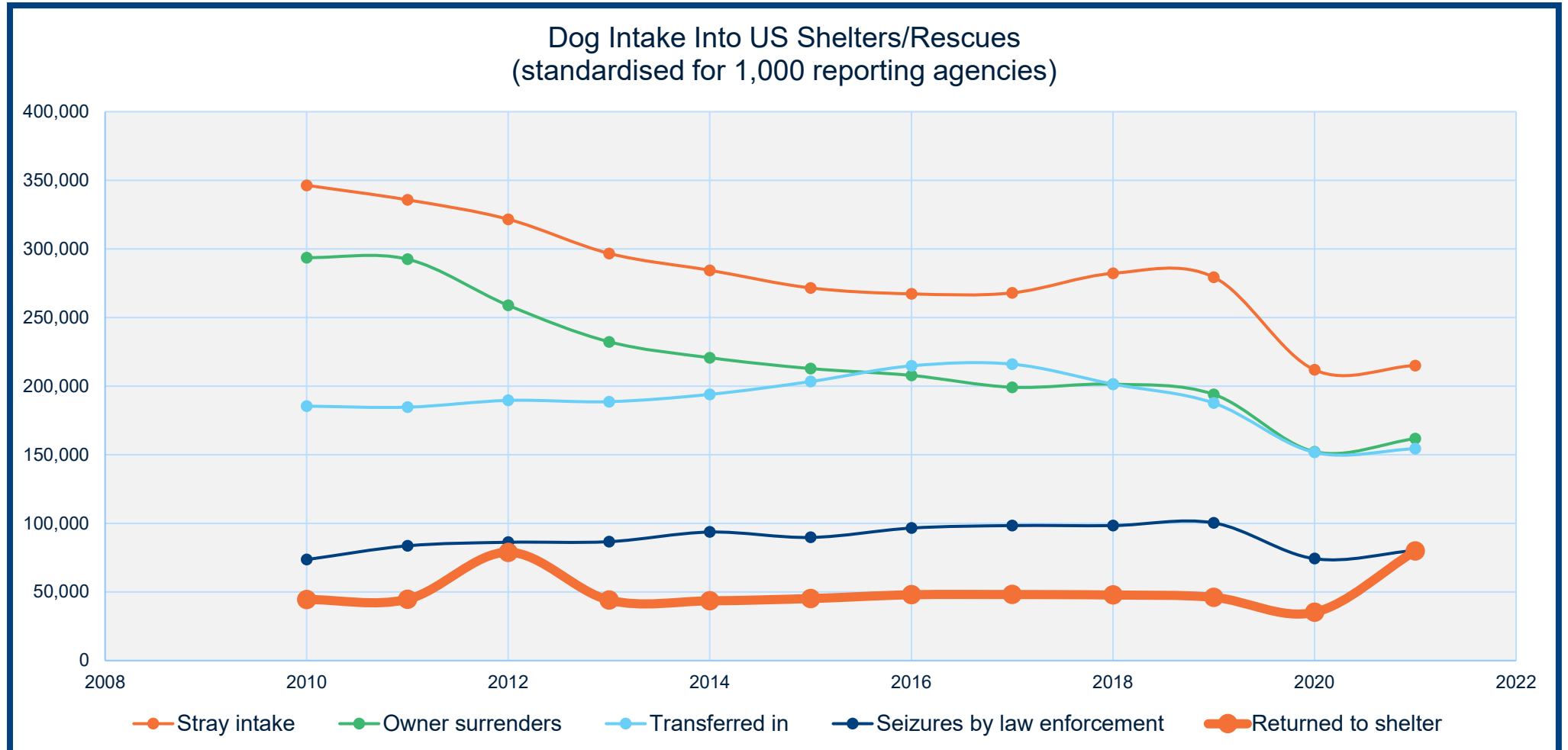
# US Euthanasia Trends

- **Nationally, 3.4 dogs and cats were euthanized in shelters per 1,000 people in 2019.**





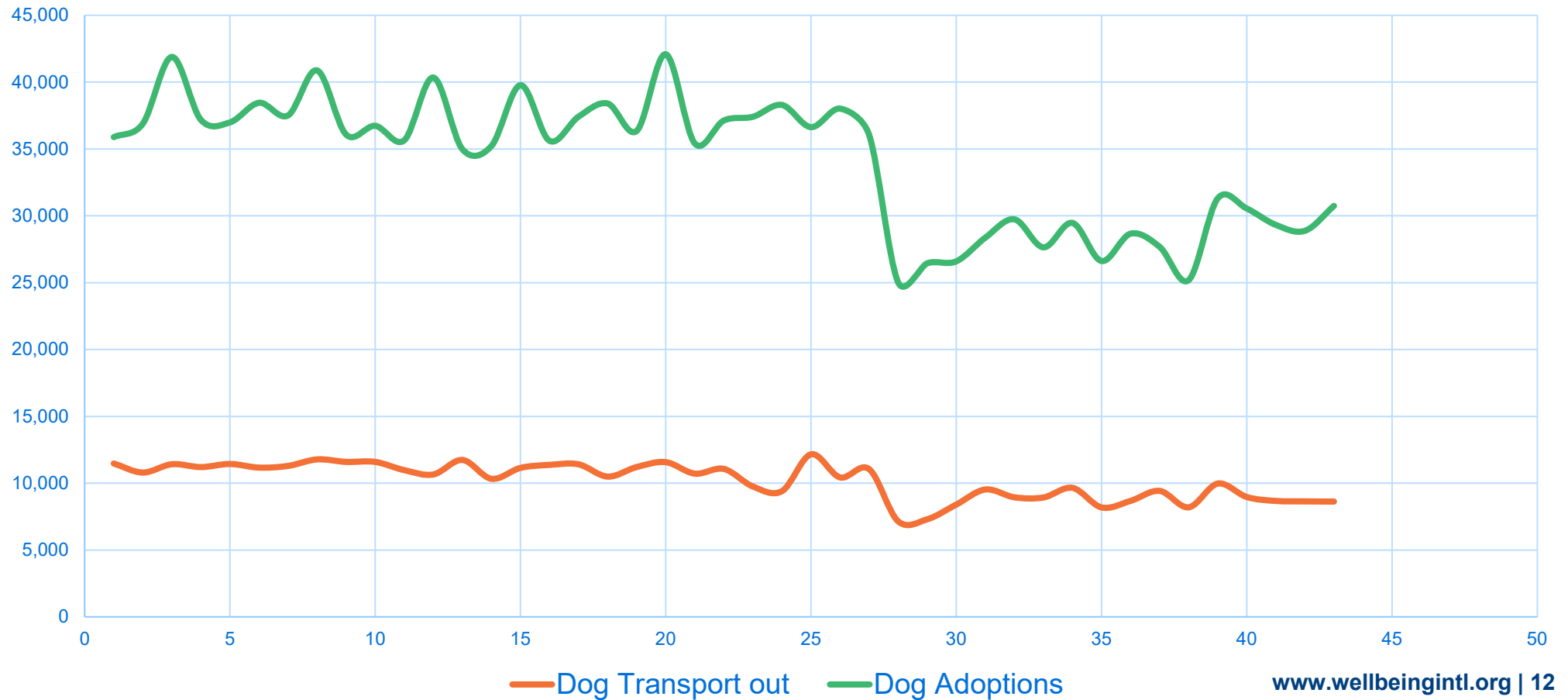
# Shelter Dog Intake – National Trends





# Shelter Dog Outcomes

Dog Outcomes: 2018-2021 (Monthly starting Jan 2018, ending July 2021)





# Conclusions

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- **Surprising lack of “Accurate” Pet Dog and Cat Data – most people use APPA estimates but indications are that they are too high.**
- **Tremendous growth in US Animal Protection Movement – both in number of organizations and in overall income since 1960.**
- **Huge improvement (decrease) in shelter intakes and shelter euthanasia for BOTH Dogs and Cats since 1970 – probably driven by S/N projects – majority of sterilizations carried out by private veterinary practices**
- **Major positive changes in pet owner “responsibility” in past fifty years – more indoor only cats, fewer roaming dogs.**