

# Community Pet Adoption Partnerships Survey Results



February 2016



**Maddie's  
Institute**

A program of Maddie's Fund®

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# About the Survey

## What can animal shelters do to eliminate or reduce the time pets spend in the shelter?

During the summer of 2014, Maddie's Institute® conducted a survey to identify practices that were successful in shortening length of stay, or prevented the pets from entering the shelter entirely. It covered three scenarios, the second of which is discussed in this report.

We sought out respondents who were administrators, staff members and volunteers of U.S. animal shelters, rescue organizations or municipal animal services. Invitations to participate in this survey were distributed via email through the Maddie's Fund® mailing list. We requested that the survey be completed by only one respondent from each organization – the individual most familiar with the organization's policies regarding foster care, adoption and/or community services.

These results were not analyzed for statistical significance. Although our sample may not be statistically representative of the larger population of animal care organizations in the United States, we have collected data from a diverse group of respondents from organizations that varied both structurally and geographically.

## About the Scenario

Survey respondents were asked to reply to a series of questions directly related to the scenario outlined below.

### The “Foster Caregiver Involvement in Adoption” Scenario:

**Asked of organizations that take in both dogs and cats; and, organizations that only take in dogs:**

A foster caregiver has been fostering a dog, Duke, for a few weeks. Duke is now ready to be placed for adoption by your shelter or rescue organization. The foster caregiver would like to be highly involved in the adoption process.

**Asked of organizations that only take in cats:**

A foster caregiver has been fostering a cat, Cleo, for a few weeks. Cleo is now ready to be placed for adoption by your shelter or rescue organization. The foster caregiver would like to be highly involved in the adoption process.

**Please note: Organizations that serve both dogs and cats and organizations that serve dogs only were asked to answer questions regarding the dog adoption process only.**

**Organizations that serve cats only were asked to answer questions regarding the cat adoption process only.**



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# Executive Summary

Foster home networks can greatly expand the number of animals an organization can help in a given time period, while often providing less stressful housing than in the shelter. Additionally, foster caregivers are in a unique position to give insight into the right placement for their foster pet, having lived with the pets in a home environment.

Nonetheless, allowing foster caregivers to have a prominent role in pet adoption promotions and decisions is a fairly new concept in animal welfare. The more common model has been a period of temporary fostering followed by return to the shelter for adoption.

In this survey, we examined the extent to which various organizations allow or encourage the involvement of their foster caregivers in the adoption process.

Somewhat surprisingly, whether an organization was reported as municipal animal services, a shelter or rescue group, with or without a municipal contract, did not seem to affect the extent to which the organization allowed foster caregivers to be involved in the foster pet's adoption process. However, large organizations (5,000 or more dogs and/or cats taken in annually) were the most likely to maintain policies that allowed for a high level of foster caregiver involvement in the adoption process, with those of medium size (from 1,000 to 4,999 dogs and/or cats taken in annually) being the least likely.

The most interesting findings were those demonstrating species and policy-related differences between organizations. For example, despite the fact that shelters are a particularly stressful environment for cats, organizations with physical facilities which solely serve cats appear to be much more likely to require that cats be returned to the shelter before adoption compared to organizations that handle dogs only. Additionally, only 37% of cat-only organizations surveyed permit their foster caregivers to be highly involved in the adoption of cats they foster, compared to 48% of dog-only organizations.

In those organizations that permit at least some foster caregiver involvement in the adoption process, only 39% of the cat-only groups say their caregivers frequently or very frequently choose to be involved, while that number was 80% for dog-only organizations surveyed.

Although the survey wasn't designed to result in specific recommendations for increasing adoption rates, it's important to note that "if you let them, they will do it" appears to apply to foster caregiver involvement in the adoption process. In addition, the more generous the permission given by the organization, the greater the involvement, while more restrictive policies for foster caregiver involvement resulted in less involvement.

For those reasons, the following recommendations reflect areas that deserve further study, and may result in a more productive organization-caregiver relationship, decreased length of stay in the shelter environment, and increased adoption rates:

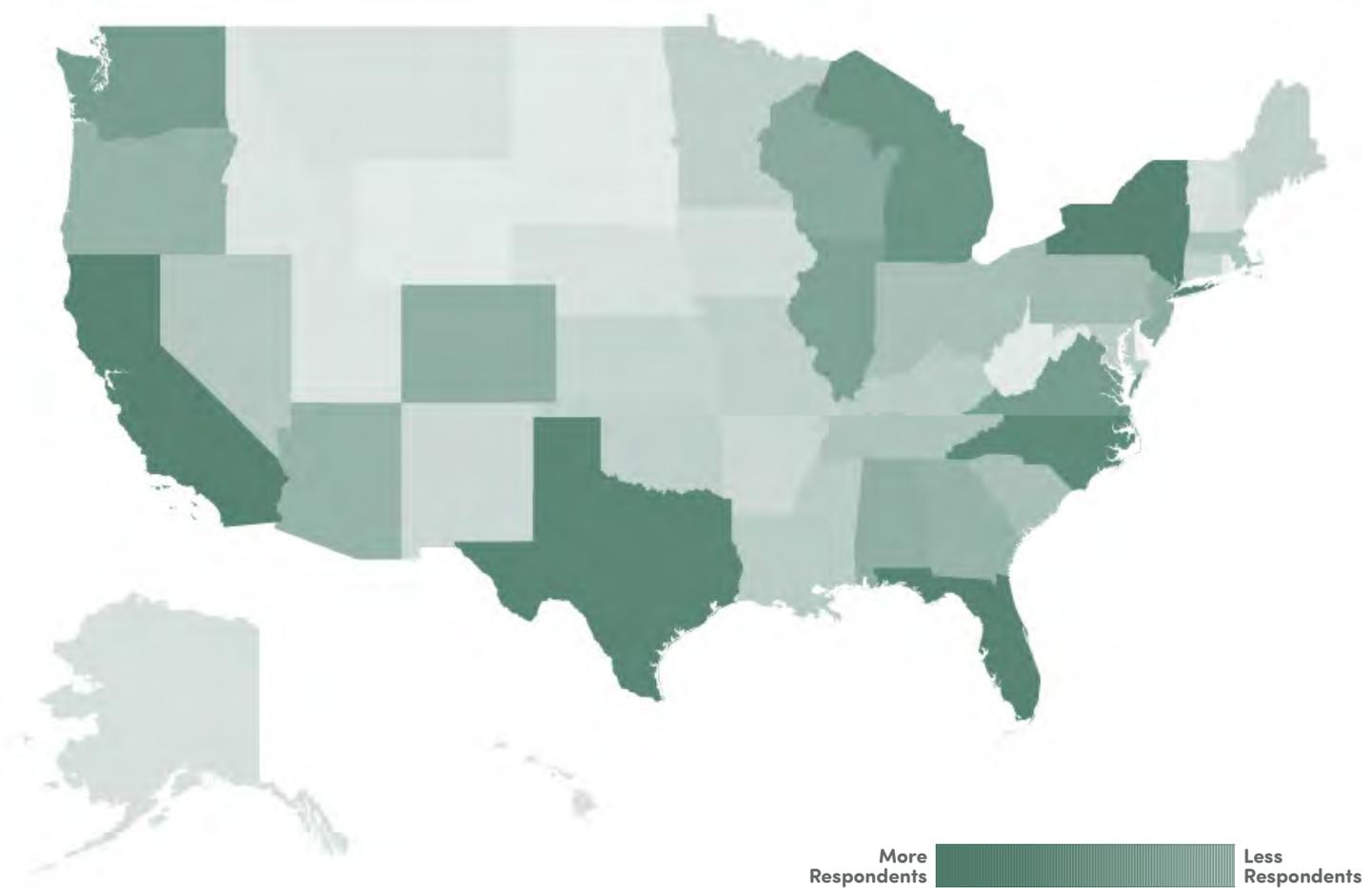
- Allow and encourage foster caregivers to be actively involved in promoting the foster pets in their care for adoption.
- Give foster caregivers a strong voice in adoption decisions.
- Reconsider requirements that pets, particularly cats, be returned to the shelter for purposes of adoption, and instead allow them to be placed through the foster home and/or at adoption events.



# Demographics

## Aggregate Respondent Data

**National Representation:** Our data depicts representation from all 50 states, the District of Columbia (see map below) and Puerto Rico, totaling 750 individual survey respondents. The darker the color scale, the more participation from a given state.



### Pay Status:

- 49% of respondents were paid staff
- 51% were unpaid volunteers

### Position:

- 52% of all respondents (whether paid or unpaid) were in an executive or leadership position (to include veterinarian)
- 24% were in a managerial or supervisory position



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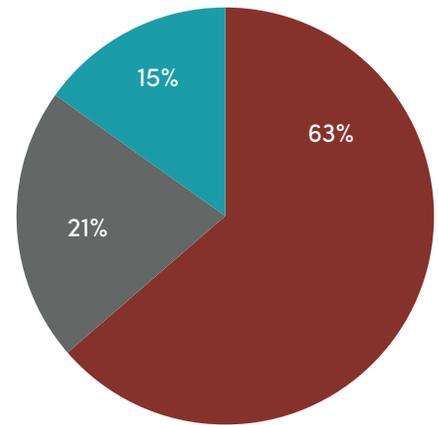
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# Demographics

## Aggregate Respondent Data

### A Organizational Type:

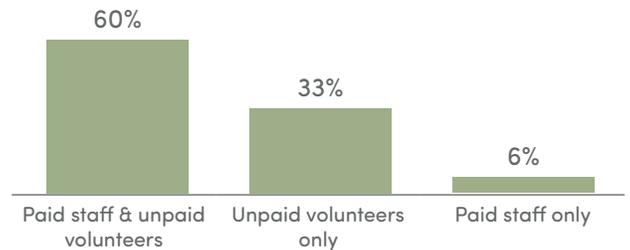
- 63% of organizations were categorized as an animal shelter/rescue without a municipal contract
- 21% as an animal shelter/rescue with a municipal contract (i.e., animal control or housing services)
- 15% as municipal animal services



A Organizational Type

### B Workforce Composition:

- 60% composed of paid staff and unpaid volunteers
- 33% composed of unpaid volunteers only
- 6% composed of paid staff only



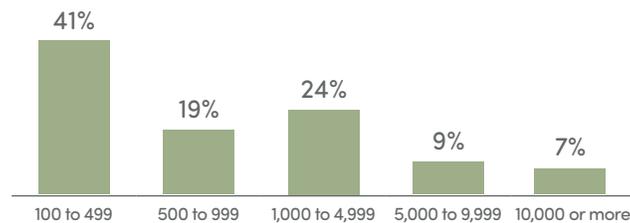
B Workforce Composition

### Animal Intake Type:

- 76% took in both dogs and cats
- 9% took in dogs only
- 15% took in cats only

### C Annual Intake of Dogs and/or Cats:

- 41% took in 100 - 499
- 19% took in 500 - 999
- 24% took in 1,000 - 4,999
- 9% took in 5,000 - 9,999
- 7% took in 10,000+



C Annual Intake of Dogs and/or Cats

### Housing:

- 64% of organizations represented primarily housed animals in a physical facility or shelter
- 23% primarily house animals in foster homes
- 11% house animals equally between a physical facility or shelter and foster homes

### Intake Policy:

- For the animal population the organization serves, 62% of organizations represented in this survey had a policy of accepting all or almost all of animals presented to them.



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# Data Profiles by Organizational Type

	<b>Municipal Animal Services (n=115)</b>	<b>Shelter/Rescue with a Municipal Contract (n=115)</b>	<b>Shelter/Rescue without a Municipal Contract (n=476)</b>
<b>Workforce Composition:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>81% composed of paid staff and unpaid volunteers</li> <li>19% composed of paid staff only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>87% composed of paid staff and unpaid volunteers</li> <li>8% composed of paid staff only</li> <li>5% composed of unpaid volunteers only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% composed of paid staff and unpaid volunteers</li> <li>47% composed of paid staff only</li> <li>3% composed of unpaid volunteers only</li> </ul>
<b>Animal Intake Type:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>98% of organizations took in both dogs and cats</li> <li>2% took in dogs only</li> <li>0% took in cats only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>97% of organizations took in both dogs and cats</li> <li>2% took in dogs only</li> <li>1% took in cats only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>64% of organizations took in both dogs and cats</li> <li>13% took in dogs only</li> <li>22% took in cats only</li> </ul>
<b>Annual Intake of Dogs and/or Cats:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7% took in 100 - 499</li> <li>10% took in 500 - 999</li> <li>37% took in 1,000 - 4,999</li> <li>18% took in 5,000 - 9,999</li> <li>28% took in 10,000+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% took in 100-499</li> <li>17% took in 500-999</li> <li>43% took in 1,000-4,999</li> <li>20% took in 5,000-9,999</li> <li>10% took in 10,000+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59% took in 100-499</li> <li>22% took in 500-999</li> <li>15% took in 1,000-4,999</li> <li>3% took in 5,000-9,999</li> <li>1% took in 10,000+</li> </ul>
<b>Housing:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>97% primarily housed animals in a facility/shelter</li> <li>3% housed animals equally between a physical facility or shelter and foster homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93% of organizations represented primarily house animals in a facility/shelter</li> <li>2% primarily housed animals in foster homes</li> <li>5% housed animals equally between a facility/shelter and foster homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46% of organizations represented primarily housed animals in a facility/shelter</li> <li>35% primarily housed animals in foster homes</li> <li>16% housed animals equally between a facility/shelter and foster homes</li> </ul>
<b>Intake Policy:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>96% had a policy of taking in all or almost all animals presented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>92% had a policy of taking in all or almost all animals at intake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>43% had a policy of taking in all or almost all animals at intake</li> </ul>



# Data Profiles by Animal Intake Type

	<b>Organizations Serving Both Dogs and Cats (n=572)</b>	<b>Organizations Serving Dogs Only (n=67)</b>	<b>Organizations Serving Cats Only (n=111)</b>
<b>Organizational Type:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 54% of organizations were categorized as an animal shelter/rescue without a municipal contract</li> <li>• 26% as an animal shelter/rescue with a municipal contract (i.e., animal control or housing services)</li> <li>• 20% as municipal animal services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 93% of organizations were categorized as an animal shelter/rescue without a municipal contract</li> <li>• 4% as an animal shelter/rescue with a municipal contract (i.e., animal control or housing services)</li> <li>• 3% as municipal animal services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 96% of organizations were categorized as an animal shelter/rescue without a municipal contract</li> <li>• 2% as an animal shelter/rescue with a municipal contract (i.e., animal control or housing services)</li> </ul>
<b>Workforce Composition:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70% composed of paid staff and unpaid volunteers</li> <li>• 22% composed of unpaid volunteers only</li> <li>• 8% composed of paid staff only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 69% composed of unpaid volunteers only</li> <li>• 28% composed of paid staff and unpaid volunteers</li> <li>• 3% composed of paid staff only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70% composed of unpaid volunteers only</li> <li>• 30% composed of paid staff and unpaid volunteers</li> </ul>
<b>Annual Intake of Dogs and/or Cats:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% took in 100 - 499</li> <li>• 20% took in 500 - 999</li> <li>• 29% took in 1,000 - 4,999</li> <li>• 11% took in 5,000 - 9,999</li> <li>• 9% took in 10,000+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 78% took in 100 - 499</li> <li>• 15% took in 500 - 999</li> <li>• 6% took in 1,000 - 4,999</li> <li>• 1% took in 5,000 - 9,999</li> <li>• 0% took in 10,000+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 73% took in 100 - 499</li> <li>• 18% took in 500 - 999</li> <li>• 8% took in 1,000 - 4,999</li> <li>• 0% took in 5,000 - 9,999</li> <li>• 1% took in 10,000+</li> </ul>
<b>Housing:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 73% primarily housed animals in a facility/shelter</li> <li>• 15% primarily house animals in foster homes</li> <li>• 10% housed animals equally between a facility/shelter and foster homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31% primarily housed animals in a facility/shelter</li> <li>• 58% primarily housed animals in foster homes</li> <li>• 9% housed animals equally between a facility/shelter and foster homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33% primarily housed animals in a facility/shelter</li> <li>• 41% primarily housed animals in foster homes</li> <li>• 17% housed animals equally between a facility/shelter and foster homes</li> <li>• 8% other</li> </ul>
<b>Intake Policy:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 68% had a policy of taking in all or almost all animals presented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42% had a policy of taking in all or almost all animals presented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44% had a policy of taking in all or almost all animals presented</li> </ul>

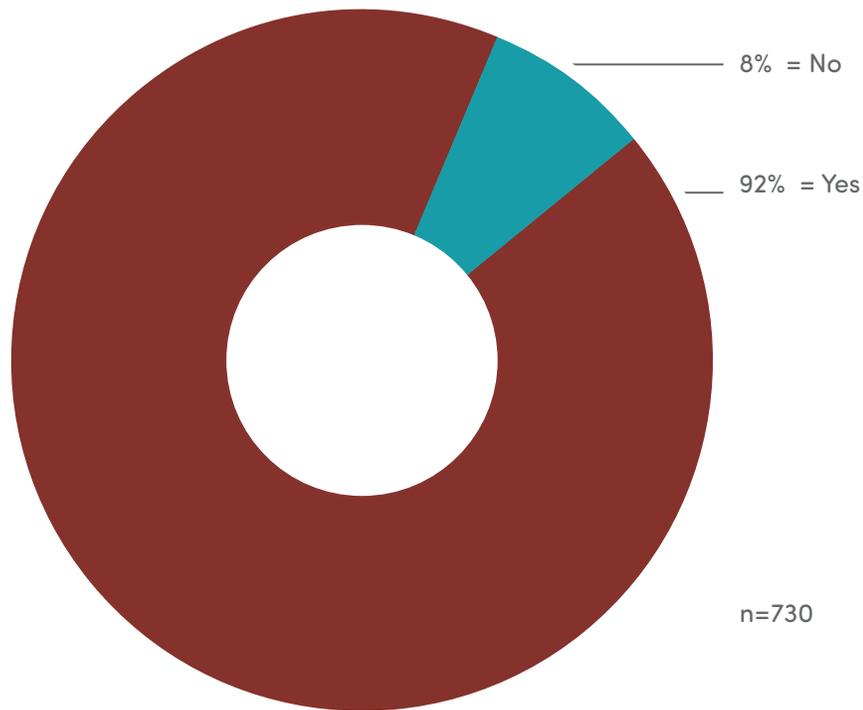


# Results

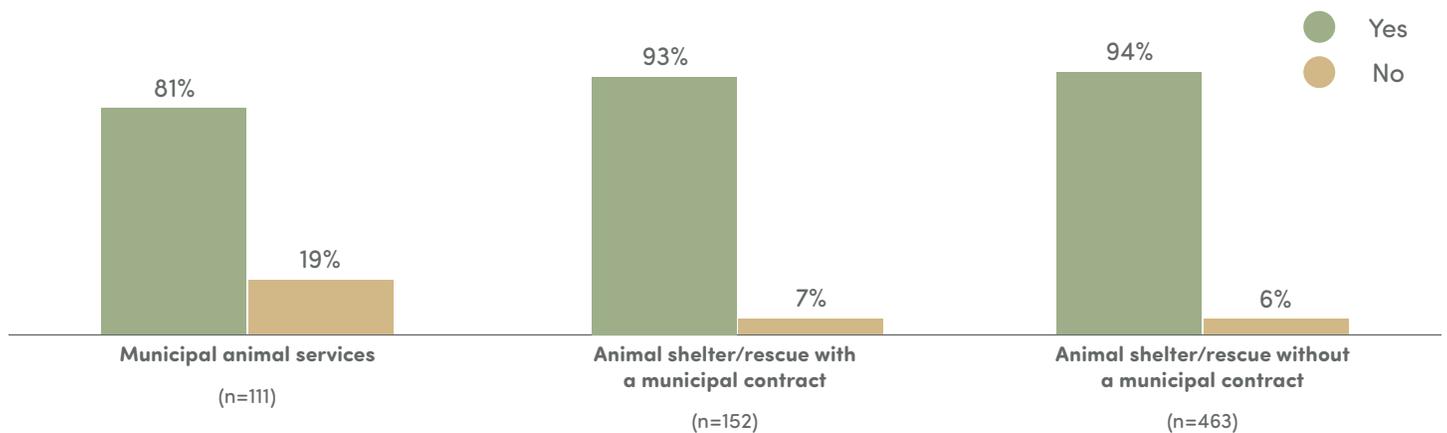
These results were not analyzed for statistical significance.

## Q1. Does your organization have a foster care program?

- Overall, 92% of respondents reported that their organization has a foster care program (see chart below). The type of animals taken in (whether dog, cat or both) by the organization nor the number of dogs and/or cats taken in annually appeared to be a factor in having or not having a foster care program in place.



- Municipal animal services (81%) may be less likely to have a foster care program than animal shelters or rescues with or without a municipal contract (93%, 94%, respectively; see chart below).



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# Results

- We asked respondents who reported that their organization did not have a foster program to comment as to why not. Below are a few notable responses:
  - **Municipal restrictions:**
    - “City requires anyone fostering to be an approved Police Dept[artment] volunteer, the background check takes 4-6 months, so we have very few volunteers.”
  - **Lack of resources (ex: staffing, funding):**
    - “Not enough staff to cover it, we are a municipal shelter so we depend on the rescues to organize foster programs.”
  - **Liability:**
    - “Municipal shelter, city will not take on liability or expense. No vet on staff.”
  - **Control/Bad past experience:**
    - “Hard to control and monitor quality and consistency of care, and availability of animal for adoption showings.”
    - “We have had some bad experiences with fostering so, unless a potential fosterer is a frequent volunteer or employee we do not do it.”
  - **Lack of foster caregivers:**
    - “We do not have enough people interested in fostering, and have not had time to develop a program.”



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# Results

These results were not analyzed for statistical significance.

## The “Foster Caregiver Involvement in Adoption” Scenario:

Asked of organizations that take in both dogs and cats; and, organizations that only take in dogs:

A foster caregiver has been fostering a dog, Duke, for a few weeks. Duke is now ready to be placed for adoption by your shelter or rescue organization. The foster caregiver would like to be highly involved in the adoption process.

Asked of organizations that only take in cats:

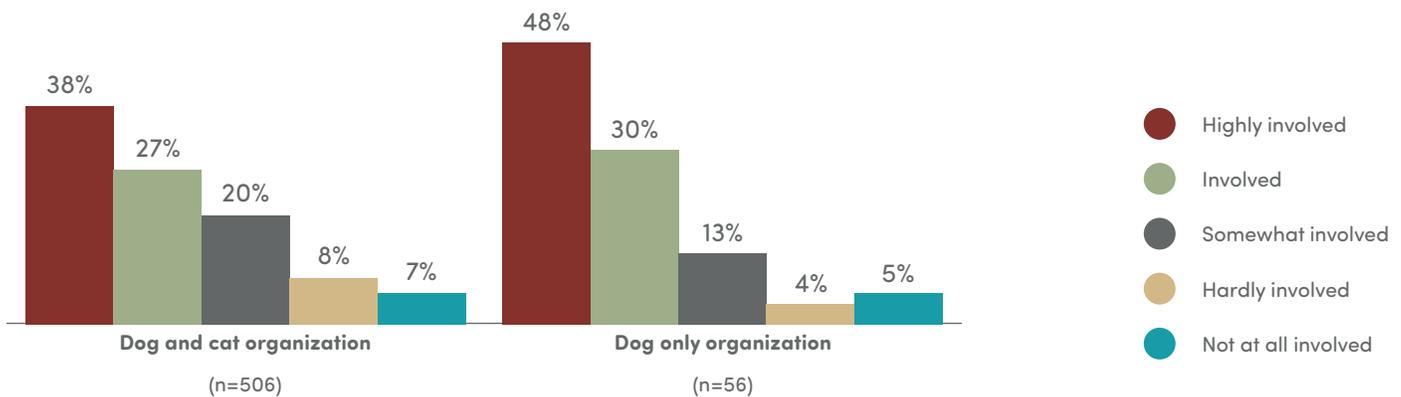
A foster caregiver has been fostering a cat, Cleo, for a few weeks. Cleo is now ready to be placed for adoption by your shelter or rescue organization. The foster caregiver would like to be highly involved in the adoption process.

**Please note: Organizations that serve both dogs and cats and organizations that serve dogs only were asked to answer questions regarding the dog adoption process only.**

**Organizations that serve cats only were asked to answer questions regarding the cat adoption process only.**

Q2. Please indicate the extent to which foster caregivers are allowed to be involved in the adoption process at your organization.

- Data for Question #2 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program.
- Organizations that only serve dogs (48%) may be more likely than organizations that take in both dogs and cats (38%) to allow foster caregivers to be “highly involved” in their dog adoption process (see first two charts below).



- Only 37% of organizations that only serve cats reported to allow foster caregivers to be “highly involved” in the cat adoption process (see chart below).



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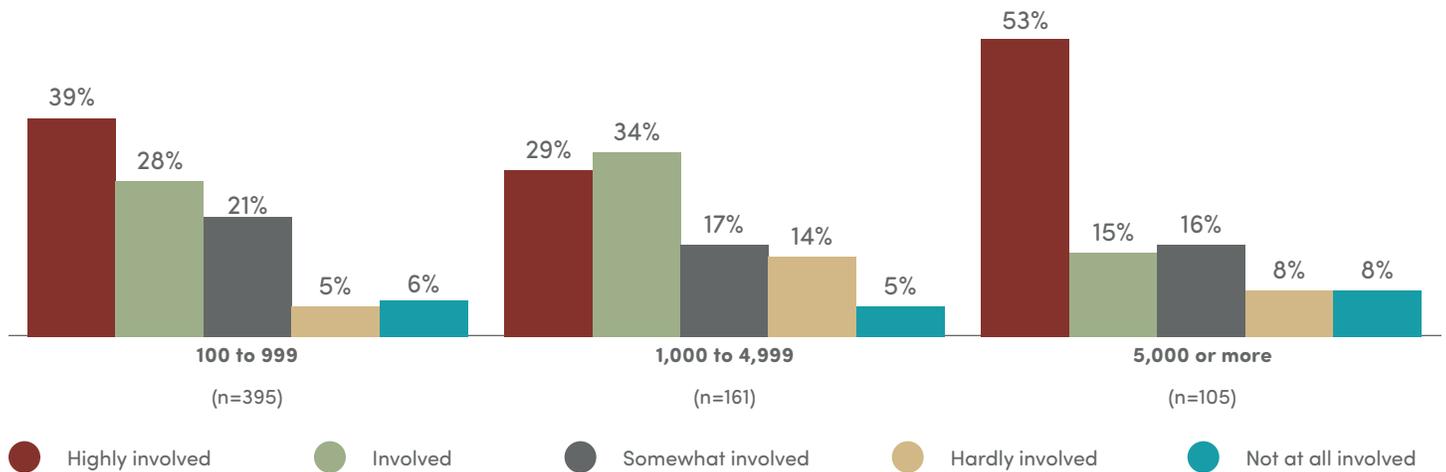
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# Results

## Q2. Continued

- Overall, organizational type – municipal animal services, animal shelters or rescues with a municipal contract, or animal shelters or rescues without a municipal contract – did not appear to be a factor in the extent to which the organization allowed foster caregivers to be involved in the adoption process (data not depicted).
- Overall, results suggest that larger organizations – defined here as 5,000 or more dogs and/or cats taken in annually – may be more likely (53%) to allow foster caregivers to be “highly involved” in the adoption process; interestingly, mid-size organizations – defined here as 1,000 to 4,999 dogs and/or cats annually – were reportedly the least likely (29%) to allow foster caregivers to be “highly involved” in the adoption process (see chart below).



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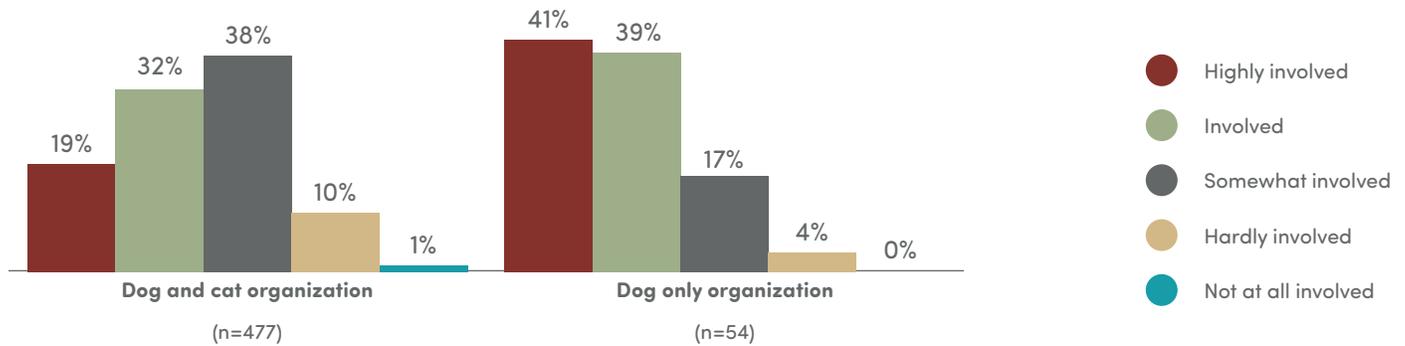
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# Results

**Q3. Please indicate the frequency by which foster caregivers choose to be involved in the adoption process at your organization.**

- Data for Question #3 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program and excludes data from respondents who indicated that foster caregivers are “not at all involved” in the adoption process at their respective organizations.
- Interestingly, 80% of “dog only” organizations reported that foster caregivers either “very frequently” or “frequently” choose to be involved in the dog adoption process when allowed, compared to approximately 51% of “dog and cat” organizations (see chart below).



- Of organizations who serve cats exclusively, only 12% reported that foster caregivers “very frequently” choose to be involved in the cat adoption process (39% either “very frequently” or “frequently;” see chart below).

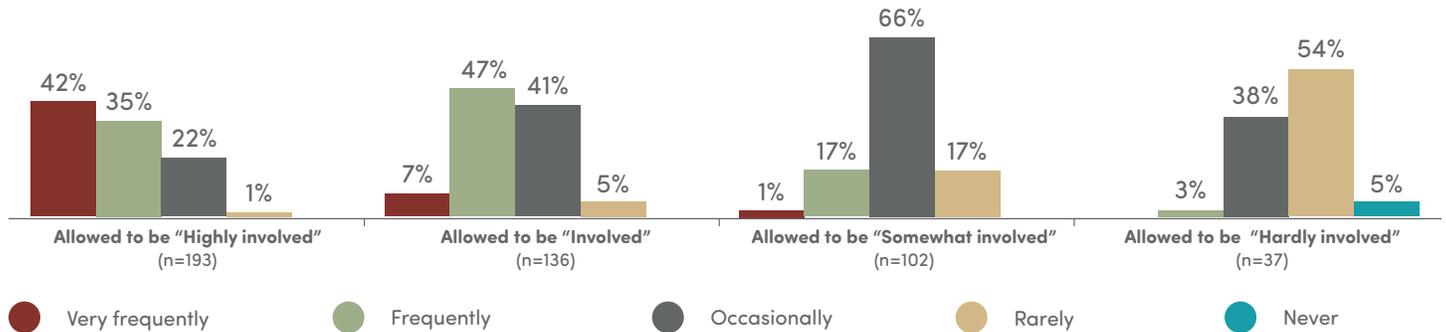


# Results

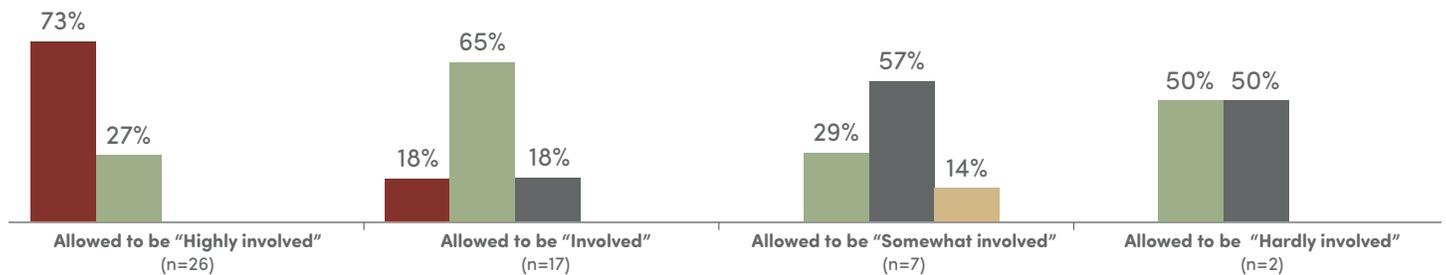
## Q3. Continued

- Not surprisingly, foster caregivers more frequently choose to be involved in the adoption process if they are providing their services to an organization which encourages their involvement (see charts below). The charts below are broken out by the type of animals taken in by various organizations; thus please take small sample size into consideration when reviewing.

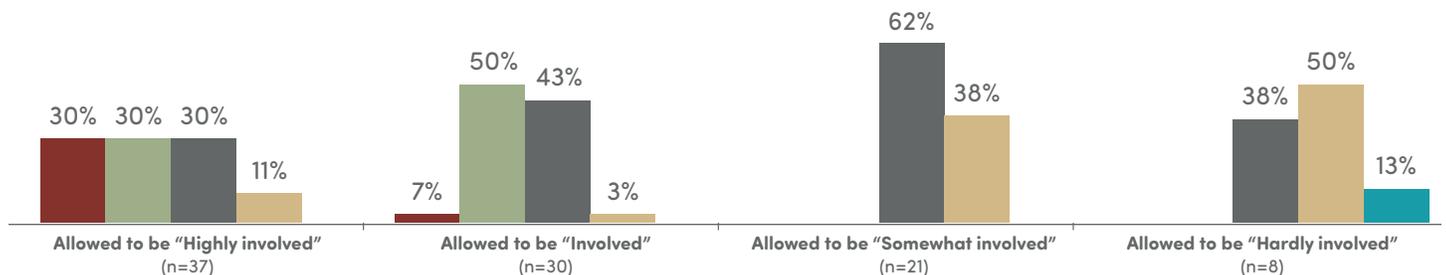
### Organizations that serve both dogs and cats



### Organizations that serve dogs only



### Organizations that serve cats only



\* Involvement choice



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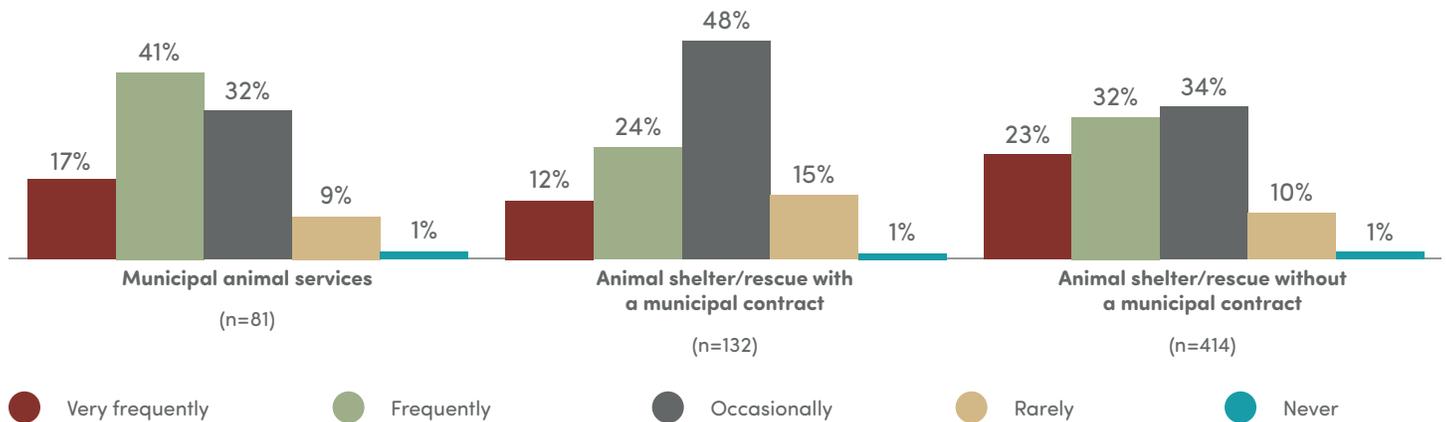
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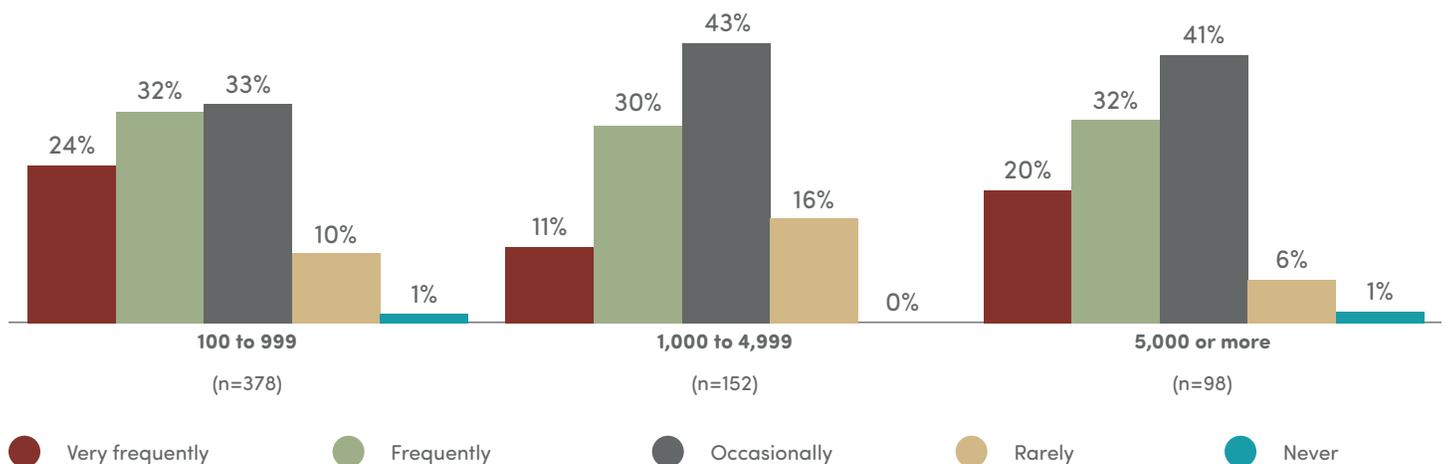
# Results

## Q3. Continued

- Respondents from municipal animal services (58%) and animal shelters or rescues without a municipal contract (56%) appear to be more likely to report that foster caregivers “very frequently” or “frequently” choose to be involved in the adoption process at their organization than animal shelters or rescues with a municipal contract (36%; see chart below).
- Interestingly, as stated earlier, the extent to which foster caregivers are allowed to be involved in the adoption process did not seem to differ significantly between organizational types.



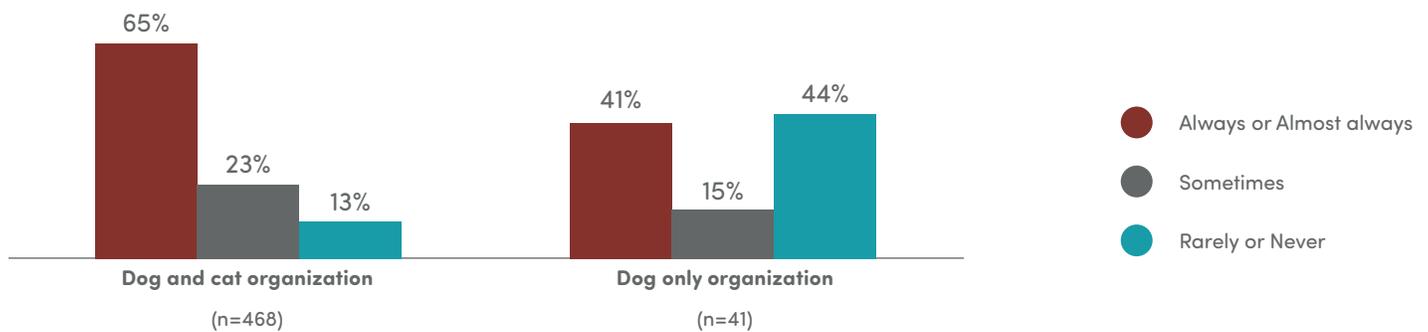
- Overall, results suggest that smaller organizations – defined here as 100 to 999 dogs and/or cats taken in annually – and larger organizations – defined here as 5,000 or more dogs and/or cats taken in annually – may be more likely (24% and 20%, respectively) to report that foster caregivers “very frequently” choose to be involved in the adoption process than mid-size organizations (11%; see chart below).
- As stated earlier, larger and smaller organizations showed a greater propensity to allow foster caregiver involvement in the adoption process, when compared to mid-size organizations.



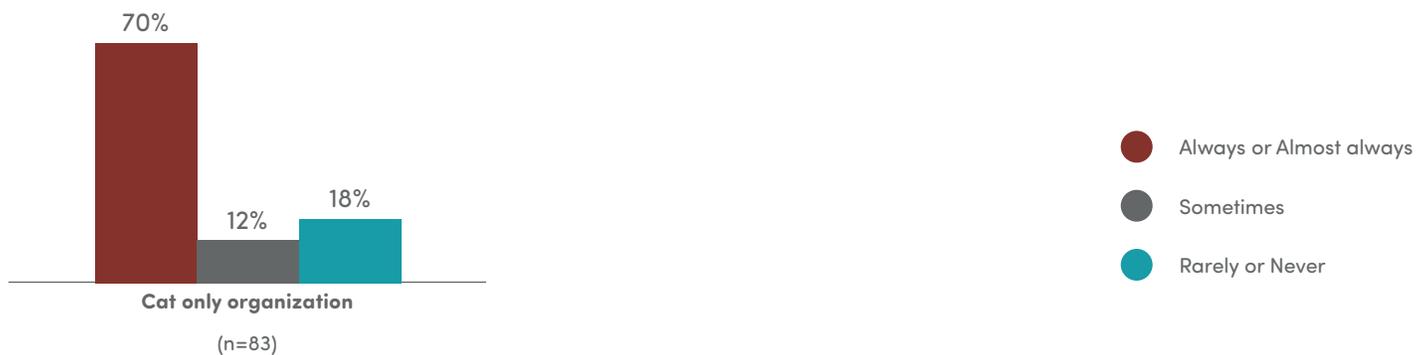
# Results

## Q4. How often are foster animals physically returned to the organization for the adoption process?

- Data for Question #4 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program. Additionally, responses of “not applicable” were omitted. Approximately 10% of all respondents surveyed reported “not applicable,” specifically signifying that there is not a location for the physical return of a foster animal.
- Organizations (with a physical facility), which only serve dogs, were far less likely (41%) than organizations that take in both cats and dogs (65%) to report that foster dogs are “always” or “almost always” physically returned to the organization for the dog adoption process (see chart below).



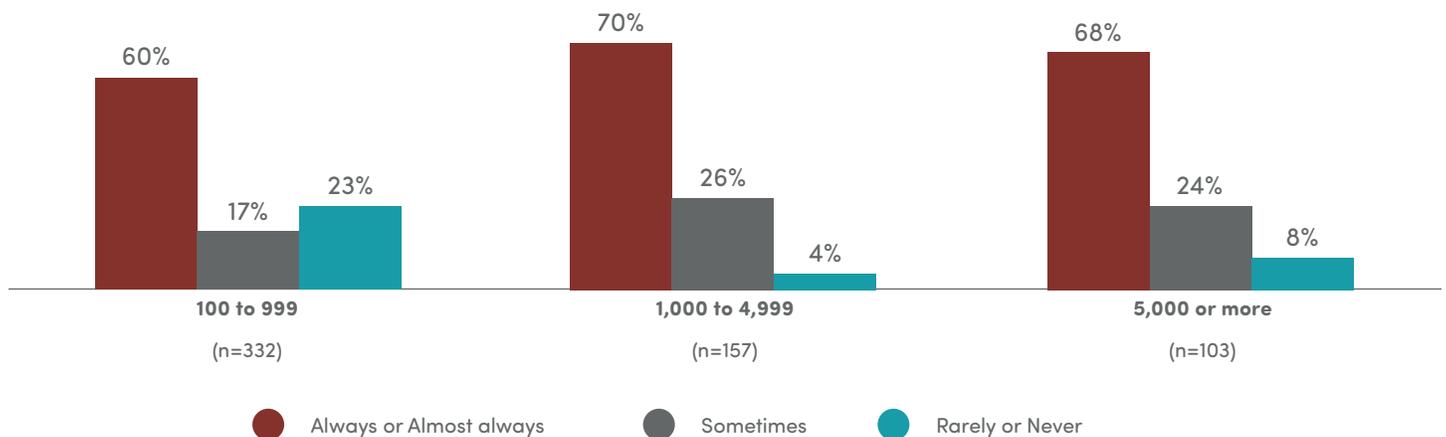
- Of organizations (with a physical facility), which only take in cats, 70% reported that foster animals are “always” or “almost always” physically returned to the organization for the cat adoption process (see chart below).



# Results

## Q4. Continued.

- Overall, organizations which reported to primarily house the majority of animals in a “physical facility or shelter” were much more likely (73%) to report that foster animals are “always” or “almost always” physically returned to the organization for the adoption process, compared to organizations which reported to equally share housing between a physical facility/foster homes (53%) and organizations that primarily utilize foster homes for animal housing (42%; data not depicted). Again, organizations which noted that they do not have a physical facility or shelter for return were removed from this analysis.
- Additionally, of organizations that had a physical facility, it did not appear that organizational type – municipal animal services or shelters/rescues with or without a municipal contract – was a strong factor in whether or not the foster animal was returned for adoption; however, data suggests that animal shelters or rescues without municipal contracts may be most likely (21%) to “rarely” or “never” have foster animals physically returned to the organization for the adoption process (data not depicted). Again, organizations which noted that they do not have a physical facility or shelter for return were removed from the analysis below.
- Overall, results suggest that smaller organizations – defined here as from 100 to 999 dogs and/or cats taken in annually – may be most likely (23%) to “rarely” or “never” have foster animals physically returned to the organization for the adoption process (see chart below). Again, organizations which noted that they do not have a physical facility or shelter for return were removed from the analysis below.



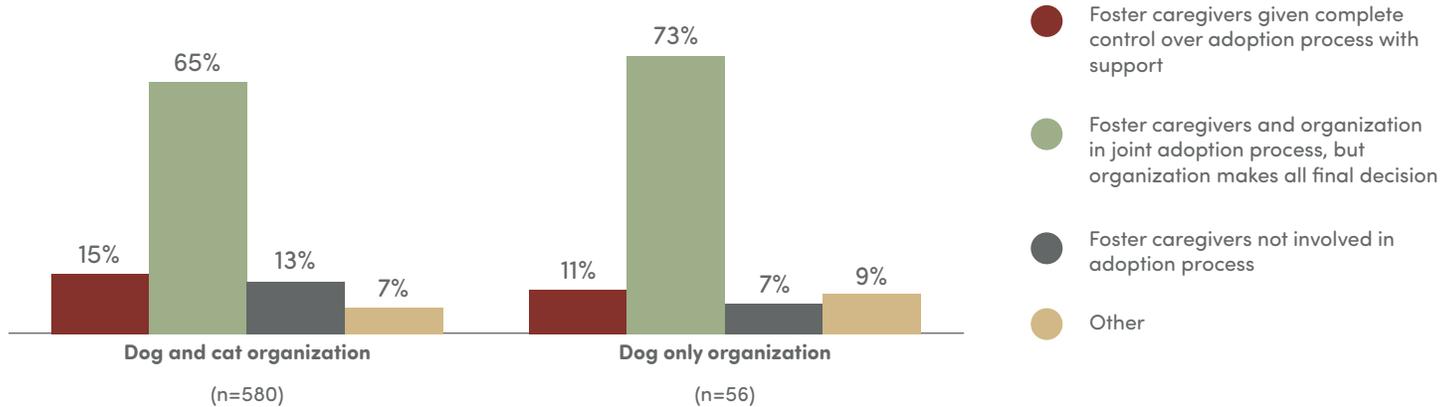
- We asked respondents to comment on the return of animals to physical facilities for adoption. The below are notable comments:
  - “Kittens are returned to shelter for adoption more frequently than dogs.”
  - “We have been trying to get fosters to advertise their foster animals and screen adoptive homes. All of the information just needs to end up back at the shelter so we can finalize actual paperwork and outcome the animal.”
  - “We are working to increase our off-site adoption events and are encouraging fosters to take their animals to the events. We would prefer that the foster animal does not have to come back to the shelter.”
  - “Most of our kittens are pre-adopted from the foster home so they only come into the shelter for surgery and then go home that evening with their new family.”
  - “Often, the foster finds the adopter, and the foster and adopter come into the shelter together to do the adoption.”



# Results

## Q5. Which of the following best describes your organization’s policies on foster caregiver involvement in the adoption process?

- Data for Question #5 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program.
- For organizations that serve both dogs and cats and organizations that serve dogs only, the majority of respondents (65% and 73%, respectively) reported that foster caregivers and the organization work in a joint adoption process; however, the organization makes all final decisions (see chart below).



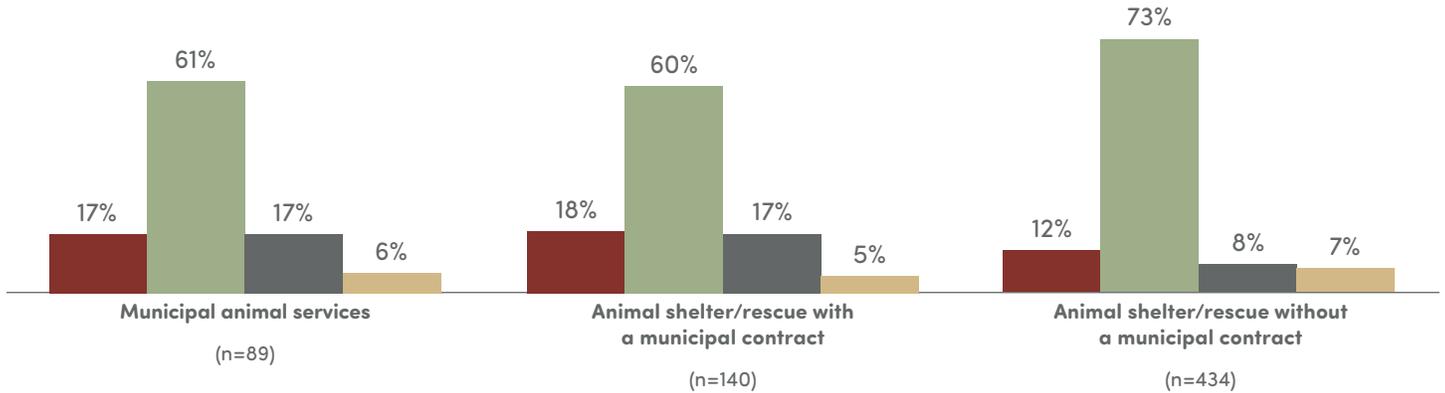
- Of organizations who serve cats exclusively, 84% reported that foster caregivers may work with their organization in a joint adoption process, but the organization makes all final decisions (see chart below).



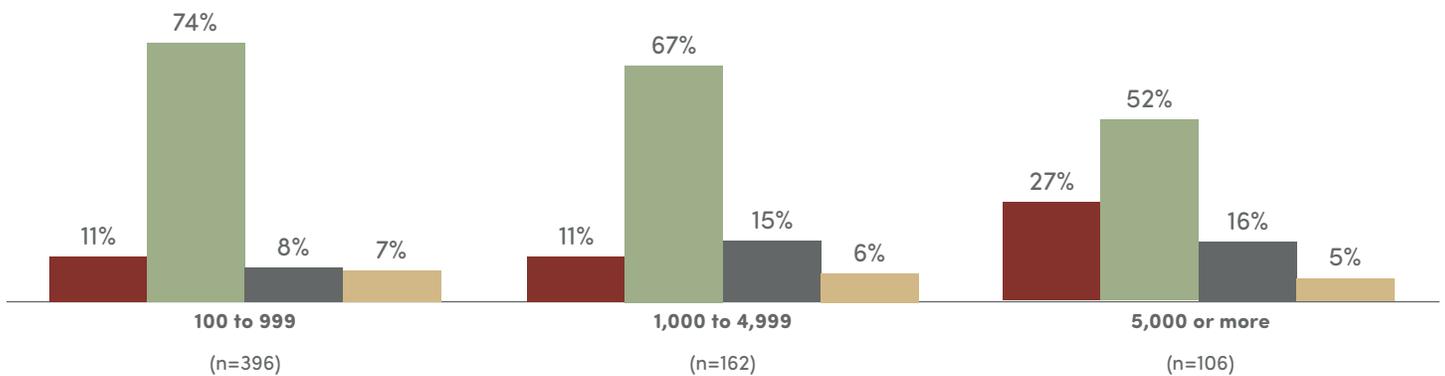
# Results

## Q5. Continued.

- Overall, data suggests that shelters/rescues without municipal contracts may be slightly more likely (73%) to have foster caregivers help with a joint adoption process, with the organization making all final decisions; However, municipal animal services and shelters/rescues with municipal contracts may be slightly more likely to: 1) give foster caregivers complete control over the adoption process with support, (17% and 18%, respectively), or 2) not involve foster caregivers in the process at all (17% and 17%, respectively; see chart below).



- Overall, results suggest that the greater the annual animal intake of an organization, the more likely that organization is to give foster caregivers complete control over the adoption process while providing support, as needed. In contrast, there may also be a slight trend suggesting that the larger the organization, the more likely it is that foster caregivers are not involved in the adoption process at all. In summation, perhaps this dichotomy indicates an “all or nothing” approach to foster caregiver adoption involvement in larger organizations (see chart below). Notably, data shows the smaller the organization (by annual animal intake), the more likely that foster caregivers work with the organization in a joint adoption process, where the organization makes all final decisions (see chart below).



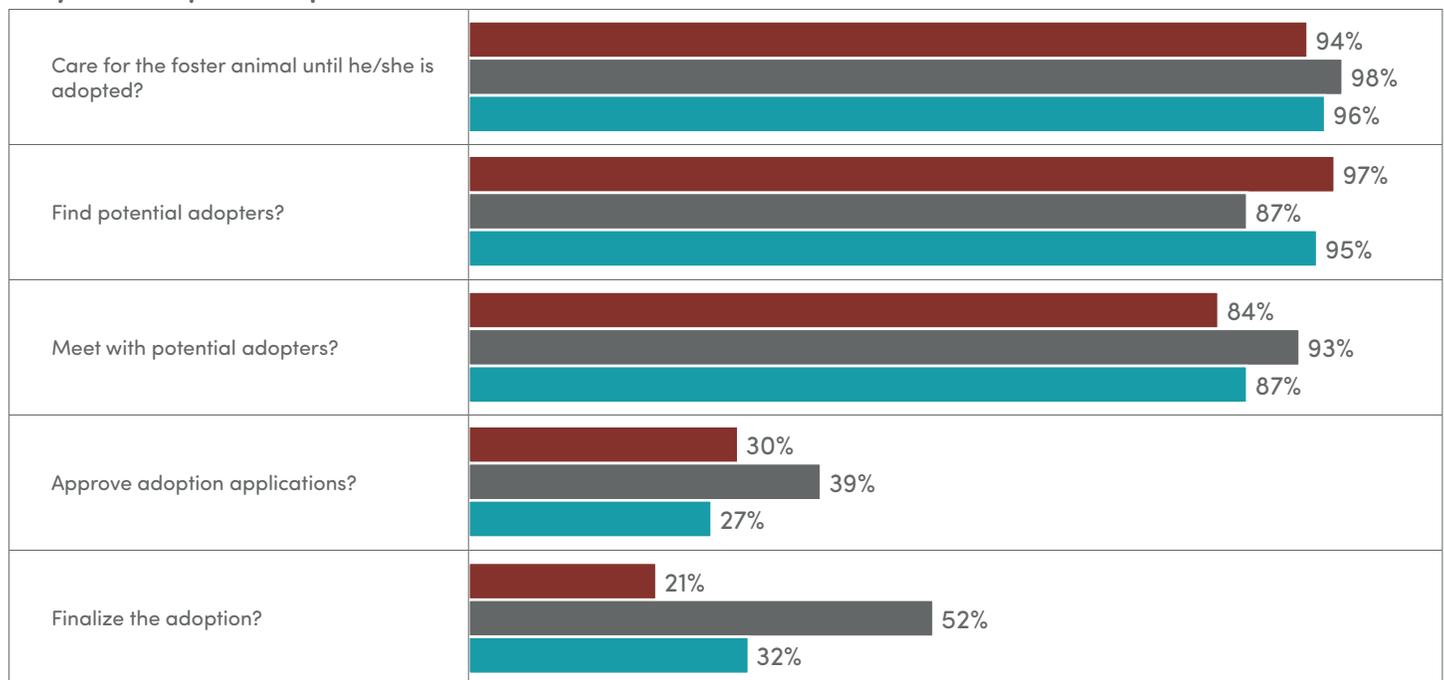
# Results

Respondents were asked to report “yes” or “no” to a series of questions below. Data for Question #6 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program.

## Q6. At your organization, are foster caregivers allowed to:

- The majority of respondents, reported that foster caregivers are allowed to care for the pet until he/she is adopted, find potential adopters and meet with potential adopters (see chart below).
- When comparing organizations that serve dogs exclusively to organizations which serve both dogs and cats, it seems that “dog only” organizations may allow more liberties to foster caregivers in the dog adoption process (with an interesting exclusion of “finding potential adopters;” see chart below).
- Organizations which serve cats exclusively appear to allow similar access points in the cat adoption process as dog and cat organizations allow in the dog adoption process (with exclusion to “finalization of the adoption;” see chart below).
- Across the board, most respondents reported that foster caregivers are not allowed to approve adoption applications, and “cat only” organizations may be least likely (see below).
- Organizations taking in both dogs and cats were the least likely (21%) to let foster caregivers finalize adoption applications, compared to our other animal intake categories; In contrast, the majority, 52%, of “dog only” organizations surveyed do allow adoption finalization by the caregiver (see chart below).

### Only “YES” responses depicted



- Dog and cat organization
- Dog only organization
- Cat only organization



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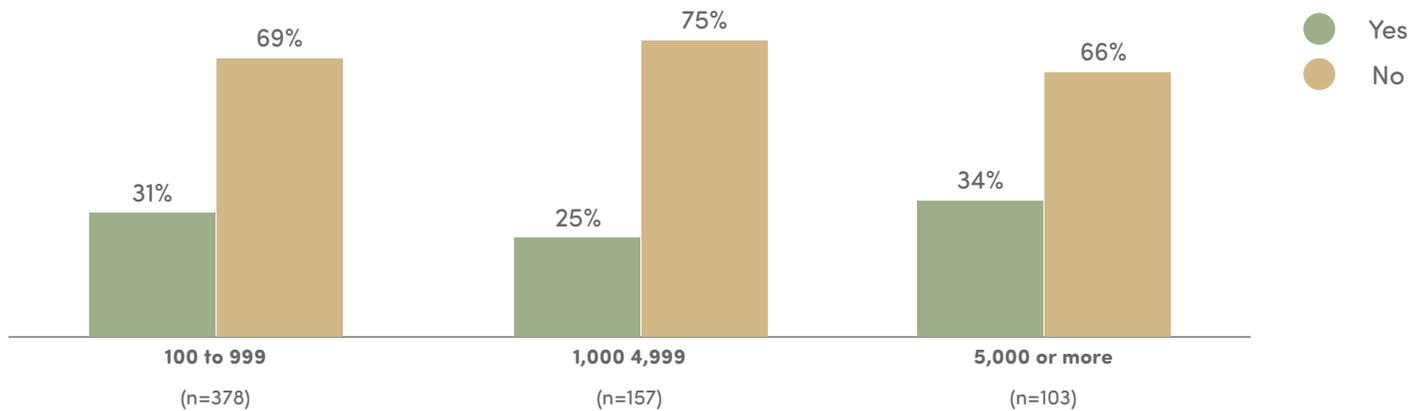
# Results

Respondents were asked to report “yes” or “no” to a series of questions below. Data for Question #6 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program.

## Q6. Continued.

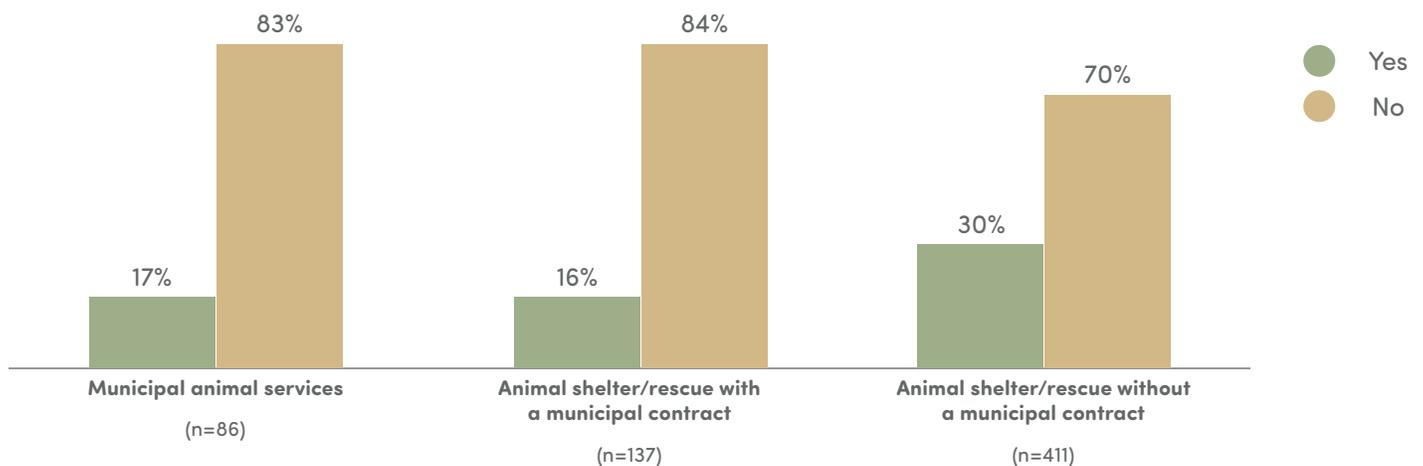
### Approve adoption applications?

- Although the type of organization – municipal animal services, shelters/rescues with or without municipal contracts – did not appear to be a factor in whether foster caregivers were allowed to approve adoption applications (data not depicted), the size of the organization may be. Larger organizations, taking in more than 5,000 dogs and/or cats annually, may be more likely (34%) to allow foster caregiver to approve adoption applications, compared to mid-size organizations, taking in from 1,000 to 4,999 dogs and/or cats annually (25%; see chart below).



### Finalize the adoption?

- Overall, data suggests that animal shelters or rescues without municipal contracts may be slightly more likely (30%) to allow foster caregivers to finalize adoptions, as compared to municipal animal services (17%) and animal shelters or rescues with municipal contracts (16%; see chart below).



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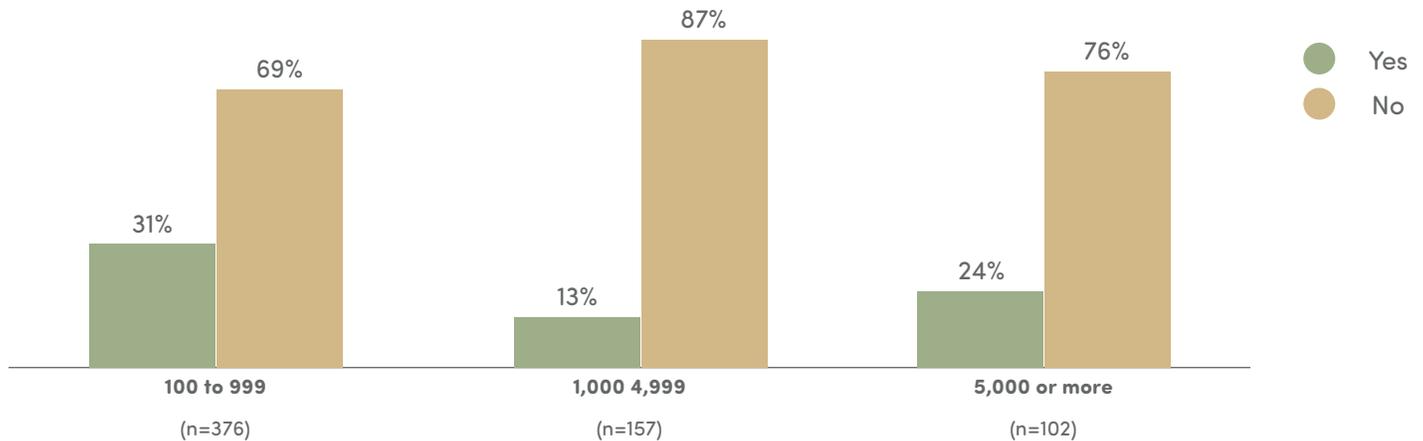
# Results

Respondents were asked to report “yes” or “no” to a series of questions below. Data for Question #6 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program.

## Q6. Continued.

### Finalize the adoption continued.

- Overall data regarding organizational size suggests that mid-size organizations, which take in from 1,000 to 4,999 dogs and/or cats annually, are less likely (87%) to allow foster caregivers to finalize adoptions, than small organizations (69%) and large organizations (76%). Notably, 31% of small organizations, taking in from 100 to 999 dogs and/or cats annually allow their foster caregivers to finalize foster pet adoptions (see chart below).



### Additional notes:

- The type of organization (i.e., municipal animal services, shelters/rescues with or without municipal contracts) and size of the organization (i.e., number of dogs and/or cats taken in annually) did not appear to be a factor in whether foster caregivers were allowed to:
  - care for the foster animal until adoption,
  - find potential adopters, or
  - meet with potential adopters (data not depicted).



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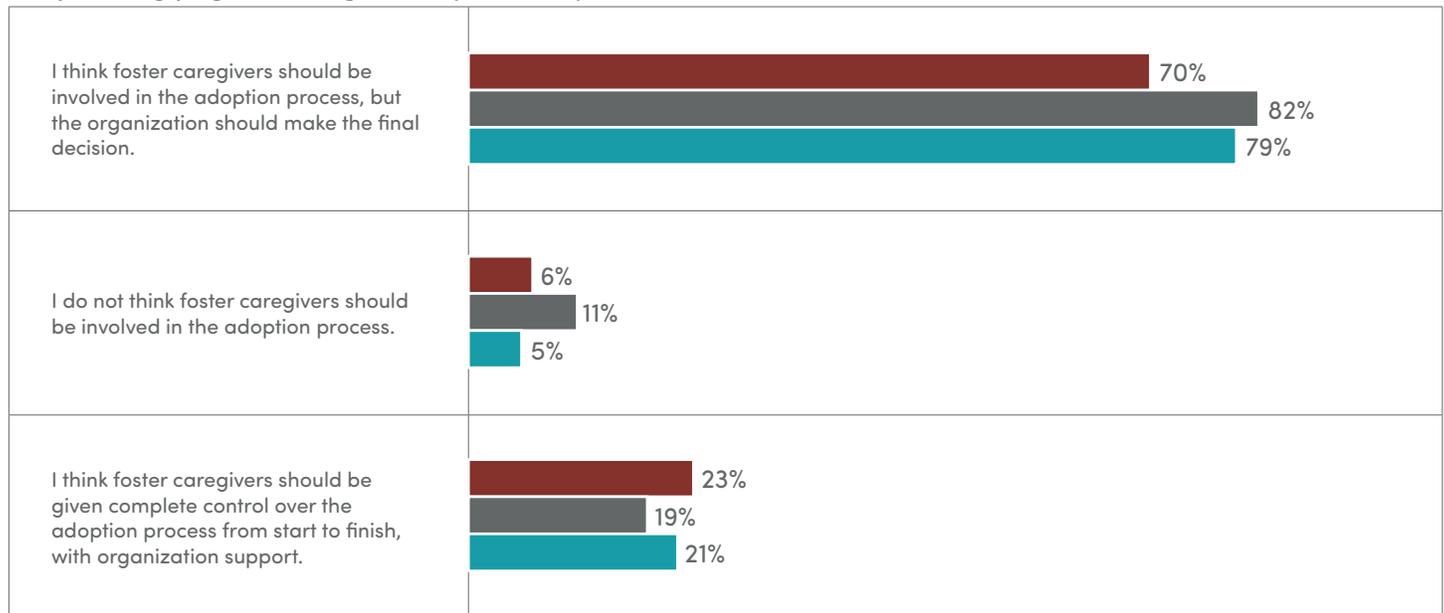
# Results

Respondents were asked to rate the following three statements regardless of the extent to which organizations actually allowed foster caregivers to be involved in the adoption process. Data for Question #7 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program.

## Q7. Please rate the following statements.

- Given the data below, most respondents “strongly agree” or “agree” that foster caregivers should be involved in the adoption process, but the organization should make the final decision.
- The overwhelming majority, across animal intake types, think that foster caregivers should be involved in the adoption process to some extent (that is, a small percentage “strongly agree” or “agree” that foster caregivers should be excluded from adoption processes).
- Finally, less than a quarter of respondents “strongly agree” or “agree” that foster caregivers should be given complete control over the adoption process from start to finish, even with organizational support (see chart below); Interestingly however, there is a greater split in response to this statement than the other two.
- A slight majority of respondents “disagree” or “strongly disagree” that foster care givers should be given complete control. Below is the breakdown according to animal intake type:
  - 55% of organizations that serve both dogs and cats “disagree” or “strongly disagree;”
  - 65% of organizations that only serve dogs “disagree” or “strongly disagree;” and,
  - 58% of organizations that only serve cats “disagree” or “strongly disagree” (data not depicted).

### Only “Strongly agree” or “Agree” responses depicted



- Dog and cat organization
- Dog only organization
- Cat only organization



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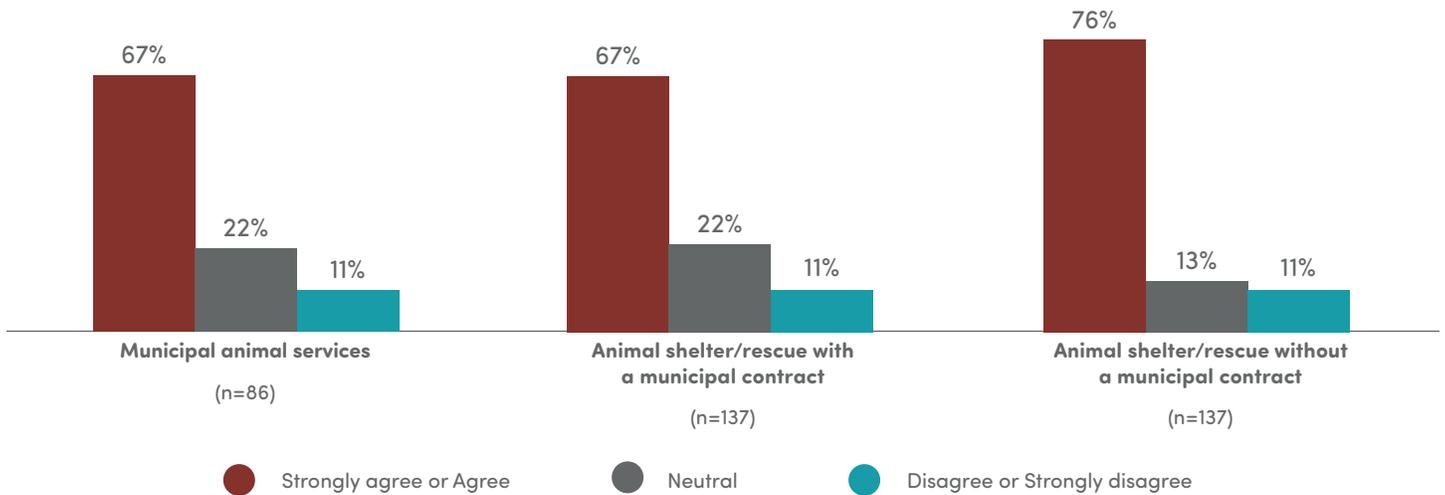
# Results

Respondents were asked to rate the following three statements regardless of the extent to which organizations actually allowed foster caregivers to be involved in the adoption process. Data for Question #7 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program.

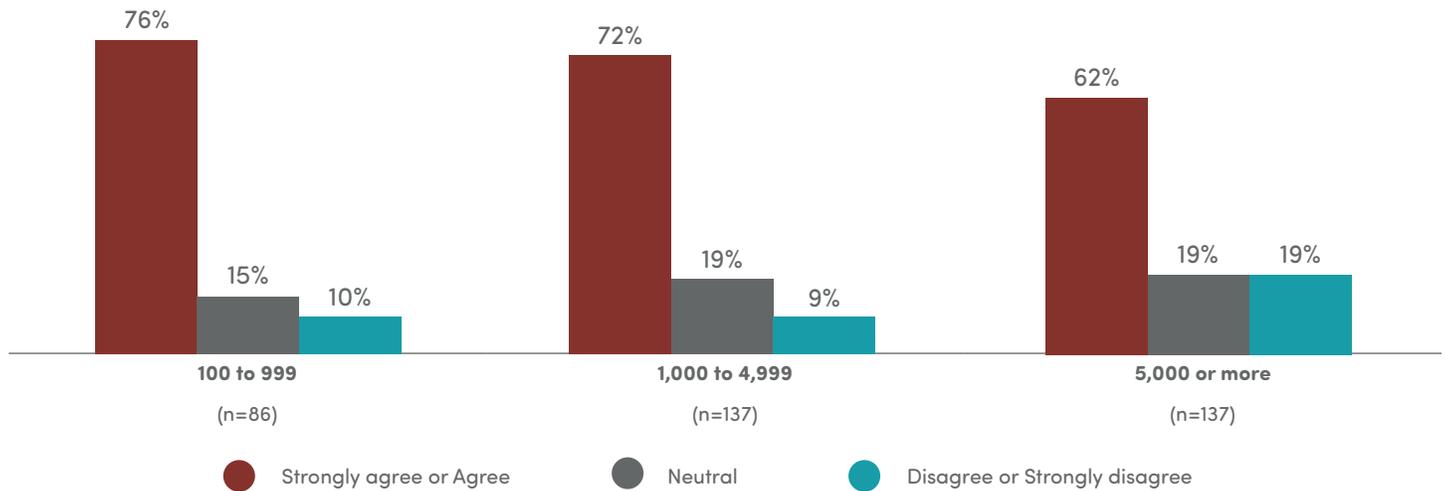
## Q7. Continued.

**I think foster caregivers should be involved in the adoption process, but the organization should make the final decision.**

- Respondents representing municipal animal services and animal shelters or rescues with a municipal contract may have been slightly less likely (67% and 67% respectively) to “strongly agree” or “agree” that the organization should make the final adoption decision, when compared to animal shelters or rescues who do not have a municipal contract (76% “strongly agreed” or “agreed;” see chart below).



- Overall data suggests that the smaller the organizational animal intake per year, the more likely respondents were to “strongly agree” or “agree” that the organization should make the final adoption decision. Specifically, 76% of organizations taking in from 100 to 999 dogs and/or cats per year “strongly agree” or “agree” as compared to 62% of organizations taking in 5,000 or more animals per year (see chart below).



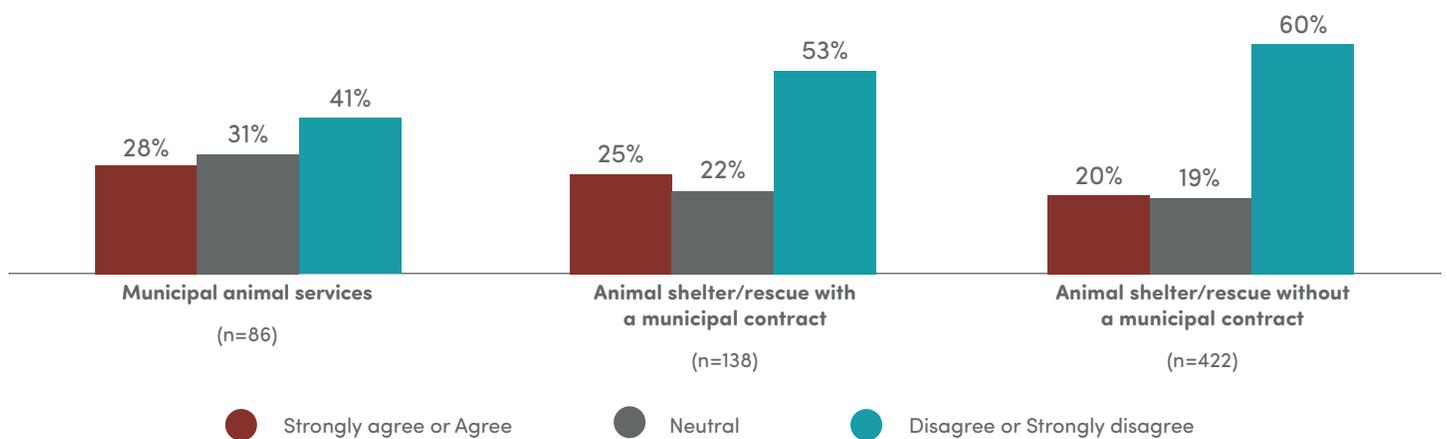
# Results

Respondents were asked to rate the following three statements regardless of the extent to which organizations actually allowed foster caregivers to be involved in the adoption process. Data for Question #7 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program.

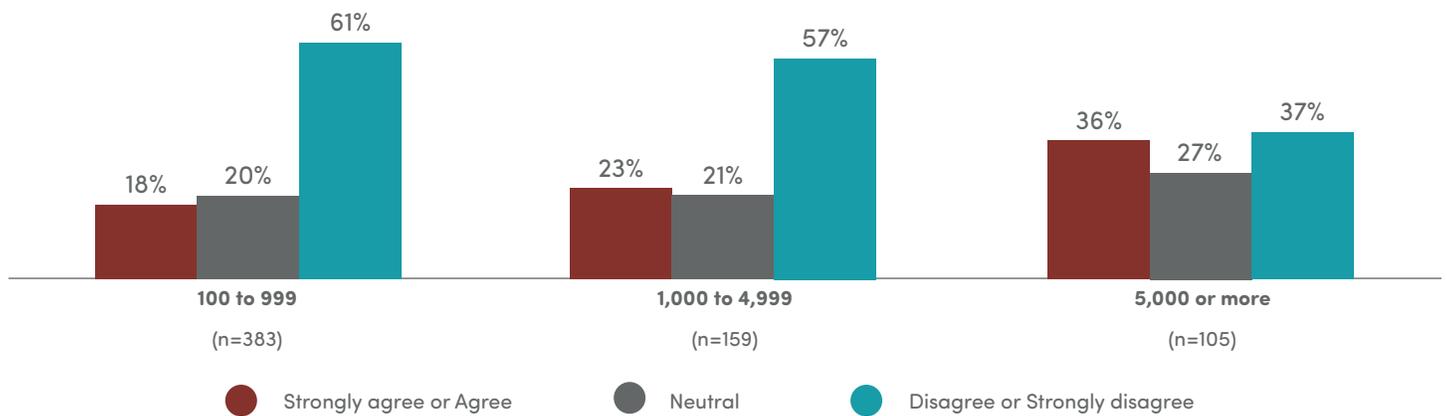
## Q7. Continued.

**I think foster caregivers should be given complete control over the adoption process from start to finish, with organizational support.**

- Respondents representing animal shelters or rescues without a municipal contract were much more likely (60%) to “disagree” or “strongly disagree” that foster caregivers should be given complete control over the adoption process from start to finish, with organizational support, when compared to municipal animal control agencies (41% “disagree” or “strongly disagree;” see chart below).



- Overall data strongly suggests that the smaller the organizational animal intake per year, the more likely respondents were to “disagree” or “strongly disagree” that foster caregivers should be given complete control over the adoption process from start to finish, with organizational support (see chart below).

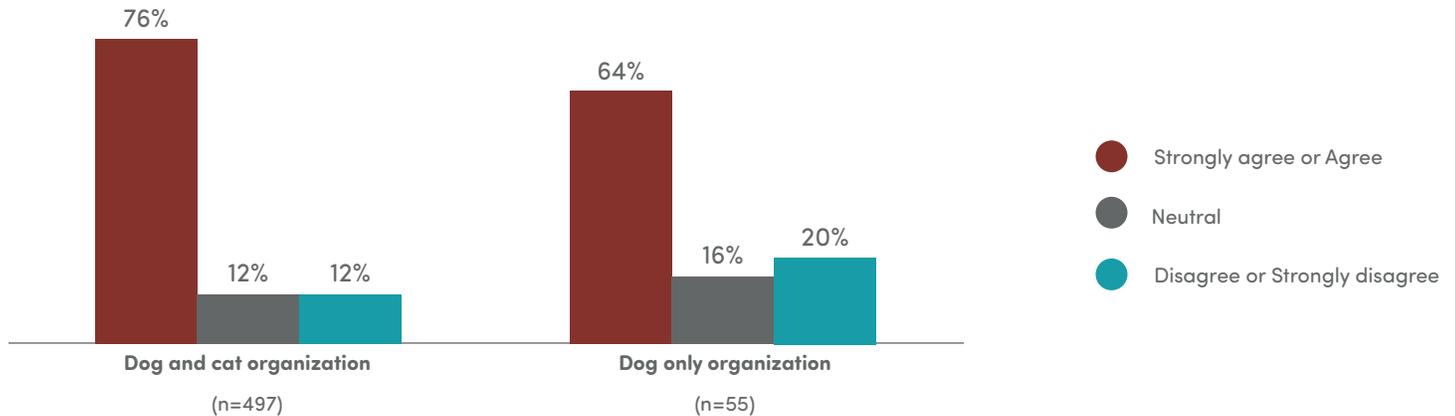


# Results

## Q8. Please rate the following statements.

**My organization struggles to find enough homes for animals who are available for adoption.**

- Data for Question #8 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program. All other respondents were asked to rate the following statements.
- For organizations that serve both dogs and cats and organizations that serve dogs only, the majority of respondents (76% and 64%, respectively) “strongly agree” or “agree” that their organization struggles to find enough homes for animals who are available for adoption; however, dog and cat organizations may be more likely to “strongly agree” or “agree” to this statement than organizations that only serve dogs (see chart below).



- Of organizations who serve cats exclusively, 77% “strongly agree” or “agree” that their organization struggles to find enough homes for animals who are available for adoption (see chart below).



- Overall, data did not differ greatly by organizational type - municipal animal services and animal shelters/rescues with or without municipal contracts (78%, 73% and 75% “strongly agree or “agree,” respectively; data not depicted).
- Finally, data did not differ greatly by organizational size; Seventy-seven percent of smaller organizations (taking in from 100 to 999 cats and/or dogs annually) either “strongly agree” or “agree,” compared to 69% of mid-size organizations (from 1,000 to 4,999) and 76% of larger organizations (5,000 or more; data not depicted).

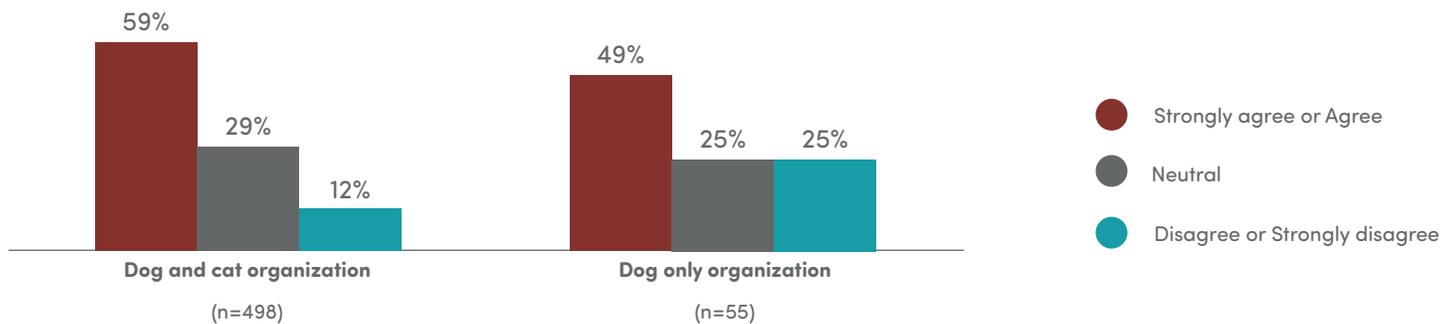


# Results

## Q8. Continued.

**My organization is effective in encouraging foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals.**

- Data for Question #8 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program. All other respondents were asked to rate the following statement, regardless of the extent to which organizations actually allowed foster caregivers to be involved in the adoption process.
- Respondents reported that 59% of organizations that serve both dogs and cats “strongly agree” or “agree” that their organization is effective in encouraging foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals. Interestingly, 49% of organizations that only serve dogs “strongly agree” or “agree,” while 25% “disagree” or “strongly disagree” (see chart below).



- Of organizations who serve cats exclusively, 48% “strongly agree” or “agree” that their organization is effective in encouraging foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals (see chart below).



- Data did not differ greatly by organizational type - municipal animal services and animal shelters/rescues with or without municipal contracts (data not depicted).

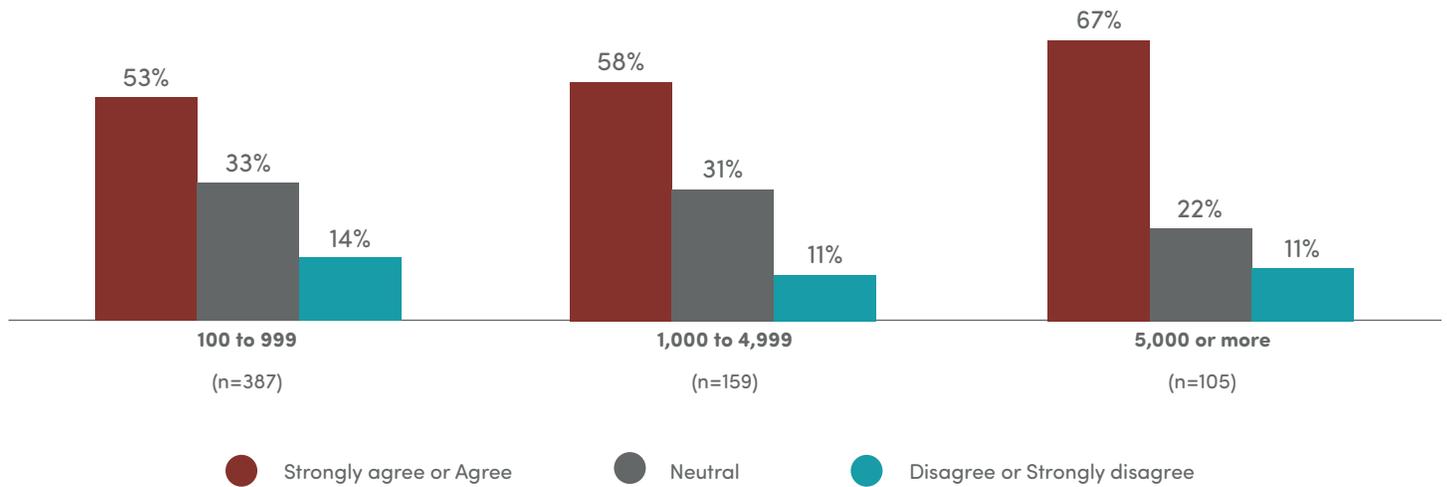


# Results

## Q8. Continued.

**My organization is effective in encouraging foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals.**

- Overall, data regarding organizational size suggests that the larger the organizational animal intake per year, the more likely respondents were to “strongly agree” or “agree” that their organization is effective in encouraging foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals (see chart below).

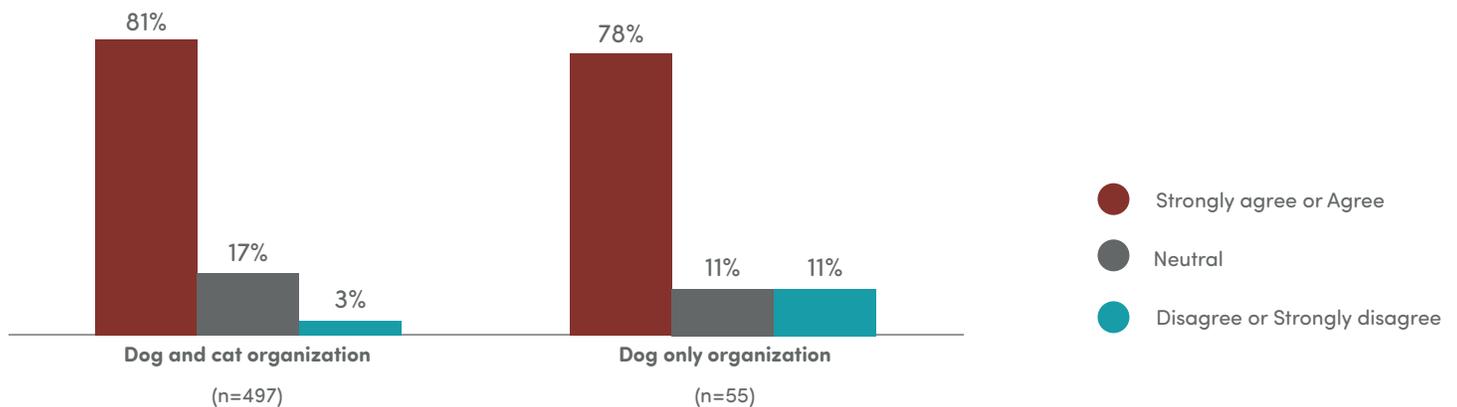


# Results

## Q8. Continued.

I think programs which empower foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals are effective in increasing capacity and/or organizational resources.

- Data for Question #8 only includes responses from organizations with a foster care program. All other respondents were asked to rate the following statement, regardless of the extent to which organizations actually allowed foster caregivers to be involved in the adoption process.
- For organizations that serve both dogs and cats and organizations that serve dogs only, the majority of respondents (81% and 78%, respectively) “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that programs which empower foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals are effective in increasing capacity and/or organizational resources (see chart below).



- Of organizations who serve cats exclusively, 74% “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that programs which empower foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals are effective in increasing capacity and/or organizational resources (see chart below).



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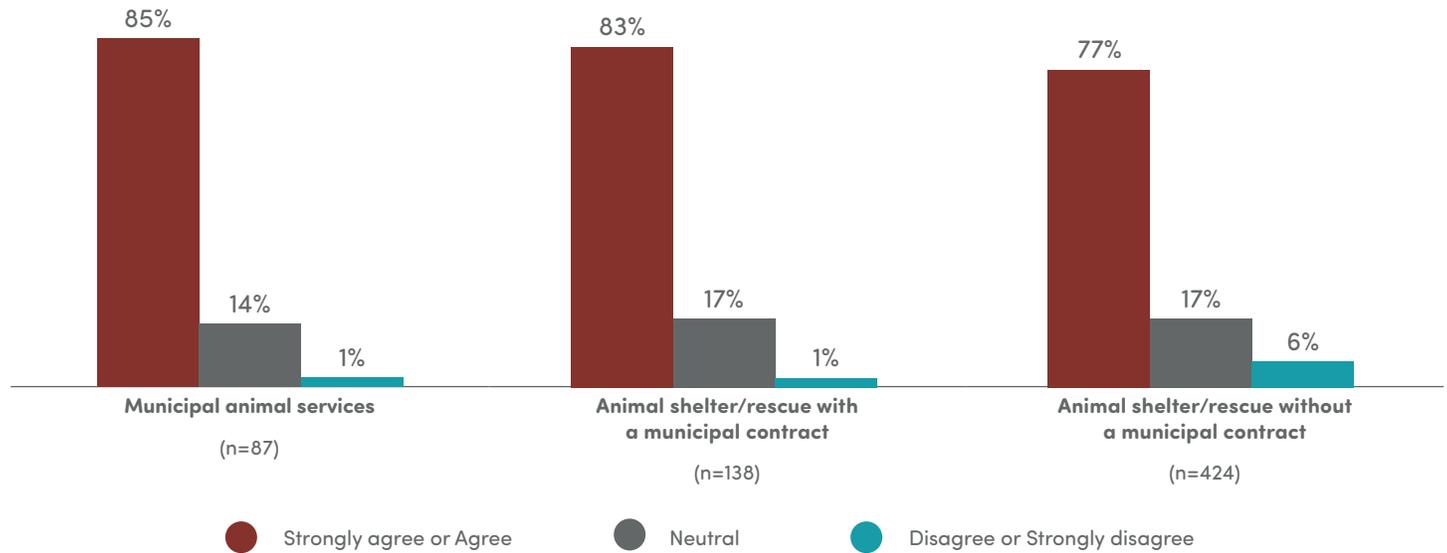
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# Results

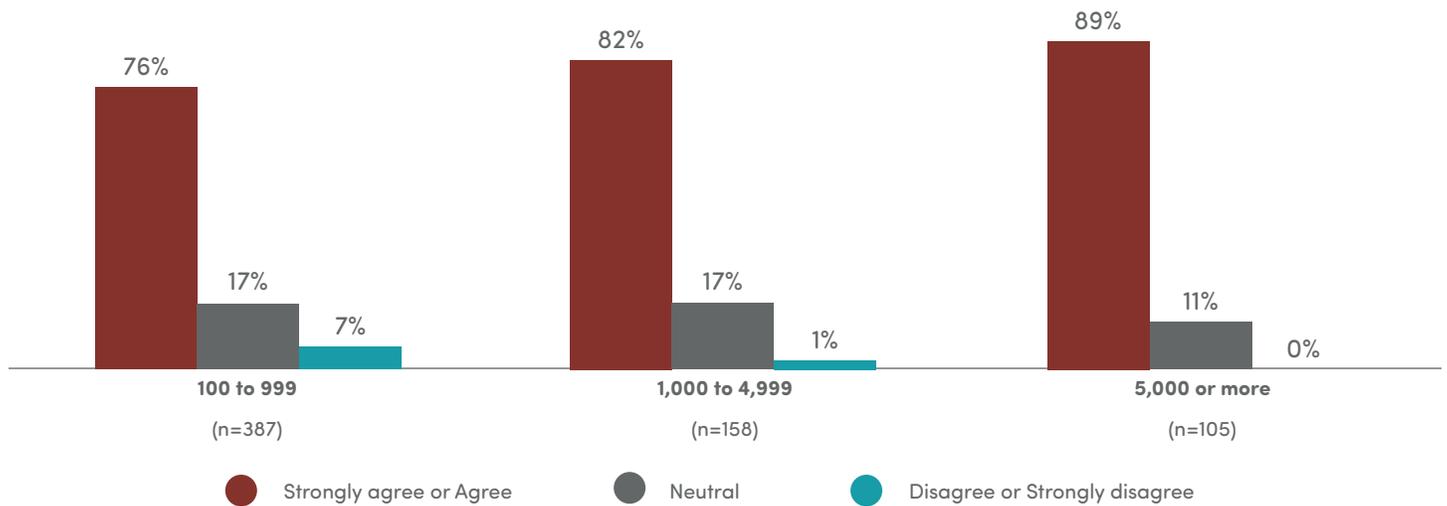
## Q8. Continued.

I think programs which empower foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals are effective in increasing capacity and/or organizational resources.

- Respondents representing municipal animal services may have been slightly more likely (85%) to believe that programs which empower foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals are effective in increasing capacity and/or organizational resources, when compared to animal shelters or rescues without a municipal contract (77% “strongly agree” or “agree;” see chart below).



- Overall data regarding organizational size suggests that the larger the organizational animal intake per year, the more likely respondents were to “strongly agree” or “agree” that programs which empower foster caregivers to find homes for their foster animals are effective in increasing capacity and/or organizational resources (see chart below).



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