ADCH Annual Return Summary Data - 2025

About ADCH

- The Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH) operates over the UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, bringing dog and cat rehoming organisations together.
- At the beginning of 2025 we had 164 Full Members, rescuing and rehoming dogs and cats
- We aim to bring the sector together, and believe that the sector is better together.
- ADCH members follow a programme of assessments to ensure that Minimum Welfare and Operational Standards are met. These are determined as being the minimum requirements to meet dogs and cats needs whilst in the care of rehoming organisations.
- We work with government departments in all jurisdictions we operate on matters such as licensing of animal welfare.
- ADCH has undertaken an Annual Return survey exercise since 2016. ADCH has a strategic objective to assess trends in dogs and cats, use that data for legislation inputs and inform ADCH's strategy.

About our Full Members

- In 2025 35% cared for dogs, 15% cared for cats, and 50% cared for both species
- These Members were spread out amongst eight jurisdictions, 79% are based in England, 5% based in Northern Ireland, 6% are based in Wales, 6% based in Scotland, 3% in Republic of Ireland, and 3% in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Of these, some Members cover multiple areas.
- 38% of our members have an annual income below £250k. A further 17% have an annual income below £500k

Key headlines from 2025

- Over 12,000 dogs and cats were waiting for a space in care at year end (amongst members who run waiting lists)
- 45,788 volunteers supported 164 member organisations, that's 4.5 volunteers for every paid staff member
- There has been a significant surge in cats cared for by Members being neutered, although community neutering and dog neutering have dropped. Vet availability continues to be an issue for animal rescues.
- There continues to be a small drop in the number of animals brought into our Members' care that go on to be reunited with their original owners.

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Results - their animals	Dogs		Cats	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Intake				
Strays	11488	13152	12822	13821
Relinquished by owner	20014	21316	24618	26121
Other sources	15539	17350	28460	23578
Total intake	**47041**	**51840**	**65900**	**63520**
Neutering				
Neutered in care	16246	21348	75296	48904
Neutered in the community	2032	3698	79990	154833
Neutered in a TNR programme	-	-	7478	14751
Total neutered	**18278**	**25046**	**162764**	**218452**
Space in care				
Total in care as at 31 December	7396	8481	6560	6239
Total capacity as at 31 December	9040	9797	7826	7971
Waiting list	6821	8770	5338	5610
Reunited	**2827**	**2903**	**2102**	**2859**
Rehomed	**37111**	**34819**	**71552**	**68717**

ADCH Members would need to increase their capacity to care for dogs and cats by over 70% just to meet the demands of their waiting lists

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Results - their people	2025	2024
Full time staff	6875	7262
Part time staff	3293	2673
Total staff	**10168**	**9935**
Full time volunteers	11347	11384
Part time volunteers	28540	26772
Number of fosterers	5901	5919
Total volunteers	**45788**	**44075**
Number of members employing...		
No employees	39	35
1-10 employees	40	28
11-50 employees	62	60
51-100 employees	14	12
100+ employees	9	9

For further information see www.adch.org.uk, or contact enquiries@adch.org.uk