# 2016 Study of current conditions of Kentucky county animal shelters and degree of compliance with Kentucky animal shelter laws

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**ABSTRACT**

Kentucky's county animal shelter conditions have not been studied for over 20 years. Major goals of this study were to assess current conditions in Kentucky's county shelters and determine the degree of compliance with Kentucky shelter laws. Additional information was gathered to determine the major problems and needs identified by shelter personnel and researchers. Data was used to determine if additional state funds or refinements and additions to current laws are warranted to ensure humane care of animals in Kentucky's county shelters. Researchers consisted of a group of 6 veterinary students who traveled to all Kentucky county animal shelters. Ninety two county shelters were identified that service Kentucky's 120 counties. Several regional shelters service multiple counties. Results showed that only 12% of counties were in compliance with all parts of Kentucky's animal shelter laws, while over 50% of counties were in violation of 3 or more parts of the laws. Major problems identified by shelter personnel were lack of sufficient funding, pet overpopulation leading to crowding of shelters, insufficient work force at the shelters, and lack of education for both shelter personnel and the public. In addition to these problems, researchers also identified a number of other problems in many shelters, including inadequate, aging and poorly maintained facilities built with inappropriate materials that could not be properly cleaned or disinfected; poor ventilation, especially in cat holding areas; lack of appropriate veterinary care; and lack of appropriate quarantine areas. Overall conclusions are that the majority of Kentucky's animal shelters are not in compliance with current animal shelter laws, and that a major factor contributing to poor compliance was lack of sufficient funding for animal shelter programs. There appears to be a significant need for additional state funds to improve county shelter programs. Current laws do not appear to be fully satisfactory at accomplishing the goal of providing good shelter animal care across Kentucky. Additions and refinements to current laws, including enforcement provisions, appear to be warranted. While great strides have been made in Kentucky's animal shelters since the last study was performed 20 years ago, much work still needs to be done to bring Kentucky's animal shelters up to modern standards of care.

**BACKGROUND**

The condition of Kentucky's county animal shelters and the degree of county compliance with state animal shelter laws have not been well monitored in the past. The last study of animal

control and animal shelters in Kentucky was performed in 1996 when the Kentucky General Assembly commissioned the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources to conduct a study of animal control issues in Kentucky. The committee gathered information from county and state officials, animal humane organization representatives, private citizens, and other individuals through written correspondence and personal interviews. The committee reported to the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission in 1997 that the animal control laws in place at that time, first adopted in 1954, were not in concordance with current methods and philosophies of humanely controlling and caring for stray animals. The committee determined that adequate funding and minimum standards for animal sheltering needed to be established. The report made recommendations for improving the care and control of stray animals, and described mechanisms to fund these improvements.

Results of that study lead to the establishment of the Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) in 1998 by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly. Mandates of the ACAB were to advise the commissioner of the Kentucky State Department of Agriculture on issues relating to animal care and control, to establish animal shelter standards for the state, to create training programs for animal control officers, and to evaluate applications for state grants pertaining to animal shelters and animal care and control. The Kentucky Humane Shelter Act (HB435) passed the Kentucky State Legislature in 2004 (see Kentucky Revised Statues, chapter 258; http://www.lrc.ky.gov/statutes/chapter.aspx?id=38481). This legislation established a set of statutes intended to improve the care and control of stray and abandoned companion animals in Kentucky, and enhance public protection. The new laws required that each county must establish or contract with another county or non-profit entity to provide an animal control program that includes an animal shelter that meets minimum standards for basic care. The new laws also mandated that each county employ an animal control officer or contract with an entity to provide an animal control officer who meets minimum educational and training requirements. The legislation gave counties three years to come into compliance with the new laws.

Minimum shelter standards established by this Act included: segregation of male and female animals; separate holding areas for ill or injured animals; basic veterinary care or humane euthanasia of ill or injured animals; quarantine facilities; protection from the weather; adequate heat in winter; proper ventilation; clean and dry pens with adequate room for animal comfort; adequate lighting; building materials of an impervious nature that could be properly cleaned and disinfected; clean potable water available at all times; uncontaminated food provided daily;

public access no less than 24 hours per week, with hours publically posted; humane euthanasia; and maintenance of records including information on each animal impounded. Animal control officers must have graduated from high school and have completed training as established by the ACAB. Other sections of KRS 258 define the county's responsibility to ensure that companion animals are vaccinated against rabies, describe procedures for dealing with dog bite cases, and suggest dog licensing programs. Of note, while the new standards for Kentucky's county animal shelters are an improvement over previous laws, they are considered minimal by national shelter standards and are missing vital components such as spay/neuter, vaccination and adoption programs.

Unfortunately, the new legislation did not include any enforcement provisions, and the Commonwealth has not enforced the laws established by this act. Amendments to the bill introduced in the legislature removed the requirement that local Commonwealth's attorneys were required to bring actions in circuit court against any counties that did not comply with animal shelter standards. The legislature also repealed the requirement for the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to enforce the provisions of most of the animal care and control laws. This lack of enforcement at the state level creates a situation of county self-regulation. Additionally, no laws were included to address county responsibilities for the care of stray and abandoned livestock. The only law pertaining to large animal care was found in KRS 259.210(3), which states that the sheriff or other peace officer shall impound and provide care for cattle roaming at large. No provisions were made delineating how counties are to impound or care for livestock or fund the impoundment and care, and no basic minimum standards of care were established.

The Humane Shelter Act required that all counties come into compliance with the new statutes by July 2007. The Commonwealth (hereafter referred to as the State) made available three million dollars in grant funding to help counties fund shelter construction or renovations and training for animal control officers to bring county shelter programs into compliance. However, no follow-up studies have been done to determine progress made towards the intended goal of improving animal care or to evaluate the degree of county compliance with the new laws. In 2001, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture distributed an informal survey to each county asking for basic information such as shelter location, hours of operation, and number of animals impounded each year, but less than half of all counties responded to the survey. All of the grant funds have been used and no additional state funds have been appropriated for additional

grants for shelter construction or renovation. Additionally, the ACAB still has not created or designated a specific training program required for animal control officers.

Summary of problems:

- No studies have been performed to determine if the quality of shelter animal care and control measures in Kentucky's 120 counties have improved since the initial animal control study in 1997. There currently is insufficient data to determine if current state laws, funding, and training programs pertaining to shelter animal care are adequate.

- The state does not maintain current records on locations or contact information for Kentucky's county animal shelters, and the state has no inspection program in place to monitor county shelter compliance with state laws.

- Current Kentucky animal control laws do not include any provisions for enforcement. As the laws stand, in cases of county disregard for animal shelter laws, private citizens must sue the negligent county government and pursue the issue in circuit court. Many citizens do not have the resources, time, or ability to pursue private suits, and private suits may take years to come to conclusion. Without data documenting county compliance with current laws, it is impossible to determine if additional enforcement legislation is needed.

- No standards for sheltering stray, abandoned, or confiscated livestock have been established. No studies have been performed to determine if the lack of shelter standards for livestock is a problem that warrants further attention.

Public health and safety is at risk if the management of stray and abandoned animals is substandard. Stray animals can transmit rabies and other zoonotic infectious diseases to humans and other animals. Additionally, stray animals running at large can pose significant traffic hazards resulting in human injury and even death. Bite injuries to humans and other animals is another risk posed by stay dogs. Animals impounded in unsanitary, unhealthy shelter facilities can contract diseases dangerous to humans and other animals, and transport these diseases back to the public when the animals are released from the shelter. Adequate animal care and control laws and good compliance by the counties are critical to ensure humane care of animals and protection of human health and safety.

**Study goals**

This study of Kentucky's county animal shelters focuses primarily on issues regarding the physical animal shelter structures and care of animals within the shelters. Specific aims of this study were to:

- Determine physical locations and contact information for county animal shelters in Kentucky.
- Determine the degree of county compliance with current state laws pertaining to county animal shelters and determine major factors contributing to any lack of compliance.
- Document successful animal control programs so this information can be shared with other counties, particularly those with similar population and financial demographics
- Determine if counties have a need for more funding from city/county or state government for animal shelter programs.
- Determine if refinement of current laws is warranted to accomplish the task of improving care of shelter animals in Kentucky, including the addition of enforcement provisions to ensure county compliance with state laws.
- Determine if additional statutes are needed to address sheltering for stray, abandoned or confiscated livestock.

Overall, study results will help determine if current animal control funding from the city/county and state is adequate, if current animal control training programs are sufficient, and if self-regulation by counties is effective. The data will also help determine what other measures may be required to continue to improve the level of care of shelter animals in Kentucky.

**STUDY METHODS**

In the summer of 2016, six veterinary students from Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine, Harrogate Tennessee, gathered data for this study. The students divided up Kentucky's 120 counties and each student was responsible for obtaining data for counties assigned to them. Data was only collected for animal shelters serving as the official shelter for each county, not for private shelters or animal rescue groups not officially affiliated with a county.

Students first determined the location and contact information for each animal shelter. Students obtained the information through internet searches and phone communications with county government personnel, and confirmed the information with county government authorities.

Students then traveled to each identified county shelter and performed visual examination of each facility to gather data specifically related to shelter standards established by Kentucky animal shelter laws. See **Appendix A** for the data collection template used. These shelter visits

were unannounced in most cases, but in a few instances an appointment had to be made in order to visit the shelter if the shelter had no public access hours. A picture was taken of the outside of the facility, and if allowed, pictures were also taken inside. Students communicated with shelter personnel to obtain information relating to items not readily apparent visually. A scoring system was created to evaluate the degree of compliance with each of the standards, with scores of *Good*, *Needs Improvement*, and *Poor* for each standard. The scoring system used for each standard is described below.

| Shelter standard | Scoring system |
|---|---|
| A. Protection from the weather | *Good* – Animals housed indoors<br>*Needs Improvement* – Animals housed outdoors but protected by structures such as dog houses<br>*Poor* – Animals housed outdoors with no protection or only protected by a tarp |
| B. Clean and dry pens | *Good* – Clean and dry<br>*Needs Improvement* – Pens moderately soiled or wet<br>*Poor* – Pens neither clean nor dry |
| C. Adequate space for individual animal comfort | *Good* – All animals have adequate room to move freely<br>*Needs Improvement* – Some kennels or pens are overcrowded<br>*Poor* – Animals cannot stand or turn around without effort |
| D. Adequately sized shelter for the number of animals impounded (an extension of adequate space for animal comfort) | *Good* – Under capacity with vacant kennels available<br>*Poor* – Over capacity, multiple animals per pen and overflow animals housed in areas not designed for proper animal containment |
| E. Lighting | *Good* – Sufficient electric lighting for both outside and inside animals<br>*Needs Improvement* –Inside animals have electric light, outside animal do not<br>*Poor* – Animals are only kept outside with no lighting, or the building has no electricity or lighting |
| F. Employment of an animal control officer | *Good* – Yes<br>*Poor* – No |
| G. Impervious building materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected | *Good* – Floors sealed, impervious kennel materials, and facility easy to clean and disinfect<br>*Needs Improvement* – Some cracks on floors, some non-impervious surfaces |

| | *Poor* – Majority of floors not sealed; facility could not be adequately cleaned or disinfected (e.g., dirt or gravel floors, wooden partitions) |
|---|---|
| H. Quarantine area | *Good* – Quarantine area isolated from other animals in separate room or building<br>*Needs Improvement* – Kennel or cage was labeled as quarantine but was not isolated from other animals<br>*Poor* – No area designated for quarantine |
| I. Proper ventilation | *Good* – Air movement was evident and fresh outside air was moving through the facility<br>*Needs Improvement* – Fans running but no access to outside air<br>*Poor* – Closed room with no circulation; buildup of animal waste fumes |
| J. Adequate heat for winter months (data collected verbally along with evidence or lack thereof of heat source visibly) | *Good* – Heat provided in winter to all animals<br>*Needs Improvement* – Inside animals have heat but animals housed outdoors do not<br>*Poor* – No heat provided in winter |
| K. Shelter hours posted | *Good* – Hours posted on shelter<br>*Needs Improvement* – Hours posted but incorrect<br>*Poor* – Hours not posted on shelter |
| L. Shelter open to the public 24 hours or more per week | *Good* – Open to the public for 24 hours or more per week<br>*Needs Improvement* – Open to the public less than 24 hours per week, or not open when visited during "open' hours<br>*Poor* – Not open to the public, or open by appointment only |
| M. Records maintained for each animal (data collected verbally along with evidence or lack thereof of records visibly) | *Good* – Asked or visibly saw records<br>*Needs improvement* – Some records kept<br>*Poor* – No records kept |
| N. Food provided daily | *Good* – Food provided daily<br>*Needs Improvement* – Food usually provided daily<br>*Poor* – Food not provided daily |
| O. Clean, potable water provided at all times | *Good* – All animals had clean water<br>*Needs Improvement* – Most animals had water<br>*Poor* – No clean water available |
| P. Males and females separated | *Good* – Intact males and females of breeding age are separated<br>*Poor* – Males and females of breeding age are not separated |

Occasionally data could not be collected or could not be determined due to a variety of reasons. Data in such cases was reported as "Undetermined". Data also was not collected regarding humane euthanasia or basic veterinary care for all sick or injured animals, as the information could only be obtained by verbal communication from shelter personnel with no way to evaluate the accuracy of the responses. Data also could not be consistently collected on whether or not animal control officers had obtained training or had graduated from high school, so only data about whether or not the county employed an animal control officer was collected. Data for "Separate holding facility for sick or injured animals" was grouped under "Quarantine area". Students visited each shelter only once, so data collected are a snapshot of conditions at the time of the visit.

Students collected data on whether or not shelters accepted cats. This is a gray area in the state laws, with some county officials claiming that shelters are not required to accept cats. Students collected data on whether or not each shelter accommodated cats, and a scoring system was created: *Good* – meets the standards outlined above; *Needs Improvement* – Meets most of the standards outlined above; *Poor* – Does not meet the majority of the standards.

While counties are not required by state law to provide shelter for livestock, students collected data on whether or not shelters could accommodate livestock. The scoring system used was: *Good* – Proper area for livestock; *Needs Improvement* – Area set aside for livestock but not adequate or appropriate for safe containment; *Poor* – No area for livestock.

Students talked with shelter personnel to collect additional information including what they considered their biggest problems, greatest needs, hardships faced, experiences obtaining grants and other fund raising venues, whether they provide adoption services for unclaimed animals or worked with animal rescue organization, if they provide spay/neuter services, what training program they have utilized, and what basic veterinary care is provided to animals entering the shelter. Additionally, if the shelter serviced multiple counties, students inquired about how often they received animals from the various counties and if they knew where animals were held until they are delivered to the shelter.

All data was compiled in spreadsheets for analysis. Absolute counts and percentages were calculated for each of the scores for the different standards, and for the information gained through communications with shelter personnel. An overall compliance score was determined

for each county shelter based strictly on the how many of the current state shelter requirements were met. A second overall score was created for each county shelter based on the student's assessment of the shelter taking into consideration additional items not required by state law but considered essential for good shelter practices, including vaccination of animals upon arrival, spay/neuter programs, and adoption programs. Major problems and needs identified by shelter personnel were determined by comparing data from all counties. Data was used to create a list of shelters with good compliance and good shelter programs when compared with all Kentucky county animal shelters, as well as a list of shelters needing the most help. Lastly, the student researchers identified possible future programs and actions to address the problems identified in this study.

**RESULTS**

Shelter information: The students identified 92 shelters that service Kentucky's 120 counties. Some county shelters were owned and operated by the county, some were private shelters contracted by the county to provide services, and some counties contracted with regional shelters servicing multiple counties. One county shelter was in the process of being built (Wolfe county), and one shelter was closed due to legal proceedings at the time of the study (Edmonson county shelter, which services Edmonson, Hart, Grayson and Metcalfe counties), so full evaluation of these 2 shelters was not possible. Several of the counties using the Edmonson county shelter indicated they would be sending their animals to other shelters in the future but at the time of this study those arrangements were not official. Study results are based on evaluations of the county animal shelters that were open and operating at the time of the study. A list of all shelters, locations, directions, hours and contact information current as of July 2016 is provided in **Appendix B.** See **Appendix C** for photographs of county shelter exteriors.

Degree of compliance with specific statute requirements: Results for data collected regarding how well each county shelter complied with the specific state law requirements are shown in **Figure 1, A-P**. These graphs show the percentage of the 90 county animal shelters that were deemed *Good, Needs Improvement,* or *Poor* as defined in the method section for each standard. The most prevalent problems identified were lack of adequate quarantine facilities, inadequate shelter size for the population of animals housed, inappropriate building materials leading to inadequate disinfection, unclean conditions, and inadequate ventilation. See **Appendices D** and **E** for photographs of good and bad shelter conditions, respectively.

Cats: Results for the number of county shelters that accepted cats and the quality of care provided for cats in those shelters are shown in **Figure 1, Q-R**. Major problems identified were severe overpopulation and crowding of cat facilities, and poor ventilation.
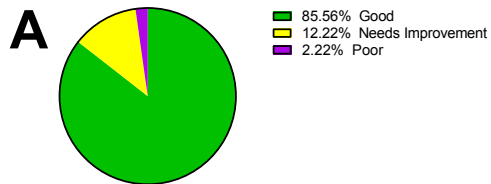
Livestock: The majority of counties did not have facilities to house livestock and did not have other arrangements in place should the need arise: 82% of county shelters could not accommodate livestock, 6% did take in livestock but housed them in inappropriate areas, and only 12% of county shelters had adequate facilities to properly house livestock.

Overall compliance with state shelter laws: Results for overall compliance with state shelter laws on a state-wide basis are shown in **Figure 2 A,B**. Only 12% of counties met all requirements mandated by state law, while over 50% of counties were in violation of 3 or more parts of the shelter laws. These results are based on Kentucky's 120 counties.
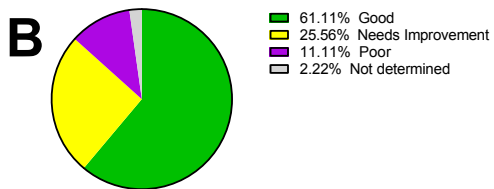
Student researchers' perspectives of shelter quality: The student researchers believed that an evaluation based solely on state statutes does not provide a complete picture of animal care provided at shelters. Therefore, an evaluation of overall shelter care was performed, taking into consideration other vital components of modern shelter practices, such as animal adoption programs, spay/neuter programs, and veterinary care including vaccinations and worming, in addition to the state minimum standards. A map and chart depicting how well the various counties were performing from the veterinary students' perspectives is shown in **Figure 3A,B**. These figures shows counties the student researchers thought were providing good animal care (labeled "Best" shelters), those that could use some improvements in a few areas, and those that need major improvements in many areas.

**Figure 1. A-P** (See next page). Degree of compliance with each part of Kentucky shelter laws evaluated. Charts show the percentage of the 90 county animal shelters deemed *Good, Needs Improvement,* or *Poor* as defined in the method section for each standard. **Q-R**: Charts show the percentage of county shelters that accommodate cats and the degree of compliance of cat holding areas.
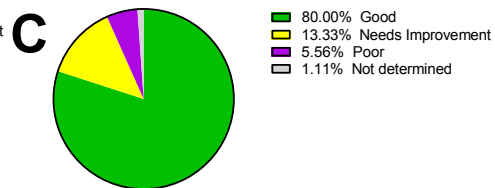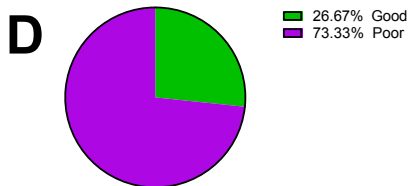
**Adequate protection from the weather**

A

- 85.56% Good
- 12.22% Needs Improvement
- 2.22% Poor

**Clean and dry pens**

B

- 61.11% Good
- 25.56% Needs Improvement
- 11.11% Poor
- 2.22% Not determined

**Adequate individual animal space**

C

- 80.00% Good
- 13.33% Needs Improvement
- 5.56% Poor
- 1.11% Not determined

**Adequately sized shelter**

D

- 26.67% Good
- 73.33% Poor

**Adequating lighting**

E

- 80.00% Good
- 16.67% Needs Improvement
- 3.33% Poor
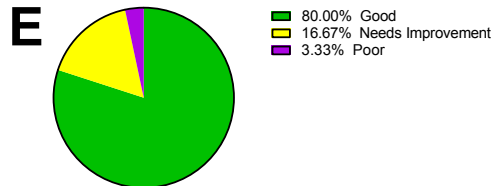
**Employed animal control officer(s)**
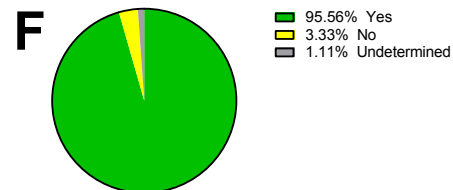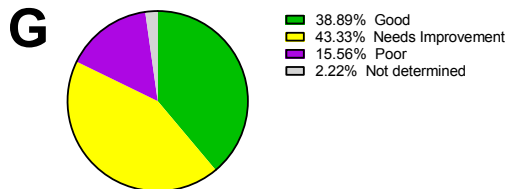
F

- 95.56% Yes
- 3.33% No
- 1.11% Undetermined

**Impervious building materials**

G

- 38.89% Good
- 43.33% Needs Improvement
- 15.56% Poor
- 2.22% Not determined

**Quarantine area**

H

- 31.11% Good
- 21.11% Needs Improvement
- 43.33% Poor
- 4.44% Not determined

**Adequate ventilation**

I

- 61.11% Good
- 27.78% Needs Improvement
- 10.00% Poor
- 1.11% Not determined

**Heat provided in winter**

J

- 75.56% Good
- 13.33% Needs Improvement
- 3.33% Poor
- 7.78% Not determined

**Public hours posted**

K
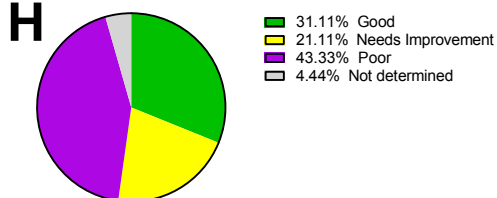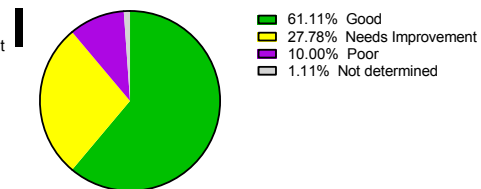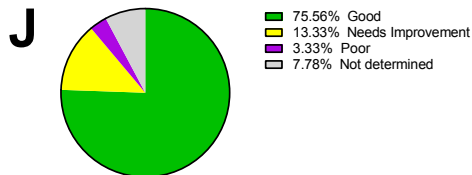
- 72.22% Good
- 2.22% Needs Improvement
- 22.22% Poor
- 3.33% Not determined
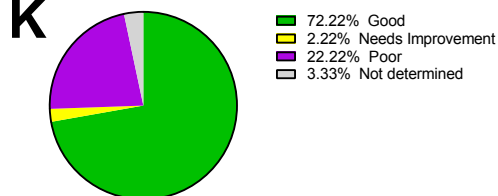
**Open to public 24 hr or more per week**

L

- 81.11% Good
- 6.67% Needs Improvement
- 12.22% Poor

**Records maintained**

M

- 82.11% Good
- 3.16% Needs Improvement
- 5.26% Poor
- 9.47% Not determined

**Daily food**

N
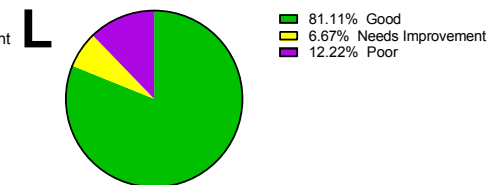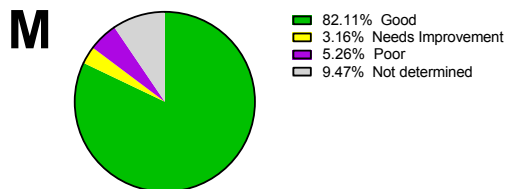
- 93.33% Good
- 1.11% Needs Improvement
- 2.22% Poor
- 3.33% Not determined

**Clean water at all times**

O

- 88.89% Good
- 3.33% Needs Improvement
- 4.44% Poor
- 3.33% Not determined
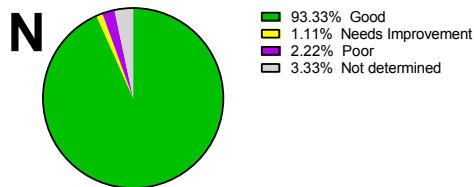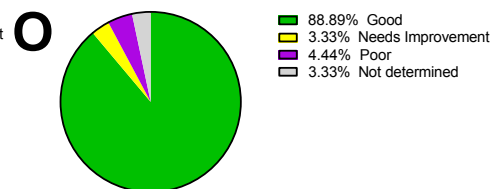
**Separation of males and females**

P

- 86.67% Good
- 4.44% Needs Improvement
- 3.33% Poor
- 5.56% Not determined

**Accomodate cats**

Q

- 76.67% Good
- 23.33% Poor
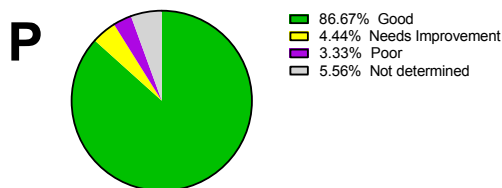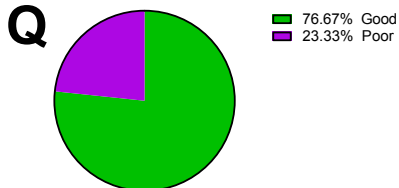
**Quality of cat holding areas**

R

- 33.33% Good
- 28.99% Needs Improvement
- 37.68% Poor
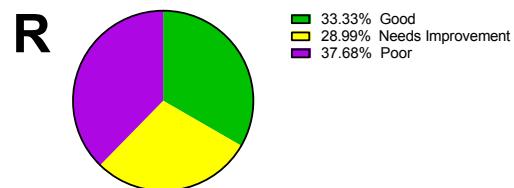
**Figure 2.** Overall compliance based on state shelter laws, on a state-wide basis

A. Map of Kentucky counties showing overall degree of compliance. Counties displayed as white used shelters that could not be fully evaluated at the time of this study.
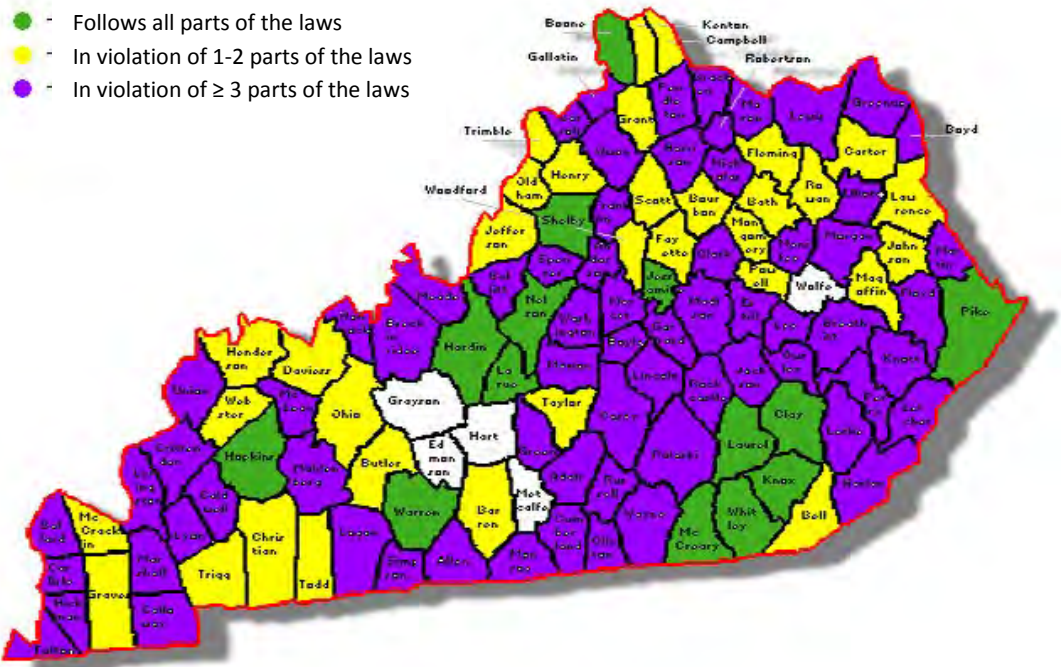


B. Percentages of Kentucky counties that follow all parts of Kentucky shelter laws, were in violation of 1 or 2 parts of the shelter laws, or were in violation of 3 or more parts of the laws.
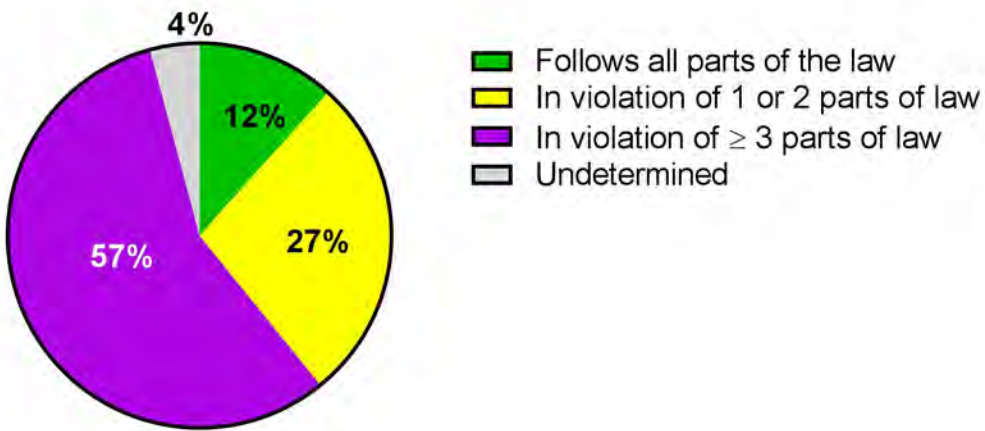
**Figure 3.** Overall quality of Kentucky county animal shelters based on the student researchers perspectives taking into account important components of modern shelter practices such as animal adoption programs, spay/neuter programs, and veterinary care in addition to the standards established by state laws. Good quality (best) shelters were those that, compared to other Kentucky animal shelters, provided the best overall quality of care.

A. Map of Kentucky counties with good quality shelters (best shelters), shelters needing a few improvements, and shelters needing many improvements.
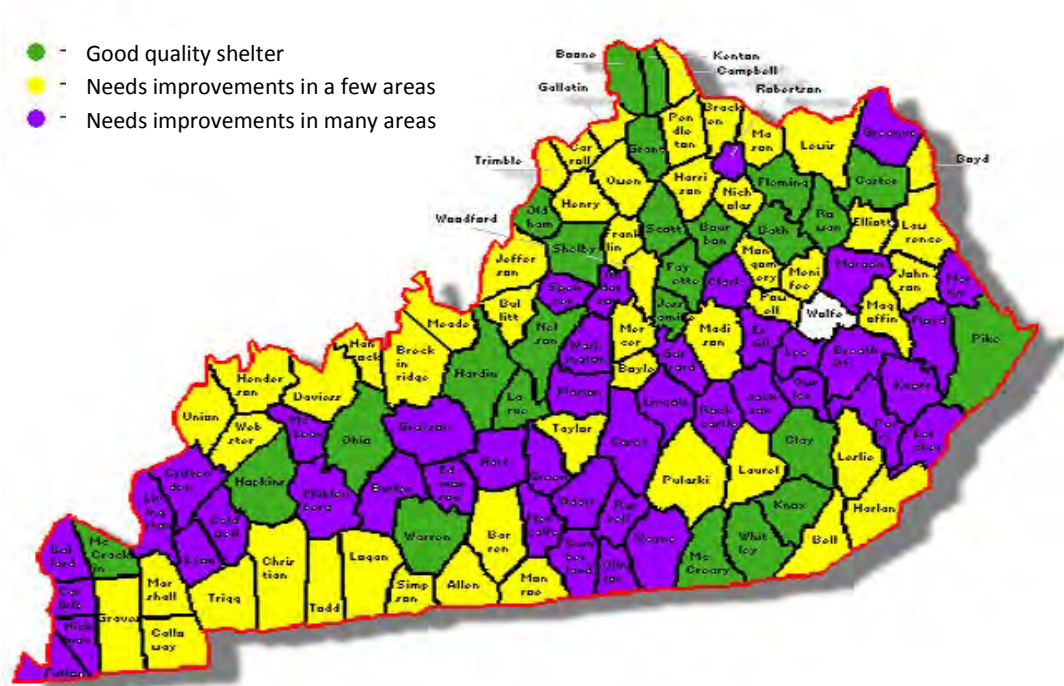


B. Percentages of Kentucky counties whose shelters, from the student researchers' perspective, were good quality (best) shelters, needed a few improvements, or needed many improvements.
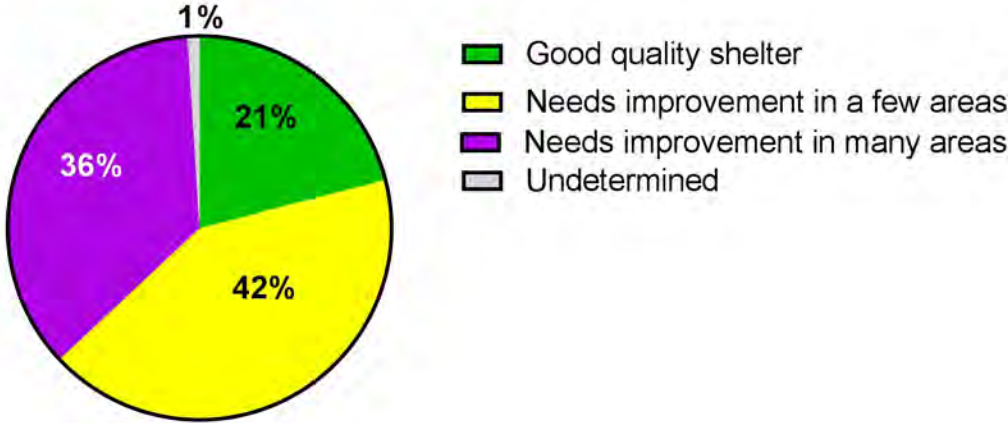
Major problems identified by shelter personnel in a majority of shelters:

- Lack of sufficient funds to adequately maintain and staff the shelter and care for animals. Personnel at over 90% of shelters identified this as their major problem.
  - o Many shelters received no county funding for adequate staffing, animal care or veterinary care and depended heavily on private donations.
- Pet overpopulation leading to overcrowding of shelters
  - o Shelter personnel identified the lack of public education on the importance of spay/neutering pets and the lack of affordable spay/neuter programs as major obstacles
- Insufficient shelter size to house all the animals needing shelter
  - o Lack of funding and pet overpopulation were the identified as major causes
- Inconsistent workforce
  - o Lack of funding forced many shelters to rely on volunteers and other non-permanent workers such as prison inmates and detention workers to provide the work force.

Major needs identified by shelter personnel:

- More funding (91% of shelters identified this as a top need)
- More education, both for shelter workers and the general public, on topics such as basic animal care, disease prevention, cleaning procedures, animal handling techniques, and the importance of spay/neuter programs to reduce pet overpopulation (80% of shelters)
- A larger workforce (63% of shelters)
- Community spay/neuter programs (64% of shelter).

Major problems identified by student researchers:

- Shelter overcrowding due to pet overpopulation and lack of spay/neuter programs; inadequate facility size to house all of the animals needing shelter
- Lack of funding to adequately staff the shelters or provide for basic animal care
- Inadequate building materials that could not be properly cleaned or disinfected
- Poor facility structure with poor ventilation, aging and poorly maintained facilities improperly designed to house animals
- Inadequate training for shelter personnel for basic things such as disease containment, cleaning and disinfecting procedures, and animal health issues

- Lack of veterinary care for shelter animals with medical issues
- Unclean conditions
- Lack of safe housing for puppies
- Lack of appropriate quarantine facilities in which quarantined animals are housed separately from other animals.
- Severe overcrowding, poor ventilation and unclean conditions in cat holding areas
- For regional shelters servicing multiple counties, often animals were not delivered on a daily basis from the various counties, and shelter staff did not know where animals were housed until they were delivered in groups to the regional shelter. There was general lack of information about these unofficial "holding facilities".

List of the best shelters: A number of shelters were identified that appeared to be doing a good job of meeting state requirements and also providing other essential services such as adoption and spay/neuter programs and basic veterinary care to incoming animals. These are labeled "best shelters" in a comparison to other Kentucky county animal shelters. See **Table 1**.

**Table 1**. List of Kentucky's best county animal shelters

| | |
|---|---|
| Boone County Animal Shelter | Lexington Humane Society – Fayette county |
| Bowling Green Warren County Humane Society | McCracken County Humane Society |
| Grant County Animal Shelter | Ohio County |
| Hardin County Animal Shelter – Hardin, LaRue co. | Oldham County Animal Control |
| Hopkins County | Paris Animal Welfare Society – Bourbon Co. |
| Humane Society of Nelson County | Pike County Animal Shelter |
| Jessamine County Animal Care and Control | Scott County Animal Shelter |
| Kenton County Animal Shelter | Shelby County Animal Shelter |
| Knox-Whitley Animal Shelter – Clay, Knox, McCreary and Whitley counties | Tri-County Animal Shelter – Rowan, Bath, Carter, Fleming counties |

List of county shelters that need the most help: A number of county shelters were identified that did not meet numerous parts of the state laws and were not providing a suitable standard of care for animals housed in these facilities. See **Table 2**.

**Table 2**. List of Kentucky animal shelters needing the most help

| | |
|---|---|
| Fulton County Animal Shelter | Robertson County Animal Shelter |
| Carlisle County Animal Shelter | Floyd County Animal Shelter |
| Tri-County Animal Shelter – Clinton, Wayne, Cumberland counties (Albany, KY) | Russell County holding facility |
| Garrard County Animal Shelter | Anderson County Animal Shelter |
| Kentucky River Regional Animal Shelter – Breathitt, Letcher, Knott, Perry counties | Butler County Animal Shelter |
| Spencer County Animal Shelter | Muhlenberg County Animal Shelter |
| Martin County Animal Shelter | Lincoln County Animal Shelter – Lincoln, Casey co. |
| Greenup County Animal Shelter | Clark County Animal Shelter |
| Estill County Animal Shelter- Estill, Jackson, Lee and Owsley counties | Ward Veterinary Clinic – Hickman county |
| Crittenden County Animal Shelter – Crittenden, Livingston and Lyon counties | Caldwell County Animal Shelter |
| Marion County Animal Shelter – Marion and Washington counties | McLean County Animal Shelter |
| Green River Animal Shelter – Adair, Green co. | Morgan County Animal Shelter |
| Ballard County Animal Shelter | Rockcastle County Animal Shelter |

**DISCUSSION**

Results of this study show that only 12% of Kentucky's counties meet all of the current shelter standards set forth by Kentucky state law at the time of the shelter visit. Over 50% of counties were found to be in violation of 3 or more parts of the shelter statutes. These results suggest the self-regulation by counties concerning compliance with shelter laws is not sufficient and that additional enforcement provisions are necessary to ensure compliance cross the state.

A major finding of the study was the overwhelming need for state funding for county shelter programs. Personnel at over 90% of shelters stated that their major need was more funding, as their county either could not or would not budget sufficient funds to adequately operate the shelter. A number of shelters depended almost entirely on donations for operating expenses. Some counties were able to build suitable shelter buildings only because of large donations for this purpose from wealthy benefactors. Additional studies to assess county government financial roadblocks to providing adequate shelter funding are warranted. Many counties were not aware

of the previous state shelter grant funds (now depleted) that had been available for shelter construction or renovations. Additionally, it became apparent many counties lacked the know-how or initiative to apply for shelter grants. This suggests that if more state funding in the form of grants becomes available in the future, better dissemination of information to all vested county and shelter personnel is essential, and more assistance from state officials to help counties apply for grants is necessary.

Lack of general awareness or availability of basic training programs for shelter personnel was another major finding. Many shelter personnel, including animal control officers (described as "dog wardens" in many counties), had not received any training regarding safe handling of animals, proper facility cleaning and disinfection procedures, risks of communicable diseases, proper animal nutrition, basic veterinary care, or other information vital for shelter workers. Some shelter personnel indicated that the cost of travel and registration fees to training courses was prohibitive. These findings suggest that better dissemination of basic information is crucial. One excellent source of information that could be made available to all shelter personnel is the Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters (free on-line at http://www.sheltervet.org/assets/docs/shelter-standards-oct2011-wforward.pdf). Another option would be the creation of free on-line training programs provided by the state for animal control officers and shelter personnel.

A major root cause for many of the problems identified in this study is the severe pet overpopulation in the state due to lack of sufficient local spay/neuter programs and lack of public education regarding the importance of spay/neuter programs for reducing the number of unwanted pets. These problems could potentially be addressed by more funding from the state for local spay/neuter programs and provision of public educational materials regarding the importance of humane animal care and spaying/neutering pets. Additional possible providers of or sponsors for spay/neuter programs could include national animal welfare organizations and veterinary medical training programs in surrounding states. Numerous studies have shown that the more successful local spay/neuter programs are, the fewer animals end up in local animal shelters, leading to a significant reduction in the overall cost of sheltering unwanted or stray animals and improvement in overall public health and safety.

As a result of pet overpopulation, many Kentucky county animal shelters were full to capacity or over-capacity. To solve this problem, many shelters created outdoor or temporary facilities to

house the overflow. In many cases, these temporary kennels became permanent despite not being sufficient or appropriate to permanently house animals. Addressing the pet overpopulation problems would help to ultimately diminish this problem. An interim solution used by a number of shelters was to create a network of foster homes to help house animals during times of overflow.

Finding a sufficient number of potential adopters for shelter animals is a major dilemma faced by many shelters in Kentucky due to the state-wide pet overpopulation issue. Many shelters address this issue by sending unclaimed animals to local, national or international animal rescue organizations on a regular basis. These animal transfers are frequently coordinated and carried out by volunteers. A large number of Kentucky's shelter animals end up in the north-eastern United States, where successful spay/neuter programs have dramatically reduced the numbers of shelter animals.

Study findings showed that the care of cats in many shelters was substandard and considerably worse in many cases than the care provided to dogs. Student researchers felt that cats were often regarded as "second class citizens" by shelter workers. Lack of adequate ventilation in cat areas was a major problem in many shelters and upper respiratory diseases were rampant among shelter cats. Another major problem was unsanitary cage conditions. In some instances, dead and decomposing kittens were found in cages containing live kittens. Many shelter workers described situations of overwhelming cat populations, the inability to find sufficient numbers of people willing to adopt shelter cats, the need to euthanize a large number of cats, and the resulting emotional toll and stress to workers and volunteers. Feral cats were a significant problem, as feral cats are very unlikely to be adopted. Some shelters addressed this issue by establishing feral cat colonies at their facilities, where feral cats would be spayed or neutered upon arrival and then released to the outdoors colony. Others addressed this issue by participating in Trap-Neuter-Release programs where feral cats are released back into the environment after being spayed or neutered. The fact that 23% of county shelters did not accept cats indicates that clarification of state laws regarding control and care of stray and unwanted cats is warranted.

Only 12% of county shelters had facilities suitable for livestock or large animals. Livestock facilities are not required by state law, but many counties are periodically faced with cases of livestock abuse or neglect for which large animals need to be confiscated. Not having a place to

house these animals or having other arrangements to deal with these situations can lead to inaction on the part of the county to confiscate neglected livestock.

The lack of adequate quarantine facilities in many shelters was a surprising finding. Only 31% of counties had appropriate quarantine areas where the quarantined animals had no direct contact with other animals. This was especially surprising since a major purpose for the creation of animal shelters long ago was for quarantine for rabies control purposes. Forty-two percent of counties did not have a quarantine area at all. A number of other counties did have a cage or kennel with a sign posted on it stating "Quarantine", but the animals housed in the kennel still had direct nose-to-nose contact with animals in adjacent kennels or cages.

Several shelters were not open to the public, and access to the shelter had to be arranged by making an appointment with the animal control officer or dog warden. Additionally, student researchers found it hard to find information about the locations of several shelters or obtain directions on how to get to the shelter. A number of counties did not provide any information about their animal shelters on-line or in the phone book, and several shelters did not have a physical address designation that could be used for GPS devices or maps. In these cases, students had to contact various county agencies to determine the shelter location and directions. Often shelters were created by sectioning off a corner of the county road/maintenance facility with tarps or plywood boards. A number of shelters did not have any road signage to direct the public to the shelter location. This lack of public access hours and unavailable shelter contact information makes it difficult for the public to find the shelter and reclaim their animals.

Many shelters depend upon volunteers, prison inmates and detention workers to staff the shelter. This resulted in a very inconsistent, often undependable and even hostile or dangerous workforce for many shelters. A number of counties only pay the salary of a part-time animal control office or dog warden, and did not provide funding for anyone to manage, clean or maintain the shelter.

Lack of basic veterinary care was another major problem identified in the study.  Many shelter personnel stated that their county governments did not provide funding for any veterinary care, and that they either depended on private donations for veterinary care, or were not able to provide any veterinary care. Simple medical issues such as skin problems and intestinal

parasites, respiratory and ocular infections, and simple wounds were not treated in many cases. Many shelters did not have funds available for basic prophylactic veterinary care designed to reduce disease outbreaks, such as vaccination and deworming upon entry to the shelter, and did not house new arrivals to the shelter separately from the general population until their disease status could be appropriately assessed. County officials need to be educated about the importance of proper veterinary care for shelter animals and the risks posed to public health if veterinary care is not provided. Animals exposed to disease while in the shelter can bring those diseases home to families and other animals when they are reclaimed or adopted. The cost of adequate veterinary services for shelter animals needs to be included in county budgets.

Unclean, unsanitary conditions and lack of impervious kennel building materials were found in a large number of shelters. Many shelters housed animals on unsealed concrete, gravel or dirt flooring, which cannot be disinfected between occupants. The inability to properly clean and disinfect animal holding areas leads to a buildup of infections agents and puts all future occupants at risk of contracting diseases, some of which can be highly fatal such as parvovirus and distemper. A number of these diseases are also a risk to humans (e.g., round worms, tapeworms, giardia, chlamydia, leptospirosis, ringworm and others). Otherwise healthy animals that arrive in these shelters can easily contract diseases that may cause them to become ill or even die, or bring home diseases to their owners, adopters or other animals when they are released from the shelter. This creates unacceptable threats to animal and human health, and loss of or damage to personal property.

This study highlighted many gray areas surrounding the wording of current state shelter laws. Wording of many of the statutes is vague and open to interpretation. For example, "Protection from the weather" could mean anything ranging from a building with 4 walls, a dog house with or without bedding, or a tarp draped over a wire kennel, depending on who is interpreting the wording. Similarly, "adequate lighting" could mean electric light available at any time of day or night, natural light coming through windows or doorways, or sunlight for animals housed solely outdoors. Nearly every statute was open to some degree of interpretation. The student researchers used their training in basic animal husbandry to create a reasonable scoring system for each of the standards so that evaluations could be standard and uniform for all counties. Revisions or refinements of current legislation are needed to better define and describe the standards. Additionally, while the current state standards for Kentucky's county animal shelters are a great improvement over previous laws, they are considered minimal by national shelter

standards and are missing vital components such as spay/neuter, vaccination and adoption programs. The Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters (http://www.sheltervet.org/assets/docs/shelter-standards-oct2011-wforward.pdf) would be a useful document to reference when creating revisions or additions to current laws.

Drop-off kennels or pens created problems at some shelters. Some shelters provide crates or pens or cages outside the facilities so that the public can drop off animals even when the shelter is closed. Sometimes animals remained in the drop-off crates or pens for a day or longer without water or food or adequate protection from the elements if shelter personnel were not aware an animal had been dropped off. Improper monitoring of drop-off pens can result in animal deaths. There also is a risk of cats being placed in drop-off pens with dogs, posing risks of potential injury or death of the cat.

A number of shelters across the state were identified that provided good animal care, were in reasonably good compliance with state laws, and provided additional programs such as spay/neuter, vaccination and adoption programs (see Best shelters in the results). Personnel at these shelters were willing and enthusiastic to share their ideas and successes regarding training, facilities, fund-raising and other information to staff from other county shelters.

Some unexpected issues related to regional shelters were identified. In several instances, counties indicated that they contracted with a specific regional shelter, but shelter personnel at the regional shelter stated that they did not have a contract with that county and never received animals from that county. This discrepancy could not be resolved in this study. Another issue identified was that some counties did not deliver animals to the regional shelter on a daily basis. These counties held stray animals at an undisclosed location until such time that the animal control officer or dog warden deemed there were sufficient numbers of animals to warrant travel to the regional shelter. This information was gathered by asking regional shelters how often they received animals from each of the contracted counties, and how many animals arrived with each delivery. Shelter personnel usually did not know the location or condition of these unofficial holding facilities.

Student researchers identified a number of shelters that were in very poor compliance with state laws and that were not providing adequate care of shelter animals (see Shelters Needing the Most Help in the results). Most of these shelters had inadequate structures and minimal to no

staffing to care for animals. When the list of these counties was cross-checked against the list of counties that had previously applied for state grant funds for shelter construction/renovation, few of these counties had applied for grants. Many of these counties appeared to have similar demographics to neighboring counties that had good or excellent shelters. Attitudes and opinions held by county magistrates and county judge executives concerning the importance of humane care of shelter animals, as well as local public opinion and degree of concern, are likely major factors determining the amount of funding and effort made toward the county animal shelter.

One potential confounder in this study is the risk of individual biases and interpretations created by having six individuals gather data from different counties. This risk was mitigated by the development of standardized scoring systems that clearly defined each score. Additionally, students worked as a group to review all data for all shelters and come to an overall group agreement for each score or categorization made for every shelter.

Another important factor to consider when interpreting these results is that the student researchers visited shelters only once to make the evaluations, so the data collected represents one snapshot in time. It is possible that conditions at a shelter at the time of the visit might have been better or worse than at other times. However, overall state-wide results are likely reasonably accurate, as it is unlikely that all shelters would be in better condition at the time of the study, or that all shelters would in worse conditions at the time of the study, compared to other times.

Student researchers found that the vast majority of shelter personnel were very open and willing to answer questions and very forthright about the problems they face and their needs as well as successful programs, projects and fund raisers. Only in a few instances were shelter personnel unable or unwilling to answer questions or provide a tour of the facility.

**Conclusions**

 Major conclusions of this study are:
- The majority of Kentucky's county animal shelters are not in good compliance with current state animal shelter laws, despite being nearly 10 years past the date set for mandatory full compliance.

- The major factor contributing to this lack of compliance appears to be lack of sufficient funds to adequately construct, maintain, and staff the facilities and to provide adequate daily care for animals housed in the facilities.

- 18 county shelters were identified in this study that appear to provide good animal care and are willing to serve as sources of information and advice to personnel from other county shelters.

- 26 county shelters were identified in this study as being very substandard and needing considerably assistance to improve the shelter conditions

- There appears to be a significant need for additional funding to support construction and renovations for county animal shelters and possibly other shelter-related functions.

- If future state funds become available to assist counties with animal shelter programs, technical assistance from the state for counties wishing to submit grants and better advertisement of the availability of grant funds are needed.

- Current laws do not appear to be fully satisfactory at accomplishing the goal of providing adequate shelter animal care across Kentucky.

- Addition of a shelter inspection program and enforcement provisions to current state shelter laws appear to be warranted.

- Additional statutes to address sheltering of livestock should be considered.

Overall, study results show that while there has been great progress made in Kentucky's animal shelters since the last state-wide study performed in 1996, there is still much work that needs to be done to bring Kentucky's animal shelters up to modern standards of care.

**Future directions**

The number of problems identified in this study and the complexity of problems suggest there is no simple solution. A reasonable next step might be for the state to establish a task force to reassess animal sheltering in Kentucky. Goals of the task force might include: to review all data available relating to Kentucky's animal shelters; to gather information from other states with successful animal care and control programs that could be used as a template for Kentucky; to determine options for generating revenue to provide a reliable source of funds to assist county shelters; to determine which branch of state governmental is best suited to provide an animal shelter inspection program and enforcement of animal control laws, and if changes to the structure or function of the ACAB are indicated; and to develop recommendations on how to move forward. Task force members could include specialists in the areas of veterinary

medicine, public health, animal shelter management, animal behavior, jurisprudence, and construction along with representatives from other vested groups including state and county agencies, animal owners and animal welfare groups.

Additional plans include studies to further investigate root causes of some of the problems identified in this study. One such study could be to gather demographic and county budget information from each county and see how these data correlate with shelter compliance.

The student researchers are also working to create information packets to distribute to counties that requested additional training and information about proper cleaning and disinfection procedures, animal handling practices, and grant opportunities. Students are working with the Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine administration to explore options of providing mobile veterinary spay/neuter programs to needy Kentucky counties.  Students are also working with the college's animal shelter medicine group to investigate educational programs to teach children about humane animal care and the importance of spay/neuter programs. Other educational goals are to explore ways for shelters to share information, tips and advice on what makes them successful to other shelters needing assistance.

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**Appendix A.** Data collection templates used for the study.

|  | YES | NO | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|
| Protection from the weather |  |  |  |
| Clean and dry pens |  |  |  |
| Adequate space for animal comfort |  |  |  |
| Lighting |  |  |  |
| Employed ACO |  |  |  |
| Building materials easily cleaned |  |  |  |
| Holding area |  |  |  |
| Quarantine |  |  |  |
| Proper ventilation |  |  |  |
| Adequate heat in the winter |  |  |  |
| Hours posted |  |  |  |
| >or = 24 hours open |  |  |  |

|  | YES | NO | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maintain records |  |  |  |
| Food provided daily |  |  |  |
| Clean, potable water |  |  |  |
| Males and females separate |  |  |  |
| Basic veterinary care |  |  |  |
| Humane Euthanasia |  |  |  |
| Cat area |  |  |  |
| Livestock/large animal |  |  |  |

Additional Notes:

Shelter Name:

Counties served:                                                                  Date:

**What do you need to be successful?** What successes have you had?

What **hardships** does your shelter face?

**If shelter services other counties, how often do you get dogs from the other counties' "facilities"?** Do you know where they're being held?

Do you **adopt** here, send them to **rescue groups**, **transports**, those kind of relationships, etc?

Are you familiar with the **grant process** and available training? If more money would come available would you be interested in that? Do you feel there is a need for easy access to training? Are you aware that in the past the state has had funds?

If we come up with any **additional questions** or if you would want result of the study, who would we contact?

**Appendix B.** Master list of all Kentucky county animal shelters, locations, hours, contact information and directions. Note: Shelters are listed by shelter name in most cases, so some may be listed by a name other than the county name.

| Shelter Name | Counties served | Phone Number | Hours listed | Physical Address | ACO (if known) | Directions (if needed) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Allen County/ Scottsville Animal Shelter | Allen | (270) 618-7387 | M- 12pm-3pm; T- 10am-4pm; W-Closed; Th- 10am-4pm; F-10am-4pm; Sa- Closed; Su-Closed | 51 Humane Ln, Scottsville KY, 42164 | | |
| Anderson County Animal Control and Intake | Anderson | (502)-839-6410 | M-F 10-4, S 10-12 | 1410 Versailles Rd, Lawrenceburg KY 40342 | Zachary Childers | across the street from wild turkey distillary, next to the humane society |
| Animal House Adoption Center (Louisville Metro Animal Services) | Jefferson | 502-574-5557 | Monday - Noon - 6 p.m. Tuesday - Noon - 6 p.m. Wednesday - Noon - 6 p.m. Thursday - Noon - 6 p.m. Friday - Noon - 6 p.m. Saturday - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Closed - Sundays & Holidays | 3516 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40218 | | |
| Ballard County=Coffey Animal Clinic | Ballard | 270-665-9146 | Mon-Fri 8-5  Sat 7:30-12 | 275 W. Kentucky Dr.  La Center, KY | | |
| Barren River Animal Welfare Association | Barren | (270)-651-7297 | M- 10am-5pm; T- 10am-5pm; W-Closed; Th- 10am-5pm; F-10am-5pm; Sa- 10am-4pm; Su-Closed | 175 Trojan Trail, Glasgow KY 4241 | | |
| Bell County Animal Shelter | Bell | (606) 337-2005; (606) 337-6331 | M- 9am-3pm; T- 9am-3pm; W-9am-3pm; Th- 9am-6pm; F-9am-3pm; Sa- 11am-1pm | Off of Hwy 25E-Page cutoff Road, Pineville, KY | Patsy Bracken | |
| Boone County Animal Shelter | Boone | (859) 586-5285 | M-F- 12pm-6pm; Sa- 10am-4pm; Su- Closed | 5643 Idlewild Road, Burlington KY 41005 | | |
| Bowling Green Warren County Humane Society | Warren | 270-842-8572; AC office: 270-842-1633; Adoption Center 270-783-9404 | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) Saturday (10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Sunday (12 noon - 4:00 p.m.) | 1925 Old Louisville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42103 | | |
| Boyd County Animal Shelter and Animal Control | Boyd | (606) 324-0745 | M- 10-4:30 PM, T- 10-4:30, W - 10-4:30, Th- 10-4:30 PM, Fri 10-4:30 PM | 1025 Bob McCullough Dr, Ashland, KY 41102 | | |
| Bracken County Animal Shelter | Bracken | (606)-735-3475 | Mon-Fri 8-4, at shelter from 11-12 for adoptions | 188 Hamilton Road, Brooksville KY 41004 | Pat Taylor | Just after fire department |
| Breckinridge County Animal Shelter | Breckinridge | 270-580-4299, 270-547-8864 | Tues-Fri 11-4 Closed Sat and Sun | 498 Glenn Nash Rd, Hardinsburg KY 40142 | | |
| Bullitt County Animal Shelter | Bullitt | 502-817-3759 | Mon- Fri 9-5:30 Sat 10-3 Closed Sun and Holidays | 545 Clermont Rd, Shepersville KY 40165 | | |
| Butler County Animal Shelter | Butler | 270-526-2694 | Mon-Fri 8-1 Closed Wed Sat 8-12 Closed Sunday | 463 Boat Factory Rd, Morgantown KY, 42261 | | |
| Caldwell County Animal Shelter | Caldwell | 270-365-2041 (shelter)        270-365-1000 ( ACO) | Mon-Fri 11-4 | 489 Baker Hill Rd. Princeton, KY  42445 | Tommy Petit | |
| Campbell County Animal Shelter | Campbell | (859)-635-2819 | Mon-Fri 10-4:20 Sat 9-1 | 1898 Poplar Ridge Road, Alexandira KY 41001 | Terri Baker, Lisa Bowmen | |
| Carlisle County Shelter | Carlisle | 270-628-3744 (?) | Road department hours are 9-3:30 | 93 E. Court Street Bardwell, KY | city road department workers serve as dog wardens | This is the city road department that has a small pen where stray dogs are kept in the back corner of the open garage |
| Carroll County Animal Shelter | Carroll | 502-732-8959 | Monday - Friday: 8-10 am and 2-4 pm Saturday: 9-12 am | 2182 Boone Rd, Carrollton, KY 41008 | Leonard Danner - Dog warden | Sign off main road follow up drive way |
| Christian County Animal Shelter | Christian, Todd, Trigg, and occasionally helps Caldwell | 270-887-4175 | Mon, Tu, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10:30-4 | 2935 Russellville Road, Hopkinsville, Kentucky 42240 | Irene Grace | |
| Clark County Animal Shelter | Clark | (859) 737-0053 | 10AM – 4 PM Tuesday – Saturday, Closed on Sunday & Monday | 5000 Ironworks Road, Winchester, KY 40391 | Adreanna Wills- director, acting as ACO | Enter into fair grounds, follow back until you see shelter |
| Crittenden County Animal Shelter | Crittenden, Livingston, Lyon | 270-969-1054 | Mon-Fri 8-4  Sat 8-12 | 1901 U.S. 60 EAST, MARION, KY | Stan Kinnis | |
| Danville- Boyle County Humane Society | Boyle | (859) 238-1117 | M-F- 8am-4:30pm; Sa- 10am-4pm | 777 N Danville Bypass, Danville, KY 40422 | | |
| Edmonson/Hart/Grayson/ Metcalfe Co. Animal Shelter | Edmonson, Hart, Grayson, Metcalfe | CLOSED | CLOSED | 188 Sanders Rd, Bee Spring, KY | | |
| Estill County Animal Shelter | Estill, Jackson, Lee, Owsley | (606) 723-3587 | M- 8:15 AM- 2:15 PM, T- 8:15- 2:15 PM, W- 8:15- 2:15 PM,  Th-8:15 - 2:15 PM, Fri- 8:15-2:15 PM | 50 Ginter Rd, Ravenna, KY 40472 | Tommy Mullen | |
| Flora Shropshire Animal Shelter | Harrison | (859) 234-7138 | Monday-Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (extended hours on Thurs. until 6pm) | 1751 New Lair Road Cynthiana, KY 41031 | Allen Frym | |
| Floyd County Animal Shelter | Floyd | (606) 886-3189 | M-F 10am-5pm; Sa-Sun 11am-2pm | 545 Sally Stephens Branch, Prestonsburg, KY 41653 | | |

| Shelter Name | Counties served | Phone Number | Hours listed | Physical Address | ACO (if known) | Directions (if needed) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Franklin County Humane Society | Franklin | (502) 875-7297 | Tues-Sun 12:00-5:00 Closed Monday | 1041 Kentucky Ave, Frankfort, KY 40601 | | |
| Fulton County Pound | Fulton | Johnny McTurner ( City of Hickman manager)  You call him and he will contact the dog warden | Mon-Fri 8-2 | City Hall: 1812 South 7th Street Hickman, KY | | From City Hall: Take 7th street past City Hall ( on your Right) and at 4 way stop turn Right on 94.  Make a Left on Allison, and at the first stop sign, turn Right on Clay. Continue on this street past some houses.  There will be a field on the left and the shelter buisling will be on the Right behind a chain link fence. |
| Gallatin County Animal Shelter | Gallatin | (859) 743-6564 | M-F 11-4 | 4550 KY highway-455, Sparta, KY 41086 | BOBBY NUNN | |
| Garrard County Animal Shelter | Garrard | 859-792-1562 | M-F- 8-5pm; ACO on call 24/7 | 210 Doty Lane, Lancaster, KY 40444 | Brittany Collins | |
| Grant County Animal Shelter | Grant | (859) 824-9403 | Monday 12-7pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 12-5pm; Thursday 2-6pm; Friday 12-4pm; Saturday and Sunday- closed | 218 Barnes Rd, Williamstown, KY | | Follow signs back past the detention center |
| Green River Animal Shelter | Adair, Green (Metcalfe plans to start taking animals here) | (270) 385-9655 | M- Closed; T- 10am-5pm, W- 10am-5pm; Th- 10am-5pm; F- Closed; Sa- 10am-2pm; Su- Closed | 455 Jim Blair Rd, Columbia, KY 42728 | Jimmy Harmon (Adair); Larry Penick, Dog Warden  (270)405-3203 (Green); | |
| Greenup County Animal Shelter | Greenup | (606) 473-5711 | Mon- Fri 8-1 PM | 47 Dog Gone Ln, Greenup, KY | | |
| Hancock County Animal Shelter | Hancock | 270-927-8544 | Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm Saturday & Sunday 9:00am to 12:00pm | 305 Gene Hayden Rd. Lewisport, KY 42351 | | |
| Hardin County Animal Shelter | Hardin, Larue | 270-769-3428 | M-Sat 12:00 - 4:00 | 220 Peterson Dr Elizabethtown, KY | | |
| Harlan County Animal Shelter | Harlan | (606) 573-8867 | M-F 10am-3pm; Sa- 10am-1pm | 394 Highway 840 Baxter, KY | | |
| Hickman County=Ward Animal Clinic | Hickman | (270) 472-2886 | Mon-Fri 8-5 (?) | 206 Nolan Ave. Fulton, KY 42041 | | |
| Hopkins County Humane Society | Hopkins | (270) 821-8965 | Tu., Fri., Sat.: 9-5   Sun., Mon., Wed., Th.: by appointment only | 2210 Laffoon Trail, Madisonville, KY 42431 | Dustin | Shelter at this location and animal control is at seperate location |
| Humane Society and Nelson Co Animal Shelter | Nelson | 502-384-1865 | | 2391 New Haven Rd, Bardstown, KY 40004 | | |
| Humane Society of Henderson County | Henderson | (270) 826-8966 | Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-5 Tues. 10-7 Wed. 12-5          Sat. 9-12 | 203 Drury Lane Henderson, KY 42420 | | |
| Jessamine County Animal Care and Control | Jessamine | (859) 881-0821 | Adoptions: Mon-Fri- 12-5pm; Sat- 10am-2pm; Stray, Surrender, & Reclaim: Mon-Fri- 9am-5pm; Sa- 9am-2pm | 120 Fairground Way City-county Park, Nicholasville, KY 40356 | Frank Ruggerio 859-885-4836 | Follow the road untill it ends |
| Kenton County Animal Shelter | Kenton | 859-356-7400 | Adoption hrs: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 11am-4:30pm,  Wed and Sat 11am-1:30pm; Shelter hrs: Mon, Tues, Thrus, Fri  11am-5pm & Wed and Sat 11am-2pm | 1020 Mary Laidley Dr, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky 41017 | Elizabeth Cochran-director | |
| Kentucky River Regional Animal Shelter | Breathitt, Letcher, Knott, Perry | (606) 439-4064 | M-F 10am-5pm; Sa- 10am-2pm | 194 Animal Shelter Lane, Hazard, KY 41701 | | |
| Knox/Whitley County Animal Shelter | Knox, Whitley, Clay, McCreary | (606) 526-6925 | T-F 11am-5pm; Sa- 10am-3pm | 66 Busy Lane, Corbin, KY 40701 | | |
| Laurel County Animal Shelter | Laurel | (606) 864-6319 | M- 10am-6pm; T- 10am-3pm; W- 10am-6pm; Th- 10am-3pm; F- 10am-6pm, Sa- 10am-2pm | 1697 Chris Hamlin Memorial Ln, London, KY 40744 | | |
| Lawrence Humane Society | Lawrence, Magoffin | (606) 673-4509 | M- 10-2 PM, T- 10-2 PM, W- 10-2 PM, Thurs 10-2 PM, Fri 10- 2:00 PM | 820 Issac Park Rd, Louisa, KY 41230 | Johnny Rickman | |
| Leslie County Animal Shelter | Leslie | (606) 672-4803 | M-F 8am-4pm | 425 Detention Center Rd, Hyden, KY 41749 | | GPS does not take you to the correct location, so type in the Detention Center's address into GPS in order to find the animal shelter. |
| Lewis County Animal Shelter | Lewis, Elliot | (606) 796-3917 | Call before you go- Mon - 9- 3, T- 9-3, W- 9-3, Thurs 9-3, Fri - 9-3 PM | 149 County Drive,, Vanceburg, KY 41179 | | |
| Lexington Humane Society | Fayette | LHS:(859) 233-0044 | Monday - Thursday & Saturday: 12pm - 6pm Friday: 12pm - 8pm Sunday: 1pm - 5pm | 1600 Old Frankfort Pike, Lexington, KY | Animal Control: (859) 255-9033 | |
| Lincoln County Animal Shelter | Lincoln, Casey | (606) 365-2354 | | 341 Workhouse Rd, Stanford, KY 40484 | | GPS does not take you to the correct location: Head south on 27, go about 1 mile past Lincoln County High School until you see a sign for the animal shelter on the right, turn right and follow road until you see the animal shelter on the left |
| Logan county Humane Society | Logan | 270-726-2186 | Mon, Tu, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10-4 | 1230 Morgantown RdRussellville, KY | | |
| Madison County Animal shelter | Madison | 859-986-9625 | Office Hours: M-F 9:00AM - 5:00PM; Sat- 9:00AM - 4:00PM Viewing Hours:  12:00PM - Close | 1386 Richmond Road, Berea, KY 40403 | Scott Tussey | Off of Hwy 25 |

| Shelter Name | Counties served | Phone Number | Hours listed | Physical Address | ACO (if known) | Directions (if needed) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Marion county Animal Shelter | Marion, Washington | (270) 692-0464 | M, T, Th, F- 9-3:30, Sa- 9-12; W, Su- Closed | 1105 Highway 208, Lebanon, KY | John A Settles (Washington) | |
| Marshall County Animal Care and control | Marshall | 270-527-0954 | Mon-Fri 8-4:30 | 839 Benton-Briensburg Road, BENTON, KY, 42025 | Autumn Hollis director/ACO | |
| Mason Co Animal Control/Shelter | Mason | (606) 564-6706 | Monday-Thursday 8:00AM- 4:30PM; Friday- 8:00AM- 6:00PM, Saturday 8:00AM- 12:00PM | 301 River Dr. Maysville, KY 41056 | Roger Mullikin | |
| Mayfield Graves County Animal Shelter | Graves | 270-251-0130 | M, T, Th, F 12-5  Sat. 12-4 | 500 N 12th St Mayfield, KY | Mac Wilford | |
| McCracken Humane Society | McCracken | 270-443-5923 | Mon-Fri 10:30-4:30 | 4000 Coleman Road, Paducah KY 42001 | Aaron Hudson | |
| McLean County Animal shelter | McLean | (270) 499-2556 | Mon. & Fri. 8-12, Wed. & Th. 12-4:30 | 1508 State Route 136 E, Calhoun, Kentucky 42327 | Julia Pryor | |
| Meade Co Animal Shelter | Meade | 270-422-3967 | Mon-Fri:8:00 am - 4:00 pmSat:9:00 am - 1:00 pm | 516 Hillcrest Dr Brandenburg, KY | | |
| Menifee Co Animal Shelter | Menifee | (606) 768-9368 | Mon- Fri: 7-10 AM, Tues and Thurs 4:30 -7:30 PM | 381 Little League Lane at the County Park in Frenchburg, KY | | |
| Mercer Co Animal Shelter | Mercer | (859) 734-5154 | M- F- 10:00am - 4:00pm; W, Su-Closed; Sa- 10:00am - 12:00pm | 896 Moberly Rd, Harrodsburg, KY 40330 | | |
| Montgomery Co Animal Shelter | Montgomery | 859-498-8751 | M/W/F 7:00AM to 3:30PM, T/Th 7:00 AM-5 PM, SAT 9AM-12PM | 115 Adena Drive, Mt. Sterling, KY | | |
| Morgan Co Animal Shelter | Morgan | (606)-743-7261 | Mon, Wed, Fri 9-4:30, Tues and Thurs by appointment, Sat 10-2 PM | 6591 HWY 460 W, West Liberty, KY 41472 | | |
| Humane Society of Muhlenberg County | Muhlenberg | (270) 338-6940 | Mon., Tu., Th., Fri.,:11-5 Sat 10-2 | 615 Muhlenberg Dr. Greenville, KY 42345 | Barrett Jones-director | |
| Murray-Calloway County Animal Shelter | Calloway | 270-759-4141 | Mon.-Fri. 10-4   Sat. 10-3 | 81 Shelter Lane, Murray KY 42071 | | |
| Nicholas County Animal Shelter | Nicholas | Dog warden- 859-473-3037 | No posted hours, Call Willie Hoag | 2477 Concrete Rd Carlisle, KY 40311 | Willie Hoag- Dog Warden | follow signs from road, shelter is behind tan building and down the hill |
| Ohio Co Animal Shelter | Ohio | (270) 298-4499 | Mon-Tue:10:00 am - 4:00 pmThu-Fri:10:00 am - 4:00 pmSat:10:00 am - 12:00 pm | 1802 County Club Ln, Hartford, KY | | |
| Oldham County Animal Control | Oldham | 502-222-7387 | Open 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday - Wednesday and Friday - Saturday. Thursdays by appointment only. | 3946 Jones Dr, La Grange, KY 40031 | | |
| Owen County Friends of Animals | Owen | Deb Strong= 502-542- 8266 | No posted hours, Call ACO | 80 Old Monterey Rd, Owenton, KY | Sharlette 502-514-2140 | Follow address, When you make the turn onto Old Monterey Rd, make a left turn onto the gravel road right behind the church, follow back for 0.25 miles |
| Owensboro Animal Control | Daviess | 270-685-8275 | Animal intake starts at 8:00 on Mc Thursday - 12:00pm - 6:00pm Saturday - 9:00am - 3:00pm (clos | 2620 Hwy 81, Owensboro, Ky 42301 | | |
| Paris Animal Welfare Society | Bourbon | (859) 988-9800 | M- 12-6 PM, T- 12-6 PM, W-closed, Thurs 12-6 PM, Fri 12-6 PM, Sat- 12-4PM, Sun- closed | 6 Legion Rd, Paris, KY 40361 | (859)-340-0016 David Perrier or Jessie Florence Off hours: (859)-340-0118 | behind post office and school |
| Pendleton Co Animal Shelter | Pendleton | 859-472-5400 | Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri:10am-2pm Wed 10am - 4pm, Saturday: 8am- 12pm | 1314 Bryan Griffin Rd, Falmouth, KY 41040 | Steve Johnson | |
| Pike Co Animal Shelter | Pike | (606) 432-6293 | Tu-Sa 10am-4pm | 527 Lykins Creek Road, Pikeville, KY 41501 | | |
| Powell Co Animal Shelter | Powell | Phone: (606) 663-4998; Emergency: (606) 663-4116 | Mon-Fri 9-4:00 PM, Sat 8-12:00 PM, Closed Thurs | 169 Transfer Station Rd, Clay City, KY 40312 | Randall Martin | |
| Pulaski County Animal Shelter | Pulaski, Russell adoptions | (606) 679-6432 | M- 10am-4:30pm; T- 10am-6pm; W- 10am-4:30pm; Th- 10am-6pm; F- 10am-4:30pm | 235 Adopt Me Lane, Somerset, KY 42501 | | |
| Robertson County Animal shelter | Robertson | 606-842-0233 | No hours posted, Call ACO | Brierly Ridge Rd, Mt., Olivet, KY 41064 | Staci Johnson | 2 miles down Brierly Ridge Rd, will be on the right side, right off the road, small green building |
| Rockcastle County Animal Shelter | Rockcastle | (606) 256-1833 | M-F 7am-3pm | 224 Cr-1705, Mt Vernon, KY 40456; 224 Deep Hollow Road | | |
| Russell County Animal Shelter | Russell | (270) 858-9570 | Not open to public | 720 Landfill Road, Russell Springs, KY 42642 | Gary Marcum | Clear Springs  Rd to Landfill Rd |
| Scott County Animal Shelter | Scott | 502-863-7897 | Mon-Fri 10:00-5:00 | 1185 Cardinal Dr, Georgetown, KY | | |
| Shelby County Animal Shelter | Shelby | 502-633-0009 | Tues thurs- 10-7pm; Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10-4:30 | 266 Kentucky Street, Shelbyville, KY 40065 | | |

| Shelter Name | Counties served | Phone Number | Hours listed | Physical Address | ACO (if known) | Directions (if needed) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Simpson County Animal Shelter | Simpson | (270)586-3125 | M-Sa- 10am-4pm; Su- Closed | 2194 Kenneth Utley Drive, Franklin KY 42134 | Non E #- 270-586-8824 | |
| Spencer county Animal Shelter | Spencer | 502-477-3332 | M-F 9:00-5:00; Weekends by emergency | 22 Spears dr, Taylorsville, KY 40071 | | |
| Stray Hearts Animal Rescue/ Martin County Shelter | Martin | Shelter run by volunteers, so please contact via facebook | By appointment only | 33 Dog Pound Road, Inez, KY 41224 | | |
| Taylor County Animal Shelter | Taylor | 270-465-7651 | M-F 11am-4pm; Saturday 10-12 | 220 Animal Shelter Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718 | Jacob Newton | Old building is on the left, continue up the hill to the new building. |
| Tri-County Vet Clinic | Monroe | Dog Catcher- (270)-427-0000; Vet office- (270) 487-8388 | Vet office: M-F 8am-5pm | 307 W Bushong Rd, Tompkinsville, KY 42167 | This is the dog catchers number Jamie (2704270000) | |
| Tri-County Animal Shelter | Clinton, Wayne, Cumberland | (606) 387-0943; | M-F 10am-2pm | 1990 KY-90, Albany, KY 42602 | James Stonecipher-Dog Warden (certified, Clinton), David Marrow (Wayne)- # (606) 348-0575 | |
| Tri-County Animal Shelter | Carter, Fleming, Rowan, Bath | | | 2450 Kentucky 519 S, Morehead, KY 40351; 2450 Ky 519 | | |
| Trimble/Henry County Animal Shelter | Henry, Trimble | 502-225-0111 | Tues, Thurs, Fri 10-4; Wed 10-12, Saturday 10-1 | 9213 Sulphur Rd, Sulphur, KY 40076 | | |
| Union County Dog Pound | Union | 270-389-3000 | Tues-Fri 8-4   Sat 8-12 | 908 Sandy Lane, Morganfield, KY 42437 | Richard Jones-ACO Kathy Baird-Director | |
| Webster County Dog Pound | Webster | 270-639-7034 | Tues-Fri 8-4   Sat 8-12 | 1919 KY-132, Dixon, KY; 1075 State Route 132W | Aaron Richmond | |
| Wolfe County Animal Shelter | Wolfe | NOT FINISHED | | 191 Swift Camp Creek Rd, Campton, KY 41301 | | |
| Woodford County Animal Control and Intake | Woodford | (859) 879-0598 | Monday - Sunday 8:00AM- 4:00PM | 210 Beasley Road, Versailles, KY 40383 | | |
| Whiskers or Wags - Johnson county animal shelter | Johnson | | | 100 Shelter Way Staffordsville, KY41256 | | |

**Appendix C.** Exterior photographs of Kentucky county animal shelters.

**Adair County - Green River Animal Shelter**

(Adair, Green counties)



**Allen County - Scottsville Animal Shelter**



**Anderson County**
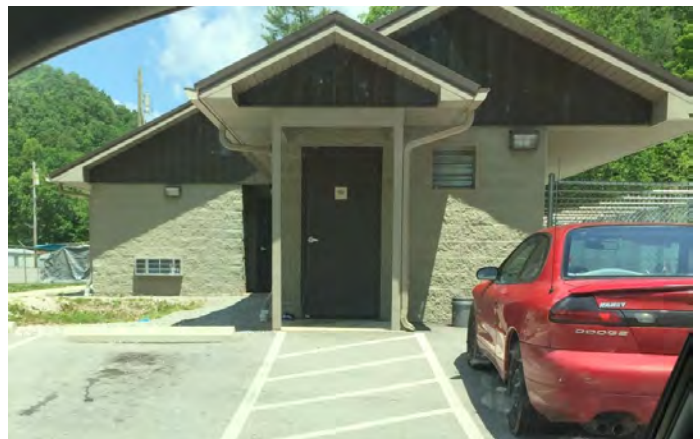


**Ballard County - Coffey Animal Clinic**



**Barren County—Barren River Animal Welfare Assoc.**



**Bath County - Tri County Animal Shelter**

(Bath, Carter, Fleming, and Rowan counties)

**Bell County**

**Boone County**





**Bourbon County -  Paris Animal Welfare Society**

**Boyd County**





**Boyle County -  Danville/Boyle County Humane Soc.**

**Bracken County**

**Breathitt County -  Kentucky River Regional A.S.**

(Breathitt, Letcher, Knott, Perry counties)

**Breckinridge County**





**Bullitt County**

**Butler County**





**Caldwell County**

**Calloway County -  Murray/Calloway County A.S.**

**Campbell County**

**Carlisle County**





**Carroll County**

**Carter County - Tri County Animal Shelter**

(Bath, Carter, Fleming, Rowan counties)





**Casey County -  Lincoln County Animal Shelter**

(Casey, Lincoln counties)

**Christian County  - Christian County Regional A.S.**

(Christian, Todd, Trigg, occasionally Caldwell counties)

**Clark County**



**Clay County  - Knox/Whitley  County Animal Shelter**

(Clay, Knox, McCreary, Whitley counties)



**Clinton County - Tri County Animal Shelter**

(Clinton, Wayne, Cumberland counties)



**Crittenden County**

(Crittenden, Livingston, Lyon counties)



**Cumberland County -Tri County Animal Shelter**

(Clinton, Wayne, Cumberland counties)



**Daviess County -  Owensboro Animal Control**

**Edmonson County**

(Edmonson, Hart, Grayson, Metcalfe counties)



**Elliot County - Lewis County Animal Shelter**

(Elliot, Lewis counties)



**Estill County**

(Estill, Jackson, Lee, Owsley counties)



**Fayette County - Lexington Humane Society**



**Fleming County - Tri County Animal Shelter**

(Bath, Carter, Fleming, and Rowan counties)



**Floyd County**

**Franklin County**

**Fulton County**





**Gallatin County**

**Garrard County**





**Grant County**

**Graves County -  Mayfield Graves County A.S.**

**Grayson County**

(Edmonson, Hart, Grayson, Metcalfe counties)



**Green County - Green River Animal Shelter**

(Adair, Green counties)



**Greenup County**



**Hancock County**



**Hardin County**

(Hardin, LaRue counties)



**Harlan County**

**Harrison County -  Flora Shropshire Animal Shelter**



**Hart County**

(Edmonson, Hart, Grayson, Metcalfe counties)



**Henderson County - Humane Society Henderson Co.**



**Henry County -  Trimble/Henry County A.S.**

(Henry, Trimble counties)



**Hickman County -  Ward Animal Clinic**



**Hopkins County**

**Jackson County - Estill County Animal Shelter**

(Estill, Jackson, Lee, Owsley counties)



**Jefferson County—Louisville Metro Animal Services**

(and Animal House Adoption Center)



**Jessamine County**



**Johnson County - Whiskers or Wags Johnson Co. A.S.**



**Kenton County**



**Knott County - Kentucky River Regional A.S.**

(Breathitt, Letcher, Knott, Perry counties)

**Knox County - Knox/Whitley County Animal Shelter**

(Clay, Knox, McCreary, Whitley counties)



**LaRue County - Hardin County Animal Shelter**

(Hardin, LaRue counties)



**Laurel County**



**Lawrence County**

(Lawrence, Magoffin counties)



**Lee County -  Estill County Animal Shelter**

(Estill, Jackson, Lee, Owsley counties)



**Leslie County**

**Letcher County - Kentucky River Regional A.S.**

(Breathitt, Letcher, Knott, Perry counties)



**Lewis County**

(Elliot, Lewis counties)



**Lincoln County**

(Casey, Lincoln counties)



**Livingston County  - Crittenden County A.S.**

(Crittenden, Livingston, Lyon counties)



**Logan County**



**Lyon County - Crittenden County Animal Shelter**

(Crittenden, Livingston, Lyon counties)

**Madison County**



**Magoffin County - Lawrence County Humane Society**

(Lawrence, Magoffin counties)



**Marion County**

(Marion, Washington counties)



**Marshall County**



**Martin County - Stray Hearts Animal Rescue**



**Mason County**

**McCracken County**

**McCreary County - Knox/Whitley County A.S.**

(Clay, Knox, McCreary, Whitley counties)

**McLean County**

**Meade County**

**Menifee County**

**Mercer County**

**Metcalfe County**

(Edmonson, Hart, Grayson, Metcalfe counties)
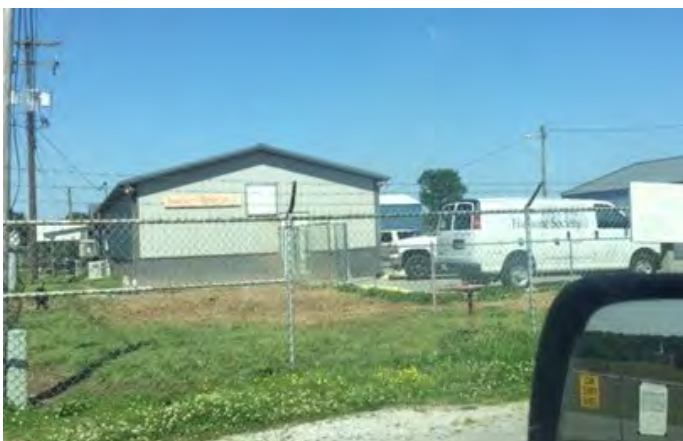


**Monroe County -  Tri County Veterinary Clinic**



**Montgomery County**



**Morgan County**



**Muhlenburg County**



**Nelson County -  Humane Society, Nelson County**

**Nicholas County**



**Ohio County**



**Oldham County**



**Owen County**



**Owsley County - Estill County Animal Shelter**

(Estill, Jackson, Lee, Owsley counties)



**Pendleton County**

**Perry County - Kentucky River Regional A.S.**

(Breathitt, Letcher, Knott, Perry counties)

**Pike County**





**Powell County**

**Pulaski County**

(Pulaski, Russell counties)





**Robertson County**

**Rockcastle County**

**Rowan County - Tri County Animal Shelter**

(Bath, Carter, Fleming, and Rowan counties)



**Russell County—holding facility**

Also see Pulaski county



**Scott County**



**Shelby County**



**Simpson County**



**Spencer County**

**Taylor County**



**Todd County - Christian County Regional A.S.**

(Christian, Todd, Trigg, occasionally Caldwell counties)



**Trigg County - Christian County Regional A.S.**

(Christian, Todd, Trigg, occasionally Caldwell counties)



**Trimble County -  Trimble/Henry County A.S.**

(Henry, Trimble counties)



**Union County**



**Warren County -  Bowling Green/Warren County HS**

**Washington County -  Marion County Animal Shelter**

(Marion, Washington counties)



**Wayne County -Tri County Animal Shelter**

(Clinton, Wayne, Cumberland counties)



**Webster County**



**Whitley County - Knox/Whitley  County A.S.**

(Clay, Knox, McCreary, Whitley counties)



**Wolfe County -  shelter under construction**
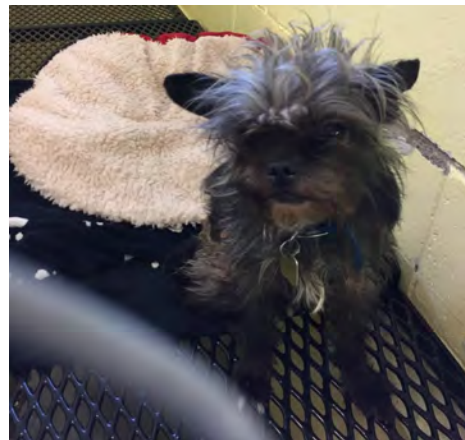
**No picture**

**Woodford County**

**Appendix D**. Photographs of examples of some good conditions found at several shelters.

**Large cat cages built of impervious materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected**



**Puppy pens with grates so animals could be raised off the floor, improving disease control**



**Separate intake and adoption buildings, improving disease control**



**Large cat play room for cat socializing and exercise**



**Cat cages with communicating tunnels, built of imperious materials easily cleaned and disinfected**



**Dog kennels built of impervious materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected**

**Appendix E.** Photographs of examples of some bad conditions found at several shelters.

**Dog holding area built with materials that cannot be disinfected; hot in summer and cold in winter**



**Shelters in some counties were created by sectioning off part of the county road department facility**



**Some shelters were metal buildings that were extremely noisy when dogs were barking**



**Example of inappropriate drainage from kennels onto dirt outside the shelter**



**Many shelters were at or over-capacity and could not adequately serve the community**



**Example of dog pen with gravel floor that cannot be disinfected and not adequately cleaned**

**Example of an over-crowded cat holding areas with stacks of crates, each containing multiple cats**



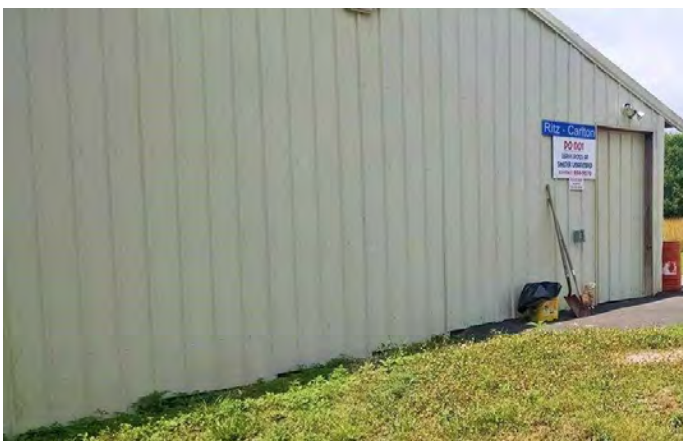**At many shelter, outdoors pens were permanent holding areas for dogs**



**Example of a cat cage too small for the occupant**



**Pet overpopulation was a very common problem**



**Some counties used unofficial holding areas to hold animals until delivery to regional shelters**



**Example of an improper quarantine pen, with no isolation of quarantine animals**