

CURRENT STATUS OF KENTUCKY COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS

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120 COUNTIES IN KENTUCKY

90 county shelters



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HISTORY OF SHELTER LEGISLATION IN KENTUCKY

1996:

Kentucky General Assembly study

Animal control laws and shelter conditions were not within compliance with modern methods of humane animal control.

Funding and minimum standards for animal care were needed.

2004:

Kentucky Humane Shelter Act

Established statutes to improve care and control of stray and abandoned companion animals.

Minimum standards included: daily food and water, basic shelter, cleanliness, public access to shelters and humane methods of euthanasia.

Statutes put the onus of shelter programs on individual counties. Counties to be in compliance by July 2007.

Kentucky Humane Shelter Act 2004

- Provide holding areas with protection from the weather, including heated quarters during cold weather. Holding areas shall be free of debris or standing water; shall provide adequate lighting, ventilation, and sanitary conditions to promote a safe, healthy environment.**
- Provide adequate space to allow for normal movement, including standing to full height, sitting, turning, and lying down in a natural position without coming in contact with the top or sides of the enclosure or another animal**
- Provide runs and cages built of materials which can be readily cleaned and disinfected, including floors made of an impervious material**
- Provide access to the public for no less than twenty-four hours in one week, with the hours that the facility is open to the public posted in a visible location.**
- Uncontaminated food daily**
- Provide potable, uncontaminated water to every animal at all times**
- Segregate male and female animals by species in runs and holding areas**

Kentucky Humane Shelter Act 2004

Maintain record on each animal impounded. Records shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall include:

- a. Date impounded;**
- b. Location found or picked up;**
- c. Sex of animal and spay or neuter status, if known;**
- d. Breed or description, and color; and**
- e. Date reclaimed, adopted, or euthanized**

Provide separate runs or holding areas for ill or injured animals. An ill or injured animal shall be treated with proper veterinary care or euthanized

"Quarantine" means the confinement of an animal for observation of clinical signs of illness indicating rabies infection, and the prevention of escape or contact with any person or other animal.

PROBLEMS WITH SHELTER ACT

- **No enforcement of the laws**
 - County citizens are responsible for suing non-compliant counties.
- **No shelter inspection program is in place**
 - The commonwealth does provide programs for things such as gas pumps, amusement rides, and retail store price scanners in the state.
- **Kentucky Humane Shelter Act does not specifically address the humane treatment and care of livestock by county shelters**
- **No studies have been done to evaluate the degree of county compliance with the new laws**

STUDY GOALS

- To visit each county animal shelter or holding facility and assess degree of county compliance with current state laws.
- To determine major factors contributing to lack of compliance
- To determine what shelters need in order to be successful and what hardships they have faced over the years.
- To document successful animal control and shelter programs.
- To determine if more funding and refinement of current laws are required

Evaluation template

Shelter Name:

Counties Served:

Date:

	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 = to 24 hours open			
Maintains Records			
Food provided daily			
Clean, potable water			
Males and females separated			
Basic Veterinary Care			
Humane Euthanasia			
Cat area			
Livestock/ large animal			

Additional Notes:

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE TEMPLATE

Shelter Name:

Counties Served:

Date:

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

What hardships does your shelter face?

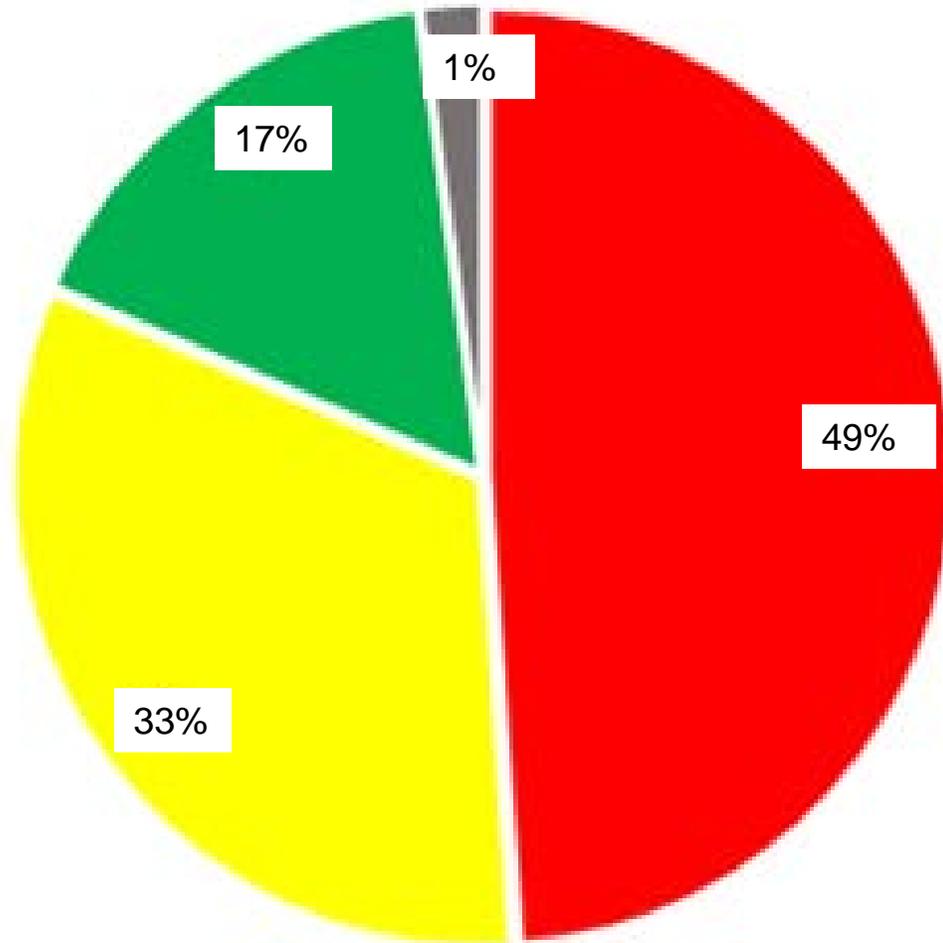
If shelter services other counties, how often do you get dogs from the other counties facilities? Do you know where they're being held?

Do you adopt here, send them 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 the result of the study, who would we contact?

RESULTS- Shelter Law Compliance



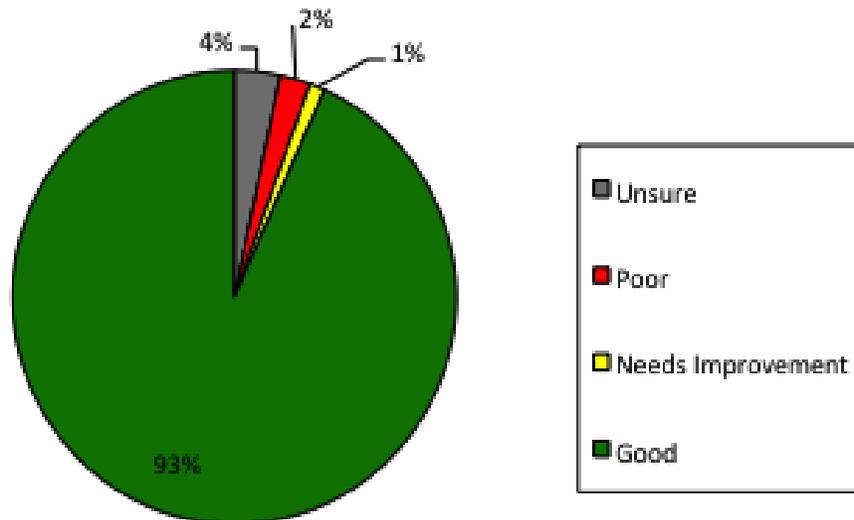
- = In violation of 3 or more parts of the law
- = Follows all parts of the law
- = In violation of 2 or 1 parts of the law
- = Unsure

RESULTS- Food and Potable Water

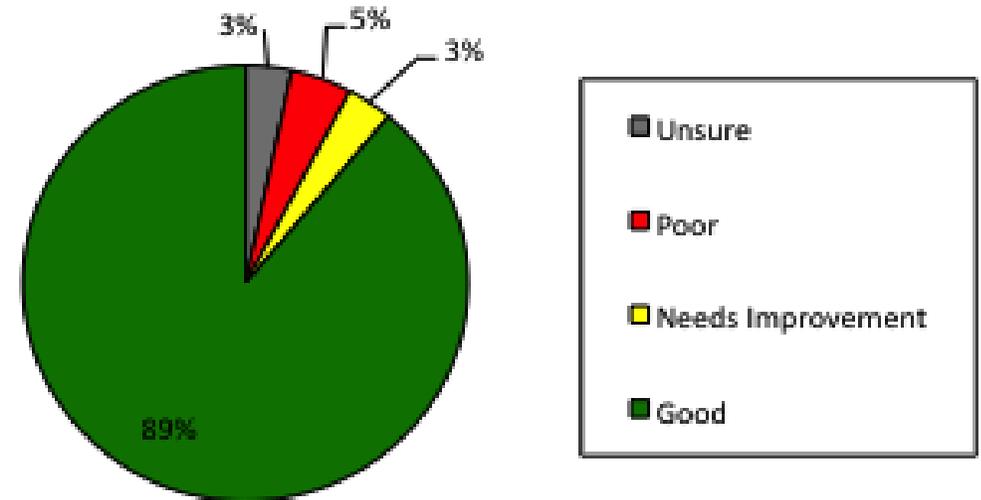
- **Poor**- No food provided daily
- **Needs Improvement**- Food provided most days.
- **Good**- Food provided daily
 - Saw bags of food and bowls

- **Poor**- No clean water
- **Needs Improvement**- Most animals had clean water
- **Good**- All animal had clean water

Food Provided Daily



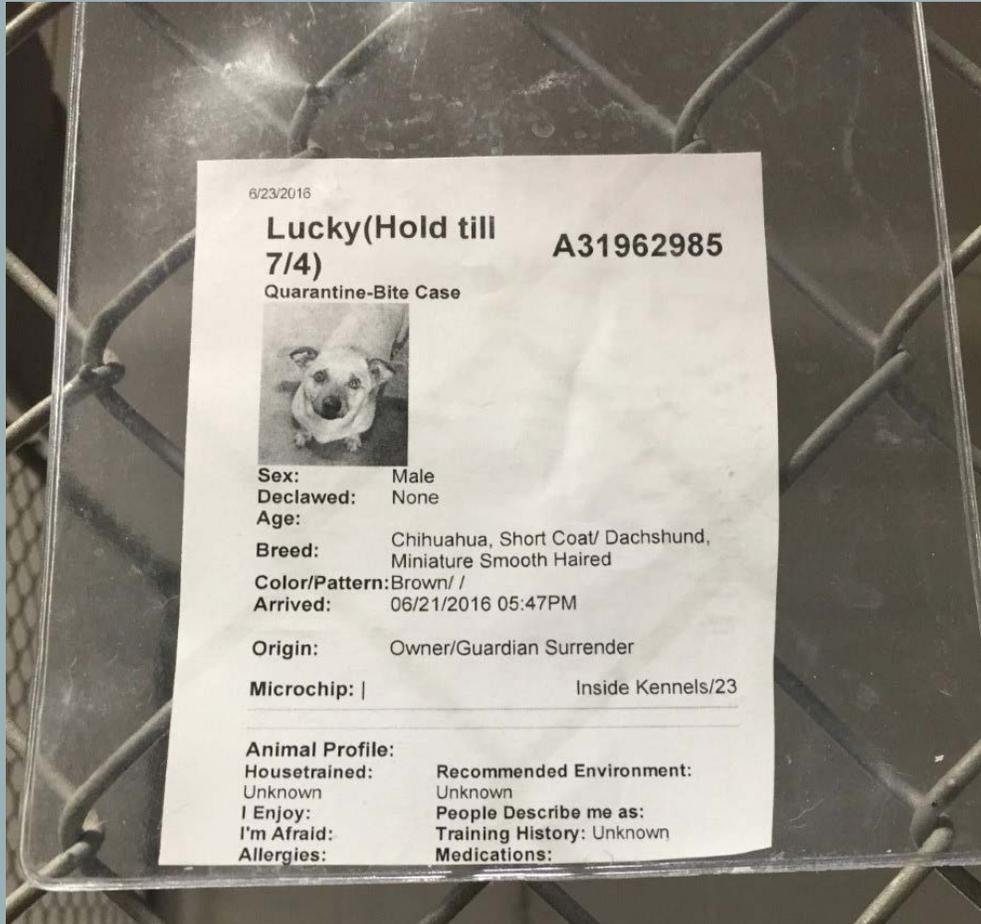
Potable Water



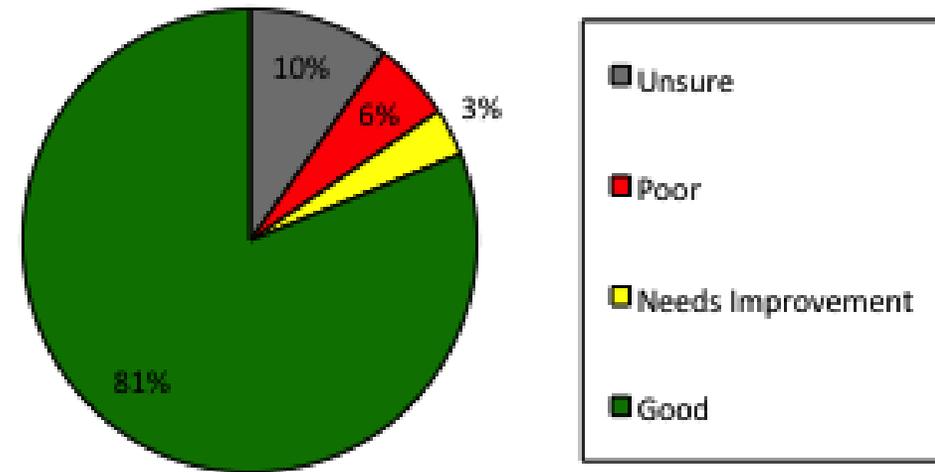
RESULTS- Food and Potable Water



RESULTS- Maintain Records

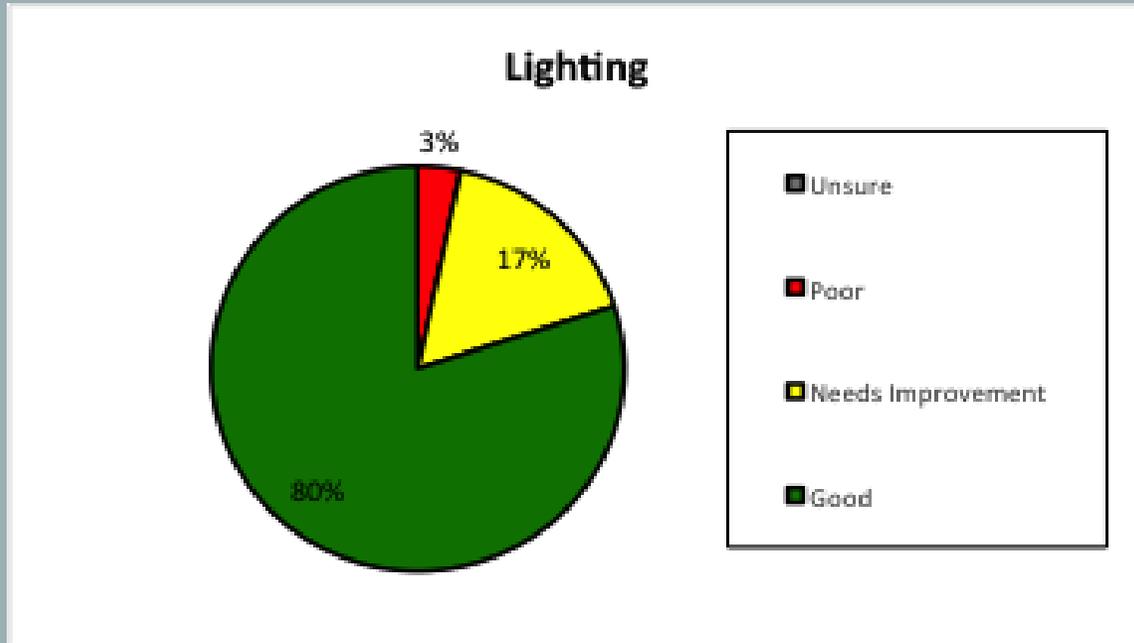


Maintain Records



- Poor- No records maintained
- Needs Improvement- Some records kept
- Good- Asked or visibly saw record keeping

RESULTS- Lighting



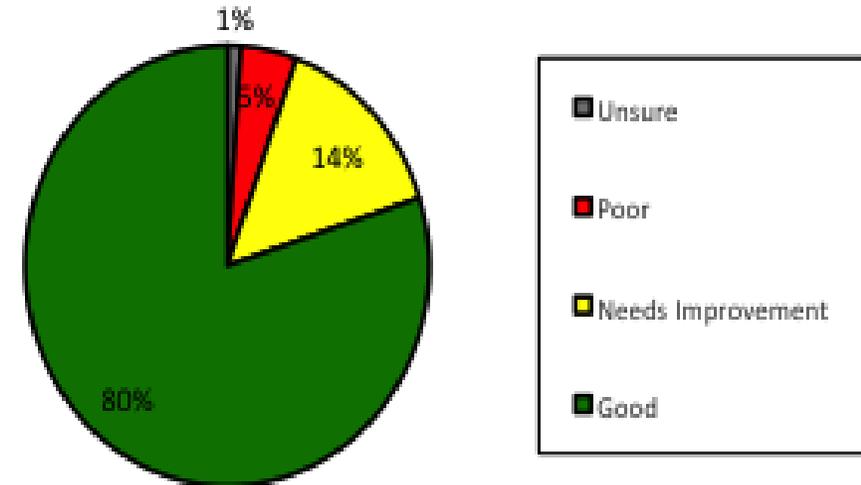
- **Poor**- Outside animals have no electric lighting and/or building has no lighting or electricity.
- **Needs Improvement**- Inside animals have sufficient lighting but outside animals do not.
- **Good**- Sufficient electric lighting for both outside and inside animals.



RESULTS- Adequate Space Individual Animal



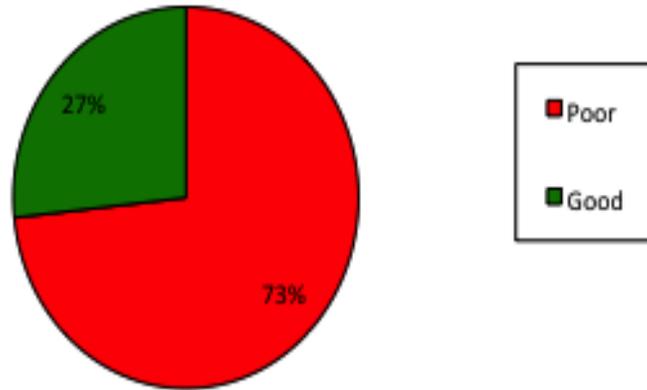
Adequate Space for Animals



- **Poor**- Animals can not stand or turn around without effort
- **Needs Improvement**- Some kennels have overcrowding of animals
- **Good**- All animals have enough room to move freely

RESULTS- Adequate Sized Shelter

Adequately Sized Shelters



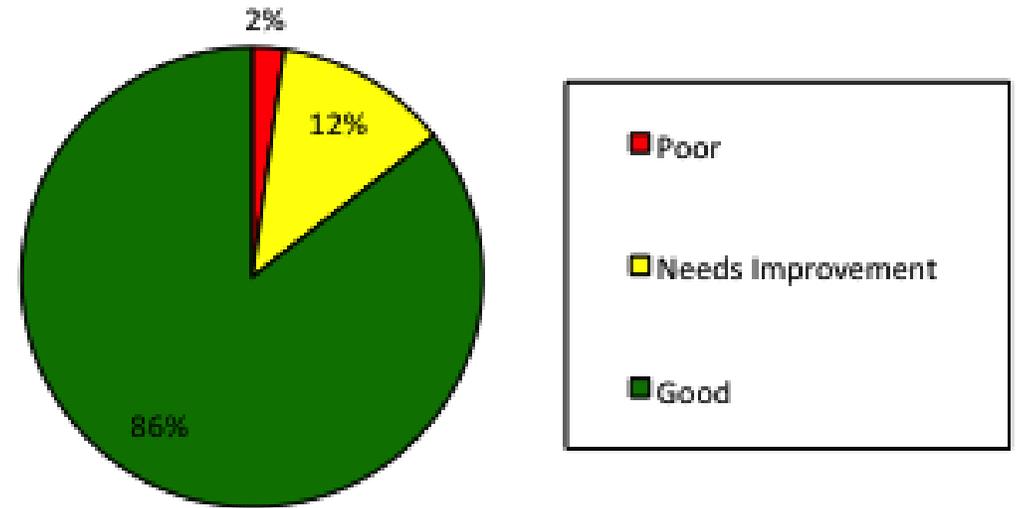
- **Poor**- Overcapacity
 - multiple animals per enclosure, animals housed in areas not designed for containment
- **Good**- Under capacity
 - Open kennels



RESULTS- Protection from the Weather



Protection From Weather



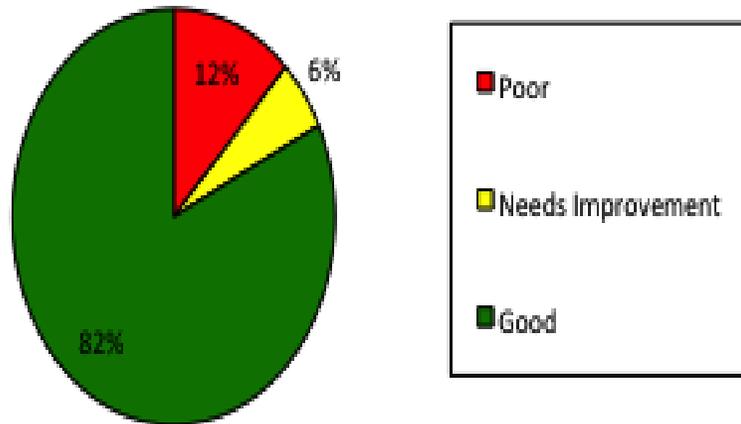
- **Poor**- Outside kennels with no roof or only protected by tarp
- **Needs Improvement**- Animals protected by structures such as dog house or shelter housed dogs indoor and outdoors
- **Good**- Indoor protection

RESULTS- Hours

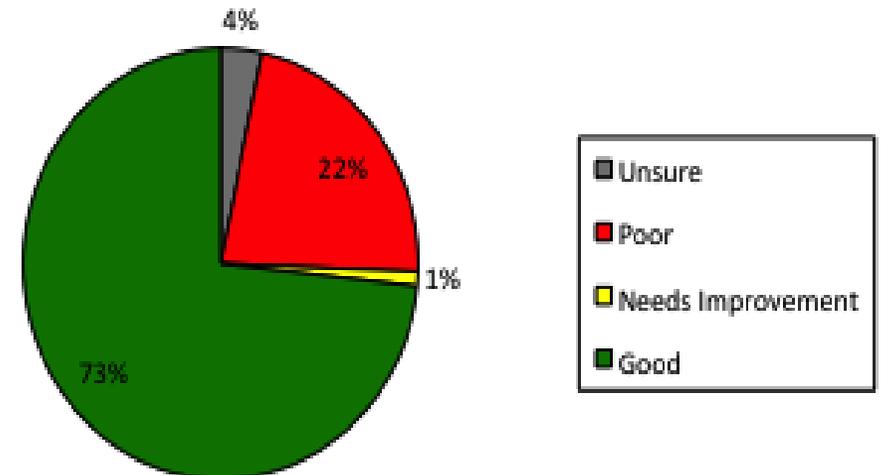
- **Poor**- Not open to public or open less than 24 hours per week
- **Needs Improvement**- Hours posted but not open when visited shelter
- **Good**- Open to the public for 24 hours or more per week

- **Poor**- Hours not posted on shelter building
- **Needs Improvement**- Hours posted but incorrect
- **Good**- Hours posted on shelter building.

Open 24 hours per week



Hours Posted

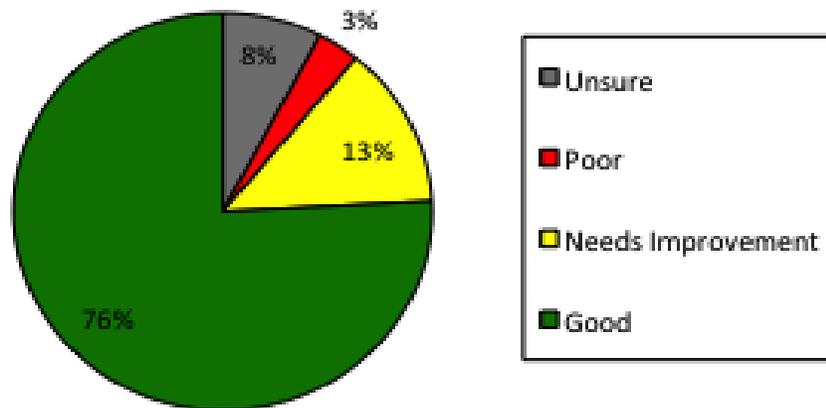


RESULTS- Proper Ventilation and Heat Provided

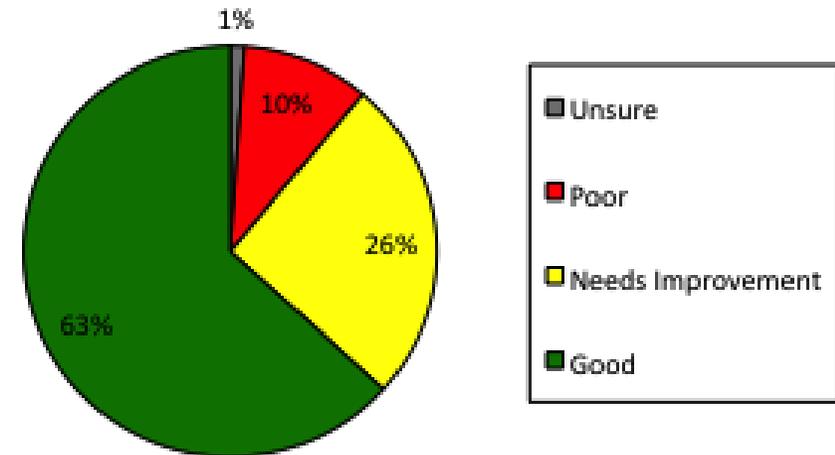
- **Poor**- No heat in winter
- **Needs Improvement**- Inside animals have heat but outside do not
- **Good**- Heat provided in winter to all animals

*Data collected by verbal questioning.

Heat Provided



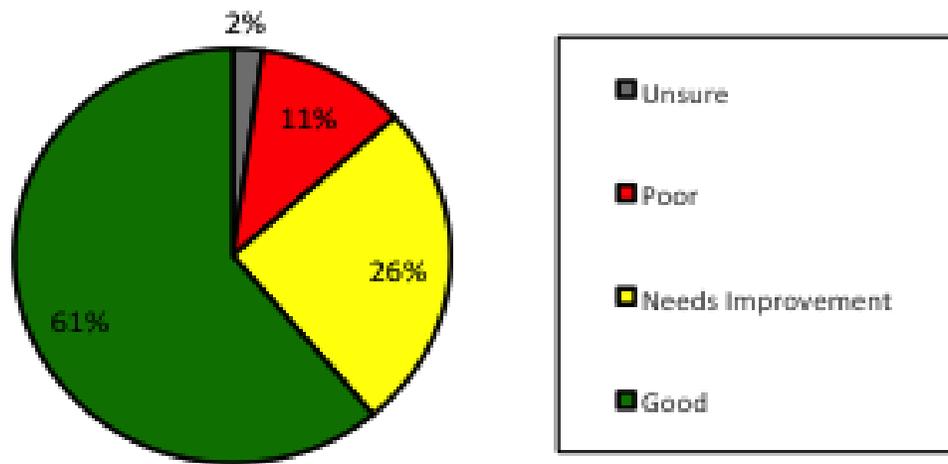
Proper Ventilation



- **Poor**- Closed room with no circulation
- **Needs Improvement**- Fans running or outside air is allowed in
- **Good**- Air movement felt and access to fresh outside air

RESULTS- Clean and Dry Pens

Clean and Dry Pens

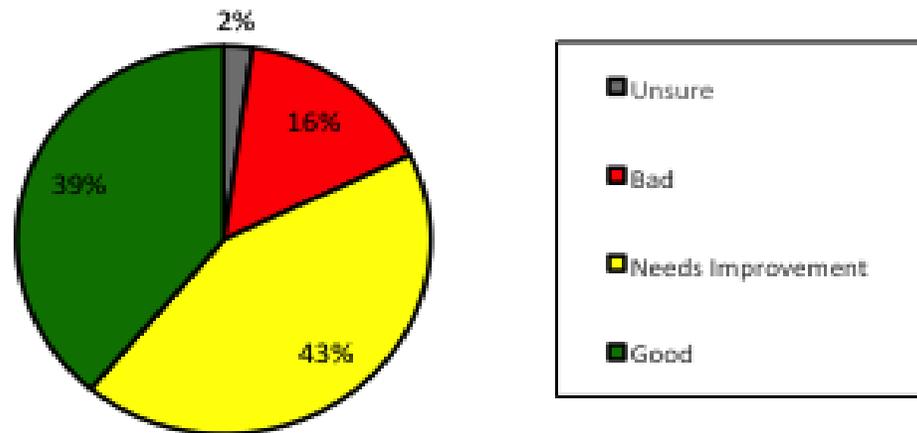


- **Poor**- Pens were neither clean nor dry
- **Needs Improvement**- Pens either not clean or not dry
- **Good**- Clean and dry



RESULTS- Building Materials Easily Cleaned and Disinfected

Building Materials Easily Cleaned



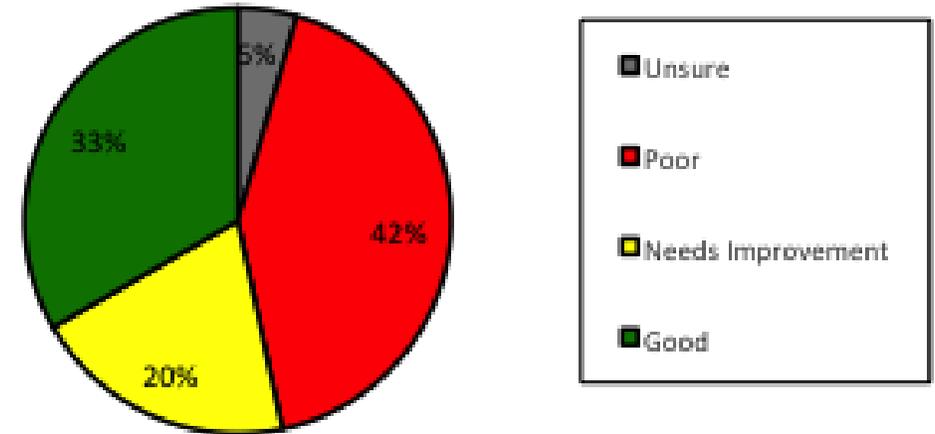
- **Poor**- Majority of floors not sealed and facility not easily cleaned or disinfected
 - Ex. Rusted cages
- **Needs Improvement**- Some cracks and paint chips on floors or non cleanable surfaces present
 - Ex. Wire cages
- **Good**- Floors sealed, and facility easily cleaned and disinfected.
 - Ex. Stainless steel cages



RESULTS- Quarantine



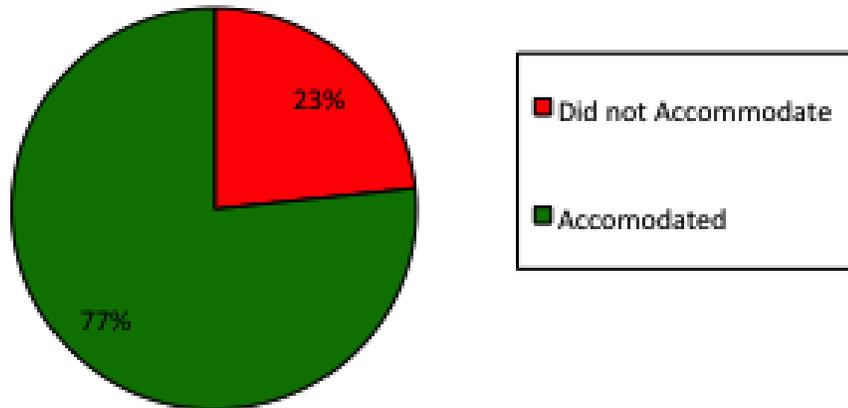
Quarantine



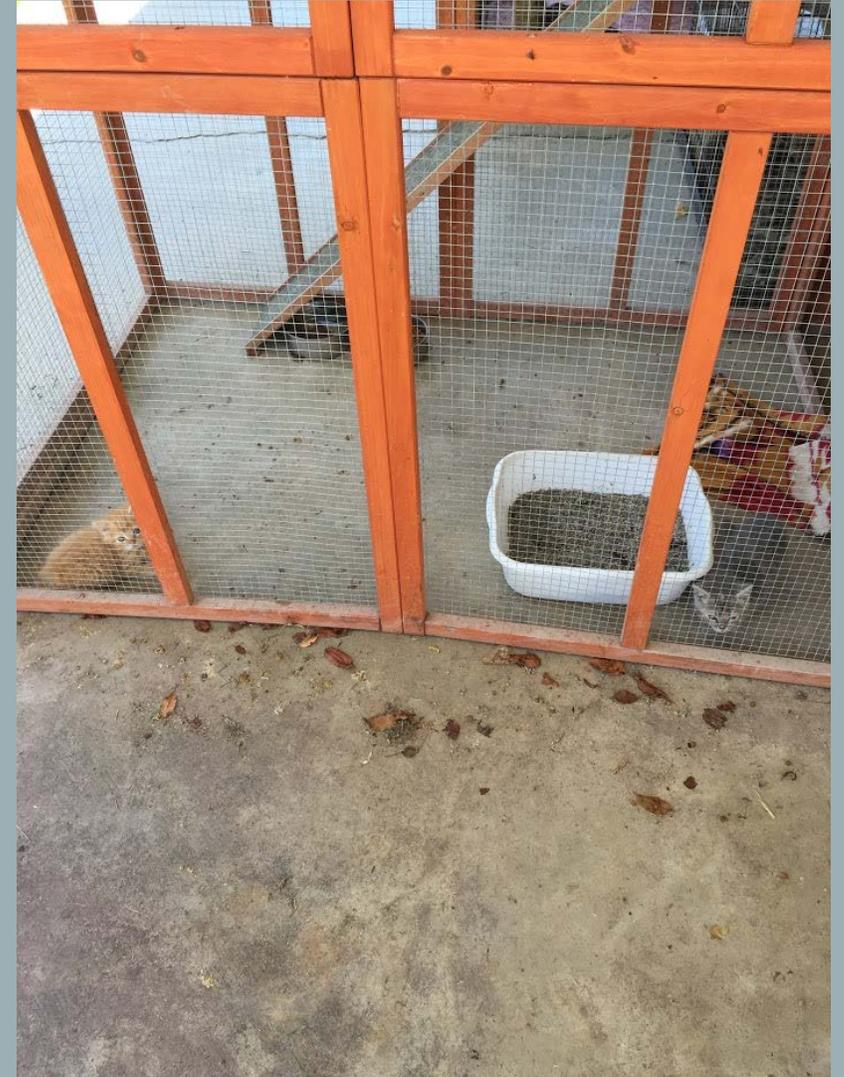
- **Poor**- No area for quarantine
- **Needs Improvement**- Quarantine but not isolated from other animals
 - Ex. Wire cages to keep other animals out
- **Good**- Quarantine area isolated from other animals.
 - Ex. Separate building or no access to other animals.

RESULTS- Cats in Shelter

Shelters that Accomodate Cats

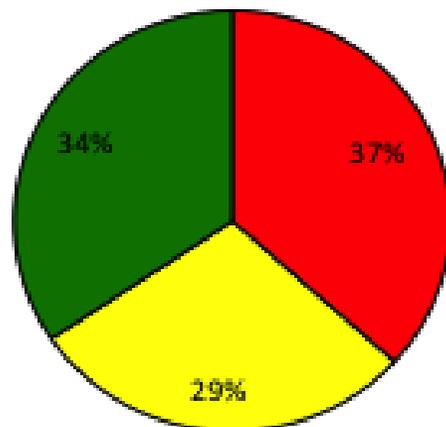


- Poor- Does not accommodate cats
- Good- Accommodates cats



RESULTS- Quality of Cat Area

Quality of Cat Areas



- Poor
- Needs Improvement
- Good

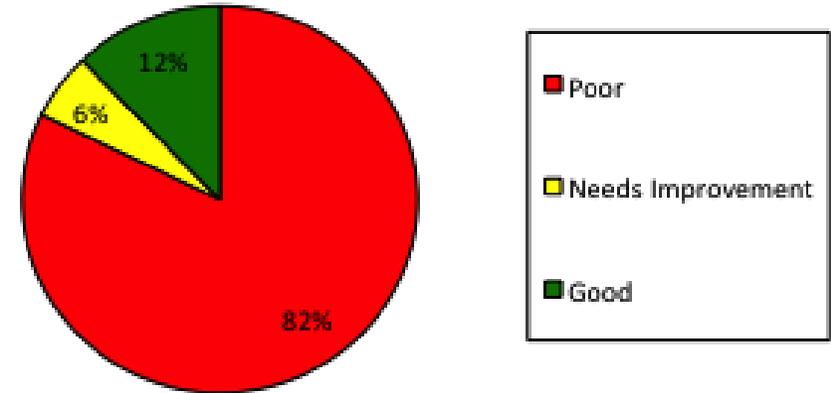
- **Poor**- Does not meet the humane shelter law standards for dogs
- **Needs Improvement**- Meets most shelter laws for dogs
- **Good**- Meets all shelter laws for dogs



RESULTS- Livestock in Shelter



Livestock/ Large Animal



- **Poor**- No area for livestock
- **Needs Improvement**- Improper area for livestock
- **Good**- Proper area for livestock
 - Size adequate for livestock housed

Common problems identified

- **Lack of funding**
- **Lack of education**
- **Inconsistent volunteers and workforce**

PROBLEM – PET OVERPOPULATION



- Lack of spay/ neuter programs
- Cat overpopulation
- Low local adoption rates



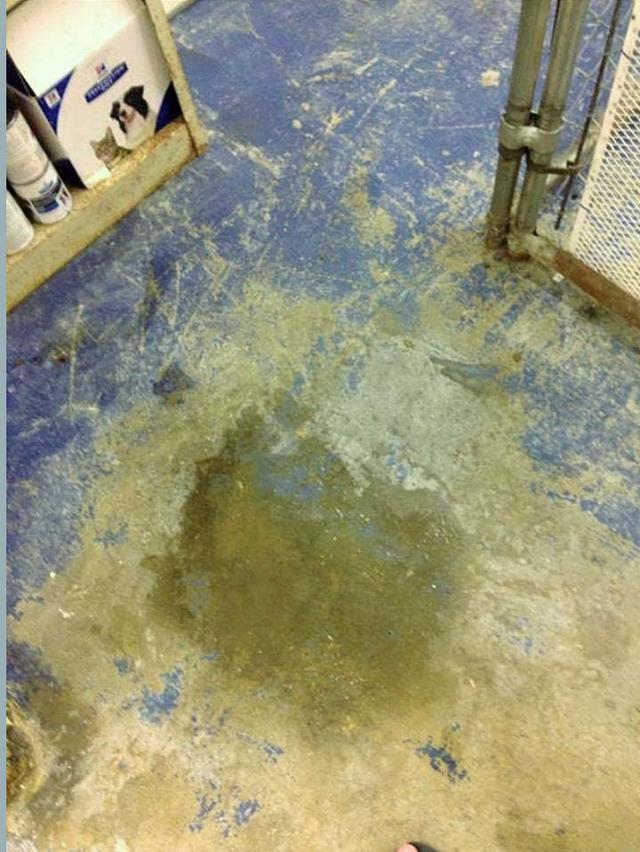
PROBLEM – LACK OF SPACE



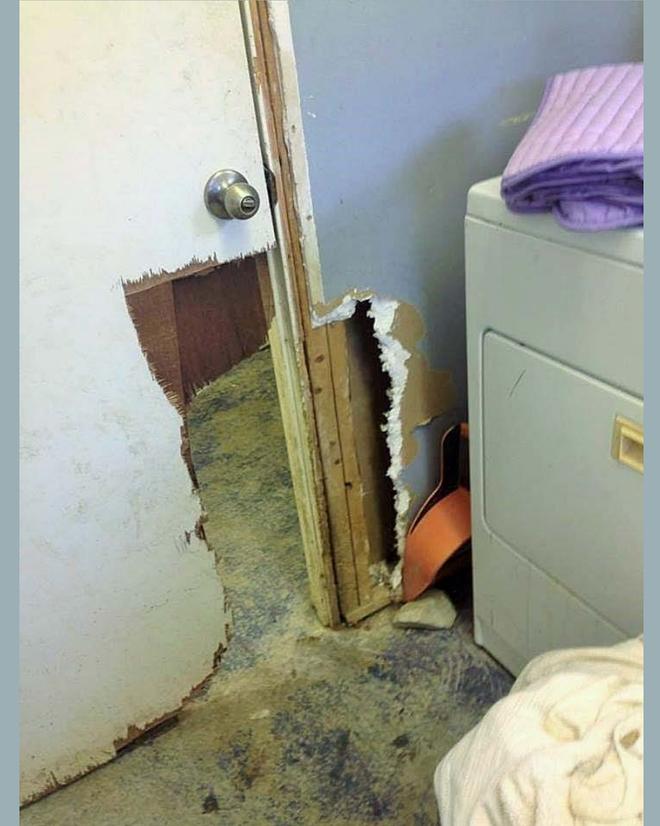
PROBLEM – INADEQUATE FACILITIES



Black mold on the ceiling



Constant water spot from ground water seepage



Laundry room used as overflow and dog chewed the drywall

PROBLEM- INADEQUATE FACILITIES



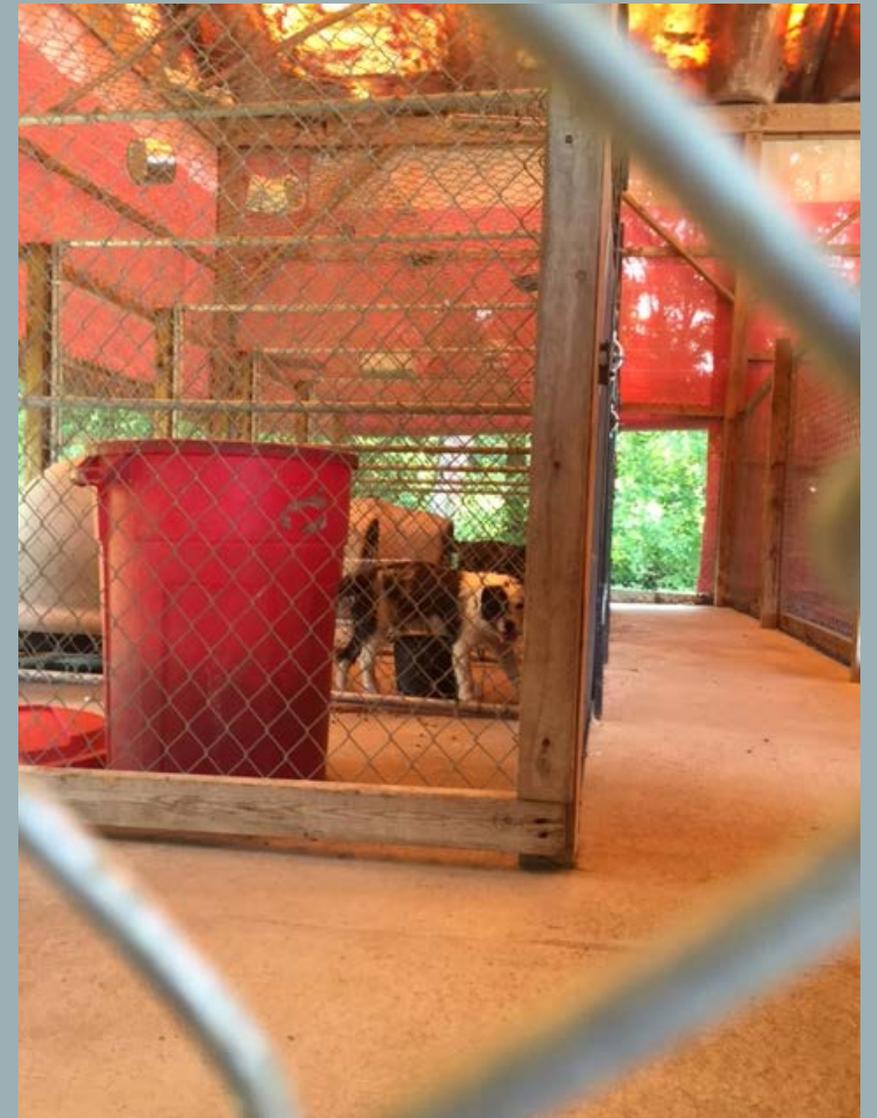
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PROBLEM – INADEQUATE FACILITIES



PROBLEM-LACK OF VETERINARY CARE



PROBLEM-LACK OF VETERINARY CARE



PROBLEM-LACK OF VETERINARY CARE



PROBLEM-LACK OF VETERINARY CARE



PROBLEM- NO SAFE AREA FOR PUPPIES



PROBLEM- Unclean Conditions



PROBLEM- Unclean Conditions



PROBLEM- Night Drop Off



A NUMBER OF GOOD SHELTERS IDENTIFIED



A NUMBER OF GOOD SHELTERS IDENTIFIED



A NUMBER OF GOOD SHELTERS IDENTIFIED



RESULTS- GOOD SHELTERS



A NUMBER OF GOOD SHELTERS IDENTIFIED



Model Shelters- Alphabetized

- Animal House Adoption Center- Jefferson
- Boone County Animal Shelter
- Bowling Green Warren County Humane Society
- Grant County Animal Shelter
- Hardin County Animal Shelter
- Humane Society of Henderson County
- Humane Society of Nelson County
- Jessamine County Animal Care and Control
- Kenton County Animal Shelter
- Knox-Whitley Animal Shelter
- Lexington Humane Society
- Logan County Animal Shelter
- McCracken County Humane Society
- Mayfield- Graves County Animal Shelter
- Nelson County Animal Shelter
- Oldham County Animal Control
- Owensboro Animal Control- Davies
- Paris Animal Welfare - Bourbon
- Pike County Animal Shelter
- Scott County Animal Shelter
- Shelby County Animal Shelter
- Tri-County Animal Shelter- Rowan, Bath, Carter, Fleming counties
- Union County Animal Shelter
- Webster County Dog Pound

Shelters that need the most help

1. Fulton County Animal Shelter
2. Carlisle County Animal Shelter
3. Tri-County Animal Shelter –
Clinton, Wayne, Cumberland
counties (Albany, KY)
4. Garrard County Animal Shelter
5. Kentucky River Regional Animal
Shelter
6. Spencer County Animal Shelter
7. Martin County Animal Shelter
8. Greenup County Animal Shelter
9. Estill County Animal Shelter
10. Crittenden County Animal Shelter
11. Marion County Animal Shelter
12. Green River Animal Shelter
13. Ballard County Animal Control
14. Robertson County Animal Shelter
15. Floyd County Animal Shelter
16. Breckinridge County Animal Shelter
17. Anderson County Animal Shelter
18. Butler County Animal Shelter
19. Muhlenberg County Animal Shelter
20. Lincoln County Animal Shelter
21. Clark County Animal Shelter
22. Ward Vet Clinic (Hickman)
23. Caldwell County Animal Shelter
24. McLean County Animal Shelter
25. Morgan County Animal Shelter
26. Rockcastle County Animal Shelter

PLANS GOING FORWARD



Publish and present our findings so they may influence legislation and change Kentucky animal shelter standards

Education of school-aged children through educational magazines to teach the importance of humane and compassionate animal care and husbandry and the importance of spaying and neutering.

Provide shelter staff with information about available grants and animal care education programs

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Lincoln Memorial University

University of Kentucky

Morehead State University

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