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**Shelter Crisis**

**Talking Points**

**STAFFING SHORTAGES** (data supplied by Best Friends Animal Society, Human Animal Support Services)

* 88% of shelters noted that they were short on staffing
* 57% have cut hours or programs due to short staffing
* 41% are operating at a 25% staff loss
* 62% of shelters are operating more than 10% below normal staffing levels
	+ Government shelters and private shelters with government contracts are more impacted than other shelter types
* 7,000 national shelter veterinarian shortage as more vet graduates choose private practice over shelter medicine
* Due to understaffing, most organizations say staff are more stressed than usual
	+ Many are unable to carry out regular operations such as:
		- Hosting major adoption events
		- Supplying enough veterinary support
		- Maintaining regular hours with public access
		- Providing as much sufficient adoption/foster support and animal care as they would like

**EVICATION AND UNSTABLE** **HOUSING** (data supplied by Humane Society of the United States)

* 11 million pets are at risk with the current eviction moratorium
* 72% of national renters own at least one pet

**DECREASE IN ADOPTERS, FOSTERS** (data supplied by BISSELL Pet Foundation, Best Friends Animal Society, Pet Health)

* 30-50% drop in adoptions
* 59% of public who have been considering adopting are delaying the process because of returning to the office, taking vacations, starting a new job and more
* More animals are in foster care, but they are not getting into foster at the same rate as pre- and mid-pandemic periods

**INCREASE IN ANIMAL INTAKES**, **EUTHANASIA** - comparing June 2021 to June 2020 (data supplied by PetHealth)

* 23.7% increase in cat euthanasia and 30.2% increase in dog euthanasia
* 6.1% increase in cat intakes
* 13.3% increase in dog intakes
* 22.4% increase in dog seizures by law enforcement agencies
* 8.5% and 7.7% increase in owner surrenders of dogs and cats respectively