



Intake-to-Placement FAQs

Why Intake-to-Placement?

Animal shelters should only house animals that truly need kennelled for safety or medical reasons. All other animals should be moved to alternative placement as quickly as possible. If shelters implement I2P programs, they can dramatically reduce the length of time animals spend in the shelter, ultimately decreasing the number of animals housed in shelter on any given day by 50% or more.

What are the challenges of starting and running an I2P program?

Overall, this program is almost all positive. You may find the number of animals you place in foster homes requires additional support for those foster caregivers and you may also have to schedule intake appointments for people who foster stray and lost pets that are not reclaimed, which can create extra workload.

What does a successful I2P program look like?

The more you invest in terms of time, organization and dedication to this program the more return on investment you will see in your data. If your program is successful you will see a drop in the average length of stay and a more significant drop in the length of stay for the populations of animals the program is focused on. You will see more animals housed in foster and heading to rescue placement on the day of their arrival, and you're likely to see an overall reduction in the number of animals housed at the facility in general. You will also see animals claimed as 'pre-adopts' while they are on a hold period.

Troubleshooting?

Difficulty finding fosters

Until recently, foster care has been viewed as a niche program that was useful for a small subset of pets. Due to the small number of pets placed in foster homes, the seasonal nature of pets' births and lack of time, most organizations have only recruited fosters when absolutely necessary. Placing pets into foster homes directly upon intake requires a much more [comprehensive](#) approach to foster recruitment. Organizations must create a year-round foster recruitment plan that includes multiple strategies for extending the invitation to foster to all segments of their communities.