

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 6, 2015

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Dwaine R. Caraway (Chair)
Sandy Greyson (Vice Chair), Adam Medrano, Rick Callahan, Carolyn R. Davis, Lee M. Kleinman

SUBJECT Dallas Animal Shelter Commission's FY2013-14 Annual Report

On Monday, February 9, 2015, the Quality of Life & Environment committee will be briefed on the Dallas Animal Shelter Commission's FY2013-14 Annual Report by Mary Spencer, Chair of the Dallas Animal Shelter Commission. The briefing and annual report are attached for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joey Zapata".

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council



Dallas Animal Shelter Commission's FY2013 – 14 Annual Report

Presented to the Quality of Life &
Environment Committee

February 9, 2015





DALLAS ANIMAL SERVICES

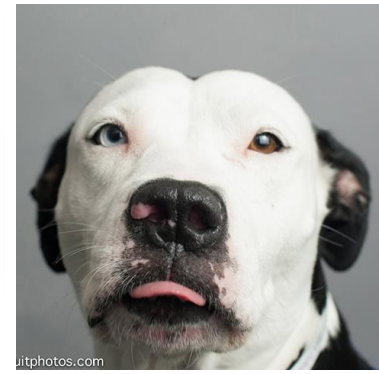
ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2013 - 2014

Live Release Rate

45.6 % - A New Record

8,192 Adoptions A New Record

1,686 Returns to Owner A New Record



Empty the Shelter Day – 149 adoptions in One Day



"Peanut"
Lost a leg but found the perfect home



City of Dallas



Pets for Life Program touched over 1,000 pets & people



Animal Shelter Commission Priorities for FY 2014 - 15

- Further our guidance and support of our community and DAS' efforts toward sustainable programs which address the issues pertaining to animals in our communities, as we help continue the increased growth of the shelter's **Live Release Rate** - through increasing partnerships, community outreach, adoptions, returns to owners, transfers to other non-profit animal welfare organizations and enforcement efforts.
- Support Dallas citizens through Outreach Efforts in working towards a sustainable solution to the loose neighborhood dog issues.
- Continue to actively engage City Council with the Quality of Life issues for animals and people. Work strategically together in achieving these mutual goals and to obtain the necessary funding to obtain the goals for both the Field and Shelter initiatives that our community demands.

The transformation of DAS is beginning its 4th year.

Shelter Successes include:

- **Adoptions are up higher than ever!** 1,385 more animals found homes!
The PetSmart EAC set national records for most animals adopted!
- **LRR continues to climb.** 45.6% for FY 2014/14 – an increase of 12% from FY 2009/10 when new management team began. Definitely a gain from 2007-08, at 13% LRR.
- **Almost 10,000 animals were altered at DAS.** This figure includes every adopted pet from the shelter and those pets belonging to owners needing free surgeries which were provided at Spay Days at DAS!
- **Many Outreach services** such as low cost vaccine clinics have been offered to pet owners in low-income area, providing free resources, which help these owners be able to keep their pets at home and not surrender to the shelter.
- **Over a million dollars in grants** have been awarded to DAS from local and national organizations as a result of this work.

**The Community supports and funds saving lives.
We, the City, must fund Animal Control.**

Field Initiatives and the Loose / Wandering Dog Issues in Dallas

Critical to the success of the Mayor's "**Grow South**" plan is "Culture of Clean" and Strengthening the Neighborhoods by helping others out and creating a culture of accountability.

Strategies which were Enhanced to Reduce Loose Dogs Substantially

- Smart Sweep vs. old way of thinking of "Round Ups" of Loose Dogs
- HSUS Pets for Life (PFL) Outreach Program launched in 75216
- Work with the 311 call system to capture valuable info. to enhance effectiveness
- Big Fix for Big D – Free Spay Neuter Program to include officer incentives
- Community Networking Programs
- Crime Watch and Neighborhood Association Intervention
- Technology assessment to enhance efficiencies

It will take focused community efforts to solve this decade-old problem of loose dogs in a long-term substantial manner.

Providing DAS with the tools to collect accurate and consistent data regarding the loose / wandering dog issues is essential to meet our goals.

***Computers and software must communicate and work together,
not as stand alone programs.***

- **If the City is serious about resolving systemic issues with animals which have plagued the Dallas community, they must commit the resources.**
- **Continuing to use “hand-me-down” computers and archaic software will not provide the information needed to address the issues in effective ways.**

Establish the infrastructure consistent with other priority response departments and reporting data in similar formatting to the Police Department’s data, in a similar format to gauge the successes of community policing in animal control – thus keeping all reporting consistent, fluid and easy to analyze and compared; which , then could to be more effectively presented at Crime Watch and HOA meetings.

What is *SUCCESS*?

City Council, the Commission and the Community must reach common ground on what is determined to mean “Success”.

- Some want more lives saved and to stop EU of healthy and treatable animals.
- Some want loose dogs off the streets – even though many of these animals are owned by neighbors who don’t abide by the city’s ordinances.

**WE MUST MAKE A COMMITMENT TO OUR CITIZENS
AND THOSE OF US IN THE COMMUNITY WORKING DAY AND NIGHT
TO MAKE THIS SITUATION BETTER**

A decision must be made to make this a priority for the City. We must demonstrate that commitment to “success” by the Council and City Administration, declaring this a priority through actions and funding for DAS rather than unrealistic demands of existing resources.

- Adequate funding for operations to support acceptable Live Release Rates
- Adequate funding for staff to support the operations of both the shelter services and field services which will make Dallas proud.
- The Nation and Dallas have made a commitment to the community policing model and the Commission believes that commitment to this model and the associated resources for both Dallas’ pet over-population and people issues could be solved, thus resulting in a higher and better quality of life for all.

**Which could mean *“No More Loose Dog Reports to Councilmembers!”*
Resulting in Better Sleep for ALL!**

Commission's Role in the Budget Process

2013-14 was the second year of Commission lobbying to Council for additional funding.

Code requested an additional \$1.47M and thanks to Council and City Manager support, DAS received \$1.2M.

The Commission will continue to attend Neighborhood Association and Town Hall sessions and meet with Council to discuss the budget and request additional funds.

We are excited about city management changes.

Kris Sweckard working with DAS.

Joey Zapata back - over-seeing Animal Control.

We thank them for their efforts in helping DAS and understanding the issues - working with us for sustainable solutions.



PETS FOR LIFE & GROW SOUTH KICK-OFF

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Beckley Saner Recreation Center
Dallas, Texas

450 Pet owners

283 Pets Vaccinated

154 Pets Microchipped

875 lbs. of Pet Food Given Away

202 Spay/Neuter Vouchers Given Out

100+ Tennis Balls Rehomed

67 AWESOME volunteers!





**THANK YOU for YOUR SUPPORT
from the Pets
and the People of Dallas
It Takes a Community!**

