

June 2016 Animal Services Report

Animal Center News

- The live outcome rate was 96 percent.
- City of Austin Council Member Sherri Gallo presented on June 9 a proclamation recognizing the work and dedication of Austin Animal Services staff.
- Austin Animal Services and Travis County staff met with regional, municipal stakeholders on June 20 to discuss challenges and solutions to issues in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County. The group agreed to meet on a quarterly basis, and a closed Facebook page was created for stakeholders to communicate in a timely fashion and to share ideas and solutions.
- An updated stray hold ordinance was adopted by the Austin City Council. The amended ordinance allows pets to be transferred to an approved rescue partner during the stray hold period in order to save the pet's life and also creates a seven-day 'kill hold' period so no animal, stray or surrendered, can be killed for seven days unless that animal is medically suffering. Here is a link to the final, approved ordinance:
<http://austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=257526>
- The World Animal Awareness Society visited Austin to film for an upcoming documentary about stray dogs in America.
- The first-ever offsite playgroup adoption event was held at Roscoe Properties. Nine play group rock stars attended, and more events are planned.
- A 'Name Your Adoption Fee' promotion resulted in 123 adoptions over a four-day period, and a 'Fee Waived Cats' promotion resulted in 130 cat and kitten adoptions over a seven-day period.
- The Facebook group 'Austin Lost and Found Pets Page' is an all-volunteer group helping to reunite lost pets with their owners. The page reached 10,000 followers in June and is instrumental in helping to reduce the number of stray animals entering the shelter.
- Two additional play yards, with funding from Animal Farm Foundation, were installed at Austin Animal Center's Levander Loop location.
- The Operations Manager at El Paso Animal Services spent two days in Austin, shadowing staff at Austin Animal Center. El Paso leadership is dedicated to making El Paso a No Kill community.

Personnel

- The two dog enrichment and exercise specialist positions and the dog volunteer coordinator position have been filled. These positions are two-year, limited term and are funded by a grant from Maddie's Fund.
- Administrative Manager, Chery Henderson, left her position in early July. The position will be advertised as an organization engagement manager.

- Austin Animal Center (AAC) is in the process of hiring a human resources manager.
- Beth Sain started as the newest animal protection officer. She has a background as a veterinarian tech and worked in animal protection in another city.

Animal Care and Enrichment

- There were 15 play groups held with 117 different dogs participating.
- 106 dogs were evaluated in play groups, and total time dogs spent in play group was 176 hours.
- All animal care and enrichment staff, as well as customer service staff working in the dog kennels, have been given and instructed to wear pouches containing pet corrector interruption tools and treats. These pouches were provided by Dogs Out Loud.

Veterinarian Services

- Veterinarians treated 101 emergency cases at AAC and received 99 arrivals from the emergency clinic.
- They performed 555 spay/neuter surgeries and 41 other surgeries.
- Veterinarians oversaw 93 animals in rabies quarantine.
- They performed five exams for cruelty cases.

Field Services (Animal Protection and Outreach)

- Animal protection officers responded to 1,324 priority 1 calls.
- They conducted 168 bite investigations and picked up 295 injured or sick animals.
- Animal protection obtained a new stock trailer for transporting livestock. This was identified as a need in previous flooding events.
- Animal protection officers worked with the Travis County Sheriff's Office to investigate a dog bite fatality in northeast Travis County.
- Twenty-two owned pets and 89 community cats were spayed or neutered through outreach efforts.
- The outreach team facilitated three responsible pet ownership classes, attended five events, and conducted two tours.
- Field Services launched an intensive pet identification campaign in anticipation of the July 4 holiday. The campaign included posters, social media and ID tag events to help facilitate the return of pets who may become lost due to fireworks and celebrations. Over 250 posters were hung at fireworks stands and other locations in the community. Over 450 community pets received free ID tags in the two weeks leading up to the July 4 holiday.

Volunteer, Foster and Rescue Programs

- 12 new volunteer info sessions were conducted with 133 potential volunteers attending.
- 438 volunteers served 4,071 hours, and 11 groups served 184 hours.
- Seven community service volunteers served 116 hours.
- The foster program processed 185 new foster care provider applications in June.
- As of July 1, there were 847 approved foster families and 4,653 animals housed in 321 foster homes.
- 46 foster families attended orientation.
- 55 cats went through the community cat (shelter-neuter-return) program.
- 359 animals were pulled by 20 rescue groups.
- The total number of approved AAC transfer partners as of July 1 is 154.
- The total number of animals transferred to rescue in June 2016 was 359, and the total number transferred in June of 2015 was 667.

Media Coverage

Austin Animal Center resumes emergency operations, Shelter at capacity:

<http://www.twcnews.com/tx/austin/news/2016/06/3/austin-animal-center-resumes-emergency-operations--shelter-at-capacity.html>

AAC creates coloring book to mark five years of No Kill policy:

<http://pets.blog.austin360.com/2016/06/28/austin-animal-center-creates-coloring-book-to-mark-5-years-of-no-kill-policy/>

Cat adoption fees waived:

<http://kxan.com/2016/06/27/fees-waived-for-cat-kitten-adoptions-at-austin-animal-center/>

<http://www.kvue.com/news/local/austin-animal-center-waives-adoption-fee-for-cats-this-week/257640873>

17 Cat Memes that will have you running to the Austin Animal Center:

<http://austin.com/17-cat-memes-that-will-have-you-running-to-austin-animal-center-to-adopt-a-feline-friend/>

Zero Adoption Fees for Cats and Kittens at the Austin Animal Center:

<http://texashillcountry.com/free-cats-austin/>

Community News: Austin Animal Center waives feline fees:

<http://www.mystatesman.com/news/news/local/community-news-austin-animal-center-waives-feline-nrpwf/>

Austin Animal Center tackles misperception of No Kill Policy:

<http://www.kvue.com/news/local/austin-animal-services-tackles-misperception-of-no-kill/252681007>

Austin Animal Center closing early July 4:

<http://www.newsradioklbi.com/news/austin-local-news/austin-animal-center-closing-july-4th>

Fireworks and Neighborhood Pets, Nextdoor COA post, city wide:

<https://nacawest.nextdoor.com/agency-post/tx/austin/city-of-austin/fireworks-and-neighborhood-pets-28075769>

Kitten Possibly Stolen from Austin Animal Center:

<http://kxan.com/2016/06/21/kitten-possibly-stolen-from-austin-animal-center/>

Friends of the Austin Animal Center

- The Classic Canines of Austin served 94 dogs, with 16 adoptions.
- The Hard Luck Hounds served 17 dogs, and two were adopted.
- The Desperate Housecats served 89 cats, and 31 were adopted.
- Paw Aid served four animals and helped to divert intake to one dog.