

April 2017 Animal Services Report

Animal Center News

- The year-to-date live outcome rate is 98.2 percent.
- Chief Animal Services Officer Tawny Hammond accepted a position with Best Friends Animal Society as the Regional Director for the Midwest. Best Friends has set a goal of helping the nation get to No Kill by the year 2025, and Tawny will be joining the Best Friends leadership team in those efforts.
- Deputy Chief Lee Ann Shenefiel has been appointed Interim Chief Animal Services Officer by Interim City Manager Elaine Hart.
- Community meetings were held as follows: District 7, Council Member Pool, April 3; District 3, Council Member Renteria, April 15; District 8, Council Member Troxclair, April 18; District 4, Council Member Casar, April 27.
- Austin Animal Center (AAC) held its second annual Easter Egg Hunt for the pets, with cats, dogs and bunnies getting to participate along with staff, volunteers and members of the public.
- Dogs spent 580 hours in playgroups with 1,003 dogs rotating through playgroups; 150 new dogs were evaluated, and 124 dogs were paired.
- The center inventory has remained at its lowest in history, with an average of 600 pets in care the care of AAC in April.
- Austin Animal Center has been approved to host 30 additional students for the adult dog foster apprenticeship. Twenty-five apprentices from around the country have already attended. Apprentices learn to start adult dog foster programs at their centers.

Veterinary Services

- Veterinarians treated 89 emergency cases, performed 254 spay/neuter surgeries, and nine orthopedic surgeries.
- Eighty pets completed rabies quarantine.
- Veterinarians treated four cruelty cases.

Field Services (Animal Protection and Outreach)

- Animal protection ran 2791 activities, issued 115 citations, investigated 228 bite reports, and assisted four dog owners with fencing.
- The City of Austin's Saltillo International Sister Cities Committee hosted delegates from the city of Saltillo here in Austin, April 7 - 9. Staff gave a presentation and tour of the Animal Center to the Animal Services representatives from Saltillo.

- Officers responded to a raccoon that tested positive for rabies in western Travis County. This involved potential exposure of 20 animals that are now quarantined in place on the property. Some of the livestock have to remain on the property for six months. Officers canvassed the area making contact with more than 30 home owners, sharing information about rabies and the State law for rabies vaccinations. No other at-risk pets or live stock were found.
- The Out Reach Team participated in numerous television and radio events promoting animal welfare in the community.
- Regular adoption events are being planned with new retail partners who will allow us to have the mobile adoption unit on site on a regular basis. We have also restarted the
- *Third Fursday* events at Austin City hall have been reinstated. Animals available for adoption are transported to City Hall every third Thursday of the month, allowing for promotion of Animal Services.

Volunteer, Foster and Rescue Programs

- A total of 395 volunteers donated 5,769 service hours during the month of April.
- A total of 33 one-time volunteer groups gave 701 hours of service to the center.
- Fifteen Community Service Restitution volunteers contributed 99.5 hours.
- The Volunteer Program facilitated 10 New Volunteer Information Sessions, introducing 98 individuals to the AAC organization and volunteer opportunities.
- A total of 429 animals were placed in foster, and 70 pets were adopted directly from foster.
- A total of 183 families fosters and 75 new applications were processed. There are currently 1,044 approved, active fosters.

Dogs Out Loud

- Held Mutts and Meows, three group training classes, and a Wine and Woof event for volunteers
- Hosted two, on site Tellington Touch classes.
- Provided in-home and group classes for long stay dogs; provided group classes for post-adoption support
- Held Easter Egg hunt group class and helped market long stay AAC dogs