

# Memorandum



DATE August 21, 2009

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life Committee: Pauline Medrano (Chair), Vonciel Jones Hill (Vice Chair), Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Sheffie Kadane, David A. Neumann, Steve Salazar

SUBJECT Dallas Animal Services Update

Last year the Quality of Life Committee was briefed periodically on issues related to Code Compliance. We will continue to provide Code briefings this year. On Tuesday, August 25, 2009, you will be given an update on Dallas Animal Services.

If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.



Forest E. Turner  
Assistant City Manager

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah A. Watkins, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Judge C. Victor Lander, Judiciary  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
David K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager

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# Dallas Animal Services Update

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Presented to the Quality of Life & Government  
Services Committee  
August 25, 2009



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# Purpose

- To provide an update on:
  - Dallas Animal Services operations
  - Education & Outreach Efforts
  - Changes to the Cruelty Investigations Unit

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# Animal Services Operations Update

- In March 2009, statistics from October 2008 – February 2009 were presented
- The following are statistics from March 2009 – July 2009:
  - 7,463 dogs caught; 3% decrease over the same time last year
  - 3,794 dogs were turned in to the shelter; 7% increase over same time last year
  - 1,028 dogs and cats adopted; 11% increase over the same time last year
  - 395 Spay/Neuter applications approved; 43% increase over the same time last year
  - Loose/Aggressive Service Requests down 22%
- Spay/Neuter Clinic opened in July 2009
  - 112 dogs and 20 cats have been sterilized
  - Sterilizations performed on adopted animals only
  - Permits adopters to take their new companions home the same day

# Animal Services Operations Update

## **FY 07-08 YTD** **(10/1/07 – 7/31/08)**

- 27,126 dogs and cats impounded
- 1,667 dogs and cats adopted
- 2,410 were transferred to rescue groups
- 1,575 were reclaimed by their owner

## **FY 08-09 YTD** **(as of July 31)**

- 27,907 dogs and cats impounded
- 2,087 dogs and cats adopted
- 2,422 were transferred to rescue groups
- 2,120 were reclaimed by their owner

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# Loose Dog Initiatives

- Southern Dallas/District 2 Loose Dog Pick-up
  - April 6 – May 1, 2009
    - 597 animals picked up (503 dogs, 94 cats)
    - 225 citations issued
  - August 3 – August 31, 2009
    - To address loose dog problems before school starts
    - As of August 19, 2009
      - 264 animals picked up (221 dogs, 43 cats)
      - 38 citations issued
      - Approximately 1,700 educational brochures distributed
- District 5 – focus on loose dogs
  - August 17 - August 28, 2009
  - 48 animals picked up (46 dogs, 2 cats), as of August 20th
  - 17 citations issued

# Education and Outreach Efforts

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# Education & Outreach

Since March 2009:

- Participated in local events, such as:
  - Dog Bowl at the Cotton Bowl, Oak Cliff Earth Day, Johnston Elementary Career Fair
- Presented information at community events & schools
- Conducted environmental tours of the shelter
- Taught weekly Responsible Pet Ownership classes in English and Spanish
- Held monthly open house events at the shelter
  - Hosting a workshop for DISD Pre-K – 8th grade science teachers on August 29
    - Several city departments have been invited to:
      - Conduct 20 minute mini-lessons on environmental topics: pet responsibilities and their impact on the environment, water pollution, water conservation, recycling, air quality
      - Provide lesson plans and activities for the teachers to use in their classrooms



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# Education & Outreach

- **Microchip Clinics**
  - Held every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at the shelter
  - Since March, 157 microchips have been issued
  
- **Registration & Vaccination Clinics**
  - New initiative to take these services to the communities and increase registrations
  - Hold regular clinics throughout the week at the shelter
  - Hold periodic clinics at park and recreation centers and community events
  - Scheduled to begin in October 2009
  
- **Continue volunteer recruitment**
  - Held 5 volunteer orientations since March
  - Increased from 7 to 23 volunteers with almost 400 volunteer hours worked

# Review of Animal Cruelty Investigations Unit

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# Cruelty Investigations Unit

- Reviewed Cruelty Investigations process and made the following changes to the Cruelty Unit
  - Reassigned four officers with general duties to work cruelty investigations full-time
  - Dedicated one supervisor to manage the unit
  - Implemented a plan to rotate officers to ensure consistent and thorough investigations
  - Reviewed and revised all cruelty investigation policies and directives
- Provided mandatory refresher training for all animal services officers who respond to service requests
  - Developed a cruelty investigations check list to assist responding officers and ensure proper resolution of cases