

# Dallas Animal Services and Adoption Center Operations

Animal Control Strategies

*Presented to the Quality of Life and*

*Government Services Committee*

*September 24, 2007*



**City of Dallas**

# Purpose

To provide:

- A discussion of operations at the Dallas Animal Services and Adoption Center
- An examination of Animal Control Strategies
- A discussion of recent changes in State law and City ordinances

# Overview

- The Department of Code Compliance is a General Fund department with 394 employees and a proposed budget of \$25.7 million
- Three Divisions:
  - General Code Division
  - Nuisance Abatement and Multi-Tenant Programs
  - Dallas Animal Services

## Proposed FY 07-08 Budget Summary

Neighborhood Services (General Code)	\$11,094,797
Animal Services	\$ 7,030,726
Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement	\$ 3,969,193
Multi-Tenant Program	\$ 2,705,319
Relocation Assistance	\$ 896,514
Reimbursements	<u>\$( 1,175,952)</u>
<b>Total 07-08</b>	<b>\$24,520,597</b>

# Overview

- Dallas Animal Services has 74 employees with a proposed budget of \$7 million

## Proposed FY 07-08 Budget Summary

Salaries and Benefits	\$5,519,539
Supplies and Materials	\$ 908,325
Services and Other Charges	\$ 560,156
Capital Outlays	<u>\$ 42,706</u>
<b>Total 07 – 08</b>	<b>\$7,030,726</b>

# Overview

- Dallas Animal Services currently operates two facilities
  - Forney Road Shelter, 8414 Forney Road (opened in 1959)
  - Oak Cliff Shelter, 525 Shelter Place (adjacent to the Dallas Zoo) (opened in 1965)
- Combined, these facilities have a boarding capacity of approximately 400 animals
- Capacity to board and treat animals is inadequate

# Overview

- Animal Services has received 67,331 service requests this year
- Animal Services impounded more than 35,000 animals this year
  - State law requires impounded animals be boarded and provided health care for a minimum of three days
  - Euthanasia rate is high and the adoption rate is low
- The new facility opening is critical to keep up with demand

# Background

- June 27, 2001 – City Council awarded a contract to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to analyze the entire Animal Control Division operations
- October 12, 2001 – HSUS submitted a preliminary report to the Department of Code Compliance
- November 12, 2001 – Code Compliance briefed the Council Health, Environment and Human Services Committee on the preliminary HSUS report regarding the size and scope of the proposed replacement shelter and Code Compliance's recommendations

# Background

- November 15, 2001 – The Animal Shelter Advisory Commission unanimously recommended the construction of a 41,000 square foot animal shelter
- December 28, 2001 – Staff received the final HSUS report on the Animal Control Division Operations
- May 3, 2003 – Dallas voters approved additional funding to add to the 1998 Bond Program funds for the design and construction of a 57,000 square foot replacement shelter at \$11.755 million (Proposition 7)



# Background

- October 20, 2007 – Dallas Animal Services and Adoption Center will open

# Dallas Animal Services and Adoption Center



- State of the art facility located at 1818 North Westmoreland at Interstate 30
- Enhanced experience with animal adoptions, Animal Clinic and Lost and Found area
- Designed as a “green” building conforming with the criteria for LEED Silver Certification
- Total Cost - \$16.2 million
  - 1998 Bond Program \$ 3.5 million
  - 2003 Bond Program \$11.7 million
  - Ivor O’Connor Morgan Trust donation \$ 1.0 million

# Dallas Animal Services and Adoption Center



## Shelter Amenities

- Total boarding capacity of 800 animals
- Spay/Neuter Clinic
- Animal Reclamation Area (Lost & Found)
- Ivor O'Connor Morgan Adoption Area
  - Will hold approximately 90 adult dogs and 65 cats, with puppies and kittens varying
  - 12 “get acquainted” rooms that permits family interaction
- Education and Training area

# Service Level Agreement



## Current Service Level

- Limited adoption facilities
- No Spay/Neuter Services
- No animal reclamation area (Lost and Found)
- High euthanasia rate
- Hours of operation
  - 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Monday - Friday
  - 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on  
Saturdays
  - 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. on  
Sundays

## Enhanced Service Level

- Pet Adoption Services
  - Partner with a local  
personality to help champion  
our cause
- Animal reclamation area (Lost and Found)
- Expanded veterinary services
- Spay/Neuter on site
- Expanded education and outreach program
- Extended hours of operation
  - 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday
  - 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on  
Saturdays
  - 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on  
Sundays

# Facility Programming

## Education and Community Outreach

- Experienced Community Outreach Coordinator to assist with center activities and school tours, etc.
- Develop continuous programming
  - To educate children and families on responsible pet ownership
  - Gives shelter a more cultural center appeal
- Partner with local personality to promote spay/neuter program and general animal care

# Animal Control Strategies

- Implement flexible work schedule (Began on September 6, 2007)
  - Six Special Operations Officers who patrol areas known to have loose dogs in early morning hours
- Deploy five rapid response vehicles to address loose animals on a broader timeframe (November 1, 2007)
- Designate a staff person as a contact to work with citizens on “hard to catch” animals – “Pet Detective”
- Employ modern marketing techniques to promote awareness

# Future Considerations

- Amend City ordinances to comply with new state laws
- Consider an ordinance to limit the number of dogs and cats per household
- Consider an ordinance to regulate certain breeds
- Implement an expanded marketing and media campaign

# Next Steps

- Update council on progress of new policies and services at new animal shelter (December 2007)
- Present draft ordinances for committee review and feedback (November 2007)



# Comments or Questions