

February 2016 Austin Animal Services Report

Animal Center News

- The Austin Animal Center began piloting two new processes to improve and streamline adoptions:
 - The first is a new process to allow adopters to pre-adopt animals during their stray hold.
 - The second moves adoption counselors into the kennel areas and out of the lobby, assigning each staff member to one kennel area.
- The outreach team officially merged with animal protection and is now one team, called field services. Staff members Lauralei Combs (events and media) and Kasey Spain (communications, marketing, events) joined this team.
- The behavior team, made up of two staff members, joined the animal care team. The animal care team is now the animal care and enrichment team.
- The Animal Center has started adopting out rabbits for the first time and now has a dedicated rabbit adoption room located in the lobby.
- New signage installed around campus to help guide customers towards available pets and a cat visitation enclosure, funded by the Friends of the Austin Animal Center, was installed.
- Austin Animal Services was recognized with the Lifesaver Award at the Austin Pets Alive! Five Year No Kill Anniversary party, acknowledging Austin Animal Center's role in keeping Austin No Kill.
- The Humane Society of the United States has chosen the City of Austin to be a pilot city for the Wild Neighbors program.
http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/wild_neighbors/?referrer=https://www.google.com/
- The Austin Animal Center hosted 'The One,' an adoption promotion in partnership with Best Friends Animal Society. There were a total of 302 adoptions over a two-week period as a result of this promotion.

Personnel

- Kristen Eastman, formerly working in corporate relations for the Humane Society of the United States, has been hired as the part time public educator focusing on animal protection issues including rabies and wildlife. She brings 20 years of experience in communications and animal welfare.

Vet Services

- Vets treated 6 emergency cases at AAC and received 45 arrivals from the emergency clinic.
- They performed 362 spay/neuter surgeries and 48 other surgeries.
- Vets oversaw 77 animals in rabies quarantine.

Field Services (Animal Protection and Outreach)

- 26 roosters were seized in a rooster fighting bust and brought to AAC. The city will be awarded custody on March 8 and will be seeking placement for the roosters.
- 35 owned pets and 146 community cats were spayed and neutered by the outreach team.
- Officers responded to 2,656 calls and returned 42 animals in the field and issued 139 citations.
- Two horses were seized for cruelty and one goat was impounded for running at large.
- The field services staff attended horse handling and familiarization training.

Volunteer, Foster and Rescue Programs

- 79 new fosters came on board and 33 fosters attended the new foster program orientation.
- On March 1, there were 233 pets in 146 foster homes.
- 484 volunteers donated 3,559 hours of service.
- 224 new volunteers attended one of 11 volunteer orientations, including the first ever dog volunteer orientation held at Town Lake Animal Center since the move.
- 11 groups contributed 327 hours of service.
- There are currently 53 volunteer mentors who are dedicated to training and mentoring new volunteers.
- The Austin Animal Center brought back the community service restitution program. Community service volunteers will be assisting with laundry, preparing enrichment items, dishes and other chores as needed.

Media Coverage

- The shelter appeared in 20 television spots and six radio spots.
- Girl donates birthday money to shelter: <http://keyetv.com/news/local/8-year-old-girl-donates-birthday-presents-to-animal-shelter>
- Austin Animal Center Personalizes Experience to Facilitate Adoptions: <http://www.twcnews.com/tx/austin/news/2016/02/3/austin-animal-center-personalizes-experience-to-facilitate-adoptions.html>
- Roosters confiscated from fighting ring become custody of Austin Animal Center: <http://keyetv.com/news/local/austin-animal-center-caring-for-roosters-from-a-cockfighting-bust>

<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/crime-law/austin-shelter-caring-for-roosters-rescued-from-co/nqSWb/>

<http://kxan.com/2016/02/18/roosters-rescued-from-fighting-will-need-a-new-home/>

<http://www.fox7austin.com/news/local-news/92164567-story>

<http://www.newsradioklbj.com/news/austin-local-news/austin-animal-center-caring-roosters-cockfighting-bust>

Friends of the Austin Animal Center

- The Classic Canines of Austin served 53 dogs, with 32 being placed through rescue or adoption.
- The Hard Luck Hounds served 16 dogs and six were adopted.
- The Desperate Housecats served 101 cats and 25 were adopted.