

April 2016 Animal Services Report

Animal Center News

- The April live outcome rate is 96.8%.
- The newly appointed Director of Chicago Animal Care and Control, Susan Russell, along with the Executive Director of Safe Humane Chicago, Dr. Cynthia Bathurst, visited Austin Animal Center and attended trainings led by AAC leadership.
- Moving forward the Stray Cat Return Program and the Community Cats Program will be renamed to Community Cats: Shelter, Neuter, Return (SNR) and Community Cats: Trap, Neuter Return (TNR).
- 16 dog playgroup sessions were held. The behavior/enrichment team held three playgroup information sessions with the volunteers to boost support and participation.
- The animal care team safely evacuated 40+ dogs from the TLAC facility due to incoming inclement weather and the high probability of flash flooding on April 17.
- The team safely started transporting new dogs back to TLAC on April 25.
- Due to a large number of donated beds, all the dogs in large dog kennels received new Kuranda beds.
- A free Rabies Clinic was held at Richard Moya Park. 414 Rabies vaccines were given and more than 80 animals were sent to Emancipet for spay/neuter surgery. Additionally, a microchipping option was added, which resulted in almost 200 pets being microchipped.
- AAC held two community-level microchipping clinics using the mobile adoption unit.
- New directional signage was installed throughout the center.

Personnel

- Ms. Marisa Ledesma, customer service team member, was promoted to a customer service lead.
- The second full time and part-time Animal Protection dispatcher started. The dispatch office is now completely staffed.
- A top candidate has been identified for the position of administrative manager (animal care operations manager).

Veterinary Services

- Vets treated 83 emergency cases at AAC and received an additional 113 arrivals from the emergency clinics.
- They performed 268 spay/neuter surgeries and 31 other surgeries.
- Vets oversaw 97 animals in rabies quarantine.
- They performed exams for six cruelty cases.

Field Services (Animal Protection and Outreach)

- Animal protection officers responded to 1,360 priority one activities.
- In April, 21 owned pets and 46 community cats/TNR were spayed or neutered through outreach efforts.
- The outreach team taught two responsible pet ownership classes and gave two additional presentations.
- Austin has been selected by the Humane Society of the United States as one of five pilot communities for its new Wild Neighbors program, which provides best practices, education and other resources to humanely and effectively mitigate common human-wildlife conflicts. Animal Protection Officers, outreach educators and staff from six other city departments participated in workshops held by HSUS as part of this program.

Volunteer, Foster and Rescue Programs

- 90 new volunteers attended nine information sessions. Eight new volunteer orientations are scheduled for May.
- 496 volunteers served 4,257 hours and 13 groups served 363 hours.
- Animal Services leadership and the volunteer coordinators will be holding monthly update meetings which will rotate between Town Lake and the Austin Animal Center main campus.
- 10 community service volunteers served 114 hours.
- The cat mentor volunteers met with Cat Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Luce to discuss cat program needs moving forward.
- 152 foster applications were processed.
- As of May 3, there were 620 approved foster families and 406 animals housed in 213 foster homes.
- 40 foster families attended orientation and seven foster families attending outings and overnights training.

Media Coverage

Austin Animal Center offers Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic: <http://www.austintexas.gov/news/free-rabies-vaccination-clinic-april-16>

Weather/flooding TLAC evacuations: <http://kxan.com/2016/04/18/heavy-rains-leads-to-overcrowding-at-austin-animal-center/>

<http://pets.blog.austin360.com/2016/04/18/austin-animal-center-evacuates-55-dogs-from-town-lake-shelter/>

<http://keyetv.com/news/local/austin-animal-center-evacuates-55-dogs-from-town-lake-animal-center>

<http://kxan.com/2016/04/18/heavy-rains-leads-to-overcrowding-at-austin-animal-center/>

Cops spend lunch breaks walking shelter dogs: <https://www.thedodo.com/cops-walk-shelter-dogs-1703861542.html>

Pig: Hammy, Reunited with his owner: <http://kxan.com/2016/04/14/pet-pig-reunited-with-its-owner/>

Friends of the Austin Animal Center

- The Classic Canines of Austin served 53 dogs, with 9 being placed through rescue or adoption.
- The Hard Luck Hounds served 19 dogs and two were adopted.
- The Desperate Housecats served 92 cats and 19 were adopted. The DHCs celebrated six years and 1,000 adoptions.
- Paw Aid provided medical treatment for six animals.
- The Friends raised \$5,000 to purchase two additional cat enclosures/visitation rooms that will be placed in the cat adoption area. The two of the enclosures have been installed.
- The shade canopy for the dog play yard was installed.