

August 2016 Animal Services Report

Austin Animal Center (AAC) News

- The live outcome rate was 98.1 percent.
- AAC participated in the annual Austin PRIDE parade, which included opportunities for several media spots featuring Chief Animal Services Tawny Hammond and American actor and animal advocate Holly Combs. The August 20-27 Austin PRIDE Week celebration also featured a corresponding adoption promotion which found homes for 213 dogs and cats. This was AAC's most successful August promotion.
- Other adoption promotions included the Olympics-themed "Go for the Home" cat adoption promotion August 6-7, which placed 23 cats and kittens, and "Name Your Own Adoption Fee" August 15-19, which resulted in adoptions for 131 dogs and cats.

Personnel

- AAC is in the process of hiring a human resources manager. A candidate has been selected and is in the final stages of the hiring process.
- The Animal Care and Enrichment team onboarded two full time employees. Three other full time positions are in the process of being filled.
- The Veterinary Services team onboarded two full time veterinary technicians.
- An Animal Services Supervisor and Research Analyst position were advertised. First interviews are scheduled for the beginning of September.
- The first round of interviews to replace the vacant Administrative Manager position are scheduled for the beginning of September with the goal of a final candidate being selected by the end of the month.

Animal Care and Enrichment

- There were 15 play groups held with 117 different dogs participating.
- 106 dogs were evaluated in 19 play groups. The total time dogs spent in playgroups totaled more than 182 hours.

Veterinarian Services

- Veterinarians treated 63 emergency cases at AAC and received 61 arrivals from emergency clinics.
- They performed 439 spay/neuter surgeries and 28 other surgeries.
- Veterinarians oversaw 83 animals in rabies quarantine.
- They performed two exams for cruelty cases.

- 410 microchips were implanted to ready animals for adoption and for walk-in residents of Travis County.

Field Services (Animal Protection and Outreach)

- Animal protection officers responded to 2,503 calls.
- Animal Protection Officers and the Austin Humane Society team collaborated to provide assistance to an overwhelmed caregiver with more than 50 cats.
- Public health educators facilitated two Responsible Pet Owner classes and one community cat trapper orientation.
- Field Services team members represented AAC at six events, including BatFest, the annual weekend-long PetExpo, and Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department CHA/CHIP Forum at El Buen Samaritano.
- Twenty animals were spayed or neutered through community outreach.
- Five community coyote presentations were given. In addition to presentations requested by neighborhood groups, AAC presents at a different public library branch every Saturday. Library presentations will continue through the end of October.
- Staff fielded 23 calls related to coyote questions and concerns within the city.
- A city-wide NextDoor post covering general coyote deterrent strategies reached more than 100,000 residents and garnered higher than average engagement from viewers (as compared to other city posts.).

Volunteer, Foster and Rescue Programs

- Eight new volunteer information sessions were conducted with 104 potential volunteers attending.
- 449 volunteers served 3,9818 hours, and 27 groups served 591 hours. That's more than 2,000 dog walks!
- 19 community service volunteers served 332.5 hours.
- The foster program processed 93 new foster care provider applications.
- As of September 1, there were 954 approved foster families and 497 animals housed in 292 foster homes.
- 29 foster families attended orientation.
- 61 cats went through the community cat (shelter-neuter-return) program.
- 346 animals were transferred for placement through rescue partners
- The total number of approved AAC transfer partners as of September 1 is 159.
- The total number of animals transferred to partners in August 2016 was 407, and the total number transferred in August 2015 was 455.

Media Coverage

AAC PRIDE Week Adoption Special

<http://www.austinchronicle.com/calendar/civics-101/austin-animal-center-pride-week-adoption-special-1875995/>

AAC to enter Float in PRIDE Parade

<http://www.twcnews.com/tx/austin/news/2016/08/21/austin-animal-center-to-enter-float-in-pride-parade.html>

Holly Combs, Austin Animal Center + PRIDE Parade

<http://keyetv.com/features/we-are-austin/austin-animal-center-pride-parade>

Animal Shelter Director Addresses Intake Closure Claims

<http://www.twcnews.com/tx/austin/news/2016/08/24/animal-shelter-director-addresses-intake-closure-claims.html>

Friends of the Austin Animal Center

- The Classic Canines of Austin served 71 dogs, with 18 adoptions and two adoption events.
- The Hard Luck Hounds served 11 dogs with two adoptions.
- The Desperate Housecats (DHC) served 95 cats with 24 adopted, including one cat who had been in the system for 465 days. DHC has now adopted more than 1,200 cats since the program's inception in 2010.
- Paw Aid served two animals.