



For immediate release

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City of Austin and Animal Welfare Community announce its No-Kill City Status

For the first time in Austin history the Town Lake Animal Center reached and surpassed the 90% live animal outcome rate signifying it as a No-Kill City. For the month of February 2011 TLAC reached an unprecedented rate of 92% which makes Austin the first major urban city in Texas to reach this no-kill status.

In March 2010, the Austin City Council approved the City's No-Kill Implementation Plan to reduce animal intake and increase live animal outcomes. Since October 2010 the Animal Services Office has been actively working on the 34 point plan along with the support of its many partners such as Austin Pets Alive!, The Austin Humane Society, EmanciPet, Animal Trustees of Austin, and dozens more, in addition to the community and more than 250 volunteers at the staff at Town Lake Animal Center. Today, more than 50% of the No-Kill implementation plan has been completed. All of the components of the plan have contributed to reaching this goal some of which include; closing the night drop-off boxes, adding a full and part time veterinarian, enhancing the foster care program as well as low-cost/free spay and neuter services and increasing the marketing and publicity efforts for adoption and animal services offered by the City.

At today's announcement City officials, Council Member Laura Morrison, City staff and dozens of animal welfare partners and advocates came together and made a commitment to continue to work together so Austin can maintain this No-Kill City status. "It's taken the support of the entire community to become a No-Kill City, and it's going to take the ongoing support from the community to keep Austin a No-Kill City," said Council Member Morrison. "I will remain committed to this cause and will continue to support the City and the community as we become the most humane community for animal welfare, not only in Texas, but across the country."

Assistant City Manager Bert Lumbreras attributes one of the most important acts the City took was placing a moratorium on euthanizing animals when there is empty kennel space. "The moratorium immediately started to save animal lives," Lumbreras said. "We went from 72% in Sept. 2010 to 92% in Feb. 2011." The moratorium began in Oct. 2011.

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City of Austin

Communications and Public Information Office

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NEWS RELEASE

Spring 2011 brings a challenge for the Animal Center as this is the mating season and historically, TLAC experiences a spike in animal intakes during the months of March through May. Filip Gecic, Acting Animal Services Officer announced that a citywide public awareness campaign will launch in April to emphasize the importance of getting pets spayed or neutered to help with the overpopulation of pets in the community. The City and its partner EmanciPet offers free and low cost spay and neuter services and this will be one of the key messages of the awareness campaign.

Since December 2010 the trends have been positive toward the number of intakes decreasing and the number of adoption increasing, the City will remain focused on the No-Kill implementation and continue to work closely with all of its partners and the community to keep Austin a No-Kill City.

In January 2011 the City appointed the new Animal Services Officer, Abigail Smith. She will begin leading the Animal Services Office on March 15.

About Austin's Animal Center

The City of Austin's Town Lake Animal Center, 1156 W. Cesar Chavez St., is the largest animal shelter in Central Texas, providing shelter to more than 23,000 animals each year and animal control services to all of Austin and Travis County. In May 2010, the City broke ground on a new animal services center that will improve and expand shelter and prevention programs and facilities for Austin and surrounding communities. The 41,450 square foot center is expected to open in fall 2011 on the Betty Dunkerley Campus just west of U.S. 183 at 7201 Levander Loop.

TLAC is open from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Sunday and closed on City holidays. For more information go to Facebook, check www.austininanimalcenter.org or call 3-1-1.

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