

Recommendations With General Consensus from Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee, Animal Advisory Commission and Staff

	Recommendation	Additional Cost	Continuum
1	Revise Mission of Animal Services We will include as a key indicator in our FY11 Business Plan, a live outcome goal of 90%.	\$0	Education and Public Info
2	Davenport Adoption Center The development of adoption programs in the Davenport building offers opportunities for partner organizations to enhance our community efforts. Outsourcing this program to a partner organization would bring the advantage of focusing Animal Services staff on the increased customer traffic that we expect at the new shelter.	\$126,617	Animal Placement
3	Continue (Permanently Fund) Make-Ready Capacity Pilot Project Continue in-house sterilizations achieved in the current pilot program. Provides staffing for surgeries to be performed on Saturdays and Sundays, fully utilizing the surgery suite capacity. This would provide approximately 2,000 surgery slots and would continue total capacity at 5,600 surgeries.	\$60,590	Animal Placement
4	Offsite Adoptions Offsite adoptions offer opportunities for partner organizations to enhance our community efforts. Outsourcing this program to an organization with core competencies in off-site adoptions would bring the advantage of focusing Animal Services staff on the increased customer traffic that we expect at the new shelter as well as bringing experience with off-site adoptions to the table. This package would provide options for four sites and place approximately 1,700.	\$100,000 to outsource	Animal Placement
5	Additional Veterinary Capacity for Injured/Ill Shelter Animals Fund a 0.5 veterinarian and one additional veterinary technician to provide additional capacity for treating injured/ill animals that are candidates for re-homing or returning to their original homes.	\$95,000 (0.5 veterinarian and 1.0 veterinary technician)	Animal Placement

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6	Behaviorist Position Fund a behaviorist position to create programs that assist sheltered animals that have behavior issues and to create programs that reduce shelter intake.	\$74,266	Affordable Animal Care
7	Owner Relinquishment Policy Implement an owner surrender evaluation program. This program would require pet owners considering relinquishment of a pet to schedule an appointment. On the spot drop off of owned pets would no longer be accepted. An evaluation of the pet would be conducted during the appointment. This would provide the pet owner with definitive feedback regarding options available for their pet, if relinquished. (Requires item 6 above.)	\$39,891	Animal Sheltering
8	Enhance Foster Care Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Permanently fund make-ready costs for animals adopted directly from the foster home. ▪ Permanently fund make-ready costs for animals rehomed by the finder. ▪ Fund a pilot project with a partner organization to enhance the foster capability through leveraging the City investment. 	\$60,000 for make ready (from Donations) \$25,000 for pilot (from General Fund)	Animal Placement
9	Enhance Spay Street Program Enhance this neighborhood intervention program, which targets at-risk breeds, by adding the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for 300 sterilizations beginning FY11. • Provide funding for additional staff outreach position. • The service provider will grow a volunteer program to support the outreach component of the program. • The service provider will continue to seek funding to support the remaining sterilizations to achieve the program goals. 	\$25,500 for sterilizations surgeries \$65,000 for outreach position	Affordable Animal Care

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10	Provide Sterilization Services at Rabies Clinics Provide funding for sterilization at the five rabies clinics conducted each year in high-intake, low-income neighborhoods.	\$40,000 (\$30,000 donation funds, \$10,000 General Fund)	Affordable Animal Care
11	Provide Sterilization Services for Owned Cats Provide funding for free sterilization of owned cats. The service provider to provide a higher percentage of funding (through fund raising) each year as City funding decreases. Goals for this program are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY11 1,000 surgeries • FY12 1,200 surgeries • FY13 1,440 surgeries • FY14 1,728 surgeries 	\$60,000 (\$20,000 from donations funds, \$40,000 from the General Fund)	Affordable Animal Care
12	Emergency Care Fund Maintain the emergency care fund to assist animals that are brought into the shelter because of lack of money for needed medical care (usually trauma related.) In FY09, 252 animals were surrendered due to medical reasons.	\$50,000 (\$30,000 donation funds, \$20,000 from the General Fund)	Affordable Animal Care
13	Feral Kitten Foster Program Develop a program to provide foster, socialization, spay/neuter and adoption of underage kittens trapped in colonies. Recommend funding the operations costs and provide space for the program in the Davenport Adoption Center when operational. (See recommendation 2.)	\$52,230	Affordable Animal Care
14	Stray Cat Relocation Relocate stray cats back in to the community from where they came, after spaying or neutering them. The City will work with community stakeholders to develop related procedures and protocols to address this item.	\$78,447	Animal Placement

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15	Public Awareness Campaign Organize a volunteer public relations task force that focuses on promoting shelter needs. The City of Austin, with task force/public input, will also create and implement a seasonal public awareness campaign that focuses on key Animal Services programs.	Advertising: \$45,000 Printing: \$8,000	Education and Public Info
16	Free Animal Sterilization Programs Fund one additional day of free sterilization services beginning in FY11, bringing the City program to 3 free days per week/50 weeks per year. Fund one additional day of free sterilization services beginning in FY13, bringing the City program to 4 free days per week/50 weeks per year.	\$120,000 for FY11	Affordable Animal Care
17	Feral Cat Sterilization Continue funding the feral cat sterilization voucher program at the current level of \$30,000. A partner organization currently provides free sterilization for 5,000 feral cats per year.	Currently Funded	Affordable Animal Care
18	PARVO Prevention Program Create a PARVO prevention program that will reduce the death of puppies. The program will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide free PARVO vaccinations at all rabies clinics • Provide free PARVO vaccinations through partner organizations that serve low-income populations during puppy season (February through May) • Conduct a PARVO awareness campaign throughout puppy season 	\$5,500 for Rabies clinics program \$16,500 for vaccines at partner organizations that serve low-income populations	Affordable Animal Care
19	Provide Euthanasia List to Partners Expand opportunities for rescue groups to review the euthanasia list to identify animals that may be candidates for their program. Additionally, staff is working on process changes that will provide the pending euthanasia list at an earlier time.	\$0	Animal Placement

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20	Last Resort Adoptions Provide a program where an owner or person in the community who surrenders an animal and wants to be the last resort to prevent the animal from being euthanized may put a hold on the animal.	\$0	Animal Placement
21	Pit-Bull Task Force Continue to work closely with the Pit-Bull Task Force and other organizations interested in helping solve challenges associated with pit-bull type dogs.	\$0	Animal Safety and Protection
22	Microchip Animals Not Relinquished Provide free microchips to animals when an owner decides not to relinquish an intact animal. This is an activity the City currently does. The owner is provided a voucher for animal sterilization and a microchip. The vouchers are funded from the donation fund.	\$0	Animal Safety and Protection
23	Revamp the Animal Services Website In Spring 2010, the Animal Services Web site will be "refreshed" with a new look, user-friendly architecture and links to new social media resources maintained by Animal Services staff. The site will enable first time visitors and longtime friends of the Animal Center to connect immediately with the resources, including adoption/fostering resources, lost/found help and options to volunteer/donate. Easily marketable and memorable URLs will be available including getapetnow.com and more.	\$0	Education and Public Info
24	Utilize 311 to Provide Pet Re-homing Options Staff will develop a new section of the website dedicated to alternatives, tips, and options for re-homing a pet. 311 will be able to utilize this information as well as refer callers to the website.	\$0	Education and Public Info

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25	Owner Surrender Acknowledgement Individuals that surrender their animal are currently required to sign an owner surrender form. The form includes an acknowledgement that the animal may be euthanized and staff will add the number of animals euthanized the previous year to the form. Additionally, there is a bilingual sign in the receiving area describing the options available for surrendered pets (including euthanasia) and a scrolling reader board that provides statistics.	\$0	Animal Sheltering
26	Animal Acclimation Program Create a task force made up of staff, rescue and volunteer groups to work with stray cats and dogs to acclimate them to the shelter environment. Fund a Behaviorist position to develop and coordinate this program. (See recommendation number 6).	\$0	Animal Sheltering
27	Rescue Group Task Force Host a task force to examine any new opportunities for additional placement partners. Currently, Animal Services has a full-time position that coordinates the placement of animals with partner agencies and rescue groups. This position also researches opportunities for new placement opportunities and recruits new groups.	\$0	Animal Placement
28	Counseling at Intake Austin Pets Alive! (APA!) volunteers will provide additional owner relinquishment counseling and information regarding pet retention and alternative rehoming options. Space and signage for this activity will be provided and TLAC staff will refer owners to APA!.	\$0	Education and Public Info

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29	Contact Reno, NV City staff spoke with Mitch Schneider, Shelter Director for the Washoe County open intake shelter in order to identify additional opportunities to return animals to their homes. Based on that discussion, we will continue the field return-to-owner program already in place and the planned elimination of the night drop boxes in the new shelter.	\$0	Animal Safety and Protection
30	Software/Database Review Conduct a software/database review process in collaboration with the AAC and other stakeholders, as appropriate.	\$0	Education and Public Info
31	New Measures The additional measures recommended by the AAC that are readily available will be added to the measures posted to the Animal Services website each month. Measures for any new policies or programs implemented will be developed as a part of the implementation process. These new measures would be posted to the website as well.	\$0	Education and Public Info
32	Fee for Wildlife Relocation Implement a \$50 relocation fee for pest control companies that bring wildlife to the shelter for disposal.	Costs: \$0 Revenues \$6,500	Animal Sheltering
33	Intake Fee Implement a \$160 intake fee for other jurisdictional agencies (outside of Travis County) that bring animals to the shelter for sheltering and disposition.	Costs: \$0 Revenues \$16,000	Animal Sheltering
34	Feral Cat Food Bank Location The City should provide a location to house a food bank for feral-cat colony managers to access cat food on a regular basis.	\$0	Affordable Animal Care

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	Costs:		
	General Fund	\$1,007,541	
	Donations	\$140,000	
	Total	\$1,147,541	
	Revenues	\$22,500	

Update on Recommendations and Items for Policy Consideration

	Staff's Recommendation	PHHS Modification
1	<p>Proceed in the development of a mission statement that incorporates the values articulated in the AAC recommendations and includes the 90% live outcome goal into a broader mission that reflects the full scope of responsibilities associated with municipal animal services.</p>	<p>Proceed to develop a mission statement that incorporates the revised mission statement for animal services in the AAC recommendation, and including the 90 percent live outcome goal, into a broader mission that reflects the full scope of responsibilities associated with municipal animal services</p>
2	<p>The implementation plan recommends maintaining the Davenport Building and some kennels for animal adoption programs.</p> <p>The Council directive was to maintain the Davenport Building. In FY07, an analysis was done of the site which identified infrastructure concerns, drainage/flooding problems, and deteriorating structures. Another issue is the potential alternative uses for the site as park space.</p>	<p>Plans for the Davenport Building remain as previously prescribed by Council but recommend that the current TLAC site be maintained for a period of six months after the new Animal Services Center is opened on Levander Loop, at which time staff will come back to Council with recommendation for any future use of the site.</p>
3	<p>Recommend outsourcing the priorities identified in the plan (Off-site Adoption Program and Davenport). Off-site adoptions represent a priority gap. The Off-site Adoptions Program is an opportunity to capitalize on available expertise, build more capacity among community-based partners and develop more experience.</p> <p>Additional outsourcing opportunities for potential improvements in outcomes will be considered and recommended based on this experience.</p>	<p>Proceed with the plan to outsource the comprehensive adoption program at TLAC</p>

Update on Recommendations and Items for Policy Consideration

	Staff's Recommendation	PHHS Modification
4	<p>Staff is committed to the goal of limiting euthanasia to the euthanasia that is required for medical or behavioral/aggression reasons. To successfully achieve this goal, critical programs should be in place to ensure that animals are receiving the interventions necessary for a live outcome.</p> <p>These programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue Make-Ready Capacity Pilot Project (with permanent funding in FY11) ▪ Additional Veterinary Capacity for Injured/Ill Shelter Animals ▪ Behaviorist Position <p>In considering a moratorium, we recommend that these resources and related capacity be in place beforehand.</p>	<p>Adopt the AAC recommendation to Council and impose an immediate moratorium on killing any animal (except for humane reasons or aggression validated by a behaviorist) when there are cages or kennels available.</p>