

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Public Health – Animal Services

AGENDA DATE: CCA 10/05/10

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Michael Hill, Director 771-5702

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT:

Presentation and discussion on the future of Animal Services

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

Animal Services in El Paso... Going Forward



*Responsive
Public Policy*

*Effective
Programs*



*Community
Engagement*

*Added
Value*

Trends in Animal Services



- **Divest public health of animal welfare services (retain disease investigation and control in public health)**

Why?

With the shift of emphasis from disease control (protection of humans from rabies) to animal welfare, fewer health departments are operating animal services programs:

44% in 1992

19% in 2008

Trends Continued...



- *Field*: Assign field activities to code enforcement, law enforcement, or independent animal services department
- *Shelter*: Out-source animal shelter operations to non-profit
- *Adoption*: Out-source animal adoption services to non-profit(s)
- Conduct animal adoptions at off campus locations
 - Pet stores
 - Community store front center(s)
- *Education*: Provide intensive community education on pet ownership. Reframe animal control as civic responsibility

Model Programs

Who manages animal services in nearby jurisdictions?



- San Diego – Stand alone animal agency
- Albuquerque – Stand alone animal agency
- Austin – Health department now, moving to stand alone agency in October (PD conducts cruelty investigations)
- Fort Worth – Code Compliance Department

Research Results

How are nearby jurisdictions funded and staffed?



Service Jurisdiction	Population	Animal Intake	Annual Budget	FTEs
San Diego County	2,002,000	25,000	\$15,006,000	125
Albuquerque	528,000	27,000	\$9,500,000	140
Austin/Travis County	999,000	23,000	\$5,500,000	85
Ft. Worth	535,000	23,000	\$3,100,000	50 (181 in code)
El Paso Area	751,000	23,000	\$2,780,863	56

Animal Services in El Paso...Going Forward



Current Centralized Model

Health Dept Animal Services

Disease Control

Community Education

Field Enforcement

Shelter Operations

Non-profit Organizations

Adoption Services

Existing Animal Services for El Paso



- **Divided into three major functions**

- **Field Operations** **Sub-total Field \$1,290,254**
 - ✦ 22 Animal Services Officers
 - ✦ 2 Sr. Animal Services Officers
 - ✦ 2 Shift Supervisors
 - ✦ 1 Operations Supervisor
- **Shelter Operations** **Sub-total Shelter \$1,443,441**
 - ✦ 12 Animal Services Attendants
 - ✦ 1 Sr. Animal Services Attendant
 - ✦ 9 Customer Relations Clerks
 - ✦ 1 Accounting/Payroll Specialist
 - ✦ 2 Veterinary Technicians
 - ✦ 2 Shift Supervisors
- **Education** **Sub-total Education \$47,198**
 - ✦ 1 Health Education Specialist

Grand Total \$2,780,863

Animal Services in El Paso...Going Forward



Current Centralized Model

Health Dept Animal Services

Disease Control

Community Education

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Non-profit Organizations

Adoption Services

Proposed Collaborative Model

Health Dept Animal Services

Disease Control

Community Education

Environmental Services/

Code Compliance

Field Enforcement

Non-profit Organizations

Adoption Services

Shelter Operations

Short Term: Proposed for Current Fiscal Year (2011)



- Change focus of animal services from *reactive* (dog pickup and sheltering) to *proactive* (enforcement of ordinance: tags, litter permits, sales) (Cost: None)
- Respond to calls only when a person or pet is in danger, spend more time enforcing ordinance (Cost: None)
- Add two health educators (Cost: \$110,443)
 - Educate the community on Title 7 requirements
 - Promote responsible pet ownership through print, radio, and television venues; internet-based social media; and partnering with non-profits, businesses, and neighborhood organizations
 - Conduct high profile community events, e.g., FETCHapalooza, Pet Wash Days at local businesses, Mayor's Dog Ball, to raise community awareness and build support for policy

Short Term: Proposed for Current Fiscal Year (2011)



- RFQ all existing animal services contracts (adoption; spay/neuter voucher, clinic, van) to get best value (No additional cost---potential to save up to \$100,000)
- Open off-site adoption center to increase adoption numbers and raise public awareness (Cost: \$66,000/\$1M savings on shelter expansion budget)
- Modify ordinance so code compliance inspectors can cite for animal violations (tags, litters, puppy selling). No animal pickup (Cost: None)
- Add two more Animal Services Officers to be dedicated solely to enforcement activities, not to respond to service calls (Cost: \$76,442)

Maximum additional cost \$252,885

Long Term: Proposed for Next Fiscal Year (2012)



- **Plan to transfer animal services field operations/personnel to Environmental Services Code Compliance Section**
 - Code compliance inspectors would enforce ordinance but not detain animals
 - Animal Control Officers (transferred from the Health Department) would enforce ordinance AND pickup animals
 - \$1.3 M expense budget and all related revenue would be moved from Health Department to Environmental Services
 - Nearly triples capacity for field activity from 26 to 73 staff
- **Pursue outsourcing options for shelter management**
 - Outsource shelter operations to non-profit for staffing flexibility, cost savings, and enhanced care for impounded animals.

Maximum additional cost \$0

Conclusion



Changes are needed to enforce Title 7 requirements:

- Greater emphasis on enforcement of registration and litter permit requirements v. capturing of animals
- Greater emphasis on educating the public to be community partners in proper pet ownership
- Increase adoption of impounded animals
- Increase access to spay/neuter services

