

ANIMAL SERVICES UPDATE

September 20, 2022



Implementation Plan Background

In 2019, a multi-disciplinary committee developed an implementation plan to guide the San Marcos Regional Animal Shelter (SMRAS) to achieve and sustain a 90% live outcome rate within five (5) years, or by the end of FY24. ***We are happy to report a live outcome rate of 92% in each of FY20 and FY21!***

Documentation of the implementation plan development process can be found online at www.sanmarcostx.gov/implementationplan

Animal Services History



New facility
2001

ILA – Hays
Co. and Kyle
2006

Renovation
2007

ILA – Buda
2012

Current ILA / partnership with Hays County, City of Kyle, and
City of Buda
2019

Animal Services Improvement Timeline

Implementation
plan created



FY19 (85% LOR)

Status quo due to COVID

No new funding except \$15k contractual
obligation for veterinary services



FY21 (92% LOR)

FY22 (est. 90% LOR)

FY20 (92% LOR)

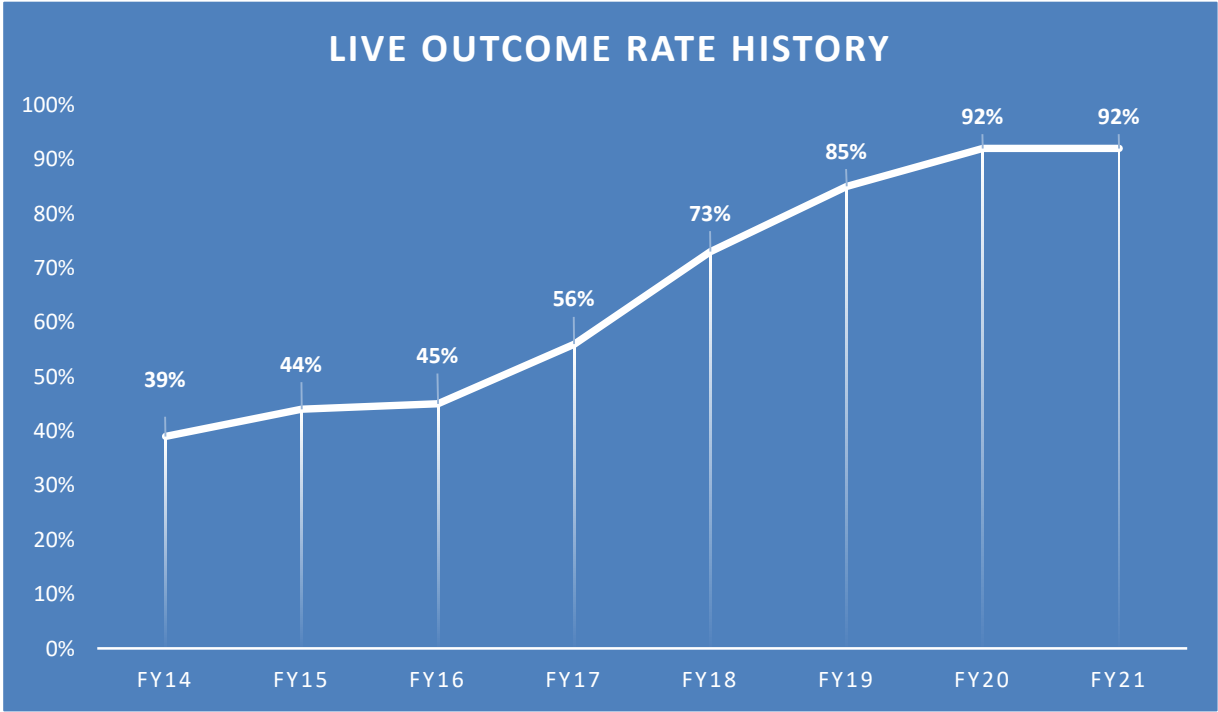


Reinforce core services

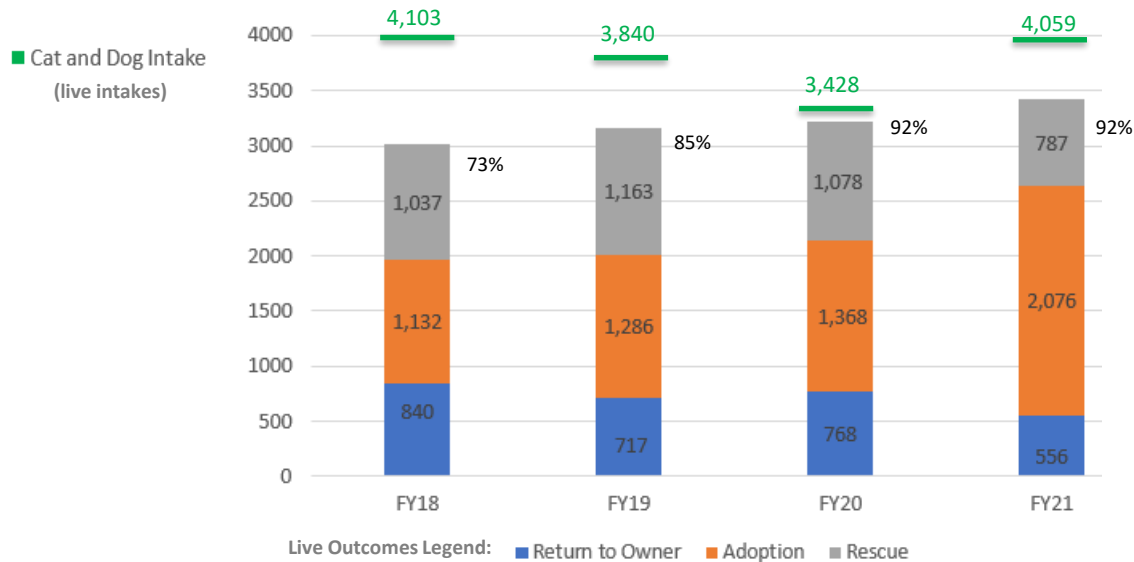
\$10k volunteer/foster program; \$22k veterinary
services; \$48k medical supplies; \$15k temp labor;
\$25k replace washers /dryers; \$78k facility
repair/ improvements; add Shelter Tech and
Program Coordinator positions

Additional programs

\$80k intake diversion / owner
assistance efforts; \$45k animal
enrichment and training resources



Statistics Overview



	Live Out	Non-Live Out	Total Outcomes
FY18	3,009	1102	4,111
FY19	3,166	580	3,746
FY20	3,214	199	3,413
FY21	3,419	316	3,735

A Foundation to Build Upon



12 Implementation Plan Objectives

1. Ambitious spay/neuter efforts
2. Progressive adoption initiatives
3. Reduce animal intake / shelter diversion strategies
4. Transparency
5. **Un-socialized cat solutions(including TNR/SNR programs)**
6. Increase rescue/transfer outcomes
7. Control/prevent illness and disease at the shelter
8. Robust volunteer program
9. Unified/countywide vision and strategic partnerships
10. Robust foster program
11. Community involvement and empowerment
12. Target safety net programs

Objective 1

Ambitious Spay/Neuter Efforts

a.	Provide responsible owner assistance (for s/n, training, fencing, food, vet care, etc.)	✓
b.	Keep free-roaming cats out of the shelter ** (pending participation from other government partners)	✓
c.	Develop a consortium of partners (for education/awareness, S/N voucher distribution and acceptance)	✓
d.	Increase public awareness	✓
e.	Analyze data to target strategies (target areas where the most strays/litters are found)	✓
** = controversial issue		



= fully/mostly implemented











= partially implemented



= not yet implemented

Objective 2

Progressive Adoption Initiatives

a.	Create/hire 3 new positions (Adoption Initiatives Coordinator and two Adoption Techs)	
b.	Streamline the adoption process* (policy/procedure revisions)	
c.	Foster and finder to foster program	
d.	Create a large dog program	
e.	Animals to be showcased even while on stray hold or awaiting medical, with an adopter waitlist *	
f.	Animal behavior/training program (better prepare animals to be adoptable; train the trainer, use volunteers)	
g.	Increase public awareness	
h.	Analyze data to target strategies	
* = low-cost/high-impact		



= fully/mostly
implemented



= partially
implemented



= not yet
implemented

Objective 3

Reduce Animal Intake / Shelter Diversion Strategies








a.	Provide responsible owner assistance for pet retention (referrals/resources for s/n, training, fencing, food, vet care)	✓
b.	Encourage microchipping, data updates, and use of scanners throughout the county *	✓
c.	Keep free-roaming cats out of the shelter ** (pending participation from other government partners)	✓
d.	Create a large dog program	✓
e.	Update “Animal Control” to “Animal Protection”	✓
f.	Increase awareness/use technology to provide owner tips, online tutorials, online posting/network of lost/found	✓
g.	Finder to foster program	✓
h.	Analyze data to focus efforts	✓
* = low-cost/high-impact		
** = controversial issue		

✓ = fully/mostly
implemented

✓ = partially
implemented

✓ = not yet
implemented

Objective 4 Transparency

a.	Post photos upon intake	
b.	Keep intake open/expand capacity (improvement/expansion at current facility and possible satellite centers)	
c.	Use technology to make intake and details accessible online	
d.	Moratorium on euthanasia for certain reasons	
e.	Open selection adoptions/waitlist	
f.	Ensure accurate record-keeping	
g.	Count every cat and dog euthanized	



= fully/mostly
implemented








= partially
implemented



= not yet
implemented

Objective 5 Un-Socialized Cat Solutions (Including TNR/SNR Programs)

a.	Keep free-roaming cats out of the shelter TNR/SNR/RTF** (pending participation from other government partners)	
b.	Barn cat program	
c.	Analyze data to target strategies	
d.	Increase public awareness on the benefits of barn cats, SNR/TNR/RTF *	
e.	Increase Vet Tech staffing	
* = low-cost/high-impact		
** = controversial		



= fully/mostly
implemented



= partially
implemented



= not yet
implemented

Objective 6

Increase Rescue / Transfer Outcomes

a.	Use technology to coordinate efforts (online forums, email, networked system)	✓
b.	Develop a consortium of rescue/transfer partners	✓
c.	Implement an animal behavior/training program	✓
d.	Increase Vet Tech staffing	✓
e.	Ensure disease control and vaccinations	✓



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implemented










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implemented



= not yet
implemented

Objective 7

Control / Prevent Illness and Disease at the Shelter

a.	Make building/environment improvements and expand capacity	
a.	Increase Vet Tech staffing	
c.	Expand/involve Veterinary partners	
d.	Incorporate Veterinary interns	
e.	Partner with drug companies	
f.	Refine protocols and procedures	
g.	Expand foster program (foster, finder to foster, and train fosters to take medical cases) *	
* = low-cost/high-impact		



= fully/mostly
implemented






= partially
implemented





= not yet
implemented


Objective 8

Robust Volunteer Program





a.	Tiered volunteer program *	
b.	Create job descriptions (ex: volunteer photographers) *	
c.	Volunteers post pictures (if allowed) *	
* = low-cost/high-impact		


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Objective 9 Unified / Countywide Vision and Strategic Partnerships

a.	Keep intake open/expand capacity (improvement/expansion at current facility and possible satellite centers)	
b.	Develop a consortium of partners to involve and empower the community	
c.	Network with surrounding shelters for available space	
d.	Analyze data countywide to target strategies	










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Objective 10

Robust Foster Program

a.	Use technology/social media to recruit and train fosters	
b.	Add a dedicated position (Foster Coordinator)	
c.	Foster to adoption program *	
d.	Focus on at-risk/special needs populations (large dogs, neonatal kittens, medical cases, seniors)	
e.	Add dedicated position to develop foster program	
f.	Finder to foster program *	
g.	Animal behavior/training program specific for fosters	
h.	Analyze data to target strategies	
i.	Develop a foster medical fund	
* = low-cost/high-impact		



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implemented

Objective 11

Community Involvement and Empowerment

a.	Use technology for community involvement	
b.	Provide responsible owner assistance for pet retention (referrals/resources for s/n, training, fencing, food, vet care)	
c.	Update "Animal Control" to "Animal Protection"	
d.	Develop a consortium of partners	
e.	Increase public awareness	
f.	Encourage microchipping, data updates, and use of scanners throughout the county *	
g.	Analyze data to target strategies	
h.	Tiered volunteer program	
* = low-cost/high-impact		



= fully/mostly implemented










= partially implemented



= not yet implemented

Objective 12

Target Safety Net Programs

a.	Bottle feeding volunteers and fosters	
b.	Create a large dog program	
c.	Promotions of the long-stay animals *	
d.	Fundraising for medical cases	
e.	Partner with rescues and vets	
f.	Train volunteers to work with unsocial and fear-based animals ** (pending liability/risk assessment by all partners)	
g.	Add dedicated positions (Foster Coordinator and Rescue Coordinator)	
* = low-cost/high-impact		
** = controversial		



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= not yet
implemented

Proposed Ordinance Revisions

Significant changes for consideration:

- >Section 6.017 Feral cat management; transitioned to community cat program
- >Section 6.030 Impoundment and redemption:
 - } limited impoundment of visually healthy cats
 - } no stray hold requirement for animals less than three (3) months of age
 - } no stray hold requirement for cats of any age without identification
- >Section 6.031 Disposition of animals; refined language for legal purposes
- >Section 6.044 Registration required; deleted in its entirety

Proposed Ordinance Revisions

Significant changes for consideration, continued:

- >Section 6.050 Dog and cat microchipping required; new section to require microchips, registered with current owner information, for all pets 4+ months old
- >Section 6.051 Dog and cat sterilization required; new section to require sterilization of a pet upon first impoundment OR all dogs and cats
- >Section 6.065 Pet shop/pet store requirements; new section to restrict source of pets, require certain conditions, and notifications to consumers

Survey for community input closes 9/22/2022; responses will be compiled for City Council review.



QUESTIONS?