



Orange County Animal Services

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Monthly Report **Orange County Animal Services** **September 2005**

Departmental Highlights

1. We are continuing the development of the Animal Services Department, including the centralization of shared administrative functions such as payroll, IT support, and reports such as this one.
2. The inaugural meeting of the Animal Services Advisory Board was held on September 14th with Board of County Commissioners Chair Moses Carey, County Manager John Link, and Assistant County Manager Gwen Harvey in attendance. Among the issues addressed during this initial meeting were creating standing committees and identifying a slate of candidates for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. The Advisory Board also received select updates regarding the development of the Department and the functions within the Animal Control and Animal Shelter Divisions.
3. The process of filling the open positions within both Divisions continues. Interviews are being held for Animal Health Technician to replace Jess Allison after her promotion to Shelter Operations Manager. We have opted to reopen the search for an Animal Control Division Manager, in order to find a person capable of performing the duties of that position as part of our management team. Due to the time involved in this ongoing process, we have proceeded with interviewing for the opening of Animal Control Officer as well.
4. We are seeking to develop convergent activities involving both Divisions. One example of this was a spay/neuter information booth at the rabies clinic held at Efland-Cheeks Elementary School on September 8th. Staff provided information regarding the benefits of pet sterilization. On the basis of this experience, we have identified further strategies to address this aspect of the pet overpopulation problem.

Animal Shelter Highlights

The September 2005 figures show a return to the more common pattern of lower numbers coming into the shelter than in the same month of the previous year (398 in 2005 and 427 in 2004). Last month, for the first time, we reversed this trend taking in more animals in August 2005 than in the same month of 2004.

Shelter Activity September 2005

	Dogs	Cats	Others	Total
In Shelter Custody as of September 1 2005	108	143	4	255
				+
Total Admitted Sept 2005	189	199	10	398
Sheltered in Sept 2005	297	342	14	653
				-
Dispositions for Sept 2005 (1)	185	194	8	387
Remaining in Shelter Custody on October 1 2005	112	148	6	266

(1) Includes corrections to previous month

Returns: 0 dogs, 1 cat

Placements continue the recent trend of being at or above levels for the previous year (226 in 2005 and 208 in 2004) and euthanasia numbers continue to be down (150 in 2005 and 188 in 2004). This is reflected in the breakdown of dispositions with a higher percentage of placements versus euthanasia and euthanasia as a percentage of dispositions being lower for 2005 (39 percent) versus 2004 (41 percent).

Animal Dispositions

	Dogs	Cats	Others	Total	Percent of Total Dispositions
Reclaimed	38	1	0	39	10.08%
Adopted	51	94	1	146	37.73%
Transfers (1)	8	28	5	41	10.59%
Euthanized	81	67	2	150	38.76%
Died	1	3	0	4	1.03%
Other (2)	5	2	0	7	1.81%
Totals	184	195	8	387	100.00%

(1) Transfers are all to APS except:

15 cats, 3 dogs, 5 'other' to rescue.

1 cat, 2 birds surrendered for euthanasia

25 cats (37%) feral.

(2) Includes corrections to previous month

The gross placement for September 2005 is 57 percent and was 49 percent in September 2004. The placement for adoptable animals was 61 percent in September of 2005 and 59 percent in the previous year. This is a combination of the lower intake figures and the higher placement numbers. The wider difference in the gross placement rates is due to the much lower number of feral cats turned in during September 2005 (25) compared to 72 in 2004.

Looking at the period June, July August, September of 2005 shows a pattern with which we are familiar but which did not appear in 2004. Placements are lower in June (191) and July (178), pick up a bit in August (210) and continue to get higher in September (226). We believe this is due to the fact that people have vacations planned and delay adoptions until they get back.

Program Report

Volunteer Orientations: This orientation is a requirement of the Animal Shelter to protect the health and well-being of both volunteers and animals. The Program Coordinator held two orientations this month which 23 people attended.

Policy Procedures /Animal Handling Training: This is an advanced and required training for volunteers wishing to work with direct handling of the animals, such as dog walking and socialization, cat-room cleaning, and related activities. 17 people attended this training session given by Program Coordinator, Animal Care Technician , and senior dog volunteer.

Volunteers this month: 49

Volunteer hours total: 218

Outreach Program: Always presented by volunteers, with occasional assistance from the Program Coordinator, this is a program where we set up a table at a public location, often with select shelter animals, and provide information on adoptions and animal care. This month three programs were held at Phydeaux, Petsupermarket, and PetsMart.

Rabies Clinic at Efland/Cheeks Elementary School: Our Program Coordinator staffed a table with spay/neuter information during the clinic as part of our efforts to reach problem areas.

Weaver Street Market Dog Days: Volunteers staffed an information booth with shelter animals, a general educational outreach.

RSVP Reception: The Orange County Depart of Aging threw a recognition reception for volunteers within their Retired Senior Volunteer Program, with all participating agencies invited to attend. We were represented by our Program Coordinator.

Carrboro Parks and Recreation, Kids Dog Show and Expo: Program Coordinator and volunteers staffed an information booth with shelter animals, another general educational outreach.

Animal Control Highlights

This month we began demonstrating the percentages of intakes from our demographic areas, as well as strays versus surrenders and Animal Control field calls versus the public bringing animals directly to the shelter. Coupled with some of the info we've started to obtain from outreach programs, this is providing indications of where to concentrate our program efforts.

Demographics

	Animal Control		From Public		Total Incoming	Percent of Total
	Strays (4)	Surrender	Strays	Surrender		
Chapel Hill	14	2	26	23	65	16.3%
Carrboro	16	1	9	8	34	8.5%
Hillsborough	4	7	11	12	34	8.5%
Orange County	138	49	13	18	218	54.8%
Night Deposit	0	0	36	4	40	10.1%
Other County	0	0	3	4	7	1.8%
Total	172	59	98	69	398	100.0%

Strays	270	67.8%	Animal Control	231	58.0%
Surrenders	128	32.2%	Public	167	42.0%
		100.0%			100.0%

Two positive rabies cases this month brought our year's total to 19, which is roughly twice that we had last year. This is not necessarily an indication of increased rabies within the county, since this cannot be accurately determined without baseline sampling of representative populations. Increases in positive results can also come about from increases in human interaction (from population increases or habitat destruction), changes in testing protocols, or simply greater public reaction due to media attention – in other words, people contacting Animal Control for situations they may have ignored last year.

Rabies Exposure Investigations

	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Exposures Investigated	5	6	6	17
Tested Positive	0	0	2	2

These tests are performed solely to determine if a given situation warrants post-exposure treatments or actions, and are a protective measure for both humans and animals within the county. The numbers themselves, however, indicate that rabies prevention remains a primary concern within the county.

Vaccination Statistics

Vaccinated at Shelter	41	29	70
Vaccinated at Vet Clinics	496	477	973
Vaccinated at Rabies Clinics	129	43	172
Total Vaccinations	666	549	1215

Appendix

Placement Rate: This is a gross statistic which relates the number of animals placed (adopted, reclaimed, rescued and transferred) to the number of animals admitted in a given time period. This is expressed as a percentage attained by dividing the number of animals placed by the number of animals admitted.

Adoptable Placement Rate: To gain a clearer representation of the placement program, the animals brought to the shelter that are not part of the placement program are excluded, namely feral cats and owners requests for euthanasia. Since the number of feral cats in particular can vary a great deal from month to month, they can obscure the true effects of the program. The adoptable placement rate is obtained by subtracting the number of feral cats and owner's requests for euthanasia from the total intake number before the number of placed animals is divided by it. This yields a more refined statistic.

Percent of Total Dispositions, which are given in the statistical report, are different from the placement rates in that they do not relate to the number of animals brought into the shelter. They are, as the title implies, the total number of dispositions broken down by category. Their function is to demonstrate the accuracy of the statistics.