



Orange County Animal Services
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***Animal Disposition Summary Report:
September –December 2006***

February 14th, 2007

Due to staff vacancies, it has not been possible to produce and post our regular monthly reports in the last four months of 2006. Integral to the monthly report is a set of statistical tables that include the disposition of animals at Orange County's Animal Shelter as well as intake numbers and numbers regarding rabies cases and vaccinations.

As a result of one staff vacancy, it was necessary to recreate our ability to produce statistical table concerning animal intakes and dispositions, a task staff diligently worked toward and accomplished toward the end of the year. While performing their regular duties, they worked with others to reproduce and validate the process for generating shelter statistics, using the same tools and methods that we previously used for this purpose.

Below please find our standard statistical reports for the months of September, October, November and December of 2006. These are exactly the same statistical reports as appear in monthly reports for the previous months of 2006 and the months of 2005 for which these monthly reports were produced and posted on our website. All that is different is that these reports are presented without accompanying narrative, essentially due to our more limited human resources as a result of two staff vacancies we are in the process of filling.

With regard to our sheltering activities and their effective administration, these statistics remain as important in the present as they have been in the past. They assist us in identifying and tracking trends of note, and they enable us to communicate openly and easily with stakeholders, partners, and the general public about our operations and activities.

For the months about which we are reporting, there is generally an increase in the number of animals admitted to the shelter by comparison with the same months of the previous year. By comparison with the preceding year, there is also a decline in the number of adoptions and the total number of "live releases" (consisting of not only adoptions but animals transferred to other organizations and ones recovered by their owners and custodians). While these declines may well be affected by increased admissions, they are attributable to other factors as well in the complex processes that affect animal dispositions as well as pet demographics.

We thus want to reflect upon possible reasons for changes in the number of adoptions and "live releases" as well as inventory the initiatives that we have taken to ensure that we are placing as many healthy and behaviorally sound animals as we possibly can. While each of these subjects is addressed in the following sections, what should be said here is that our initiative are closely related to our monitoring of our sheltering activities on the basis of the statistics presented herein.

Initiatives have been taken to ensure that we can and do continue to place as many healthy and behaviorally sound animals as possible given our core responsibilities, available resources and the dynamics of pet overpopulation here as well as elsewhere. As always, such initiatives as well as our

regular services rely not only upon the dedicated efforts of our staff but their collaboration with other organizations and individual members of the public with a commitment to the welfare of animals in our community. And we look forward to our continued work with stakeholders, partners and members of the general public in addressing and ultimately resolving what at root is a community problem—namely, the problem of pet overpopulation.

Questions about the statistics and narrative discussion that follow may be addressed to Robert A. Marotto, Director, Orange County Animal Services at bmarotto@co.orange.nc.us.

Factors Affecting Animal Dispositions

A number of observations may be made about the decline in the number of animal adoptions and “live releases” during the period under consideration. While some of these concern specific challenges, others relate to changes in our internal processes and service orientation. Also of note are some broader factors related to the operation of Orange County’s Animal Shelter in a dynamic context.

Challenges

- *During December of last year, we lost the off site adoption spaces at Dubey’s Pet World because it closed. This caused not only a loss of additional space and an adoption venue for adoptable cats but was also a loss in terms of advertising of shelter services including adoption.*
- *Building maintenance during this period (painting the shelter floors and walls), required to comply with new state regulations for public shelters, caused loss of space for holding animals and thus reduced the number of animals available for adoption for the duration of the project.*
- *The appearance of two different serious infectious disease outbreaks—ringworm and parvovirus—impacted the number of animals available for adoption. In each of these situations, shelter staff worked closely with our consulting veterinarian to control the spread of disease (and in the case of ringworm, initiate prophylactic treatment) but all such measures limited adoption possibilities.*
- *Staffing vacancies inhibited the department’s ability to maximize adoption opportunities particularly with respect to promoting adoptions in the community and developing collaborative relationships with rescue organizations.*

Changes

- *Improvements in the area of adoption counseling provide the public with better information about the responsibilities involved in owning and caring for pets. This critical educational process has promoted more informed decision making, but it may sometime mean that a potential adopter chooses to not adopt at this time*
- *Our goal is to ensure that animals made available for adoption are both healthy and behaviorally sound. Improvements have been made to the process used to evaluate animals and thereby help to identify animals not suitable for placement into the community. The end result of this process is of great benefit to those adopting from the shelter; however it impacts the number of animals made available for adoption to the general public.*

Context

- *Orange County's Shelter faces increased competition for adopters with rescues and other animal organizations. Not only is it the case that another shelter (or sanctuary) now operates within the county but some private rescue organizations have become quite prominent.*
- *Related to increased competition is the physical condition of the County's shelter, which will remain an impediment to attracting potential adopters until the County's new facility is finished at the end of 2008. In the meantime, rescues and newer shelters provide potential adopters with the opportunity to adopt a homeless animal without having to enter an old, unattractive building.*
- *In this changing context, 2006 is only the second year of direct operation of the County's Animal Shelter, which makes meaningful statistical comparison of smaller periods of time quite challenging.*

Placing Animals

As mentioned at the outset, staff have taken several oriented toward ensuring that adoptable animals are placed in new homes. These are in addition to the "regular" responsibilities of staff for the care and placement of the various animals that we shelter. And they are based upon our careful monitoring of our sheltering activities, on the basis of monthly statistics as presented in the following section, given our full complement of responsibilities and available resources.

Specific Initiatives

- *New marketing ideas have been implemented including classified ads in several area papers, fliers, and our new website (which includes a link to Pet Harbor to photographically showcase animals at the shelter). We are also working to more fully and routinely utilize Petfinder and other such opportunities for the electronic advertising of adoptable animals.*
- *Developing the volunteer program in new ways that help to promote adoptions. One example is taking adoption deposits at outreach events. Another a brand new component of our dog walking program in which volunteers promote our dogs as well as hand out information about the County's Animal Shelter and its services.*
- *Efforts continue to sustain and broaden relations with other animal organizations to increase the number of animals that are transferred for final placement, within the context of a developed partnership program, in this way expanding our the capacity to house as well as place animals.*
- *Working with the Adoption Committee of the Animal Services Advisory Board, staff are more carefully evaluating the reasons for euthanasia, not only so that there is a clear understanding of that process in the County's Animal Shelter but to begin to identify targeted programs to increase animal placements.*

Developments

- *We have been building on the skills and abilities of staff through training and have every reason to believe that our human resources will continue to grow stronger in the coming years—strengths that are already readily apparent in our service to the public and our care of animals.*
- *In the same vein, two vacant positions with administrative responsibilities for our sheltering services are expected to be filled, and doing so is another opportunity to strengthen our human resources and leadership capabilities as we move forward in developing and delivering animal services.*

- *Orange County is well along the way to having a new state-of-the-art animal services facility, one that has greater capacity per se, allows attractive presentation of adoptable animals, and that more effectively controls infectious disease while better ensuring animal wellness.*
- *Integral to the design of the County's new facility is the promotion of animal placements by creating a much more inviting and desirable destination for members of the public—one to which they are drawn for the non-human members of their families and one which achieves a visible profile throughout the County.*

<u>Shelter Activity</u>					
<u>September 2006</u>					
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Total	
In Shelter Custody as of Sept 1, 2006 (1)	63	107	4	174	
				+	
Total Admitted Sept 2006	195	239	6	440	Returns 5 dogs, 2cats
Sheltered In Sept 2006	258	346	10	614	
				-	
Dispositions for Sept 2006	180	253	6	439	
In Foster Homes	7	39	0	46	
In Pet Stores	0	0	0	0	
Within Shelter	71	64	4	139	
Total Within Animal Services custody on October 1 2006	78	93	4	175	

(1) Includes corrections to previous month

<u>Dispositions</u>						
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Total	% of Total	
					Dispositions	
Reclaimed	44	10	2	56	12.76%	
Adopted	55	65	2	122	27.79%	
Transfers (1)	11	31	0	42	9.57%	6 dogs, 21 cats to rescue/pet store
Euthanized	66	144	0	210	47.84%	2 dogs, 1 cat euthanized for euth/disp 68 cats (40%) feral
Died	2	3	0	5	1.14%	
Other (1)	2	0	2	4	0.91%	
Totals	180	253	6	439	100.00%	

(1) Transfers were all to APS unless specified otherwise at right

<u>Demographics</u>						Total Incoming	Percent of Total
	<u>Animal Control</u>		<u>From Public</u>				
	Strays (4)	Surrender	Strays	Surrender			
Chapel Hill	13	2	45	28	88	20.0%	
Carrboro	5	0	7	1	13	3.0%	
Hillsborough	18	10	16	10	54	12.3%	
Orange County	147	66	23	7	243	55.2%	
Other County	0	0	32	0	32	7.3%	
Unknown	0	0	7	3	10	2.3%	
Total	183	78	130	49	440	100.0%	
Strays	313	71.1%	Animal Control	261	59.3%		
Surrenders	127	28.9%	Public	179	40.7%		

(1) "Strays" under Animal Control Demographics also includes quarantined animals that have not been surrendered.

<u>Rabies Statistics</u>				
	<u>Dogs</u>	<u>Cats</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bite Quarantine	10	3	0	13
Exposures Investigated	0	0	15	15
Tested Positive	0	0	2	0
Inconclusive	0	0	0	0
Vaccinated at Shelter	52	36		88
Vaccinated at Vet Clinics	492	608		1100
Vaccinated at Rabies Clinics	118	70		188
Total Vaccinations	662	714		1376

37 Wild Intakes and dispositions not included in statistics

<u>Shelter Activity</u> <u>October 2006</u>					
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Total	
In Shelter Custody as of October 1, 2006	78	93	4	175	
				+	
Total Admitted October 2006	193	190	23	406	
Sheltered in October 2006	271	283	27	581	
				-	
Dispositions for October 2006 ⁽¹⁾	187	174	18	379	
Remaining in Shelter Custody on November 1, 2006 ⁽²⁾	84	109	9	202	(2) Within Shelter: 76 dogs, 68 cats In Foster Homes / Pet Stores: 8 dogs, 38 cats Other Within Shelter 2 and In Foster / Pet stores 7

(1) Includes corrections to previous month

<u>Dispositions</u>					
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Total	% of Total Dispositions
Reclaimed	42	5	0	47	12.40%
Adopted	39	73	2	114	30.08%
Transfers ⁽³⁾	19	30	2	51	13.46%
Euthanized	84	62	8	154	40.63%
Died	3	3	6	12	3.17%
Other ⁽¹⁾	0	1	0	1	0.26%
Totals	187	174	18	379	100.00%

(3) Transfers to Rescue Services.

<u>Demographics</u>						Total	Percent
	<u>Animal Control</u>		<u>From Public</u>		Incoming	of Total	
	Strays ⁽⁴⁾	Surrender	Strays	Surrender			
Chapel Hill	20	3	41	28	92	22.7%	
Carrboro	5	2	10	6	23	5.7%	
Hillsborough	17	19	8	18	62	15.3%	
Orange County	115	53	17	28	213	52.5%	
Other County	0	0	4	6	10	2.5%	
Unknown	0	0	6	0	6	1.5%	
Total	157	77	86	86	406	100.0%	
	Strays	243	59.9%	Animal Control	234	57.6%	
	Surrenders	163	40.1%	Public	172	42.4%	

(4) "Strays" under Animal Control Demographics also includes quarantined animals that have not been surrendered

Rabies Statistics

	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Exposures Investigated	1	2	9	12
Tested Positive	0	0	2	2
Vaccinated at Shelter	48	43		91
Vaccinated at Vet Clinics	82	33		115
Vaccinated at Rabies Clinics	526	607		1133
Total Vaccinations	656	683		1339

Shelter Activity November 2006

	Dogs	Cats	Others	Total
In Shelter Custody as of November 1, 2006	84	109	9	202
				+
Total Admitted November 2006	170	148	29	347
Sheltered in November 2006	254	257	38	549
				-
Dispositions for November 2006 (1)	172	176	31	379
Remaining in Shelter Custody on December 1, 2006 (2)	82	81	7	170

(2) Within Shelter: 78 dogs, 52 cats. In Foster Homes / Pet Stores: 4 dogs, 29 cats Other Within Shelter 5 and In Foster / Pet stores 0

(1) Includes corrections to previous month

Dispositions

	Dogs	Cats	Others	Total	% of Total Dispositions
Reclaimed	35	5	0	40	10.55%
Adopted	63	40	5	108	28.50%
Transfers (3)	8	41	1	50	13.19%
Euthanized	64	89	14	167	44.06%
Died	2	1	8	11	2.90%
Other (1)	0	0	3	3	0.79%
Totals	172	176	31	379	100.00%

(3) Transfers to Rescue Services.

<u>Demographics</u>						
	<u>Animal Control</u>		<u>From Public</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
	<u>Strays (4)</u>	<u>Surrender</u>	<u>Strays</u>	<u>Surrender</u>	<u>Incoming</u>	<u>of Total</u>
Chapel Hill	9	4	33	35	81	23.3%
Carrboro	6	0	8	9	23	6.6%
Hillsborough	15	18	11	6	50	14.4%
Orange County	92	50	17	9	168	48.4%
Other County	1	0	6	9	16	4.6%
Unknown	0	0	8	1	9	2.6%
Total	123	72	83	69	347	100.0%
	Strays	206	59.4%	Animal Control	195	56.2%
	Surrenders	141	40.6%	Public	152	43.8%

(4) "Strays" under Animal Control Demographics also includes quarantined animals that have not been surrendered.

<u>Rabies Statistics</u>				
	<u>Dogs</u>	<u>Cats</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Exposures Investigated	0	2	8	10
Tested Positive	0	0	3	3
Vaccinated at Shelter	42	41		83
Vaccinated at Vet Clinics	489	510		999
Vaccinated at Rabies Clinics	52	44		96
Total Vaccinations	583	595		1178

<u>Shelter Activity December 2006</u>				
	<u>Dogs</u>	<u>Cats</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
In Shelter Custody as of December 1, 2006	82	79	5	166
				+
Total Admitted December 2006	213	104	29	346
Sheltered in December 2006	295	183	34	512
				-
Dispositions for December 2006 (1)	185	109	28	322
Remaining in Shelter Custody on January 1, 2007 (2)	110	74	6	190

(1) Includes corrections to previous month

(2) Within Shelter: 106 dogs, 59 cats In Foster Homes / Pet Stores: 4 dogs, 15 cats
Other Within Shelter 1 and In Foster / Pet stores 5

<u>Dispositions</u>					
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Total	% of Total Dispositions
Reclaimed	42	2	0	44	13.66%
Adopted	56	36	0	92	28.57%
Transfers (3)	6	20	2	28	8.70%
Euthanized	80	46	13	139	43.17%
Died	1	5	12	18	5.59%
Other (1)	0	0	1	1	0.31%
Totals	185	109	28	322	100.00%

(3) Transfers to Rescue Services.

<u>Demographics</u>						
	<u>Animal Control</u>		<u>From Public</u>		Total Incoming	Percent of Total
	Strays (4)	Surrender	Strays	Surrender		
Chapel Hill	11	12	35	18	76	22.0%
Carrboro	3	0	9	2	14	4.0%
Hillsborough	10	7	11	17	45	13.0%
Orange County	98	68	11	8	185	53.5%
Other County	0	0	4	10	14	4.0%
Unknown	0	0	12	0	12	3.5%
Total	122	87	82	55	346	100.0%
	Strays	204	59.0%	Animal Control	209	60.4%
	Surrenders	142	41.0%	Public	137	39.6%

(4) "Strays" under Animal Control Demographics also includes quarantined animals that have not been surrendered.

<u>Rabies Statistics</u>				
	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Exposures Investigated	0	1	10	11
Tested Positive	0	0	2	2
Vaccinated at Shelter	33	17		50
Vaccinated at Vet Clinics	430	395		825
Vaccinated at Rabies Clinics	0	0		0
Total Vaccinations	463	412		875