

Kennel Quarterly



Rochester Police Department
Animal Services Unit

Year-end Statistics

Adoption rates remained fairly stable between FY02-03 and FY03-04. During FY03-04, the Animal Services Unit (ASU) impounded 6,451 animals. That is similar (1.3% more) to last year's total of 6,367. Of those animals impounded this year, 1,261 (19.5%) were adopted out into new homes. Last year's adoption numbers (1,292) and percentages (20.3%) were slightly higher.

Of the 3,083 dogs impounded this year, ASU adopted out 702 (22.8%) compared to 739 (22.9%) of 3,232 last year. Although the absolute number of dog adoptions declined slightly (5%), the number of dogs impounded also declined by 149 (4.9%). Therefore the dog adoption rate remained similar to that of last year. Of those dogs not adopted, owners

reclaimed 834 (27.1%), ASU transferred 167 (5.4%), and 1,347 (43.7%) were humanely euthanized. Last year's dispositions for dogs were as follows: 810 (25.1%) reclaimed, 101 (3.1%) transferred, and 1,513 (46.8%) humanely euthanized.

During FY03-04, ASU impounded 3,005 cats. That represents an increase of 94 cats (3.2%) from last year. Of those cats impounded this year, ASU adopted out 509 (16.4%) and transferred 333 (11.1%), owners reclaimed 35 (1.2%), and 2,084 (69.4%) were humanely euthanized. Last year, 465 (16%) were adopted, 277 (9.5%) were transferred, 43 (1.5%) were reclaimed, and 1,960 (67.3%) were humanely euthanized.

Impound numbers for cats were up for the second con-

secutive year, albeit at a lower rate of increase. The redemption rate by owners is still depressingly low and euthanasia rates for cats are sobering. The good news is that cat adoption numbers continued to increase for the fourth straight year and the ASU transferred more cats to other animal welfare organizations (e.g., Animal Service League and Pet Adoption Network) this year compared to last year. Such increases will continue to be critical to gradually reduce the number of cats entering the shelter thereby reducing the number of cats euthanized unnecessarily.



Animal Services shelter in late spring

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Shelter Renovations Completed

At long last the shelter renovations were completed late in the fourth quarter. The changes included the construction of two interior walls to create a surgical suite comprised of a Pre-Operation room, an Exam/Clinic room, a Surgery room, and a Post-Operation recovery room. The ASU replaced water-damaged cabinetry in the Clinic and in the Technical Room and installed stainless steel countertops in both rooms. The renovations also included the installation of a ceiling mounted surgery light, a vacuum pump for removing waste gases from the anesthesia process, and several banks

of stainless steel cages for the new rooms. In addition to new cages in Pre- and Post- Operation rooms, ASU added nine cages to the Technical Room to serve as holding cages for cats with Upper Respiratory Infection. Such holding areas will enable the Unit to isolate and treat sick cats more effectively which should help reduce euthanasia and increase adoptions for cats.

Funding for the renovations, supplies, and equipment came from a PETSMART Charities Grant (\$10,000), American Humane's Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant (\$4,000), and the Very Best Pet Network

Grant (\$2,500), along with \$14,900 from a previous year's operating budget, and over \$9,000 in unsolicited donations from the Rochester community.

Look for more information about our spay-neuter program in future issues.



New stainless steel cage bank in pre-operation room.



Shelter Statistics

	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Other</u>
April			
Impounded	244	278	52
Adopted	81	44	0
Redeemed	69	2	0
Transferred	8	65	9
Euthanized	93	134	37
May			
Impounded	281	326	23
Adopted	56	37	1
Redeemed	93	8	0
Transferred	11	83	12
Euthanized	99	165	6
June			
Impounded	257	292	53
Adopted	47	40	2
Redeemed	86	4	3
Transferred	11	26	13
Euthanized	108	179	41

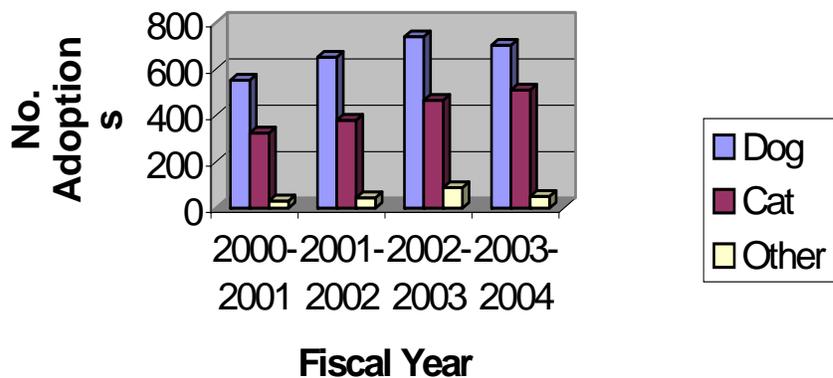
Rochester Animal Services temporarily houses approximately 6,500 animals annually. We are committed to reuniting owners with missing pets and to placing animals in new homes, however it is impossible to find homes for all of them. Some animals are euthanized due to illness or injury. Others may display vicious or aggressive temperaments. Currently, the City of Rochester does not authorize the adoption of "pit bulls" from the shelter, so those that are not reclaimed are euthanized or transferred to Lollypop Farm. Sadly, many animals are euthanized because there are just far too many stray and unwanted animals in our community and we do not have space to house them all. We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same. If the number of animals coming in declines, then we can devote more time and energy to those animals we do shelter, we can increase adoptions and redemptions and decrease euthanasia.



"We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same."



Animal Adoptions By Year Rochester, NY



From the Director's Chair

I was going to begin with an apologetic comment about the tardiness of this issue, but then I realized that last year's fourth quarter issue was even later. Evidently, my focus gets shifted around to a variety of other matters near the yearend and the newsletter gets pushed to the back burner. I am already committed to having the next issue out on time. However, we'll have to wait and see how I do on the fourth issue next summer.

The fourth quarter was busy as usual with the typical increase in numbers of dogs and cats impounded and in the numbers of calls for service. Additionally, we were gearing up for our new spay/neuter program with on-site surgeries. Construction began in April and

continued on and off until mid-June. I spent what seems like the majority of my time identifying and ordering a variety of equipment, supplies, and pharmaceuticals that I was heretofore unfamiliar with.

Also during the fourth quarter we interviewed candidates for a vacant Animal Control Officer position. Elaine Lalka was selected for the position and has been promoted from Animal Care Technician to ACO and will begin training this fall. ACO Tabitha Herscha (now Tabitha Siard) got married in April and then moved to Philadelphia in late June. Tab was an asset to our Unit and will be missed.

This past fiscal year marked our fourth year of operation as a unit within the Rochester Police Department. Adoption

rates continued to rise, as with cats, or remain stable, as with dogs, demonstrating our success in raising awareness and promoting our services. My plans for fiscal year 2004-2005 include increased advertisement and promotions. We need to continue to promote both adoptions and responsible pet ownership (or guardianship). Working on those two fronts simultaneously should help reduce the abundance of stray and unwanted animals and ultimately reduce the number of animals unnecessarily euthanized. Additionally, increased responsibility among pet owners translates into fewer complaints regarding nuisances, property damage, and public safety issues.

Another major plan for this coming year is to initiate a low-cost spay neuter program here at our shelter. We will be



working with the local veterinary association to get that project off the ground in the coming months.

As always I welcome your comments regarding our programs, services, and procedures and any thoughts about this or any past or future issues.

Chris Fitzgerald

Who's Who at Animal Services

Hipolito "Paul" Huertas was hired as an Animal Control Officer in June 2000 when the RPD assumed control of Animal Services from the humane Society.

Paul was born in New York City and moved to Rochester when he was nine years old. Paul served three years in the United States Marine Corps stationed in Japan, Korea, Hawaii, and California. Before being hired by the RPD, Paul worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant for several years. He also worked part-time at the Metro YMCA. Paul is involved in a variety of sports including basketball, softball, and bow hunting. Last year, Paul received the RPD Physical Fitness Award demonstrating his personal commitment to fitness.

Paul's wife Marisol has been with Xerox for 25 years. Paul has two daughters, Francesca and Jasmine and a step son, Marco Rivera. Paul has strong

ties to the Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church and to the Hispanic community. Being bilingual, Paul takes particular pride in working with Rochester's Hispanic residents to educate them about animal control and responsible pet care.

Jonelle Lang was hired by the RPD as Shelter Manager in June 2000 when the Department assumed control of Animal Services. Prior to that Jonelle had worked as the Shelter Manager at Animal Services as an employee of The Humane Society of Rochester and Monroe County for three years. Before that Jonelle worked for a year as a Veterinary Technician for the Orlando Humane Society. Jonelle is an animal lover and an avid angler. During the warmer months Jonelle spends most of her time on her boat in Irondequoit Bay or Lake Ontario.

Dan Murphy was hired as an Assistant Supervisor of Animal Control in July 2000 shortly after the transition of operation from Humane Society to RPD. Murph worked as an Animal Control Officer in the City for the Humane Society for 13 years before being hired by the RPD. Murph's related experience includes a year of part-time employment as a Dog Warden for the town of Chili and three years as an Animal Care Technician at the University of Rochester's vivarium. When Murph is not on duty he enjoys listening to jazz music and watching "his" Yankees. For those of you who have seen our highway banners, you may be interested to learn that it was Murph who came up with the "Need a Friend" campaign.



Paul Huertas (top), Jonelle Lang (middle), Dan Murphy (bottom)



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Get personal. Adopt a pet.

Animal Services is a municipal animal care and control unit within the Rochester Police Department that is committed to improving quality of life and safety for city residents, the promotion of responsible pet guardianship, and the reduction of animal overpopulation to reduce animal suffering and euthanasia. Animal Services enforces all New York State and City of Rochester ordinances pertaining to animal control. We operate an animal shelter for stray, injured, menacing, and disowned animals. The shelter serves as a resource for locating lost pets and as an adoption center. We strive to provide the best possible care for all animals in our charge.

VISIT US ONLINE

WWW.ROCHESTERANIMALSERVICES.COM

Volunteer Corner

The shelter always welcomes new volunteers, so if you or anyone you know may be interested in joining our team, please give us a call at 428-7274, visit our website at www.rochesteranimalservices.com, or come down and visit us in person at 184 Verona Street. Volunteers must complete an application and return it to the RPD Volunteer Coordinator before being invited to attend an orientation. Once that process is complete, volunteers can come help with the animals whenever the shelter is open to the public.

Volunteers perform a variety of invaluable services for our unit. Dog walking is certainly one of the most popular activities and it can be therapeutic for both dogs and volunteers. We rely on the dog walkers to

exercise and socialize the dogs. Exercise is important for maintaining their well being and health while sheltered at our facility and also helps them from becoming "stir crazy" and less adoptable. Socializing the dogs to other animals and people is essential to the success of any dog adoption.

Other volunteers spend time in the Cat Room playing with, grooming, and socializing the cats. This helps the cats become comfortable with being held and cared for in preparation of their move to a new home. Some volunteers take on the least desirable tasks such as keeping the cages clean and tackling the persistent mounds of laundry from all of the bedding used to make the animals more comfortable. Certain seasoned volunteers

accept job assignments typical of our full-time Animal Care Technicians like cleaning the cat rooms and assisting clients with visitations with animals.

Outreach and promotional events are also avenues for volunteers to lend a hand. Volunteers have been essential to staffing our information tables at the Corn Hill Arts Festival, the Park Avenue Festival, the Puerto Rican Festival, and several Rhinos soccer games each year. These are wonderful opportunities to help raise awareness about Animal Services, to promote adoptions and responsible pet guardianship, and to recruit more volunteers like yourselves. To all of our incumbent volunteers, thank you so much for all that you do for our unit and for the animals.



Rick in Brown Square Park with an adoptable dog.



Trish helps out by cleaning cages in Post-Operation Room.