

Kennel Quarterly



Rochester Police Department
Animal Services Unit

Adoption Numbers

During the third quarter, Animal Services impounded 602 dogs. Of those, 158 (26.2%) were reclaimed by owners, 166 (27.6%) were adopted, 50 (8.3%) were transferred to other animal welfare groups, and 238 (39.5%) were humanely euthanized.

Of the 444 dogs not reclaimed by owners, 222 (50%) were deemed not adoptable due to temperament, policy, or medical issues, or were euthanized at the owner's request due to age or medical problems. That means that 222 dogs were actually available for adoption. Of those, 166 were adopted. That represents a 74.8% adoption rate for those dogs deemed adoptable. With the 50 transfers, that rate in-

creases to 97.3%.

The Unit also impounded 459 cats during the first quarter. Of those, only 6 (1.3%) were reclaimed by owners, 137 (29.8%) were adopted, 108 (23.5%) were transferred to other animal welfare organizations, and 201 (43.8%) were humanely euthanized.

Although no cats were euthanized to make room for incoming cats, 138 cats were euthanized due to medical conditions. The majority of those were cats with treatable Upper Respiratory Infections (URI). Every cat that enters the facility is potentially exposed to pathogens that may lead to an infection. The combination of stress, influx of infected and unvaccinated cats, and the disease

transmission caused by handling multiple cats make URI a major challenge for the shelter. Increasing cat adoptions is key to reducing euthanasia rates.

To that end, Animal Services has established some promotional incentives to adopt out more cats. Clients can now get a discount when they adopt two adult cats or kittens simultaneously. During the month of June (a.k.a. kitten season), clients can adopt two cats or kittens for the price of one.



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Parading Pups A Big Hit

March 11— Animal Services was represented in the 2006 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Assistant Manager Pam Cook drove one of the animal control vans while a team of volunteers walked adoptable dogs, displayed the unit's banner, and handed out brochures.

The idea was to gain some exposure for the unit's programs and services and to showcase a few of the great



dogs available for adoption at the City's animal shelter.

The dogs wore coats adorned with messages like, "Adopt me" and "Hug me." Animal Services wants to thank all of you who helped out with making the parade a success for these dogs. Special recognition is extended to Patti and Jim Mistretta for sewing the dog coats and affixing the inviting messages.

With this first appearance behind the unit, Animal Services plans to participate in the parade annually. Additionally, the unit plans to use the dog coats to showcase dogs at other parades and community events of this nature. Anyone with suggestions about upcoming opportunities for parading pups is encouraged to contact the shelter at 428-7274.





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

Animal Services Quarterly Statistics

	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Other</u>
January			
Impounded	205	154	8
Adopted	53	59	2
Redeemed	61	2	1
Transferred	24	26	1
Euthanized	82	63	2
Sterilized	47(6)	39(76)	0
February			
Impounded	191	127	12
Adopted	52	41	4
Redeemed	51	3	0
Transferred	13	25	5
Euthanized	65	63	1
Sterilized	39(7)	42(60)	0
March			
Impounded	206	178	12
Adopted	61	37	3
Redeemed	46	1	1
Transferred	13	57	2
Euthanized	91	75	0
Sterilized	51(17)	31(73)	0

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. 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 greater responsibility for our animal companions. That means making sure our pets are licensed, vaccinated, securely confined, and spayed and neutered. 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.

Sterilization figures are separated into adopted pets and owned pets sterilized through the Low-Income Spay-Neuter (LISN) program, with the latter presented in parentheses.

EAP Addresses Compassion Fatigue At Shelter

During the last year, Animal Services has arranged for Joe Kenney, a representative of the Health Association Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to make several visits to the shelter to discuss the stress unique to animal caregivers. Compassion stress is the demand to be compassionate and helping. Animal care workers experience compassion fatigue when they are traumatized by their efforts to help. Compassion fatigue is exhaustion due to compassion stress, the demands of being empathic and helpful to those who are suffering (Figley and Roop, 2006).

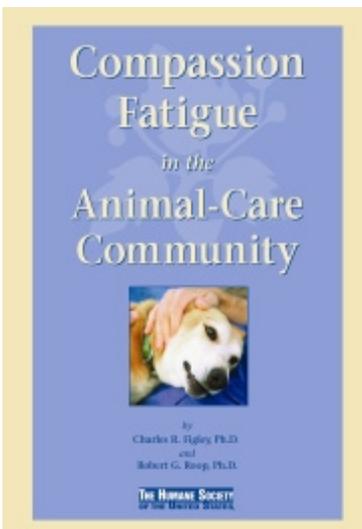
In December 2004, upon a

suggestion from Animal Care Technician, Deonna Campbell, Director of Animal Services, Chris Fitzgerald contacted the EAP about developing a workshop geared toward animal care professionals. Mr. Kenney had facilitated similar workshops with nurse caregivers in the past. He began visiting Animal Services in January 2005 to provide some channels for discussion and strategies for coping with the burden of caring for animals, many of which may be euthanized mere days after their arrival.

As the staff continues to change, Kenney continues to return to address this important issue with the shelter employ-

ees. The most recent session occurred March 2, 2006 at Animal Services. Kenney returned March 22 to focus on conflict resolution.

Addressing the emotional burden through workshops and providing channels for communicating with each other are all critical components to maintaining a sustainable commitment to providing animal care. Compassion fatigue has become a hot topic in the animal care industry as evidenced by its inclusion in national conferences. It is rewarding to see that Animal Services has been timely in its attention to its dedicated animal care professionals.



From the Director's Chair



Despite the relatively mild winter, the third quarter proved cold and dark for me personally with significant losses close to my heart. Nevertheless, the quarter was productive and I am optimistic about the coming months.

Early in the quarter, after recognizing that requests for dog bite presentations had declined, I decided we needed to actively seek out various groups and organizations to whom we might provide dog bite prevention workshops. Supervisor Tom Shannon embraced that additional responsibility and has been actively coordinating and leading such workshops with schools, utility companies, and other organizations whose

employees are out in the community and potentially exposed to dogs.

Also on the outreach front, the calendar of upcoming events and festivals is rapidly filling up. We have already begun recruiting volunteers to assist with the spring and summer events. It is exciting to be involved in so many activities knowing that each contact may very well lead to another successful adoption, sterilized pet, or new volunteer.

In early March, I was fortunate to attend the Humane Society of the United States Animal Care Expo in Anaheim, California. The Expo is the premier conference for the animal care and control industry and is al-

ways crammed with informative seminars, progressive ideas, and networking opportunities. This year was no exception and I returned to Rochester recharged and inspired to continue this admirable work and to implement several changes and improvements. Some of those changes include adjustments to the cat handling and cleaning protocols to minimize disease spread, promotional discounts for two-cat adoptions and for senior citizens, a special breeds adoption program, automated dog license renewal notifications in conjunction with the City Clerk's Office, and microchipping every animal adopted from the shelter.

Additionally, the Friends of



Rochester Animals group is taking shape with the creation of a logo, trustee nominations, and website development underway.

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

Animal Services Reaches Out

There are two main thrusts to the outreach endeavors of Animal Services, one is geared toward improving public safety and responsible pet ownership and the other is aimed at promoting programs and services. Historically, Animal Services has been invited to discuss dog bite prevention at schools and local utility companies, however those requests have declined during the past few years.

Instead of waiting for the requests to come, the unit has taken the initiative to solicit interest from those parties most likely to benefit. During the third quarter, Tom Shannon, Supervisor of Animal Control, contacted representatives from the Water Bureau, City Refuse, Special Services, the NET Office, Frontier, Time Warner Cable, and the US Postal Service and is planning to contact RG&E and the Rochester City School District about schedul-

ing dog bite prevention seminars. Mr. Shannon has already visited several of these groups and is scheduling other presentations in the coming weeks. National Dog Bite Prevention Week is May 21-27 and is a great time to learn how to stay safe around dogs, but Animal Services is committed to such programs year round. Any organizations interested in learning strategies for dog bite prevention and pet owner responsibility should contact Animal Services at 428-7274. Such initiatives help reduce the number and severity of dog bites within our community while also providing information about the City's role in enforcement of dog bites and other animal control ordinances.

The other major focus for outreach is in promoting adoptions and other services. When the City assumed control of the operation in July 2000, Animal

Services was not represented at any public events. Then during the next few years the unit became a perennial fixture at the Corn Hill Arts Festival, Park Avenue Arts Festival, Puerto Rican Festival, and at a few Rhinos games each season. Every year the unit tries to add additional events to broaden its reach. Last year there was the 19th Ward Annual Square Fair and the Lyell Avenue Street Fair. This year, Animal Services is planning to participate in all of the same events plus a few new ones including Fairport Canal Days and the Rochester Harbor and Carousel Festival. As mentioned earlier, this was also the first year that Animal Services participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

These types of events have proved highly successful in promoting adoptions, recruiting volunteers, and bolstering awareness of the unit and its

other services. In the last two years, Animal Services has used these events as additional outlets for promoting the Low-Income Spay-Neuter Program.

It is important to get out into the community to interact with citizens who may not be aware of the various programs provided by Animal Services. Whether it is fielding questions about animals available for adoption, discussing volunteering opportunities with prospective applicants, promoting dog training or pet first aid classes, or simply listening to peoples' stories about their pets, these face-to-face opportunities truly demonstrate the commitment and compassion of the Animal Services staff and volunteers.

**National Dog Bite
Prevention Week
May 21-27, 2006**

Vets Wanted

to Help Rochester's Animals.

The City of Rochester is looking for veterinarians interested in providing assistance with the Animal Services spay-neuter program.

For more information contact Chris Fitzgerald:
cf1274@cityofrochester.gov
or call (585) 428.6898



City of Rochester, New York





In Memoriam

Abigail Newfield Fitzgerald

2/4/94 - 2/2/06

Abby will always be remembered for smiley greetings,
a readily displayed abdomen,
and whiney nudging demands for even the slightest touch.
She was a frisbee extraordinaire,
a best friend and companion,
a lovely singer,
and a gentle spirit.
Everyone who new Abby loved her.
We love her still.



Rochester Police Department Animal Services Unit

184 Verona Street
Rochester, NY
14608

Phone: 585-428-7274
Fax: 585-428-6130
Chris.Fitzgerald@cityofrochester.gov

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

As mentioned on the front page, the volunteers did a great job representing Animal Services and showcasing a few of the adoptable dogs at this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Thank you all!

Animal Services continues to focus extra attention on recruitment of volunteers for specialized duties including positions at the front desk, cleaning cages, offsite promotions and events, clinic and surgery support, photographing animals for the website, and performing web updates. All of these duties are essential to improving the efficiency of the agency, enhancing customer service, and for increasing the visibility of the many programs and services provided.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact 428-7274 and submit an applica-

tion to be included in an upcoming orientation. Applications are available at the shelter or on the *Join Us* page at rochesteranimalservices.com.



DOG OBEDIENCE & SOCIALIZATION CLASSES

Basic Obedience \$65
Puppy Socialization \$35
Or \$85 for both classes

Classes forming now.



PET FIRST AID COURSE

Certification class and
book only \$25

Call 428-7274 to enroll.