

Kennel Quarterly



Rochester Police Department
Animal Services Unit

Adoption Numbers

During the fourth quarter, Animal Services impounded 665 dogs. Of those, 165 (24.8%) were reclaimed by owners, 114 (17.1%) were adopted, 37 (5.6%) were transferred to other animal welfare organizations, and 318 (47.8%) were humanely euthanized.

Of the 500 dogs not reclaimed by owners, 316 (63.2%) 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 184 dogs were actually available for adoption. Of those, 114 were adopted. That represents a 62% adoption rate for those dogs deemed adoptable. With the 37 transfers, that rate increases to 82.1%, however, no dogs were pulled from adoption rooms for euthanasia. So

the remainder represent those dogs impounded during June that were still sheltered into July. In the previous quarter, the adoption rate was 74.8% for dogs. With transfers the rate was 97.3% in the third quarter.

The decline in the adoption rate and the corresponding increase in euthanasia are likely attributed to the implementation of temperament evaluations for every dog before being deemed adoptable. Animal Services began temperament testing every dog in April. Although these evaluations reduce the number of dogs made available for adoption and thereby increases those requiring euthanasia, the unit is confident that there will be fewer dog bites associated with dogs adopted from the shelter and fewer dogs returned as a result of aggression.

The unit also impounded 748 cats during the fourth quarter.

Of those, only 4 (0.5%) were reclaimed by owners, 124 (16.7%) were adopted, 156 (20.9%) were transferred to other animal welfare organizations, and 415 (55.5%) were humanely euthanized.

It is noteworthy that cat adoptions exceeded dog adoptions this quarter, however, adoptions of cats remains a challenge, because of the greater number impounded and smaller number reclaimed by owners.



John Myers Photography

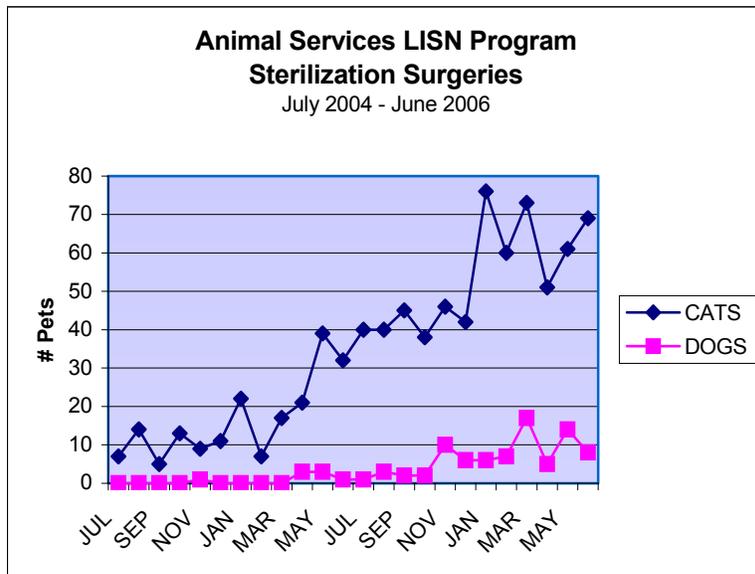


Animal Services shelter on Verona Street

Inside this issue:

Shelter Statistics	2
RAS Gives Injured Dog 2nd Chance	2
Director's Chair	3
Local Vets, Shelters Team Up For Spay Day	3
Volunteer Corner	5
Who's Who At RAS	5

Low-Cost Spay-Neuter Program Soars





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

Shelter Statistics

	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Other</u>
<u>April</u>			
Impounded	204	224	15
Adopted	41	29	1
Redeemed	48	2	0
Transferred	17	78	10
Euthanized	94	79	6
Sterilized	42(+6)	22(+51)	0
<u>May</u>			
Impounded	212	225	22
Adopted	36	44	2
Redeemed	65	1	3
Transferred	6	34	3
Euthanized	97	154	6
Sterilized	28(+14)	41(+61)	0(+1)
<u>June</u>			
Impounded	249	299	27
Adopted	37	51	4
Redeemed	52	1	0
Transferred	14	44	15
Euthanized	127	182	4
Sterilized	34(+8)	40(+69)	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 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.

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.

RAS Gives “Joey” 2nd Chance

June 11, 2006 – Animal Control Officer Denise Lybrand responded to a call for a dog tangled in a fence. Lybrand untangled the male shepherd-retriever mix and transported him to Animal Emergency Services for examination and treatment. The dog had a neck wound infested with maggots and smelled of infection. Upon examination at the emergency clinic, the veterinarian identified a severe laceration so deep that the trachea was exposed. This type of injury can occur when a dog fitted with a choke chain and tethered outside continuously pulls at the end of the line, tightening the chain and cutting into its neck.

After having the wound flushed, beginning treatment with antibiotics, and spending the night at the emergency clinic, the surprisingly friendly dog was transported to the Animal Services shelter where he was held for five days in the event that an owner came looking for him. No one came.

The City’s visiting veterinarians replaced the bandages daily and continued treating the dog, now known as “Joey,” with antibiotics and subcutaneous fluids. On June 21, the wound was closed and drains were inserted to aid the healing of the gaping injury. Joey was neutered while under anesthesia for the neck repair. Volunteers

from the shelter are fostering Joey until a permanent home can be located. It is a testament to Joey’s character that he remains friendly and affectionate despite the trauma that he endured.

This is a heart-wrenching example of the life-saving work that members of Animal Services perform on a daily basis. A wonderful dog will now be given a second chance due to the kindness and dedication of the Animal Services team of Animal Control Officers, Animal Care Technicians, veterinary personnel, and volunteers. Anyone interested in adopting Joey should call 428-7274.



Joey with closed wound and drains (above) and recovering in foster care (below)



From the Director's Chair

Impound number for dogs continued to decline for the sixth year in a row. The unit impounded 2,690 dogs this year compared to 2,914 last year and 4,169 impounded in FY2000-2001, our first year. We attribute the gradual reduction in dog impound numbers to the increased enforcement, stiffer penalties, and continued promotion of responsible pet ownership during the Police Department's tenure over Animal Services.

Somewhat surprisingly, cat numbers also declined. This year the unit impounded 2,815 cats. That is down 388 (12%) from last year and it is the first time in six years that cat impound numbers have not risen. The Low-Income Spay-Neuter

program may be contributing to the decline. Not only have we sterilized hundreds of cats during the past two years, but the LISN program also gives many owners an alternative to relinquishment. By providing a low-cost option for sterilization, we are able to address many of the concerns that frequently result in relinquishment including unwanted litters, undesirable behaviors, roaming, and aggression. The program continued to reach more pet owners this year. We sterilized 641 cats through the LISN program this year, compared to 197 cats during the program's first year, fiscal year 2004-2005.

In addition to increased sterilization for cats, we also adopted 51 cats this June com-

pared with just 22 last June. That increase is attributed to the "two-fur-one" promotion. With the success of the adoption of cats during the month of June, we have decided to implement the same promotion for August. Next summer we will run it June through August, the busiest months for cats entering our shelter. Additionally, we are planning to resume off-site adoption events at area PETSMART stores to further increase cat adoptions. We will need volunteers to transport cats, provide information, and process adoptions at all three of the partner stores. Contact the shelter at 428-7274 if you are interested in getting involved with these offsite adoptions.

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



Local Vets Team Up With Shelters For Spay Day

On Sunday June 18, Animal Services held its first Spay Day. The one-day spay-neuter clinic for cats was a collaborative effort among Animal Services, The Humane Society at Lollypop Farm, and the Monroe Veterinary Associates (MVA). The project stems from discussions between Alice Calabrese Smith, President of Lollypop Farm and Dr. Paul Black, President of MVA about the possibility of getting additional veterinary teams involved in the spay neuter effort. Dr. Black indicated that the MVA hospitals would like to offer these services on a regular basis. Subsequent discussions between Chris Fitzgerald, Director of Animal Services and Dr. Black delved into the same topic.

After Smith and Fitzgerald discussed the idea further, both parties agreed that Animal Services would be the appropriate location to best address the target population of City cat

owners.

Before all of the plans and logistics were finalized, Suburban Animal Hospital's Director, Dr. Carolyn Fisher indicated her willingness to run a clinic on June 18. Lollypop provided a team of volunteers to assist the veterinary team.

RAS volunteer Merri Lou McKeever proved invaluable in organizing and coordinating the volunteer team and in navigating the unfamiliar setting for the visiting veterinary team.

During the Spay Day, 22 cats were spayed or neutered. That is more than twice as many sterilization surgeries as RAS vets perform on a routine week day. "We were at our limits with the LISN program, so this type of collaboration was the only way to increase the surgeries performed," said Fitzgerald. The unit hopes to schedule additional Spay Days with the Monroe Veterinary Associates in the coming months.

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



Spay and Neuter Your Pets

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 Robert J. Duffy, Mayor
City of Rochester, NY

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4:00-7:00 p.m.

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Rabbit Raffle
CAT Scramble**



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www.rochesteranimalservices.com**

**Order tickets ASAP
Make Check payable to :**

Verona Street Animal Society

Mail checks to:

Don Crumb
1001 Whalen Road
Penfield, NY 14526

Phone: 943-9493

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

No. of Tickets: _____



Rochester Police Department Animal Services Unit

184 Verona Street
Rochester, NY
14608

Phone: 585-428-7274
Fax: 585-428-6130
cf1274@cityofrochester.gov

Spaying and Neutering Saves Lives!

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

Animal Services would like to thank all of our volunteers for their continuing support and assistance during the fourth quarter. The unit was represented at the Rochester Harbor and Carousel Fest for the first time this June. Volunteers provided information at our booth throughout the three-day event. In this next year, Animal Services plans to add a few more events to its calendar.

Several volunteers have assisted with promoting our programs at recent events. Jim and Patti Mistretta have taken charge of recruiting and scheduling coverage for special events and are doing an excellent job. There are still a few summer events coming up with which Animal Services could use help including the Park Avenue Festival, Puerto Rican Festival, Summer Pet Fest, the 2nd

Annual Lyell Avenue Street Fair, and a couple of Rhinos games. Check the sign-up sheets in the lobby or speak with the shelter management.

In addition to these summer events, Animal Services is beginning to recruit volunteers for PETSMART's National Adoption Weekend September 15-17. The unit wants to send two volunteers with a few cats to each of the three area locations, Greece, Henrietta, and Webster. These offsite adoption events should help boost cat adoptions. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Pam Kent for details.

The unit is always in need of more volunteers to assist with these types of events and to provide care, exercise, and socialization for the animals.

Thanks again and keep up the great work!

Who's Who At RAS

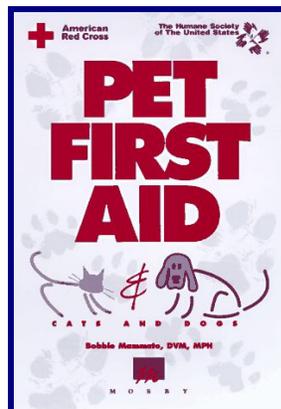
Patrizia "Trisha" Ringer is the Veterinary Technician at RAS. She came to the unit as a contractual employee in July 2005 and was hired full-time in October 2005.

Trisha was an ARMY brat and moved around a lot in her childhood. She received a B.A. in Psychology from SUNY Geneseo and worked for 15 years with the developmentally disabled.

In 1999, Trisha returned to school, this time at Medaille

College in Buffalo, NY to pursue a degree in Veterinary Technology. She graduated in 2003 and subsequently worked at two area veterinary hospitals before coming to RAS.

When Trisha is not at work, she enjoys reading and watching movies. She has two pets, "Miss Muffett," a 15+ year old domestic long haired cat, and "Fergie," a 12 year old beagle.



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