



By Email Only

March 18, 2014

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Re: Meeting with Members of No Kill Huntsville Regarding the No Kill Equation

Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

This letter confirms that we have agreed to meet with you to discuss no kill equation programs as was requested by City Administrator John Hamilton during our March 11, 2014, meeting. The meeting will be held at the conference room at Keller Williams Realty on Friday, March 21, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. The address is 809 Shoney Drive SW, Suite 108, Huntsville, which is just north of Redstone Federal Credit Union. We ask that you bring only one or two city employees to the meeting with you; the conference room is not large enough to accommodate a large group of people. Because yours is a municipal shelter which serves two municipalities, you are welcome to extend an invitation to Madison County Animal Control Director Mike Fritz to attend the meeting.

We understand that you had a series of meetings following our workshop in July of last year with members of Huntsville Pets Alive in which the no kill equation was discussed at some length. Our meeting with you will consist of a presentation by members of our group on our research related to the no kill equation to explain 1) what resources we believe exist already to help implement the equation and 2) what other communities are doing to implement certain equation elements/what could be implemented here.

We have copied Mr. Hamilton on this letter in hopes that he will consider attending the meeting as he continues to develop a better understanding of these concepts, our local resources

and your department as you both move forward to bring change to our area in order to save the lives of animals while saving money.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay
Dianne Burch

read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal

read but not signed to avoid delay
Susan Burlingame

read but not signed to avoid delay
Karen Borden

cc: Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801



By Email Only

April 2, 2014

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: The No Kill Equation; Research and Networking

Dear Dr. Hill-Sheppard and Mr. Hamilton:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you both on March 21, 2014, to cover our research related to the No Kill Equation. We hope that our input on equation program development was helpful to you both as it was informative to us to learn of the additional programs being implemented at Huntsville Animal Services. We have revised the chart from our meeting to reflect those procedures and programs which are already being used. The chart is attached for your reference. Additions to the chart based on what we were told at the meeting are shown in bold/italic font.

We encourage you to network with Madison County Animal Control Director Mike Fritz to discuss the equation elements further (since your shelter serves both the City of Huntsville and also serves Madison County). We also hope you will avail yourself either of the services of Humane Network (lead by Bonney Brown) for targeted assistance which would be provided here or of one of the two open invitations we have secured for you both to visit another location for a site-immersion visit: Georgetown, Texas or Marquette, Michigan.

We are happy to discuss programs and theories with you, but in the end, we simply are not qualified to help you fully implement the equation since none of us has ever directed an open admission no kill shelter. Research only goes so far, but there is no need to “reinvent the wheel.” Engaging with people who run successful open admission no kill shelters can help you develop real world understanding of what works and what does not work as those people can share the

“nuts and bolts” information you need to fully implement the equation in our community. The contacts we have provided to you are all prepared to do just that to help so that you and our city leaders can help take our community in a new direction. Of course, you are welcome to contact any of the existing No Kill Communities shown on our web site to learn more about successful no kill equation programs.

Because it is apparent that you believe that becoming a No Kill Community comes with increased cost output, it may be helpful for you to contact those individuals in Austin which appear on the contact sheet we provided to you. Larry Tucker, Chairman of the Austin Animal Advisory Committee, will tell you what he told us: that Austin became a No Kill Community with 1) no increased cost output; 2) while the shelter was located in an old building which had failed a series of health department inspections; and 3) while the shelter was being run by someone with no animal shelter experience.

We are confident that once you have networked with Madison County Animal Control and have sought the counsel of people who are running (or have run) an open admission no kill shelter, you will have a much more clear idea of what you will need to help make ours a No Kill Community.

We plan to follow-up with you in thirty days to learn about your plans moving forward and so we can accurately inform our followers in the community of your progress. If you require any further information in the interim, feel free to email us at admin@nokillhuntsville.com.

Sincerely,

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Susan Burlingame

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Jean Douglas

Enclosure

High-Volume/Low-Cost Spay Neuter (keep them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Alabama Spay/Neuter Clinic on North Parkway • SNAP Program to subsidize cost of spay/neuter • spay/neuter information on the shelter web site • Fixin' Alabama program for low income families (female animals) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ongoing and consistent community outreach by the city to promote spay/neuter using the media and at events so people know health benefits and how it helps the community • network with county animal control to determine target locations in the city and the county to promote spay/neuter • targeted community outreach in problem areas where people do not typically spay/neuter pets so they can be encouraged to do so for health and financial reasons • ongoing support of and promotion of the spay/neuter clinic as a low cost alternative for people of any income (families and rescuers) • offer free spay/neuter clinics once a month to low income families and for community cats (funded through grants or donations) • <i>volunteers to pick up animals and transport to/from clinic</i>

Pet Retention Programs (keep them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • animal issues information on the shelter web site • <i>working with a couple of trainers (Laurel Rose from Such a Good Dog)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pet surrender by appointment in order to provide pet surrender counseling (with the help of volunteers) to talk about issues which may be overcome so the pet remains in the home, is re-homed by the owner or is fostered short-term (behavioral problems, financial problems, medical issues with pets, resources like the pet food bank) • offer assistance by phone to families with animal issues to decrease the number of pet surrenders to the shelter (using help of volunteers and a Help Desk Book like that used by Nevada Humane Society) • provide more comprehensive information on the shelter web site to encourage pet retention (following other web sites like that for the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, Wonderpuppy.net, etc.) • partner with obedience trainers and animal behaviorists to sponsor classes at the shelter or off-site once a month to overcome issues (separate classes for dog owners and cat owners) • offer a free training session for anyone who adopts a dog through the partnership with obedience trainers and animal behaviorists

Proactive Redemptions (keep them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lost pet information on shelter web site • limited owner search based on geographic area and number of homes/businesses in vicinity • scan for chip upon intake & before death • owner search at intake using rabies tag/license • <i>lost/found pictures of some dogs and cats on the shelter web site</i> • <i>chipping of redeemed/adopted animals</i> • <i>scan for chip in field</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • network with county animal control department to maximize opportunities for animals to get back home • in the field (more work initially in the field but evens out in end since it means less work at shelter) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -scan for chip at scene -if phone number on collar or tag, call at scene -owner search at scene using rabies/license tag -canvas neighborhood/location in attempt to find owner -if owner found, free ride home 1st time -check Pet Harbor at scene • once impounded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -re-scan for chip, vet check/vaccinate -if not done in field, photograph and upload photo to Pet Harbor - if owner determined and impound reason is due to arrest or hospitalization, to work with owner to pay -if owner doesn't have money to pay redemption fee right away, work with owner to make other arrangements to pay • if animal returned, encourage microchipping or use of embroidered collar/embossed tag • host a microchipping clinic once a month • microchip animals as part of the adoption • modify the shelter hours to be more family friendly and make it easier for people to find a lost pet (open different hours during the week and both days on the weekend for limited hours)

Feral (“Community”) Cat TNR (Trap-Neuter- Return) Programs (keep them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independent organizations are already doing TNR • catch and impoundment of nuisance cats/cats who are not social to people which are then destroyed • <i>cats suspected to be feral housed together and evaluated before being destroyed</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no longer to catch and destroy of free roaming cats (consistent with current HSUS and ASPCA policies) • enact ordinance with allows/supports/endorse TNR • modify existing city code to add language about feral/community cats and to make it clear they are not “owned” animals like other pets • community outreach in the city and county to educate the public about TNR and why it is the best, most humane method to reduce populations while saving tax dollars • offer free spay/neuter clinics once a month to advocates and rescue groups for community cats (using grants or funds formerly spent to catch and then destroy) • develop and maintain solid communication with local organizations performing TNR in order to help address issues in the community and keep the public from demanding feral cats are impounded • with the help of TNR organizations, use lactating mothers in the shelter to feed kittens displaced from a feral mother

Comprehensive Adoption Programs (get them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set adoption hours M-F and Saturday (primarily when adults are at work and children are in school) • monthly adoption promotions at the shelter • recent city council approval to do adoption promotions and specials • <i>some off-site adoptions using volunteers</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as part of media blast about becoming a no kill shelter, hold a widely publicized Adoptathon to serve an Open House event and way to get a lot of animals adopted fast • ongoing community outreach/education to dispel myth that shelter animals are damaged; promote them as a “green” alternative to buying an animal • ongoing off-site adoptions at various locations around the city/county (dog park, other city parks, businesses, stadium) • modify the weekday adoption hours to facilitate adoptions and customer service (not more hours - different hours) • be open to the public for adoptions limited hours on weekends and holidays to make it easier for people to adopt (employees are caring for animals on these days anyway and volunteers could help with the adoptions) • well publicized ongoing adoption programs for special groups in our area for which the adoption fee is waived: Pets for Patriots, Seniors for Seniors, Hounds for the Homebound, Cat Companions (homebound people) • monthly adoption specials: Name Your Price, Two For One, Back In Black, promotions tied to holidays or events • offer free training to anyone who adopts a dog (by partnering with trainers/behaviorists for a class 1x/month) • get rid of arbitrary pet limit law in city code; some people should not have a single pet, some can have many pets with no affect on their quality of care of neighbors • make adoptable animals visible in the community with volunteers (in parks, near stores, at events)

Rescue Group Release (get them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cooperative relationship with rescue groups to allow rescue pull for free• <i>“E-list” available to some rescue groups via social media</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• have list of “registered” or approved rescue groups indicating primary contact names, names of individuals with authority to pull for the rescue and types of animals the rescue wants to be notified about• electronic and ongoing communication with rescue groups about animals at risk by species, suspected breed, special needs, etc. (via closed Facebook group)• allow rescues and adopters the option to use their own vet for spay/neuter or other services• develop system so that no healthy and treatable animal is destroyed without rescue contacts being offered the opportunity to remove the animal from the shelter

Foster Programs (get them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foster program for short-term needs and open ended needs • <i>information on foster program on shelter web site</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foster program overseen by shelter staff but managed by a volunteer • maintain list of available fosters based on preferences by species, size, age (including people to care for neo-natals) and preferred duration of foster care • create closed Facebook group to communicate with fosters about needs, issues with animals being fostered • city pays for medical care while animals fostered so fosters only pay for routine care like food and cat litter • ongoing search for new foster homes through community outreach in regions, on the Arsenal, at local colleges, with senior groups and other specialty groups (touting foster care as a way to help animals without the long-term commitment) • targeted outreach to recruit fosters for neo-natals (Kitten Corps and Puppy Partners)

Medical/Behavior Programs (get them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • told (by Karen Buchan) that most animals (but not all) vaccinated within 72 hours of intake • <i>immediate provision of veterinary care either on site or off site for obvious injury or illness</i> • <i>Parvo pups isolated and treated</i> • <i>animals suspected of being sick/injured reported to Stephanie Maples/Karen Buchan</i> • <i>sick/injured animals sent to vet if necessary</i> • <i>staff being trained to recognize illness/injuries</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • separate housing for adoptables, quarantine and isolation • evaluation and vaccination on intake (or test to see if already vaccinated) • immediate provision of veterinary care either on site or off site for obvious injury or illness • specific cleaning protocols to ensure disease/conditions are not spread • breed blind, double-process behavior testing of dogs in order to fairly evaluate them for adoption • partner with obedience trainers and animal behaviorists to evaluate both dogs and cats • community outreach to develop programs aimed to help neo-natal animals using volunteers (Kitten Corps and Puppy Partners) • special fund established to offset care for special needs animals in the shelter (HW, surgery, other special care) or provide financial assistance to offset medical costs for animals in order to keep them in homes • Parvo positive pups isolated, provided with IV Metronidazole, IV fluids and IV antibiotics in order to prevent secondary infections • ongoing analysis of types of animals which most often end up in the shelter to determine and address problems (i.e. neo-natals, dogs running at large, formerly chained dogs which were “resident” dogs)

Public Relations and Community Involvement (keep them out and get them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shelter web site with some information • <i>periodic off-site adoption events</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rework the shelter web site to make it easier to navigate, more informative and in order to use it to announce programs, promotions and special events • create specific Facebook pages for rescue group release, foster homes and to generally promote animals (with the help of volunteers) • hold regular public education/outreach events at different locations in the community and on a variety of subjects (feral cats, spay/neuter, pet retention, redemptions, etc.) in order to be constantly on the public's radar and be seen as a place of solutions and not problems • send out regular press releases and seek out ongoing coverage using local TV stations, radio stations and print media to keep the public engaged about promotions, needs (fosters, volunteers), progress and special events • develop excellent customer service both at the shelter and on the phone so that people develop a positive attitude about the shelter and how it helps in the community • hold regular off-site adoption events at various locations in the community to remain visible in the community • ongoing public outreach to help the public understands the help the shelter needs to do a better job - volunteers, fosters, etc.

Volunteers (keep them out and get them out)

what we have now/do now	what other places do/what we may need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volunteers who work in the shelter and network for animals using social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • once the city announces it runs a no kill shelter, volunteers will come to help voluntarily as they know the animals they see are not at risk • appoint a volunteer to oversee other volunteers • clearly define what tasks are performed by volunteers and to whom they report for instructions, to discuss problems • use volunteers for an Animal Help Desk to help people resolve problems which may otherwise cause them to surrender an animal • use volunteers to help with animal surrender counseling to work on overcoming issues in order to keep an animal in the home or help the owner re-home the animal • use volunteers to manage Facebook pages on specific topics - promoting adoptable animals, rescue release contact, fosters, etc. • partner with local photographers for glamor/high quality images of animals for Petfinder listings and to use on social media • develop dynamic and compelling Petfinder listings for animals with the help of volunteers in order to capture the attention of people in order to market them better



By Email Only

April 2, 2014

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: The No Kill Equation; Research and Networking

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We are confident that once you have networked with Madison County Animal Control and have sought the counsel of people who are running (or have run) an open admission no kill shelter, you will have a much more clear idea of what you will need to help make ours a No Kill Community.

We plan to follow-up with you in thirty days to learn about your plans moving forward and so we can accurately inform our followers in the community of your progress. If you require any further information in the interim, feel free to email us at admin@nokillhuntsville.com.

Sincerely,

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Jean Douglas

Enclosure



By Email Only

May 2, 2014

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Re: The No Kill Equation; Follow-Up from Meeting

Dear Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

When we last wrote to you in early April, we said we planned to follow-up with you in thirty days to check on your progress and so that we can report that progress to our followers in the community. We know from our meeting with you that you have a lot of ideas you are working to develop and that you are doing so with the help of your staff and the help of volunteers who are involved with Huntsville Pets Alive.

We appreciate the effort and thought that is being put into these ideas, but we respectfully encourage you to seek what is in our opinion a more effective method of planning. Meeting and connecting with existing no kill shelters offers you resources from people who specifically know and relate to your challenges and overcome the obstacles to your stated goals. That kind of information is not fully available through our group or through HPA members, regardless of how much we care or are willing to be of service in this area. Networking with these groups, either the contacts we have provided or ones of your own choosing, along with engaging Mike Fritz of Madison County Animal control will likely make the goals you indicate you have more efficiently and effectively achieved.

Becoming a No Kill Community can become like the classic discussion of, “which came first? The chicken or the egg?” Some would say that an area cannot become a No Kill Community without widespread community support. Others would say that once an area commits to becoming a No Kill Community, the widespread community support falls into place because it is derived from the compassion and good will which already exist in the public. Once

you engage with those who have walked this path before you, we are confident not only that you will learn about proven programs which are being used in other places but you will see that becoming a No Kill Community is a leap of faith. Once an area commits to the change and makes it known to all, people are excited to be part of a newer and better future which does not come with a hefty price tag and really just comes through a new vision. These other shelters can show you how they achieved their goals without you having to reinvent the wheel.

We acknowledge that some limited local legislation may be called for, specifically a TNR ordinance and some modification to the existing city code related to what constitutes animal “ownership” (and perhaps repealing the pet limit law.) Once you engage with people who can help you with the small details, you will have a clearer idea of what limited local legislation may be called for in order to become a No Kill Community.

We call ourselves the Star of Alabama. We strive to be considered a “Compassionate Community.” We hope that you will have enough confidence in yourself, your staff, our leaders and our community to take that leap of faith and to change the course of our local history. A very popular movie from years back used the phrase, “if you build it, they will come.” The same applies here. If you commit to making ours a No Kill Community, the public will support you and will stand behind you - all you have to do is say the decision has already been made and then tell people what they can do to help.

If you have any questions about the information already provided to you, or if you have any progress you are ready to report so we can share that with our followers, please email us at admin@nokillhuntsville.com.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay
Karen Borden

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Dianne Burch

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Susan Burlingame

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Jean Douglas

Cc: Mr. John Hamilton



By Email Only

May 9, 2014

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Re: Participation in "Just One Day" 2014

Dear Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

Three years ago, Mike Fry and Nathan Winograd (both of whom you know and have met) put their heads together and developed a concept called Just One Day. The idea behind this concept is to encourage shelters to participate in an event on June 11th in which shelters pledge to not destroy any healthy and treatable animals on that one day and instead engage in other activities in order to save lives and engage with the community. As is stated on the Just One Day web site:

For Just One Day, "Euthanasia Technicians" will put down their syringes and pick up cameras. Instead of injecting animals with lethal doses of sodium pentobarbital, they will photograph them and post them on the Internet, on Facebook, on twitter. On June 11, 2014, they will market their animals to the public, they will reach out to rescue groups, they will host adoption events with discounted rates, they will stay open for extended hours, and they will ask their communities to help them empty the shelter the good way.

In the years since the event was first launched, thousands of shelter animals across the country which would have otherwise been destroyed have been saved and have been adopted into homes. Numerous shelters have used this event to engage with the public not only to inform them of the needs of shelter animals but also the need for people in the community to be part of the solution to end the destruction of healthy and treatable pets.

We write to you today to encourage you to sign up to participate in Just One Day on June 11th. You can do so by visiting the web site at www.justoneday.ws. If you do decide to participate, you will have access to a number of free materials to promote your participation including a model press release, a promotion plan, an adoption guide and adoption promotion posters. We know that Huntsville Animal Services has been taking steps to become more visible in the community and we see this as a wonderful opportunity to spend an entire day really engaging with the public in order to promote your animals and to promote the life-saving changes being made at your facility.

We plan to tell our followers about Just One Day and encourage them to contact you to express their support for your participation. We are sure that if you do take advantage of this nation-wide event, and announce your plans to do so well in advance of the date, it will be a wonderful opportunity to get some really positive media coverage and to begin a new era of interaction with the animal-loving public in our community.

If you have any questions about Just One Day or would like any input on ideas to promote your participation, please email us at admin@nokillhuntsville.com.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Enclosure

Cc: Mr. John Hamilton

JUST ONE DAY

A No Kill nation for



June 11, 2014



By Email Only

July 21, 2014

Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Position of No Kill Huntsville and Future Support of Huntsville Pets Alive

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

No Kill Huntsville was created in January of 2012 when a group of advocates and rescuers banded together to speak with one voice to encourage local leaders to make ours a no kill community. We did so after years of what we consider incremental progress in the live release rate at the municipal animal shelter. We have always recognized that positive changes have been made at the shelter and that the life-saving numbers have improved from year to year. The basis for our concern was that in spite of this progress, the percentage of animals destroyed each year which were healthy and treatable remained essentially the same. We only took this subject to the public when we felt that it was necessary to seek public support to advance the subject further. It was not our original plan or our first choice in terms of a course of action.

In the fall of last year, some of our original members left our group voluntarily in order to work with Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard to form a group called Huntsville Pets Alive - HPA. This split in our group was not adversarial; we all agreed that we may get further, faster if some people worked more closely with the shelter staff while the rest of us continued to function in an advocacy role from outside of the shelter operation itself. We see ourselves as an oversight group which seeks accountability for a city department which serves the public using city and county tax dollars. We remain in contact with our former members regarding rescue issues unrelated to the shelter and as we pursue this subject in what we sometimes refer to as "parallel lanes of travel toward the same destination."

We appreciate your opinion about our image and your belief that it would be helpful for us to participate in HPA. We plan to remain the advocacy group which works to encourage the city (and the county, a paying customer of the city) to find better ways of functioning by following proven methods. We are certain that we can do so while still being supportive of HPA

and publicly acknowledging progress made which we think is consistent with the programs we promote to save the most lives fastest. (For context, we cannot promote programs which charge high adoption rates or which purposefully impound and house feral cats in the shelter). Once HPA has a social media presence or web site, we will share information updates with our followers. If there are no immediate plans to put HPA in the public eye on the Internet, we need only be notified informally of any updates which can be shared publicly so we can decide whether or not to promote those updates. The best way to provide updates to us as a group is through our web site email account at admin@nokillhuntsville.com.

You may have been told that HPA is based on a group in Austin called Austin Pets Alive. HPA is not a mirror image of APA - which functioned from outside of the city shelter as a nonprofit organization - but there are similarities. What you may not know is that it was a group called FixAustin which served an advocacy/accountability function from outside the shelter and which publicly and consistently pushed the City of Austin for shelter reforms which ultimately led to Austin being declared a no kill city. FixAustin would not have been successful without APA. APA would not have been successful without Fix Austin. We see our role as being similar to that of FixAustin; as an advocacy group pushing for reform. It is our genuine hope that a day will come when our advocacy is no longer necessary or required; we seek to become irrelevant as a coalition.

We have a page on our web site called Our Vision. It describes a scene in which you, Mayor Battle and Dr. Hill-Sheppard hold a press conference and announce that a decision has been made for ours to become a no kill community by making a very public commitment. When that day comes and we speak of this not as a possibility but as our new reality, rest assured that no one in our community will applaud that decision more loudly than the members of No Kill Huntsville.

Sincerely,

Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Cc: Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
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by email only
(to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov)

August 18, 2014

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request
Huntsville Animal Services Shelter Statistics for January – June 2014

Mr. Grimes:

Per Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40, we, as members of the advocacy group No Kill Huntsville, write to request statistics from Huntsville Animal Services for the period of January through June of 2014 which indicate intake and output numbers for dogs and cats by category and disposition.

We understand the city animal shelter uses propriety software to track animals by categories and may also keep running totals on a reporting form developed by a nonprofit organization called Maddie's Fund. Our request seeks the public records kept in the ordinary course of operating a city department and which should be available for public inspection and dissemination at any time. We seek information in the following categories (which are the same categories shown on the reporting form the city has historically used):

- intake for each species by category (i.e., intake from public, intake from other organizations)
- live output for each species by category (i.e., adoptions, outgoing transfers within the community, outgoing transfers outside of the community, return to owner, return to habitat) and
- non-live output for each species by category (i.e., healthy animals destroyed, treatable animals destroyed, unhealthy and untreatable animals destroyed, animals died or lost)

Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- if you have any questions about this request and/or to let us know when this information is available for pick up or to receive by email. We would appreciate a response to this request within twenty (20) days of the date of this letter. Our email address is admin@nokillhuntsville.com.

Your help in providing this information is greatly appreciated. Although we are not required to explain the basis for our request, we seek this information so we can continue our advocacy efforts in the community while ensuring that we provide accurate information to the public about the shelter's progress so far this year.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

cc: Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805
Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov



By Email Only
karen.sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov

October 1, 2014

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Re: Community Cat Diversion Program and Owned Cats

Dear Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

We understand from information reported to us by citizens, and from the recent shelter statistics posted on the city's web site, that Huntsville Animal Services has instituted a community cat diversion program which has been in effect since April. We have no first-hand knowledge about how cats are being handled by the shelter; all we know is what reported to us and that information may not be accurate. We have been told that:

- free-roaming feral/community cats are being purposefully taken to the shelter as part of a TNR program, held for different amounts of time and then later returned to their habitat
- pet cats have gone missing or are unaccounted for and the owners suspect their cats have been trapped and taken to the shelter, but cannot be found

We fully support the concept of Trap-Neuter-Return as a way of keeping cats from entering the shelter at all through the help of rescue groups and volunteers. We consider this one of the "keep them out" programs of the no kill equation which can save the city money as resources are not used to impound and then destroy free roaming cats.

We are concerned about truly feral cats being purposefully taken to the shelter for any extended period of time. This practice is not endorsed by Alley Cat Allies, the premiere national organization on this subject. When these cats are taken to the shelter – as opposed to being diverted from the shelter – it risks the spread of disease, causes the cats an inordinate amount of stress and costs money for the process. In successful no kill communities, shelters get out of the "business" of trapping and housing feral cats at all. We know that the City of Austin, Texas, and the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter in Georgetown, Texas, both have wonderful programs for feral cats and are more than happy to talk to you about them by telephone.

Regarding owned pet cats which end up in the shelter, we fully recognize that the existing city code says that cats cannot run at large. We also know that owners have a personal responsibility to ensure cats can be identified. The reality is that accidents happen and that cats sometimes get out as a result of unforeseen circumstances. The city code says that in the case of unidentified animals, the city will hold those animals for no less than three (3) days so the owner has a chance to reclaim the cat. We are hopeful that this provision is being complied with so that people do have a chance to reclaim a lost cat.

We fully support any programs implemented by the city which save lives, save money and reduce feral cat populations humanely. Because of the new way the city is functioning regarding cats, we respectfully request that this information be communicated to the public in very visible ways (using press releases, media outlets, the city web site and social media) so that people who live in the city know about the programs and understand what they must do to reclaim a lost cat. We think it is reasonable to say that a lot of people who live here have moved from areas where sterilized and vaccinated pet cats are allowed outside. A lot of people just don't know that if their cat gets out, he or she may ultimately be treated as a feral cat absent identification.

Should the city decide to engage with the public about this issue, it could be helpful when the time comes that the city seeks support for a TNR ordinance. The more people know about TNR and how it works, the more likely they are to support it as a humane form of population control.

If there is a specific point of contact we should refer citizens to regarding the shelter's cat programs or to inquire about a missing cat, please let us know so we can direct citizens to the person who can help them.

Sincerely,

Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

cc: Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov

Mr. Mike Fritz
Madison County Animal Control Director
pets@madisoncountyal.gov



By Email Only

December 19, 2014

Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Re: The City's Path Forward Toward Becoming a No Kill Community

Dear Mr. Hamilton and Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

We understand from speaking with Humane Network CEO Diane Blankenburg that her visit with you in November went well. The media coverage of the visit indicate that it was productive and that it served to reinforce some of the programs already being developed at the shelter to reduce intake and increase live output. We also understand that Humane Network has provided the city with some proposals for return visits by Diane and perhaps by other members of the organization such as Mitch Schneider (the former Director of Washoe County Animal Services who now consults with Humane Network). Diane tells us she plans to follow-up with you both after the holidays to discuss the possibility of a return visit.

We are pleased with the progress made at the shelter since we first began meeting with you in March of last year. We can all agree that animals now have a better chance of making it out of the municipal shelter alive than at any time in the history of the city. We think it is likely that the success achieved to date may not be sustainable long-term simply because programs need to be further refined and developed and also because you do not yet have the full support of the community toward becoming a no kill community.

We write to encourage you to take advantage of the expertise of the individuals with Humane Network who have not only created and sustained a successful no kill community for years, but who also have a comprehensive understanding of what is working across the country.

These people have walked this path before us and are prepared to offer “nuts and bolts” knowledge of how best to develop life-saving programs which will be sustainable long-term and while doing so with existing resources and without the necessity of costly capital projects.

We remain hopeful that a time will come in the very near future when the city will commit to becoming a no kill community and will tell the public quite loudly and quite visibly that the city will no longer destroy healthy and treatable animals in the shelter (other than those dogs which are so genuinely dangerous as to constitute a public safety risk). We know of people who are waiting for that announcement in order to step forward and say, “I want to help.” They simply need to be assured that the animals they walk, bathe, read to, socialize and foster are not at risk before making the time investment and emotional investment in providing the assistance the shelter needs.

We hope that you will consider keeping us informed of your decisions and your progress moving forward if for no other reason than our desire to applaud the progress being made and help the public understand what is taking place. The image of the shelter and marketing of a new future are vital to public support. In spite of what you may think of our motives, we look for every possible opportunity to share good news about what is taking place at the shelter. And when the day comes that the city commits to no longer destroy healthy and treatable pets, no one will applaud that decision more loudly than the members of our coalition.

Sincerely,

Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger’s House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only
(to Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov)

March 10, 2015

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Re: Public Records Act Request
Chameleon Animal Records; Treatable Dogs Destroyed in January of 2015

Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

On February 23, 2015, we sent you an email to inquire about the treatable dogs destroyed in the shelter in January of 2015. We are concerned that the number of treatable dogs destroyed was much higher than in recent months and we hoped to learn what types of conditions these dogs had which led you to decide they should be destroyed. Since we have not heard from you, we are now seeking public records regarding the thirty-three (33) dogs destroyed in January which were categorized as "treatable-short" and "treatable-long" on your monthly reporting form as it appears on the shelter website.

We know that you use Chameleon Integrated Shelter Software to keep track of animals in your facility. We seek copies of the permanent record and/or complete history record for each of the treatable dogs destroyed in January sufficient to help us understand what was wrong with the thirty-three treatable dogs. Although we know the records can be printed quickly, we are happy to receive either printed records or records in some electronic format, such as .pdf document(s) or .jpeg images. You may choose whichever production method is easiest for you, takes you the least amount of time and helps us understand that conditions these dogs had.

Your help in providing this information is greatly appreciated. Although we are not required to explain the basis for our request, we seek this information so we can continue our

advocacy efforts in the community while ensuring that we provide accurate information to the public about the shelter's progress (as well as about challenges created by public behavior).

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at _____ or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. If you opt to provide electronic copies of your records, they may be sent to our email address. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

cc: Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov



by email only
(to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov)

March 15, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Destroyed Animals

Mr. Grimes:

The shelter statistics for the month of March of 2015 now appear on the city's website. A total of fifty-two (52) animals were destroyed. Please provide us with a computer printout for the animals destroyed in March which is comparable to the reports provided to us for the months of January and February of 2015.

We also seek the computer printouts for the animals destroyed in the months of October, November and December of 2014. We understand that 68 animals were destroyed in October, 36 were destroyed in November and 58 were destroyed in December. We seek this information as part of our analysis of the types of animals being destroyed each month (and in consideration of the fact that the city represents that no healthy animals were destroyed during these months.)

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256 - or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. If you opt to provide electronic copies of your records, they may be sent to our email address. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



By Email Only
(John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov)

March 19, 2015

Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Target Zero and a Public Declaration of Intent

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

We spoke with Cameron Moore of Target Zero earlier this week to inquire about the organization's plans for the immediate future to help the city. The Target Zero website shows that the relationship with the city began in September of last year and we have had inquiries regarding what the organization actually plans to do here.

As we have told you before, we did not (and do not) support Target Zero as a go-to organization for consulting services. Our research from last year indicates they have yet to lead any community to become a no kill community and as good as their intentions may very well be, they simply lack the hands-on experience to help ours become a no kill community quickly. We understand the allure of receiving consulting services for free, but we have seen that the "free" often comes with a price tag in terms of recommendations for increased staffing or large capital projects.

We were told by Ms. Moore that Target Zero plans to host a "town hall meeting" at some point in the future but that plans for that meeting have not been finalized. She made reference to some of the issues the city is facing with placing large dogs, pit bull type dogs, getting people to spay and neuter pets and getting the public to see the shelter as a place of last resort to take a pet in times of crisis. Her comments confirmed our prior belief that the focus of Target Zero is not so much on having the shelter lead the way for change, but about having the change come from outside sources in the community and the public. Ms. Moore also does not agree with our belief that making a public declaration of intent is appropriate. We have told Target Zero that we will do our best to stay out of the way as you move forward.

We will continue to focus on the city as the source of change in our community as a simple matter of municipal leadership using existing funding. We genuinely applaud the progress made to date. We believe that the city can continue to fine tune plans and programs to reduce intake and increase output and can do so without hiring more people or spending more money. We recognize that there are issues with large dogs, older dogs and pit bull type dogs. We would encourage you to not rule out the possibility of working with Humane Network on at least these issues. We know that it is the Humane Network position that placing these dogs is really a matter of marketing. We would also posit that as a military town, there may be untapped resources for placement of these dogs with our veterans and civilian retirees. We think dogs can be marketed to people through a Pets for Patriots or Canine Corps Program, not with these dogs trained as service dogs, but simply as the perfect choice for those who have served our country and are looking for a companion.

We are firm in our position that a declaration of intent by the city is vital to public buy-in for change and to get the full support of the community not only to volunteer, foster and donate, but to change public behavior in general. People have told us that they are poised to help on the day the city commits to no longer destroy healthy and treatable pets, but not one day before. For many people, this is a matter of principles and of ethics. We have attached a page from a 2008 publication by the Nevada Humane Society called "How We Did It" which addresses this very issue. (The full publication is on our web site on the "No Kill Materials" page.) We appreciate the fact that making a public declaration comes with risk. What if the shelter gets full? What if there is a puppy mill seizure? We believe that once the city takes the lead for the community and makes it clear not only what the city intends to do – but what is expected of the public – that is when the true change begins and becomes sustainable long-term.

Thank you for your time and for your continued dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

cc: Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805
Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov

3 Invest time and assets in lifesaving.

Review every program in terms of its lifesaving impact.

If a given program did not significantly and immediately contribute to saving lives, then we gave a hard look at letting it go. Though a program may be a nice thing to do, until we are saving all the animals that can be saved, we have a responsibility to ensure that we focus our resources and attention on creating a true safety net for homeless animals of the community – not next year, but right now.

We also took a hard look at staffing levels and space allocation in the shelter to be sure it reflected our focus on saving lives and then made appropriate adjustments. For example, we eliminated the retail store, using the space for pet adoptions, and eliminated several traditional humane education projects in order to focus on getting the community immediately involved in saving lives.

The power of words...

All of us are subtly influenced by labels, so we made changes to ensure function names and job titles reflected our mission. The Intake Room became Admissions, Kennel Attendants became Animal Caregivers, and Office Assistants became Adoption Counselors. On the other side, we didn't want to hide behind euphemisms and we never want to forget the gravity of ending an animal's life, so we stopped using the word euthanasia and began calling it killing.



4 Inspire and involve the community.

Make a public declaration!

While the idea of making a public declaration to become a no-kill community may be intimidating, the declaration itself actually has a powerful effect. Not only does it focus your internal efforts on the no-kill community goal, but it helps inspire and energize the community to support what you do.

Most animal lovers really want animals to be saved, but they also lead busy lives. To inspire them to get involved, you need to invite them to be part of something big, exciting, and worth the effort. So declaring an all-out effort to create a no-kill community is an important step in getting the support you need to make it happen. Be sure to let people know exactly what you need them to do – ask them to donate for a specific purpose or to volunteer to do a specific task, such as walking dogs, socializing cats, distributing brochures, or fostering an animal.

One important thing to remember: when putting your no-kill goal out there to the public, you'll want to be sure to clearly define it and to report progress regularly by publishing statistics. We publish statistics monthly, including the number of animals coming into the community's primary shelters, the numbers adopted or killed, both for the current and prior year.



by email only
(to Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov)

March 30, 2015

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Re: Public Records Act Request and Assistance on Marketing and Dog Testing

Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

The statistics for the shelter for February of 2015 indicate that eleven (11) treatable dogs were destroyed. Please provide us with copies of the permanent record and/or complete history record for each of the treatable dogs destroyed in February sufficient to help us understand what was wrong with the dogs. As was the case with our request for the treatable dogs destroyed in January, we are happy to receive either printed records or records in some electronic format, such as .pdf document(s) or .jpeg images. You may choose whichever production method is easiest for you, takes you the least amount of time and helps us understand that conditions these dogs had which led to the decision to have them destroyed. This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. If you opt to provide electronic copies of your records, they may be sent to our email address.

We understand from your meeting with Jean Douglas that you are having issues with marketing and with testing and placement of dogs. We broached both of these subjects with Humane Network and we understand that you will likely interact with Diane Blankenburg at the upcoming HSUS Expo. We are hopeful you will consider discussing both of these challenges with Diane while you are in New Orleans.

- Diane is agreeable to doing a pro bono telephone call with a volunteer team on the subject of marketing. We presume this team could be formed from existing members of Huntsville Pets Alive or other long-term volunteers you select.
- Humane Network advocates a method of dog evaluation developed at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine which goes beyond the SAFER evaluation method advocated by the ASPCA. Humane Network uses Kelley Bollen as a consultant to help provide training on how to evaluate shelter dogs using this method and is open to looking for funding to bring Kelley here to help train your staff and members of the Madison County Animal Control Department. By training your staff, you do not need to seek funding for an additional staff member and you will have a large number of people who are all qualified to test dogs (or to do balanced testing in the event dogs are initially considered a public safety risk).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding providing the records we seek. We are hopeful you and Diane will engage at the expo and discuss these issues so that you can make further progress to save more lives.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

cc: Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov



By Email Only
(Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.org)

May 11, 2015

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Re: Participation in "Just One Day" – June 11, 2015

Dear Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

In May of last year, we wrote to you to encourage you to participate in Just One Day, a national event which promotes positive interaction between animal shelters and the communities they serve. We write to you again this year in hopes that you will consider participating. The idea behind this concept is to encourage shelters to pledge to not destroy any healthy and treatable animals on June 11th and instead engage in other activities in order to save lives and engage with the community. As is stated on the Just One Day web site:

On June 11, we are asking animal shelters across the USA to take a pledge not to kill any savable animals. Instead of injecting pets with lethal doses of sodium pentobarbital, we ask shelters to pick up cell phones and cameras, and to engage their communities in new and creative ways. . . At the end of the day, the shelters will be emptier than when the day started. Every life saved is a life worth celebrating.

In the years since the event was first launched, thousands of shelter animals across the country which would have otherwise been destroyed have been saved and have been adopted into homes. Numerous shelters have used this event to engage with the public not only to inform them of the needs of shelter animals but also the need for people in the community to be part of the solution to end the destruction of healthy and treatable pets. Last year, a shelter in Birmingham participated in Just One Day by having operating hours from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and making all adoption fees \$11. By the end of the day, almost every adoptable animal had found a new home. This is just one example of what was accomplished on a day when other shelters actually "ran out" of animals for people to adopt.

We understand that it is the position of the city that there are a lot of “just one days,” meaning days on which no savable animals are destroyed. We think it is important to use this national event to tell the community just that. People need you to tell them not only about great things taking place in the shelter but also about what they need to do to be part of sustainable, long-term change.

When we met with Mr. Hamilton in February, we encouraged him to consider making Just One Day the date on which the city commits to no longer destroy healthy and treatable animals from that point forward. We have referred to this as “drawing a line in the sand” which the city will not cross. We appreciate your belief that you lack the staff to implement many of the no kill programs we think are key to achieving sustainable change. As we have said before, we think that making a public declaration is vital to getting maximum buy-in and participation from the public you serve. If you commit first, and tell people exactly and specifically what you need them to do to help you hold the line, they will then be willing to commit also. Many people are just not willing to devote their time and energy to help you more until they know savable animals are no longer at risk. This is not a matter of people waiting for things to be perfect. It is a matter of them expecting the city to take the lead on this subject and assure them that a new way of functioning is not just being considered but has been implemented.

You can take the pledge to participate in Just One Day by visiting the web site at www.justoneday2015.com. If you do decide to participate, you will have access to a number of free materials to promote your participation including a model press release, a promotion plan, an adoption guide and adoption promotion posters.

We have told our followers about Just One Day and have encouraged them to contact you to express their support for your participation. We are sure that if you do take advantage of this nation-wide event, and announce your plans to do so well in advance of the date, it will be a wonderful opportunity to get some really positive media coverage and to begin a new era of interaction with the animal-loving public in our community.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger’s House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Cc: Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801



by email only
(to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov)

May 19, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Qualifications Records

Mr. Grimes:

The shelter statistics we have received for the months of January and February of 2015 pursuant to our prior requests indicate that large numbers of dogs have been destroyed after having been classified in a number of categories which include fear, behavior, aggression and public safety. We await the shelter records for dogs destroyed in October 2014, November 2014, December 2014, March 2015 and April 2015 so that we may analyze that data.

We write today to seek records regarding the special qualifications, training or certifications of the individuals working at the shelter (or otherwise consulted by members of the shelter staff) who made the classification determinations for the dogs destroyed in the last seven months and who continue to make those determinations up to present day.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256 _____ or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. If you opt to

provide electronic copies of your records, they may be sent to our email address. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only

May 29, 2015

Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
308 Fountain Circle, 8th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805
Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov

Re: Premature Praise and Destroyed Dogs

Mr. Hamilton and Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

According to statistics published on the website for Huntsville Animal Services, no healthy dogs have been destroyed in the shelter since October of 2014. We have previously taken those statistics at face value and in good faith, going so far as to applaud the city's progress in saving the lives of healthy shelter animals through a press release, through print and television media and using social media. Now that we have received and analyzed the shelter records for the dogs destroyed from October of 2014 through April of 2015, we have determined that this praise was premature.

In progressive communities, no kill or otherwise, it is normal for a certain percentage of dogs to be destroyed due to aggression or some other behavior which constitutes a genuine public safety risk. The number of dogs destroyed for the sake of safety is usually 1-3% of the total dog intake in any given month. We can likely agree that evaluating dogs in a shelter environment is an imperfect process since most of the dogs are scared, anxious, confused or otherwise traumatized.

According to the city's own records, as many as 17% of the total intake of dogs in some months have been destroyed after having been classified in a number of categories: aggression, aggression/mild, aggression/moderate, aggression/severe, fear/severe, behavior, behavior/moderate, behavior/public safety, behavior/severe and high arousal. A copy of our chart which sets out our analysis of the city's records is attached to this letter.

We can envision no circumstances of any kind which would lead to this high percentage of dogs being destroyed for behavioral or public safety issues. The numbers are simply too far outside of the norm absent some extraordinary circumstances like seizure of dogs from a fighting operations or seizure of unsocialized large dogs from backyard breeders. We attribute the high percentage of dogs destroyed as being the result of inadequate evaluation of the dogs by members of the shelter staff; we can only presume this is based on lack of adequate training to a recognized standard. As a result of our analysis of the shelter records, we have no choice but to conclude that otherwise healthy dogs have, in fact, been destroyed and have simply been classified in one of the categories above prior to the destruction of the dog.

We have written to you both about the issue of fair and accurate evaluation of dogs in the shelter before and have been told that the city is continuing to engage with industry experts in shaping the policies and procedures used in the shelter. Considering how many months this issue with dogs has continued, we implore you to examine other ways to resolve this issue. We have recommended that the city work with Humane Network in order to get an expert here to train the shelter staff, perhaps with no cost output to the city at all. Even if you don't think this recommendation has merit, please take some affirmative steps to ensure that: 1) all dogs are fairly evaluated so that dogs are not needlessly destroyed; 2) dangerous dogs are not processed through the system and put out in the community (which could lead to an attack or fatality) and 3) people are kept safe: shelter staff, rescuers and fosters.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Enclosure



by email only
(to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov)

June 8, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

We have learned that the shelter statistics for May have been provided to Target Zero, a Florida-based organization. Since they are available to that group, we write today to seek a copy of those same shelter statistics provided to Target Zero. We also write to request the computer printouts from the shelter for the dogs destroyed in May of 2015. We finally request that missing page from those same records for April of 2015. As we wrote to you on May 28, 2015, a page of those records (reflecting the disposition of 29 of the 50 dogs destroyed in April) was missing from the records you provided to us on May 21, 2015.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only

June 29, 2015

Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov

Dr. Karen Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov

Re: Shelter Statistics, Dogs Destroyed and Owner Surrenders

Mr. Hamilton and Dr. Sheppard:

We have three issues of concern we would like to bring to your attention. We have historically not asked for a response to our correspondence to you, but respectfully request responses to two of these issues to admin@nokillhuntsville.com so that we know what to tell the public.

Issue: Live Release Rate v. Save Rate

We understand that the city published a press release which states that the Live Release Rate for the month of May was 92%. We disagree. The actual Live Release Rate was 82% (following rates of 88%-January; 80%-February; 77%-March and 78%-April). We know the shelter is using new reporting forms which focus on the Save Rate and not on the Live Release Rate. We presume the public does not understand the difference and we are concerned this shift of focus from one standard to another may mislead the public to believe a certain level of progress has been attained when, in actuality, it has not. We focus on the Live Release Rate because it reflects the number of animals processed through the system and no longer requiring spending by the city, whereas the Save Rate includes animals still in the system which may call for spending (food and/or veterinary care) and which may cause the system to become saturated. Target Zero told us they believe the rates to be the same thing; they clearly are not. We have since shared information with Target Zero from the very organization which developed the reporting form now being used by the city (the National Federation of Humane Societies) which explains the differences. (See attached).

We respectfully request that you advise us if you have plans to correct the press release or to otherwise explain the difference between the Save Rate and Live Release Rate to the public.

Issue: No Healthy Dogs Destroyed

We have previously written to you about the issue of the types of dogs being destroyed in the shelter. Our focus on this issue is rooted in the fact that the city has said that no healthy dogs

have been destroyed since October. We have publicly applauded that statement in social media and on television. We now believe our praise may have been premature and could bring the integrity of our coalition into question.

In progressive communities, it is normal for a small percentage of the dog population in any shelter to be so genuinely aggressive as to constitute a public safety risk. This percentage is ordinarily in the low single digits of all dog intake (according to the No Kill Advocacy Center and our contact with progressive communities). Our analysis of the shelter records we obtained through the city attorney's office shows that our percentages are much higher than in other progressive communities (see the chart attached). We know of no explanation for these high percentages other than otherwise healthy dogs being classified in a variety of safety-oriented categories before being destroyed; almost half of which were categorized as pit bull-type dogs. We understand this is an issue in many communities; we suspect it is the result of lack of adequate training or fear of the dogs. We also know this issue has been acknowledged by Dr. Sheppard for quite some time and still has not been resolved. We think it is reasonable to believe that otherwise healthy dogs which were just scared or anxious were destroyed while dangerous dogs may have been put into foster homes or released to rescue groups to then be adopted out into the community, creating a liability risk.

We respectfully request that you advise us if you have some other explanation for the high percentage of total dog intake destroyed since October and if you have developed any specific plans to reduce this percentage in the immediate future (perhaps through better evaluation methods as opposed to increased spending).

Issue: Position on Owner Surrender

We understand it is the position of Huntsville Animal Services that it is not obligated to take owner surrender animals. We agree that the city is not obligated to take owner surrendered animals, but we don't believe the public understands this. Dr. Sheppard told Karen Borden that almost everything about the shelter operation has changed in order to save lives; the value of those changes cannot be overstated. We think, however, it is of vital importance to communicate this and other changes to the public so that the community understands what services the shelter does provide. We hope the shelter is engaging in some type of pet surrender/pet retention counseling to give people alternatives other than just tell them the shelter cannot help them, particularly since some rescue groups like A New Leash on Life and Friends of Rescue no longer take animals from the public and only take them from the shelter.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
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Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay and Neuter Clinic
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Enclosures

What is Your Rate?

Understanding the Asilomar Live Release Rate, ASPCA
Live Release Rate and Save Rate



The NATIONAL FEDERATION
of HUMANE SOCIETIES

March 2011

**Metrics & Measurement
Committee**

Animal welfare organizations are talking about data and data collection. Whether it's a discussion about transparency (how many animals do you handle and what are their outcomes), confusion around different ways of measuring success around lives saved, or debating the pros or cons of what strategy for program measurement best meets the needs of the agency and community, clearly we are engaged in a national dialogue around the measurement of animal sheltering data.

This document was developed by the National Federation of Humane Societies to add to that dialogue, and to provide information and support to those animal welfare organizations struggling to understand what different rates used in our work mean. Basic information is provided here regarding the Asilomar Live Release Rate, the ASPCA's Live Release Rate and the Save Rate.

Using this document

The purpose of this document is to provide an introduction to each "rate" described. For this purpose these definitions are used:

<i>Intake:</i>	The live animals admitted to a shelter
<i>All Outcomes:</i>	The final disposition of animals admitted to a shelter (adoption, return to owner, transfer, euthanasia, shelter death, etc)
<i>Euthanasia Outcome:</i>	Animals admitted to a shelter who are euthanized
<i>Live Outcomes:</i>	Animals who leave a shelter alive through adoption, return to owner, transfer to another organization for adoption, or any other lifesaving program

Also, in order to demonstrate how these "rates" might measure the work of an animal sheltering organization, the following fictional statistics are used for the "Dreamy Valley Humane Society".

Dreamy Valley Humane Society – Annual Statistics for 2010

Intake:	2000 animals
Live Outcomes:	1000 animals
Euthanasia Outcomes:	500 animals
Owner Requested Euthanasias:	50 of the animals euthanized
Unhealthy/Untreatable:	25 of the 50 Owner Requested Euthanasias
All Outcomes:	1500 animals (for this example, is Live Outcomes plus Euthanasia Outcomes)

ASILOMAR LIVE RELEASE RATE

The Formula: (Live Outcomes) divided by (All Outcomes minus Unhealthy/Untreatable Owner Requested Euthanasia)

What does Asilomar Live Release Rate tell us: What percentage of animals with an outcome left the facility with a Live Outcome (adoption, return to owner, etc)

What does Asilomar Live Release Rate NOT tell us: How Outcomes (All or Live) relate to Intake

The Asilomar Accords were developed to provide a uniform method for collecting and reporting shelter data. This method assigns each animal, upon admission, a conditions status of either “healthy”, “treatable”, or “unhealthy/untreatable”. What conditions or behaviors actually fall into each category is defined by the individual organization or by a community coalition of animal sheltering organizations. The definitions are expected to reflect the community standards of what conditions are considered “healthy”, “treatable”, and “unhealthy/untreatable”. The community standard is defined as what a reasonable pet owner in your community may consider as healthy, treatable or unhealthy/untreatable. Because the condition definitions are community based, comparison at a regional or national level is problematic as definitions will vary. For the purpose of calculating the Asilomar Live Release Rate, the definition of what is “unhealthy/untreatable” directly impacts the calculation. Owner Requested Euthanasia Outcomes for animals initially defined upon Admission as “unhealthy/untreatable” are not included in the calculation of an Asilomar Live Release Rate (see The Formula above).

The Asilomar Accords emphasize the importance of transparency for animal sheltering organizations. Also, using the development of community definitions for the condition of animals as they are admitted has encouraged the development of community coalitions focused on improving Live Release Rates at a community level. It is important to recognize that condition definitions only define a status at a specific point in time (generally at the time of admissions). The definitions do NOT define outcome. A healthy animal may be euthanized, an unhealthy/untreatable animal may be rehomed.

Overall, the Asilomar Live Release Rate does not provide insight regarding the Intake of an animal sheltering organization. Many animals may be admitted, and sheltered for a long period of time, and their status will not be reflected by this outcome focused measurement.

By the numbers:

The Dreamy Valley Humane Society’s Save Rate would be calculated this way:

$$\begin{aligned} &1000 \text{ Live Outcomes divided by} \\ &\quad (1500 \text{ All Outcomes} - 25 \text{ Unhealthy/Untreatable Owner Requested Euthanasias}) \\ &1000/(1500-25) = .68 \end{aligned}$$

The **Asilomar Live Release Rate** is **68%**.

ASILOMAR “LITE” LIVE RELEASE RATE

The Formula: (Live Outcomes) Divided by (All Outcomes minus Owner Requested Euthanasia)

This formula is the same as the Asilomar Live Release Rate with one exception – it does adjust All Outcomes by subtracting all Owner Requested Euthanasias, not only those Owner Requested Euthanasias identified upon admission as “unhealthy/untreatable”. This formula is an Asilomar-type option for those organizations or communities without the capacity to assign a conditions status for animals admitted (i.e. “healthy,” “treatable,” “unhealthy/untreatable”). Like the Asilomar Live Release Rate, this outcomes focused formula does not provide insight into the admissions of a sheltering organization. Many animals may be admitted, and sheltered for a long period of time, and their status will not be reflected by this outcome focused measurement.

The Asilomar Live Release Rate and Asilomar LITE Live Release Rate both provide insight into a shelter’s outcome related activity. This may be a helpful measure for organizations whose admissions may fluctuate significantly because of animals who may not be available for adoption for some time, like animals taken into custody during animal cruelty investigations.

If a sheltering organization moves animals through their shelter efficiently to an Outcome, over time, their Asilomar Live Release Rate and ASPCA Live Release Rate will be very similar as All Outcomes will mirror Intake.

By the numbers:

The Dreamy Valley Humane Society’s Save Rate would be calculated this way:

$$\begin{aligned} &1000 \text{ Live Outcomes divided by } (1500 \text{ All Outcomes minus } 50 \text{ All Owner Requested Euthanasias}) \\ &1000/(1500-50)= .69 \end{aligned}$$

The **Asilomar LITE Live Release Rate** is **69%**.

ASPCA LIVE RELEASE RATE

The Formula: Live Outcomes divided by Intake

What does the ASPCA Live Release Rate tell us: Live Outcomes as a percentage of the animals admitted

What does the ASPCA Live Release Rate NOT tell us: How Live Outcomes compare to All Outcomes

The ASPCA Live Release Rate differs from the Asilomar Live Release Rate in that Live Outcomes are a percentage of Intake, not All Outcomes. By using Live Outcomes and Intake, the rate measures activity related to the impact of animals admitted and the number of Live Outcomes. The number of animals admitted to an agency will impact the resources available for live-saving programs (and thus Live Outcomes). This formula brings that impact directly into the calculation of a Live Release Rate. For example, when Live Outcomes are increased AND strategies are used to decrease Intake, the live release rate goes up. If the impact of animal Intake is not included (as in the Asilomar formula), a crucial component (Intake) of the organization's work is not reflected in the Rate and an opportunity to examine or even mitigate the impact of admissions may be missed.

By the numbers:

The Dreamy Valley Humane Society's Save Rate would be calculated this way:

1000 Live Outcomes divided by 2000 Admissions

$1000/2000 = .5$

The **ASPCA Live Release Rate** is **50%**.

SAVE RATE

The Formula: (Intake minus Euthanasia Outcomes) divided by Intake

What does “save rate” tells us: What percentage of the animals admitted were NOT euthanized.

What does “save rate” NOT tell us: What percentage of the animals admitted had or will have a Live Outcome.

Strength/Weakness

Because the data used by the Save Rate formula only utilizes Euthanasia Outcomes and Intake, the ability of the “Save Rate” to tell us about the work of the organization is limited. Using this formula – “Save Rate” could also be called the “Not Euthanized Rate”. This formula is based on the assumption that an animal saved is an animal NOT euthanized. If your organization defines an animal saved as one with a Live Outcome (adoption, returned to owner, etc), then this “Save Rate” will not be helpful as this formula does not take Live Outcomes into account.

Using this formula, a shelter may have a high “Save Rate” and be admitting many animals, adopting out few, euthanizing few and sheltering many. Animals admitted to a shelter, and housed for years without a Live Outcome, are “saved” according to this formula.

By the numbers:

The Dreamy Valley Humane Society’s Save Rate would be calculated this way:

$$\begin{aligned} & (2000 \text{ admissions minus } 500 \text{ euthanasia outcomes}) \text{ divided by } 2000 \text{ admissions} \\ & (2000 - 500)/2000 = .75 \end{aligned}$$

The **Save Rate** is **75%**.

In Summary

The Rate	The Formula
Asilomar Live Release Rate	Live Outcomes divided by (All Outcomes minus unhealthy/untreatable)
Asilomar LITE Live Release Rate	Live Outcomes divided by All Outcomes
ASPCA Live Release Rate	Live Outcomes divided by Intake
Save Rate	(Intake – Euthanasia Outcomes) divided by Intake

Rates will Fluctuate

It is important to recognize that each formula uses measurements over a specific period of time, not a specific population of animals. An animal may be admitted during one time period measured and have an outcome during a different time measured. Over short periods of time when working with a smaller data set, this can cause a “rate” to fluctuate significantly. For example, using the ASPCA’s Live Release Rate, a large scale cruelty case occurring at the end of a month would significantly increase Intake and directly impact the ASPCA’s Live Release Rate (as measured for that month), causing a decrease in rate. Alternatively, if those same cruelty case animals are made available for adoption all at once and get adopted quickly, the sudden increase in Live Outcomes during that period will cause the rate to increase. Over longer periods of time, and with larger data sets, the potential impact of these types of events is diminished.

Devilish Details

Of course, as with most complex challenges, the devil is in the details. There is a great deal of detail, debate and discussion around each of the reporting formats/rates described which is not included here. Again, this document should be considered an initial introduction to each rate only. The topics below simply highlight some of the current and challenging “details”.

Community Definitions

The Asilomar Accords were developed not only to encourage shelters to be transparent and consistent in reporting their data, but also to encourage and foster the development of community coalitions. The development of community based definitions of healthy, treatable and unhealthy/untreatable as a component of a coalition may be both time consuming and challenging, but the specific exercise also provides an opportunity to build and strengthen potentially life-saving collaborations.

Feral Cats

Measuring the impact for and of feral cats in a community can be challenging. It begins with the simplest (and often quite challenging) question . . . what is a feral cat? Identifying which cats are feral (or unsocial), and what their status may be in a community has proven to be difficult.

Regardless of the “rate” used by a sheltering organization, recognize that within most communities feral cats are at risk and are a population which invites careful consideration and analysis to determine how that risk might be mitigated.

Owner Requested Euthanasia

This is an area of measure that is susceptible to significant fluctuations depending on the definition used. What if an owner arrives at the shelter with a pet whom they hope the shelter can rehome – but the pet has a condition which causes the shelter to be unable to provide rehoming services. Knowing that euthanasia is the only option for the pet at that shelter, the owner still decides to relinquish the pet for that service. Is it an owner requested euthanasia? Or is it an Intake and Euthanasia Outcome? This is an important area for organizations to consider specifically in terms of measurement, transparency and impact.

Identifying what Population is at Risk

Numbers and statistics can help drive innovation and uncover opportunity. No matter which formula is used by an organization to measure their “rate”, it is crucial to not overlook the opportunity to look at data in detail and identify specific populations of animals sheltered who may be a risk. By doing so, organizations may find opportunities to significantly increase the lives saved in their community by targeting life saving measures for those animals most at risk.

Died in Care (pull out of Lost/Unknown Disposition category in Asilomar)

And finally, it is important to track animals who died or were lost in care while sheltered. The Asilomar Accords currently report animals in this category as a combined figure, however there is value in segregating this information. Carefully monitoring those animals who died in care and the factors which caused their death is an enlightening measure of shelter activity and though not tracked specifically in all of the strategies described, should be a data point considered by shelter leaders.

More to Measure than Rates

While calculating one of these rates may be useful in developing goals, there are many other data indicators which will better help an organization understand or evaluate their shelter operations and improvement toward decreasing risk for shelter animals. Some examples of indicators to watch are:

- Admissions
- Adoptions
- RTO
- Euthanasia
- Length of Stay

As discussed previously in this document, the careful examination of such data can help an organization identify specific populations of animals who are most at risk within the shelter and aid in the timely development of strategies to mitigate the identified risk.

Data from the communities an organization serves is yet another potential source of important information when evaluating shelter programs and impact. For example, a careful review of where

animals are admitted from and for what reason can lead to the development of specific strategies or programs to address community issues (targeted spay/neuter for certain zip codes/species, on the street education/engagement of pet owners, etc).

As a community of animal welfare organizations, we must continue to embrace the need to not only do good work, but measure and evaluate the work we are doing. There is much to measure and learn from beyond your agency's "rate" for lives saved.

In Conclusion

We encourage shelter leaders to explore all options regarding how to measure and publicly report on the work of their organizations. In some cases, there is much to be learned by examining statistics using a variety of methods. For more information regarding data gathering and analysis, please visit the websites of these National Federation members or partners.

Asilomar Live Release Rate	www.asilomaraccords.org
ASPCA Live Release Rate	www.aspcapro.org
Denver Metro Animal Coalition	www.mdsalliance.org
Maddie's Fund	www.maddiesfund.org
The Humane Society of the United States	www.animalsheltering.org
UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program	www.sheltermedicine.org

Dogs Destroyed* at Huntsville Animal Services from October, 2014 to May, 2015
(current as of June 25, 2015)

Source: HAS Public Records/Analysis by: No Kill Huntsville

Month	treatable health conditions	severe health conditions	fear/aggression/behavior/public safety	total destroyed	total dog intake	percent of total dog intake destroyed due to fear/aggression/behavior/public safety
October 2014	10	13	32	55	294	11%
November 2014	1	10	23	34	263	9%
December 2014	4	6	42	52	241	17%
January 2015	6	9	50	65	290	17%
February 2015	1	7	32	40	233	14%
March 2015	2	5	42	49	304	14%
April 2015	3	6	41	50	277	15%
May 2015	0	6	19	25	288	9%
Totals	27	62	281	370	2,190	average to date 13.25%

categories used to classify dogs destroyed for fear/aggression/behavior/public safety:

Aggression
Aggression/Mild
Aggression/Moderate
Aggression/Severe
Behavior

Behavior/Moderate
Behavior/Public Safety
Behavior/Severe
Fear/Severe
High Arousal

*percentage of dogs ordinarily destroyed in progressive or no kill communities is in the low single digits of total dog intake (1-3%) per No Kill Advocacy Center



by email only
(to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov)

July 2, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services:

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of June, 2015; and
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs *and cats* destroyed in the shelter during the month of June.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only
(to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov)

August 4, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding July Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services:

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of July, 2015;
- The Maddie's Fund Reporting Form for July, 2015 (*if one was completed*); and
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed in the shelter during the month of July.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256 _____ or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
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Nina Beal, The Ark
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Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only
(to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov)

August 24, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request For Images of Dogs Destroyed

Mr. Grimes:

You previously provided us with the computer printouts for the dogs destroyed at Huntsville Animal Services during the month of July, 2015. A total of forty-three (43) dogs were destroyed.

We now seek color images of those forty-three (43) dogs. It is our understanding that the shelter uses either Chameleon Beach software (or some comparable software) which includes an image of each animal admitted to the shelter. We have attached an example of the type of image we seek for each dog destroyed. If there is a cost associated with us obtaining color copies of the photographs of each of the 43 dogs, please let us know.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
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Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Enclosure



Animal ID	Animal Name	Type	Sex	Yr	Mon	DOB
A442136	ROBIN	CAT	S	7	2.00	03/13/96

	Looks Like	Primary	Secondary
Color	W	WHITE	CALICO
Breed	SHORTHAIK	DOMESTIC SH	MIX

Condition	Status	Status Date	Bite
NORMAL	ACTIVE	05/13/03	N

Size	Coat	Ears	Tail	Muzzle	Temper
MED	SHORT FLAT	ERECT	LONG SM	MEDIUM	FRIENDLY

Collar Color	Collar Type	Markings
BLACK	NYLON	ORG NOSE, PATCH ON RT HIP, PURRS !

Spay/Neuter

Vet ID	
G888801	ADOBE ANIMAL HOSPITAL 4756365

Due	Completed	Voucher No	Contract Expires
02/05/99	02/05/99	C227651	08/02/99

Name	Type	Size	Sex	Color	Breed	DOB	Animal ID	
ROBIN	CAT	MED	S	WHITE	DOMESTIC SH	03/13/96	A442136	



Image 1 of 2



by email only to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

September 2, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics, Records and Photographs

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services:

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of August, 2015;
- The Maddie's Fund Reporting Form for August of 2015 (*if one was completed*);
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed in the shelter during the month of August; and
- The photographs of the 43 dogs destroyed in the month of July (requested on August 24, 2015).

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

September 30, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Dogs Destroyed in August 2015

Mr. Grimes:

You previously provided us with computer printouts related to the dogs destroyed at Huntsville Animal Services in August of 2015. A total of thirty (30) dogs were destroyed. Twenty-five (25) of the dogs were destroyed for issues related to behavior.

Please provide us with any and all documents, images or other records, whether ordinarily maintained in physical or electronic form, regarding the twenty-five (25) dogs listed on the attached chart which was derived from the computer printouts you previously provided to us. We seek these public records either in electronic form or in paper form, whichever is easiest for you. If there is a fee associated with processing this request, please advise us in advance.

This record request simply seeks "public records" as that phrase has historically been defined and interpreted in our state. Animal welfare advocacy groups like ours across the country routinely seek records like this in order to analyze the types of animals being destroyed in order to track trends and recurring problems. There is nothing contained in these public records which would give rise to a claim that the records are somehow exempt from disclosure due to confidentiality or public detriment. This request is not intended to harass or otherwise create a burden on Huntsville Animal Services. We are willing to go to the shelter and inspect these records on site, but presume that producing them is preferable to the city.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Enclosure

August Numbers
25 dogs destroyed related to behavior
bold = less than 1 year of age

ID Number	Breed	Reason
A443984	pit bull	behavior severe
A446657	pit bull	high arousal
A446684	pit bull	behavior severe
A447061	American bulldog	aggression severe
A447219	pit bull/mix	behavior moderate
A447456	bulldog	behavior moderate
A447456*	bulldog	behavior moderate
A447878	pit bull/mix	behavior severe
A447879	labrador retriever/mix	high arousal
A448145	pit bull/mix	behavior severe
A448318	pit bull	aggression severe
A448825	pit bull/mix	behavior severe
A448920	pit bull	behavior severe
A449099	pit bull	behavior severe
A449310	pit bull	aggression severe
A449569	pit bull	behavior moderate
A449579	pit bull	behavior severe
A449949	bulldog	behavior moderate
A450001	pit bull/mix	aggression severe
A450153	pit bull/mix	behavior severe
A450290	labrador retriever/pit bull	behavior severe
A450301	pit bull	behavior severe
A450358	pit bull	behavior severe
A450401	chow chow	behavior public safety
A450402	pit bull/mix	behavior severe

* duplication of this entry is contained in the shelter records provided to us



by email only to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

October 8, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services:

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of September, 2015;
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed in the shelter during the month of September

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

November 3, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services:

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of October, 2015;
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed in the shelter during the month of October, 2015.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

As of the date of this request, we have two prior requests which remain outstanding: our September 30, 2015, request for records related to dogs destroyed in August for behavioral issues and our October 8, 2015, request for records related to September of 2015.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

November 11, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Restated Public Records Act Request Regarding Dogs Destroyed in August 2015

Mr. Grimes:

We have not been able to reach you by telephone to follow-up regarding our September 30, 2015, letter seeking records on the twenty-five (25) dogs destroyed at Huntsville Animal Services in August for behavior-based reasons.

In your email to our group of November 3, 2015, you stated that it was your understanding that animal services does not maintain any additional public records on the dogs destroyed other than the euthanization report (computer printout by category) and the monthly statistics matrix. As we told you in my reply of the same day, we believe you are mistaken.

Every animal shelter which takes in animals either found running at large, from the public or through some legal seizure creates a record specific to that animal which tracks the animal by an identification number. Although we prefer not to think of them as property, animals are property under the law which must be held for a requisite period of time if found running at large. Even in the case of owner surrendered animals, a record is created for the animal to track how it is processed through the system.

We consider every record created by or maintained in the operation of Huntsville Animal Services to be a public record, whether that record is in paper form or in electronic form. The Open Records Act disclosure exemptions in Alabama are very limited (security and safety, exempt by statute, detrimental to the best interests of the public) and simply do not apply to the shelter records.

Attached to this letter are examples of the type of records we seek and which were obtained by advocates in St. Paul, Minnesota and Houston, Texas. These are provided to you not

as an example of what Huntsville Animal Services records look like, but to demonstrate the type of documents maintained in the ordinary course of operating a municipal animal shelter and which are routinely sought and obtained by advocates like us through records requests in order to analyze trends regarding dogs destroyed.

We restate our request for any and all documents, images or other records, whether ordinarily maintained in physical or electronic form, regarding the twenty-five (25) dogs listed on the attached chart destroyed in August for behavioral issues. The chart was derived from the computer printouts you previously provided to us. We seek these public records either in electronic form or in paper form, whichever is easiest for you. If there is a fee associated with processing this request, please advise us in advance.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at _____ or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Enclosures

Cc: (by email)
City Administrator John Hamilton
Dr. Karen Sheppard

TEXT FIELD(S):

PERSON_SHORT

SHANIKA RIDLEY 3242 BRYANT AVE N MINNEAPOLIS 55412

ANIMAL_SHORT

PERSON_SHORT

USERID STAMP

valledx0 2014-02-26 16:03:59.167

ENTRY FIELD(S):

Activity No: A14-001080

Seq: 1

Type: HOLD

Subtype: OTC

Priority: DAILY

Total: 1

Type: DOG

Tag No:

CALLER ID: P197734

No: 3242

Dir:

Name: BRYANT

Type: AVE

Apt:

: MINNEAPOLIS

: MN

: 55412

: 612

Phone: 3230926

Geo W: NORTH

Jurisdiction: 4 4

Comment:

Danger:

Owner ID:

Animal ID: A276117

Qty: 1

: 1

: 0

: 0

Result: IMPND

Result: C REL

:

:

Clerk ID: VALLEDX0

Officer ID: P999735

Status: COMPLETED

Call: 02/26/14 16:00

New: 02/26/14 16:00

Dispatch:

Working: 02/26/14 16:02

Complete: 02/26/14 16:02

: 6

: 0

Qdt: N

Sfx:

Common Place Name:

Cross Street Low:

Cross Street High:

Map Page:

Latitude: 0
Longitude: 0
Extra1:
Extra2:
Extra3:
Animal Description: COCO MED DOG TAN/WHITE S PIT BULL
Owner Description:
Cancel By:
Reason:
ChamAlert:
: 0
: 0
Qty:
Result:
: 361580

LISTBOX(ES):

Activity	No	Seq	Type	Caller	ID	Phone	No	Owner	ID	Animal	ID	No	Dir	Street
St	Type	Apt	City	Zip	Color	Breed	Tag	No						

TEXT FIELD(S):

ANIMAL_SHORT

RESCUE ONLY 1Y 1M MED DOG TAN S PIT BULL

PERSON_SHORT


SHANIKA RIDLEY [REDACTED] 242 BRYANT AVE N MINNEAPOLIS 55412

PERSON_SHORT

USERID STAMP

derrrta0 2014-03-11 12:36:06.420

ENTRY FIELD(S):

Kennel No: KH04
Status: AVAILABLE
Tag:
Other ID:
Activity No: A14-001080
: 1
Animal ID: A276117
Person From: P197734
Person To:
Crossing: 32XX BRYANT AVE N
Jurisdiction: 4 4
Type: CUST REL
Subtype: OTC
OS Source:
OS Reason:
By: 735
Date: 02/26/14
Time: 16:06
Due Out: 03/05/14 00:00
Cond: NORMAL
Hold:
Request:  euthanized
Type: EUTH
Subtype: BHVR SHLTR
Dose: .00
By: TAD
Date: 03/11/14
Time:
Weight: .00
Receipt No:
: 5
Impound No: K14-000380
Litter No:
Sub Status:
Review Date: 03/05/14
Receipt No:
Cond:
Dose2: .00
Chip Check: CHIP FOUND
Extra2:
Extra3:
Extra4:
Extra5:
Bottle:
Comment: 2/26/14 Also came in wearing a pink patterned nylon collar per #35.
Also see animal memo regarding microchip info. - DV
Tot: 1
: 88117

X Task Date Description Time Ref No ToDo No

Kennel ImpoundNo Animal Type Size Sex Color Breed Intake Date Intake Type Hold
Request Out Date Out Type Color2 Breed2 Collar Color Collar Type Yrs Mon
Temper Muzzle Crossing Markings Kennel Animal Type Size Sex Color Breed
Intake Date Intake Type Hold Request Out Date Out Type Color2 Breed2
Collar Color Collar Type Yrs Mon Feet Legs Crossing Markings

Memo NO: M14-001456 Memo ID: A2/611/ Memo ID Type: ANIMAL_ID

Memo Date: 02/26/14 Memo Type: NOTE Memo Subtype:

Memo Text:

3/11/14 Scheduled for euthanasia. TD

3/6/14 Save a Bull said they probably would NOT pull this dog as she was dog reactive. - DV

3-6-14 Made available for adoption. Name is Coco. MJF

2/26/14 Custodian said that the owner's name is Henry that left the dog with her (she did not know his last name.) #35 found a microchip which when I traced it came back to a Rickail Riddley, address: 3234 Bryant Ave North, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (I called and spoke with Rickail, she said the dog is supposed to be staying at her sister's house. She wanted to know who brought the dog in, I told her I couldn't release that at this time. Rickail said she was going to call her sister and call us back. *The custodian has the same last name but her ID spelled the last name with one "d" instead of 2. They also live only a couple of houses apart from each other on the same block.*) The chip also had an alternate contact of Gwen McPherson, [REDACTED] The vet on the microchip was listed as [REDACTED]

Memo LISTBOX:

MEMO_NO MEMO_DATE MEMO_TYPE MEMO_SUBTYPE MEMO_RESTRICTED





Activity No:

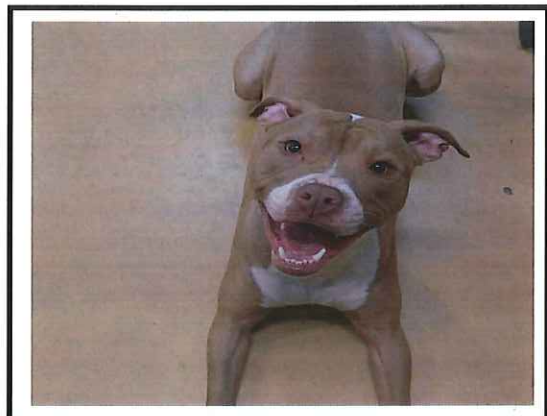
A14-001080

Kennel No:

KH04

Animal No:

A276117



Name:

RESCUE ONLY

Color:

TAN & WHITE

Breed:

PIT BULL

Sex:

SPAYED

Estimated Age: **1 YEAR 1 MONTH**

Markings:



Intake Date:

2/26/2014

Review Date:

3/5/2014

Intake Type:

CUST REL / OTC

Intake By:

735

IMPOUNDED FROM: 32XX BRYANT AVE N

Kennel Status:

AVAILABLE

☐

Da2PP

☐

BORD

☐

PRC

☐

DW

I certify that I have examined, identified and received the above described animal as my own or as a custodian for the owner and paid the fees for this animal.

Signature of Person Recovering this Animal

Date

Signature of Staff Releasing this Animal

Date

MARLIE



KENNEL CARD



Kennel #: BAYDOCK20

Animal ID: A1317413

Intake Type
STRAY

Intake Date
05/11/15

Available Date
06/06/15

Kennel Status
UNAVAILABLE

Hold Request
EUTHANIZE



ABOUT ME

MICROCHIP: 981020015348110



Marlie is a spayed female, brown and white aust cattle dog mix ,is approximately 2Y old



We are BARC. We care deeply about animals.

Medical History

T15-664164 06/08/15 43.0 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

T15-664473 06/08/15 40.0 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

EUTHANIZED

4.00 FATAL PLUS 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-660701 06/05/15 43.0 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

T15-649886 05/27/15 43.0 lbs 5/9 URI

1.00 COUGHTABS 2.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 7.00 DAYS

2.00 DOXY100C 2.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 10.00 DAYS

T15-645463 05/23/15 43.0 lbs 5/9 GI

1.00 METRO250 2.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 7.00 DAYS

4.50 MARQ15% 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 2.00 DAYS

T15-639530 05/19/15 43.0 lbs 5/9 GI

SPAY

FOUND ANIMALS 981020015348110

NAIL TRIM

RABIES

2.15 BAA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

1.00 KETASET 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.00 MIDAZOLAM INJ 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

0.43 KETOFEN 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.55 PENICILLINE 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.50 ADVAND#3 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-635094 05/16/15 43.0 lbs 5/9 GI

1.00 METRO500 2.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 5.00 DAYS

T15-628667 05/12/15 43.0 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

DA2PP-V

DEWORM

BORDETELLA

4.00 IVERPYRA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

HWTEST NEGATIVE

410M

Intake By: 225

Printed 08/14/15 3:02 PM by GFrage

BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions

3200 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026

Phone: 713-229-7300



KENNEL CARD



SHIBA

Kennel #: BAYDOCK21

Animal ID: A1213914

Intake Type
CONFISCATE

Intake Date
05/12/15

Available Date
05/26/15

Kennel Status
UNAVAILABLE

Hold Request
EUTHANIZE



ABOUT ME

MICROCHIP: A4B15752C10

Shiba is a spayed female, fawn and white labrador retr mix ,is approximately 4Y old

Hi! I am SHIBA! I am very playful and friendly and love running around just as much as I doing snuggling. I am dreaming of a home with a big backyard and a family with lots of love. You will find me to be curious and alert with flip-floppy ears, gentle eyes and a soft cuddly coat. Warning: if you adopt me, you'll have yourself a friend for life!

We are BARC. We care deeply about animals.

Medical History

T15-664237 06/08/15 45.0 lbs BEHAVIOR

T15-664454 06/08/15 50.0 lbs BEHAVIOR

EUTHANIZED

6.00 FATAL PLUS 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-663999 06/07/15 45.0 lbs GI

EXAM DIARRHEA

2.00 METRO500 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 5.00 DAYS

T15-653030 05/29/15 45.0 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

1.00 CEPHA500 2.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 10.00 DAYS

0.50 RIMADYL100 2.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 5.00 DAYS

T15-630447 05/13/15 45.0 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

DA2PP-V

DEWORM

BORDETELLA

HWTEST NEGATIVE

5.00 IVERPYRA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T14-197246 03/16/14 47.0 lbs GI

2.50 METRO500 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 5.00 DAYS

T14-197270 03/16/14 47.0 lbs GI

1.00 THEARTPLUS 51 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T14-194990 03/13/14 00.0 lbs 4/9 GI

T14-194908 03/12/14 00.0 lbs 4/9 GI

FECALTST NEGATIVE

PARVOTEST NEGATIVE

10.00 PANACUR 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 3.00 DAYS

1.00 METRO500 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 5.00 DAYS

T14-186346 03/03/14 47.0 lbs 4/9 NORMAL

T14-186735 03/03/14 47.0 lbs 4/9 NORMAL

DA2PP-V

DEWORM

5.00 IVERPYRA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T14-177516 02/19/14 47.0 lbs 4/9 URI

534K

Intake By: 148

Printed 08/14/15 3:02 PM by GFrage

BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions

3200 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026

Phone: 713-229-7300



KENNEL CARD



REGGIE

Kennel #: SURGERY08

Animal ID: A1319821

Intake Type
STRAY

Intake Date
05/20/15

Available Date
06/08/15

Kennel Status
UNAVAILABLE

Hold Request
ADOPTED



ABOUT ME

MICROCHIP: 981020015370364



Reggie is a neutered male, black Labrador retr mix ,is approximately 2Y old



We are BARC. We care deeply about animals.

Medical History

T15-664196 06/08/15 65.0 lbs NORMAL

RABIES
NEUTER PRE SCROTAL
FOUND ANIMALS 981020015370364
NAIL TRIM
3.25 BAA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
1.50 KETASET 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
2.00 MIDAZOLAM INJ 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
3.85 PENICILLINE 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
7.39 DEXAMETAZONE 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
1.18 LASIXINJ 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-660703 06/05/15 65.0 lbs NORMAL

T15-651995 05/29/15 65.0 lbs URI

3.00 DOXY100C 2.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 10.00 DAYS
1.00 COUGHTABS 2.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 7.00 DAYS

T15-641870 05/20/15 65.0 lbs 5/9 WOUND

DA2PP-V
DEWORM
BORDETELLA
HWTEST NEGATIVE
7.00 IVERPYRA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-642050 05/20/15 65.0 lbs WOUND

1.00 CEPHA500 2.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 10.00 DAYS

576F

Intake By: 148

Printed 08/14/15 3:02 PM by AMCKNIGH

BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions

3200 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026

Phone: 713-229-7300



KENNEL CARD



HOKU

Kennel #: BAYDOCK22

Animal ID: A1320003

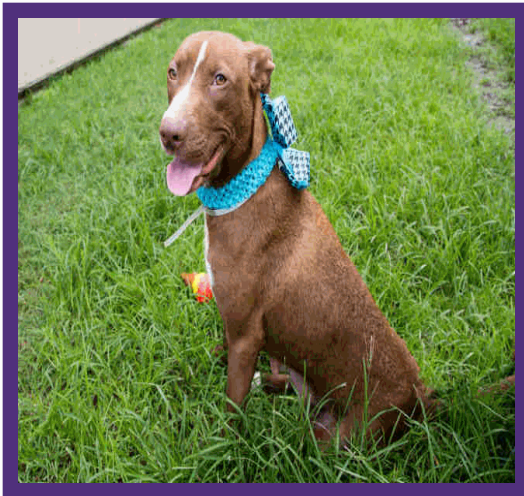
Intake Type
STRAY

Intake Date
05/21/15

Available Date
05/26/15

Kennel Status
UNAVAILABLE

Hold Request
EUTHANIZE



ABOUT ME

MICROCHIP: 981020015270235



Hoku is a spayed female, brown labrador retr mix ,is approximately 3Y old

Hi, I'm HOKU, an energetic and fun girl! My name means "Star" in Hawaiian, and I would love to be the "Star" of your life! I like treats, and I LOVE toys! I can entertain myself all day with them! My wish upon my own star is for a forever family!



We are BARC. We care deeply about animals.

Medical History

T15-664225 06/08/15 37.0 lbs 5/9 BEHAVIOR

T15-664457 06/08/15 40.0 lbs 5/9 BEHAVIOR

EUTHANIZED

4.00 FATAL PLUS 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-651536 05/29/15 37.0 lbs 5/9 DERMATITIS

SKIN SCRAPE NEGATIVE

T15-651746 05/29/15 37.0 lbs 5/9 DERMATITIS

SPAY

FOUND ANIMALS 981020015270235

NAIL TRIM

RABIES

1.85 BAA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

1.00 KETASET 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.00 MIDAZOLAM INJ 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

0.37 KETOFE 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.20 PENICILLINE 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.50 ADVAND#3 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-650827 05/28/15 37.0 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

BORDETELLA

T15-642606 05/21/15 37.0 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

DA2PP-V

DEWORM

HWTEST NEGATIVE

4.00 IVERPYRA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

Intake By: BAN

Printed 08/14/15 3:02 PM by GFraga

BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions

3200 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026

Phone: 713-229-7300

EINSTEIN



KENNEL CARD



Kennel #: MZ103A

Animal ID: A1320684

Intake Type
STRAY

Intake Date
05/26/15

Available Date
05/30/15

Kennel Status
UNAVAILABLE

Hold Request
TRANSFER



ABOUT ME

Einstein is a neutered male, blonde and white, germ shepherd and border collie mix ,is approximately 9M old

MICROCHIP: 981020015354110



We are BARC. We care deeply about animals.

Medical History

T15-668562 06/10/15 50.2 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

HEALTH CERT

T15-658714 06/03/15 50.2 lbs 5/9 DERMATITIS

NEUTER SCROTAL

FOUND ANIMALS 981020015354110

NAIL TRIM

RABIES

2.50 BAA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

1.00 KETASET 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.00 MIDAZOLAM INJ 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.95 PENICILLINE 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

5.68 DEXAMETAZONE 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

0.91 LASIXINJ 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.50 ADVAND#3 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-648007 05/26/15 50.2 lbs 5/9 DERMATITIS

BORDETELLA

DA2PP-V

DEWORM

HWTEST NEGATIVE

6.00 IVERPYRA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-648278 05/26/15 50.2 lbs 5/9 DERMATITIS

450V

Intake By: RR

Printed 08/14/15 3:02 PM by APEIMBER

BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions

3200 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026

Phone: 713-229-7300



BARC
ANIMAL SHELTER
& ADOPTIONS

KENNEL CARD



DAISY

Kennel #: SURGERY48

Animal ID: A1320752

Intake Type
CONFISCATE

Intake Date
05/27/15

Available Date
06/06/15

Kennel Status
QUARANTINE

Hold Request
QUARANTINE



ABOUT ME

MICROCHIP: 981020015290192



Daisy is a spayed female, tan and black germ shepherd mix, is approximately 3Y old



We are BARC. We care deeply about animals.

Medical History

T15-664165 06/08/15 52.0 lbs BEHAVIOR

SURGERY DOG S

RABIES

FOUND ANIMALS 981020015290192

2.60 BAA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

1.00 KETASET 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

2.00 MIDAZOLAM INJ 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

0.52 KETOFEN 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

3.10 PENICILLINE 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-744436 06/08/15 52.0 lbs BEHAVIOR

452K

Intake By: AD

Printed 08/14/15 3:02 PM by JDURAN

BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions

3200 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026

Phone: 713-229-7300

THUNDER



KENNEL CARD



Kennel #: SURGERY01

Animal ID: A1321438

Intake Type
STRAY

Intake Date
05/29/15

Available Date
06/02/15

Kennel Status
UNAVAILABLE

Hold Request
ADOPTED



ABOUT ME

MICROCHIP: 981020015356783



Thunder is a neutered male, white labrador retr mix
, is approximately 15W old



We are BARC. We care deeply about animals.

Medical History

T15-735942 08/04/15 13.9 lbs 5/9 NORMAL

DA2PP-V
RABIES
DEWORM
1.50 PYRANT 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
1.00 THEARTPLUS UP 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
1.00 PRAZIQUANT PI 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-692769 06/28/15 08.3 lbs NORMAL

DA2PP-V
DEWORM
1.00 PYRANT 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
1.00 TRIFEXIS - PI 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-664179 06/08/15 04.2 lbs NORMAL

NEUTER SCROTAL
FOUND ANIMALS 981020015356783
NAIL TRIM
0.20 BAA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
0.04 KETOFEN 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
0.20 DOPRAM V 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
0.20 PENICILLINE 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-660659 06/04/15 04.2 lbs GI

EXAM LOOSE STOOL
0.50 MARQ15% 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 2.00 DAYS

T15-652041 05/29/15 04.2 lbs 5/9 IMMATURE

DA2PP-V
BORDETELLA
DEWORM
0.50 IVERPYRA 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS
1.00 CAPSTAR 2-25L 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

T15-652747 05/29/15 04.2 lbs 5/9 IMMATURE

T15-652996 05/29/15 04.2 lbs 5/9 IMMATURE

FECALTST ROUNDWORM +++
PARVOTEST NEGATIVE

494P

Intake By: CH

Printed 08/14/15 3:02 PM by JDURAN

BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions

3200 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026

Phone: 713-229-7300

SPICE GIRL



BARC
ANIMAL SHELTER
& ADOPTIONS

KENNEL CARD



Kennel #: DD30

Animal ID: A1320067

Intake Type
CONFISCATE

Intake Date
05/30/15

Available Date
06/08/15

Kennel Status
UNAVAILABLE

Hold Request
EUTHANIZE



ABOUT ME

Spice girl is a female, black chinese sharpei ,is approximately 3Y old



We are BARC. We care deeply about animals.

Medical History

T15-664076 06/08/15 00.0 lbs BEHAVIOR

T15-664534 06/08/15 40.0 lbs BEHAVIOR

EUTHANIZED

4.00 FATAL PLUS 1.00 TIMES/DAY FOR 1.00 DAYS

Intake By: OBI
Printed 08/14/15 3:02 PM by GFrage

BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions
3200 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026
Phone: 713-229-7300

August Numbers
25 dogs destroyed related to behavior
bold = less than 1 year of age

ID Number	Breed	Reason
A443984	pit bull	behavior severe
A446657	pit bull	high arousal
A446684	pit bull	behavior severe
A447061	American bulldog	aggression severe
A447219	pit bull/mix	behavior moderate
A447456	bulldog	behavior moderate
A447456*	bulldog	behavior moderate
A447878	pit bull/mix	behavior severe
A447879	labrador retriever/mix	high arousal
A448145	pit bull/mix	behavior severe
A448318	pit bull	aggression severe
A448825	pit bull/mix	behavior severe
A448920	pit bull	behavior severe
A449099	pit bull	behavior severe
A449310	pit bull	aggression severe
A449569	pit bull	behavior moderate
A449579	pit bull	behavior severe
A449949	bulldog	behavior moderate
A450001	pit bull/mix	aggression severe
A450153	pit bull/mix	behavior severe
A450290	labrador retriever/pit bull	behavior severe
A450301	pit bull	behavior severe
A450358	pit bull	behavior severe
A450401	chow chow	behavior public safety
A450402	pit bull/mix	behavior severe

* duplication of this entry is contained in the shelter records provided to us



by email only to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

December 9, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services:

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of November, 2015;
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed in the shelter during the month of November, 2015.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256 or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

As of the date of this request, we still have two (2) prior requests which remain outstanding.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

December 31, 2015

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Records Regarding Dogs Destroyed in August 2015

Mr. Grimes:

We are in your receipt of your December 22, 2015, letter regarding the animal shelter records for the twenty-five (25) dogs destroyed in August for behavioral issues.

We first sought these records three months ago. We were originally told the records did not exist. Now that we are told the records will be made available, the information contained in the records is dated and not of the same value to our analysis as it would have been months ago. We are, however, still interested in the information contained in the records.

In order to avoid spending \$125 on records which may now be of limited value to our analysis, we propose that we instead be allowed to inspect the records at Huntsville Animal Services on a date and at a time which is mutually agreeable to Dr. Sheppard and to representatives from our coalition: Nina Beal (of The Ark, Inc.) and Susan Burlingame (of Challenger's House, Inc.). Nina and Susan will record information of interest contained in the records using either a laptop or a note pad (but not including personal identifying information which would otherwise be redacted). Nina worked for Huntsville Animal Services for many years as an animal cruelty investigator, humane educator and secretary to the director; she is quite familiar with the records to be inspected and the process should move along quickly.

Please let us know by January 18, 2016, if you agree to inspection of the records by our representatives so that the inspection can be scheduled. We have been told by Dr. Sheppard that we are not to communicate with her directly regarding issues related to her records under any circumstances. In order to facilitate the inspection, we request that Nina or Susan be given permission to contact Karen Buchan directly to set a date and time that works for everyone. If you require that a city employee be present for the inspection, Nina has long-standing relationships with a number of senior personnel at the shelter (like Vergie Graham); perhaps one of those individuals could be present while the records are being reviewed.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Cc: City Administrator John Hamilton (by email)



by email only to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

January 4, 2016

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services.

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of December, 2015;
- The 2015 Statistical Year-end Report for the animal shelter
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed in the shelter during the month of December, 2015.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

February 4, 2016

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Updated Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

In our last letter to you of January 4, 2016, we sought some shelter records which we have since obtained from the shelter's website. In order to avoid confusion moving forward, please consider this our updated request for public records from Huntsville Animal Services. You may disregard our prior requests just for the sake of simplicity.

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services.

- The 2015 Statistical Year-end Report for the animal shelter
- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of January, 2016 (or the Maddie's Fund Reporting Form, whichever form was used in January);
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed during the period of October of 2015 through the end of January 2016 (the "Daily Euthanasia Total" computer printout reports)

We are in the process of analyzing the shelter records over a period of time so that we can take steps to have Huntsville added to a national tracking website called Saving 90 which tracks communities saving both 80 percent and 90 percent of shelter animals over a continuous period of twelve months.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Cc: Mr. John Hamilton (by email)



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

March 7, 2016

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Updated Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services.

- The 2015 Statistical Year-end Report for the animal shelter
- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the months of January and February 2016 (or the Maddie's Fund Reporting Form, whichever form was used in January);
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed during the period of October of 2015 through the end of February 2016 (the "Daily Euthanasia Total" computer printout reports)

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Cc: Mr. John Hamilton (by email)



by email only to Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

April 5, 2016

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Updated Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services.

- The 2015 Statistical Year-end Report for the animal shelter
- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the months of January through March of 2016
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed during the month of March, 2016

We understand you told us before that the 2015 year-end statistics and the monthly statistics for this year would be made available on the website for the shelter. They have not been posted to date.

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Cc: Mr. John Hamilton (by email)



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

May 6, 2016

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services.

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of April of 2016
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed during the months of March and April of 2016

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

June 7, 2016

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Updated Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services.

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of May of 2016
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed during the months of **March through May** of 2016

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256 _____ or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



June 20, 2016

Mayor Thomas M. Battle, Jr.
Dr. Richard Showers, District 1
Mr. Mark Russell, District 2
Dr. Jennie Robinson, District 3
Mr. Bill Kling, Jr., District 4
Mr. Will Culver, District 5
City of Huntsville
308 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Making Huntsville a “No Kill Community”

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

When Mayor Battle took office in late 2008, the live release rate for animals at our municipal animal shelter, Huntsville Animal Services, was 25%. Only 1 out of every 4 animals entering the building left it alive at a time when the annual intake was approximately 10,000 animals. We have all seen the shelter intake figure plummet to approximately half that number. We have also seen the “live release rate” at the shelter soar, particularly in the last 2 years and under the leadership of City Administrator John Hamilton. Huntsville Animal Services is now receiving a lot of praise for having finally taken steps to adopt proven no kill programs and services in order to balance public safety with animal welfare. It has become a source of great pride for the shelter staff and the public to know that animals are now safer in our community than they have been at any time in the past.

This has been an imperfect process to be sure. We realize that our advocacy has made a number of people uncomfortable, causing some to focus their outrage toward the members of our coalition due to our outspokenness rather than to keep the focus on saving lives. Our mission is – and has always been – to seek municipal accountability for how our tax dollars are spent while seeking a time when Huntsville becomes a true no kill community. We have always sought to become irrelevant, not because we are being ignored, but simply because we are no longer needed to rock our community boat.

When we say true no kill community, we are not talking about a statistic. We are talking about a culture in which we do not destroy healthy and treatable animals at the shelter. That may mean the live release rate is 97% in one month and 87% the next for some reason. It is an issue not of math but of method. The live release rate has been above 90% since July of last year¹ and

¹ The live release rate dropped below 90% in April. We suspect this drop is from an unresolved, long-standing issue of controlling upper respiratory illness which has caused dogs to get sick after entering the shelter.

the city is to be commended for this wonderful progress. But there is still work to be done in order to become a no kill community.

We write to you today to respectfully ask that you consider making the final push to make Huntsville a true no kill community by making a public declaration of intent that the city will no longer destroy healthy and treatable animals in our shelter *under any circumstances*. Doing so empowers people who live and work here to become personally invested in how the shelter functions and it also becomes a selling point to encourage people to move here or do business here because ours is an “animal friendly” community. We think the city is in the best possible position to take this next logical step in the wake of recent progress.²

Should you decide to make the commitment to make Huntsville a no kill community, it may be helpful to then consider adoption of a Companion Animal Protection Act so that certain standards related to the shelter operation are codified. This has been done in a number of cities³ across the country and even in some states. Codifying some basic standards simply ensures that the progress achieved is sustained long-term, regardless of who directs the animal shelter operation or who leads the city.

Thank you for your time and for your continued dedication to our community. We are hopeful you will collectively decide to draw a philosophical line in the sand and make a public commitment of intent to make Huntsville a no kill community.

Sincerely,

Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. John Hamilton, City Administrator
Dr. Karen Sheppard, Huntsville Animal Services Director

² We appreciate the fact that there may be circumstances which arise in the future which may make it more difficult to keep healthy and treatable animals alive following a mass-intake event. It is for this reason that we encourage the city to develop a Shelter Disaster Response Plan to both care for and place animals in the event of a puppy mill seizure, hoarder/collector seizure or seizure from a dog fighting operation.

³ We have attached a copy of the CAPA enacted by the City of St. Paul in 2014 for your reference and consideration.

Chapter 200A. - Reduction of Unnecessary Euthanasia

Sec. 200A.01. - Definitions.

As used in this chapter the terms herein defined shall have the following meanings:

Animal means a dog or cat.

- (1) Cat means a mammal that is wholly or in part of the species *Felis domesticus*. An adult cat is five (5) months of age or older. A kitten is a cat under five (5) months of age.
- (2) Dog means a mammal that is wholly or in part of the species *Canis familiaris*. An adult dog is a dog five (5) months of age or older. A puppy is a dog under five (5) months of age.

Impounded animal means an animal seized or taken into protective custody by a public authority that is being held for redemption by the owner.

Irremediably suffering animal means an animal with a medical condition that has a poor or grave prognosis for being able to live without severe, unremitting pain as determined by a veterinarian licensed to practice in this state.

Non-rehabilitatable animal means an animal with severe illness or injury whose prognosis for rehabilitation is either poor or grave as determined by a veterinarian or an animal with historical or observed behavior that poses a potential safety risk to humans and other dogs or cats that cannot be reasonably managed.

Owner-relinquished animal means any animal taken into custody by a public or private sheltering agency because the owner has voluntarily agreed to transfer ownership of the animal to that agency for the purposes of re-homing or euthanasia.

Private sheltering agency means a shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, humane society, or animal adoption group designated as a nonprofit under section 501 (c)(3), of the Internal Revenue Code, that:

- (1) Accepts animals into a physical facility other than a private residence; and
- (2) Places into new homes stray or owner-relinquished animals or animals who have been removed from a public or private sheltering agency.

Public sheltering agency means a public animal control shelter that receives funding or has a contract with a city, town, or municipality under which it accepts stray or owner-relinquished animals.

Rescue group means a collaboration of individuals not operated for a profit and designated as a nonprofit by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, whose primary stated purpose is animal adoption or animal rescue, or which is formed for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Savable animal means any animal that is either healthy or treatable and is not a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog as defined under Minn. Stat. § 347.50, subdivisions 2 and 3 or Saint Paul Legislative Code sections 200.11 and 200.12.

Stray animal means an animal that is running at large and has been impounded by a public authority without a known owner present or captured and relinquished by a private citizen with no known owner.

Treatable animal means an animal that is sick or injured whose prognosis for rehabilitation of that illness or injury is excellent, good, fair, or guarded as determined by a veterinarian.

Unweaned animal means a neonatal animal that, in the absence of its mother, requires supplemental bottle feeding by humans in order to survive and is no more than four (4) weeks of age.

(Ord 14-41, § 1, 11-5-14)

Sec. 200A.02. - Stray animal holding periods.

- (a) The required holding period for any stray animal held by a public or private sheltering agency is five (5) regular business days, unless otherwise provided in this section, except that holding periods established under chapter 200 for potentially dangerous or dangerous dogs, or under chapter 202 for feral cats shall control in those cases.
- (b) Stray animals with significant health conditions may be transferred to a private sheltering agency or rescue group immediately after intake, subject to the same rights of redemption by the owner.
- (c) Irremediably suffering animals must be euthanized without delay, upon a verbal or written determination made by a licensed veterinarian.
- (d) Unweaned animals held without their mother may be euthanized so long as the shelter has exhausted efforts to place the animals in foster care, made an emergency appeal under the requirements of section 200A.05, and is unable to provide the needed care and feeding in its facility.

(Ord 14-41, § 1, 11-5-14)

Sec. 200A.03. - Holding period; owner relinquished animal.

The required holding period for an owner-relinquished animal in custody of a public or private sheltering agency is twenty-four (24) hours from the time of relinquishment, with the same duties as those owed to stray animals, except as follows:

- (1) An irremediably suffering animal;
- (2) Owner requested euthanasia for non-rehabilitatable animal;
- (3) Euthanasia in the case a non-rehabilitatable animal where the owner does not request euthanasia but the sheltering agency believes it is necessary to protect other animals or staff;
- (4) The above does not prohibit the agency from placing the animal prior to the end of the twenty-four-hour hold period.

(Ord 14-41, § 1, 11-5-14)

Sec. 200A.04. - Animal care standards.

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, public and private sheltering agencies shall, as reasonably able, provide all animals during the entirety of their shelter stay with environmental enrichment to promote their psychological well-being such as socialization, and toys and treats. As can reasonably be accommodated, public and private sheltering agencies must exercise animals regularly.
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), public and private sheltering agencies must work with a veterinarian to develop and follow a care protocol that is for animals with special needs such as, but not limited to, nursing mothers, unweaned animals, sick or injured animals, geriatric animals, or animals needing therapeutic exercise. This care protocol must specify any deviation from the standard requirements of paragraph (a) and the reasons for the deviation.
- (c) During the entirety of their shelter stay, animals must be provided prompt and necessary cleaning of their cages, kennels, or other living environments no fewer than two (2) times per day, to ensure environments that are welcoming to the public, hygienic for both the public and animals, and to prevent disease. This cleaning must be conducted in accordance with a protocol developed in coordination with a veterinarian.

- (d) During the entirety of their shelter stay, all animals must be provided with prompt and necessary veterinary care, including but not limited to preventative vaccinations to promote herd health within the shelter, cage rest, fluid therapy, pain management, and antibiotics, sufficient to alleviate any pain caused by disease or injury, to prevent a condition from worsening, and to allow them to leave the shelter in reasonable condition, even if the animals are not candidates for redemption, transfer, or adoption.
- (e) Public and private sheltering agencies must work with a veterinarian to develop and follow a protocol to prevent the spread of disease, including, but not limited to, appropriate evaluation and testing of newly held animals, administration of vaccines, proper isolation and handling of sick animals, and measures to protect those animals most vulnerable to infection.

(Ord 14-41, § 1, 11-5-14)

Sec. 200A.05. - Additional programs and duties.

- (a) All public and private sheltering agencies that euthanize animals must maintain a registry of organizations willing to accept animals as follows:
 - (1) Public or private sheltering agencies, and rescue groups designated as nonprofits by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, may be placed on this registry upon their request, provided they are located within two hundred (200) miles of the public or private agency and the agency or group complies with the articulated rescue approval process of the public or private agency. The public or private agency shall post their rescue approval process on their website or on premise for public review. The sheltering agency retains the discretion to deny registration if there is reason to believe the animals will not be treated in a humane manner.
 - (2) The public or private sheltering agency may, but is not required to, include on the registry any individual rescuers or rescue groups that are not designated as nonprofits under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - (3) The registry must include the following information as provided by the registered organization: Organization name, mailing address, and telephone number; web site and email address, if any; emergency contact information for the organization; the types of animals about which the organization wishes to be contacted, including species and breed; and whether or not the organization is willing and able to care for unweaned animals, sick or injured animals, or aggressive animals.
 - (4) A sheltering agency may require that registered organizations provide the following summary information on no more than a monthly basis: The total number of animals the organizations currently has in its care, the number of foster homes they have in use and available, the total number of animals the organization has taken from the agency who have been adopted, died, were transferred, were euthanized, or are still under the organization's care, which information may be provided in an informal format, such as via electronic communication.
- (b) No public or private sheltering agency may euthanize a savable animal unless and until the agency has notified, or made a reasonable attempt to notify, all organizations on the registry described in paragraph (a) that have indicated a willingness to take an animal of that type. The notification must take place at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the euthanizing of the animal unless medically necessary as determined by a veterinarian. At a minimum, the notification must include verifiable electronic communication. A notification is considered complete as to each individual group when this has been accomplished. No animal may be euthanized if an organization on the registry indicates, before the euthanizing of the animal, its willingness to take possession of the animal. The agency having possession of the animal may find another disposition for the animal if the organization agreeing to take the animal does not take possession of the animal within two (2) business days. No fee may be assessed for animals released to organizations listed on the registry.

Nothing in this section prevents a sheltering agency from euthanizing an irremediably suffering animal which must be euthanized without delay. The determination that an animal is irremediably suffering must be made upon verbal or written determination by a licensed veterinarian.

(Ord 14-41, § 1, 11-5-14)

Sec. 200A.06. - Identification.

Public and private sheltering agencies must take appropriate action to ensure that all animals are checked for all currently acceptable methods of identification, including microchips, identification tags, and licenses. Public and private sheltering agencies must maintain regularly updated lists of animals reported lost in a manner that allows the public to access the list, self-report their lost animal and match their lost reports with animals reported found and animals in the shelter. As soon as is reasonably feasible after an animal is taken into custody, the agencies must make all reasonable efforts to post notice of all stray animals on the internet with sufficient detail and a photograph to allow them to be recognized and claimed by their owners. If a possible owner is identified, the agency must undertake reasonable efforts to notify the owner or caretaker of the whereabouts of the animal and any procedures available for the lawful recovery of the animal. These efforts may include, but are not limited to, notifying the possible owner by telephone, email, [and/or] mail, to the last known address. Upon the owner's or caretaker's initiation of recovery procedures, the agencies must retain custody of the animal for not less than the holding period to allow for the completion of the recovery process.

(Ord 14-41, § 1, 11-5-14)

Sec. 200A.07. - Adoption or transfer criteria.

No public or private sheltering agency shall ban, bar, limit, or otherwise obstruct the adoption or transfer of any animal based on arbitrary criteria, such as breed, age, color, or any other criteria except as to the individual animal's medical condition and behavioral condition or the adopter's fitness to adopt.

(Ord 14-41, § 1, 11-5-14)

Sec. 200A.08. - Euthanasia.

- (a) No savable animal in a public or private sheltering agency may be euthanized simply because the holding period has expired. Before an animal is euthanized, public and private sheltering agencies must work with a veterinarian to develop a protocol that includes the following conditions:
 - (1) That the sheltering agency does not have the resources to care for the animal, including but not limited to:
 - a. Available housing;
 - b. Budget;
 - c. Staff;
 - (2) A foster home is not available;
 - (3) Organizations listed in the registry described in section 200A.05 are unable to accept the animal.

The director of the agency or his/her designee must ensure the protocol is implemented.

- (b) Animals may only be euthanized by lethal intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital, except as follows:

- (1) Intraperitoneal injections may be used only under the direction of a veterinarian and only when the determined method is an established protocol; and
- (2) Intracardiac injections may be used only when intravenous injection is not possible for animals that are completely unconscious or comatose or for exotic animals such as rats after proper sedation, and then only under the direction of a veterinarian.
- (c) No animal may be allowed to witness another animal being euthanized or being tranquilized or sedated for the purpose of being euthanized or see the bodies of animals that have been euthanized.
- (d) Animals may be sedated or tranquilized as necessary to minimize their stress or discomfort or, in the case of vicious animals, to ensure staff safety, except that neuromuscular blocking agents must not be used.
- (e) Following their injection, animals must be lowered to the surface on which they are being held and not be permitted to drop or otherwise collapse without support.
- (f) An animal may not be left unattended between the time procedures to euthanize the animal are commenced and the time death occurs, nor may the body be disposed of until death is verified.
- (g) Verification of death must be confirmed for each animal in all of the following ways:
 - (1) By lack of heartbeat, verified by stethoscope;
 - (2) By lack of respiration, verified by observation;
 - (3) By lack of eye response, verified if lid does not blink when eye is touched.
- (h) The room in which animals are euthanized must be cleaned and regularly disinfected as necessary, but no less than once per day on days the room is used, except that the area where the procedure is performed must be cleaned and disinfected between each procedure.
- (i) The room in which animals are euthanized must have adequate ventilation that prevents the accumulation of odors.
- (j) Only a veterinarian or a trained euthanasia technician working under the direct or indirect supervision of a veterinarian is allowed to euthanize animals in this city.

(Ord 14-41, § 1, 11-5-14)

Sec. 200A.09. - Public accountability.

- (a) A public or private sheltering agency must post on the agency's web site the information listed under paragraph (b) for each of the following categories of animals held by the agency:
 - (1) Adult dogs;
 - (2) Puppies;
 - (3) Adult cats; and
 - (4) Kittens.
- (b) A public or private sheltering agency must maintain the following information related to the animals held by the agency:
 - (1) The total number of live animal intakes categorized as follows:
 - a. The number of stray animals received by the shelter;
 - b. The number of animals that were relinquished by the animal's owner;
 - c. The number of animals that were requested to be euthanized by the animal's owner;

- d. The number of animals that were received from other agencies; and
 - e. Any other live animal intake; and
- (2) The final outcomes of the animals received by the shelter categorized as follows:
- a. The number of animal that were adopted;
 - b. The number of animals that were reclaimed by the animal's owner;
 - c. The number of animals that were transferred to another agency;
 - d. The number of animals that died while in the care of the shelter;
 - e. The number of animals that were lost in care;
 - f. The number of animals that were euthanized at the request of the owner; and
 - g. The number of animals that were euthanized at the direction of the shelter.
- (c) The information required to be posted under this section must be updated quarterly of each year. The information must be posted for at least one (1) year from the date of the posting.

(Ord 14-41, § 1, 11-5-14)



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

July 7, 2016

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Updated Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services.

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of June of 2016
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed during the months of **March through June** of 2016

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only

August 8, 2016

Mr. John Hamilton
Huntsville City Administrator
John.Hamilton@huntsvilleal.gov

Re: Variable Adoption Rates

Mr. Hamilton:

When we first met with you in March of 2014, we expressed concern over variable adoption rates at Huntsville Animal Services. It had been reported to us that puppies and smaller, “cuter” dogs were being adopted out for as much as \$200, a price which is comparable to that charged by some local breeders (and which essentially prices shelter animals out of the market). We were of the impression that this practice had ended. We learned recently of a situation in which Huntsville Animal Services charged an adopter \$200 for a puppy and \$150 for the mother of the puppy. We find this practice to be counterproductive to the goal of placing animals in homes and see it as being more akin to the behavior of a pet store which charges what the market will bear.

The Huntsville Animal Services website lists the adoption fees as \$35 for dogs and cats and \$50 for puppies and kittens. (This is a common shelter practice; it is considered a two-tiered structure based on age and not on breed.) The website mentions periodic promotions related to lowered fees. Any person who is new to our community or who has never adopted from the city shelter may very well rely on this information prior to adopting an animal. Regardless of the inaccuracy of the website, it is our position that charging variable rates for pets deemed more “desirable” sends an entirely wrong message to your public. It says that smaller, cuter, or pure bred animals are worth more than larger, older, mixed-breed animals. We honestly don’t know if this higher pricing on some animals is intended to offset fee waived adoptions or not.

Municipal animal shelters owe it to the animals entrusted to their care to treat all animals equally through flat rate or two-tiered adoption “pricing” which has nothing to do with pure bred status or general size. When the city says some animals are more valuable than others, it simply serves to perpetuate public stereotypes about shelter pets and it does a disservice to those animals which will always be harder to place, even with very reasonable pricing. If this is being done to offset costs from doing so many fee waived adoptions at large events, we encourage you to reconsider that practice as the “go to” placement option or seek grant funding so you can waive fees at big events and through ongoing programs rather than pricing some animals so high.

Please let us know if you plan to resolve this issue or if it is the intent of Huntsville Animal Services to continue to use variable pricing for some dogs it deems worth more to the public.

Sincerely,

read but not signed to avoid delay

Nina Beal, The Ark

Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue

Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities

Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House

Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay and Neuter Clinic

Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

Cc:

Dr. Karen Sheppard

Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

August 10, 2016

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services.

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of July of 2016
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed during the month of July of 2016

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change



by email only to
Jeff.Grimes@huntsvilleal.gov

September 8, 2016

Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Grimes
Huntsville City Attorney's Office
308 Fountain Circle, 6th Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: Public Records Act Request Regarding Shelter Statistics and Records

Mr. Grimes:

Please take steps to provide us with the following public records from Huntsville Animal Services.

- The National Federation of Humane Societies Basic Animal Stats Matrix for the month of August of 2016
- The computerized euthanasia report printouts for the dogs and cats destroyed during the month of August of 2016

This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at 256- or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Nina Beal, The Ark
Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
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