



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Sean Whent  
Interim Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Oakland Animal Shelter Update

**DATE:** May 6, 2014

City Administrator

Date

Approval

/s/ **Fred Blackwell**

**5/6/14**

### INFORMATION

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update of the Oakland Animal Shelter. The information in the memorandum will focus on rescue efforts, euthanasia data, and shelter staffing.

#### Rescue Efforts:

The Oakland Animal Shelter is committed to building effective partnerships with the many animal rescue groups locally and nationally. To better facilitate rescues and improve communication with various groups, staff established a rescue email, [ocasrescue@oaklandnet.com](mailto:ocasrescue@oaklandnet.com). The email provides personnel the capacity to receive and send out potential rescue requests from a central source.

Staff has reviewed and confirmed all MOUs the City holds with transfer groups. A list of these groups is centralized at the Shelter, and allows staff easy access to review the available groups. The Animal Control Supervisor has been designated as the point of contact for rescue groups. This is an interim task for the supervisor until the Volunteer Coordinator completes the background process and assumes her assignment at the Shelter.

Staff continues efforts to reach out to rescues for animal placement. The Shelter has set up weekly times for rescues to visit the facility and select animals for transfer. The following table compares year to date rescues with the two previous years:

	01/01-04/29 2012	01/01-04/29 2013	01/01-04/29 2014
<b>Dog/Cat Intake</b>	1761	1680	1367
<b>Transferred</b>	575	613	614
<b>Percentage</b>	32.6%	36.4%	44.9%

Euthanasia Data:

Through rescue and adoption, the Animal Shelter seeks to continuously improve live release rates. Recognizing the goal for live release, the Shelter does facilitate the euthanasia of animals. Typically, these animals are unsuitable for rescue or adoption. The following table compares euthanasia proportional data for YTD 2014 and the three previous years:

	<b>Annual 2011</b>	<b>Annual 2012</b>	<b>Annual 2013</b>	<b>YTD 2014</b>
<b>Total Animal Intake</b>	6148	6341	5788	1398
<b>Total Euthanized</b>	2690	2608	2115	389
<b>Percentage</b>	44%	41%	36%	28%

Staffing:

For effective operations, the Shelter requires proper staffing. With this understanding, OPD staff is working to fill vacancies. Further explanation of Shelter staffing will proceed from the table. The following table reflects current Shelter staffing:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Filled</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>
Director	1	Pending	Pending
Animal Control Supervisor	2	1	1
Volunteer Coordinator	1	1	0
Veterinarian	1 (FTE)	0.5	0.5
Vet Technician	2	2	0
Animal Control Officer	11	7.5	3.5
Police Records Specialist	2	1	1
Animal Care Attendant	20 (part-time)	12 (part-time)	8 (pending)

- While the Director’s position is pending, an OPD Lieutenant has been tasked with Shelter management. If a vacancy occurs, the City will conduct recruitment for a new Director.
- Recently, the Shelter was authorized a second Animal Control Supervisor position. This position is pending DHRM job posting.
- The Volunteer Coordinator has been selected and is in the background process. The anticipated start date is the end of May 2014.
- The Shelter posted an advertisement for a part time contract veterinarian.

- The City posted the Animal Control position. The job posting closed May 2, 2014 and applications are under review by DHRM. The exam date is pending.
- The City posted the Police Records Specialist position and is in the recruitment process. The eligibility list is pending completion on May 12, 2014.
- Recently, the Shelter was authorized eight additional part time Animal Care Attendants. The Animal Shelter staff submitted eight applications, which are pending acceptance of conditional job offers to initiate the background process.

The Animal Shelter is committed to animal care and public safety. In an attempt to leverage partnerships, Oakland Animal Services will seek experts to access shelter protocol. This will help ensure that the shelter is engaging in best practices. Staff will continue its efforts to improve Shelter operations.

In June 2014, staff will return to the Public Safety Committee with a detailed report, regarding the proposal of transitioning the Shelter into a standalone Department.

For questions, please contact Darren Allison, Captain of Police, at (510) 777-8679.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/

Sean Whent  
Chief of Police  
Oakland Police Department

Prepared by:

Darren Allison  
Captain of Police  
Support Operations Division