

## PUSH List (Pets Urgently Seeking Homes)

- Fort Bend County Animal Services has 39 kennels available to house homeless pets that come to shelter. Each run is designed to be an inside/outside kennel so, in theory, we should be able to hold 78 dogs, one to each side of the kennel.
- While some smaller dogs can be placed to a single run, larger dogs (depending on size and temperament) must be in a run by themselves which further limits our space.
- As of 1/15, we have 122 dogs in the facility. We are making every effort to hold dogs as long as we can to avoid euthanizing for space but we have reached a critical point for the health and safety of both the dogs and the staff who are responsible for cleaning the kennels.
- When we reach this point, we institute a PUSH list – Pets Urgently Seeking Homes. This list is comprised of the longest residents in the shelter. Currently, there are 21 dogs on this list with residents having been here since September, 2015.
- We publish the PUSH list on our Facebook page and share it with the rescue community and try to alert contacts in the media as well. We give the dogs on the list a week to be adopted, rescued or fostered through a rescue. Most municipal shelters publish a euthanasia list on a daily basis to clear their kennels, we do not ever want to reach that point.
- Currently, the 21 dogs are being featured for an adoption fee of \$25. They will be fully vetted (vaccines, Rabies vaccine, microchip and spay/neuter surgery) after they are adopted.
- It is necessary to reduce the adoption fee on these PUSH list animals to give them the best possible option for a home and to avoid euthanizing them for space.
- Other municipal shelters in the Houston area routinely run adoption specials in order to find homes for their pets. They are able to offer these specials because they have a veterinarian on staff that can prepare animals for immediate adoption when their hold has cleared and treat our animals for wellness checks. We need the ability to do the same to avoid euthanizing these animals in the County's care.
- Without a vet, we need the ability and the resources available to us to offer adoption specials on an ad-hoc basis to avoid being where we are right now with an overcrowded shelter and a public that does not want the shelter to euthanize for a lack of resources and space.