

Fort Bend County Pet Adoption Incentive Program

Context

Due to a drop in the pace of pet adoptions at the Fort Bend County Animal Shelter (FBCAS), staff recently took measures that impacted intake to address severe overcrowding, on occasion surpassing the Shelter's capacity by over 250%. Such steps were taken since FBCAS priority is to ensure the health and safety of both animals and staff members. According to animal welfare advocates, the estimated cost to keep an animal at a shelter averages around \$60 per day per animal. There continues to be an urgent need to alleviate animal overcrowding at the Shelter while also being fiscally responsible, which this proposal aims to address.

Proposal

While FBCAS already covers some of the costs associated with pet adoption, the County has an opportunity to further incentivize animal lovers to bring a deserving dog or cat home. This includes:

- Providing the first 250 people who adopt a dog and the first 75 people who adopt a cat with:
 - 1-year supply of pet food and pet supplies (via voucher payable by FBC)
 - 1-year supply of flea/tick and heartworm medication (via voucher payable by FBC)
- All animals will be spayed and neutered, have their rabies shot as well as given flea & tick and heartworm medication and a microchip inserted; and,
- FBC Animal Services will partner with local businesses and service organizations to host a minimum of 2 monthly pet adoption events.
- Transfer \$137,750 from Non-Departmental Contingency to Animal Services Operating Supplies, based on the following cost estimates:

Item	Notes	Amount
Dog Food	250 dogs x \$30 x 12 months	\$ 90,000
Cat Food	75 cats x \$20 x 12 months	\$ 18,000
Dog Flea & Tick meds		\$ 13,000
Dog Heartworm meds		\$ 16,500
Cat Flea & Tick meds		\$ 250
		\$ 137,750

Next Steps

Following Court approval for this incentive program, FBC Purchasing and Audit will coordinate with Animal Services to finalize program details, including implementing the voucher system and associated fees, as well as setting and publicizing the program start date (TBD).