

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Kyle, Don; Charles Kirby; Ard, Chuck
Subject: The Local Impact of Animal Adoptions

Gentlemen:

This is a follow up to the discussion during the budget meeting Monday about the fiscal impact of animal adoptions. I ran actual local figures.

According to a 2012 ASPCA study about the price of pet ownership, the average first year cost of owning a dog or cat is \$1443. It drops the second year to about \$850 but escalates again as the pet becomes geriatric.

DAS has adopted 1123 animals so far in FY 2013, with 634 (56.6%) to Decatur residents. That creates first year general sales revenue of \$914,862. The other 43.4% of animals are adopted out of town, and when their 489 new adopters come from Atlanta, Mississippi, the Nashville area, etc., they buy gas, a meal and many purchase their new pet supplies right here in Decatur before they head home; this is NOT included in the figures.

The last 4 years total of DAS adopted animals in town, less 10% attrition, is 2495. Using subsequent annual costs of \$850, \$2,120,750 was generated in sales. Added to the first year sales, that's \$3,035,612 created from this shelter alone which clearly shows why Decatur supports two national chain pet stores, three big box stores; and at least a half dozen grocery stores with good sized pet departments.

At a 4% sales tax rate, that's an annual \$121,424 in sales tax revenue in City coffers just using 5 years' worth of DAS adoption figures. Since the average pet life span is 8 to 14 years, doubling that figure is a reasonable low estimate of the sales tax revenue produced by DAS animals alone, or \$242,848 annually received by the City.

In FY 2012, DAS euthanized 1756 animals. For every 100 more that are adopted, the City receives \$3267 in actual sales tax revenue in the first year alone. Our adoptions rate has increased from 31.7% in 2008 to 49.6% in 2012, roughly 4% a year, and we fully expect that trend to continue each year until every adoptable animal goes home, which is an estimated 70% of current intake.

DAS has 750 volunteer hours each month, for 9000 hrs./year, or 4.3 FTEs of free labor. All offsite adoption events are handled by volunteers; and 2 FTEs per day work in the shelter. The volunteer hours at the old shelter were about 650 per year. The dramatic increase in volunteerism is due to several factors, including the location and programs, as the primary goal of volunteers is to save animals' lives.

In 2012, the pet industry nationwide generated \$53.33 **Billion** in sales and is one of the very few industries that had no decline in the economic downturn of the last 5 years.

The pet business is very big business, and DAS is the single largest provider of animals locally as well as attracting people from other states here to adopt animals, generating a minimum of \$242,848 in annual sales tax revenue to the City of Decatur with the likelihood of an annual increase, turning

Duran, Kristi

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2013 8:38 AM
To: Wicks, Carol; Charles Kirby; Ard, Chuck
Subject: RE: The Local Impact of Animal Adoptions

Carol,

I applaud your enthusiasm, but your analysis assumes that none of the adoptive parties, locally, would have acquired a pet from another source, had they not adopted one from us. I think we all understand the economic benefits of our pet industry, but, our basic issue, right now, is to balance the services that we provide with the revenues available to provide them.

D.Kyle

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Kyle, Don; Charles Kirby; Ard, Chuck
Subject: The Local Impact of Animal Adoptions

Gentlemen:

This is a follow up to the discussion during the budget meeting Monday about the fiscal impact of animal adoptions. I ran actual local figures.

According to a 2012 ASPCA study about the price of pet ownership, the average first year cost of owning a dog or cat is \$1443. It drops the second year to about \$850 but escalates again as the pet becomes geriatric.

DAS has adopted 1123 animals so far in FY 2013, with 634 (56.6%) to Decatur residents. That creates first year general sales revenue of \$914,862. The other 43.4% of animals are adopted out of town, and when their 489 new adopters come from Atlanta, Mississippi, the Nashville area, etc., they buy gas, a meal and many purchase their new pet supplies right here in Decatur before they head home; this is NOT included in the figures.

The last 4 years total of DAS adopted animals in town, less 10% attrition, is 2495. Using subsequent annual costs of \$850, \$2,120,750 was generated in sales. Added to the first year sales, that's \$3,035,612 created from this shelter alone which clearly shows why Decatur supports two national chain pet stores, three big box stores; and at least a half dozen grocery stores with good sized pet departments.

At a 4% sales tax rate, that's an annual \$121,424 in sales tax revenue in City coffers just using 5 years' worth of DAS adoption figures. Since the average pet life span is 8 to 14 years, doubling that figure is a reasonable low estimate of the sales tax revenue produced by DAS animals alone, or \$242,848 annually received by the City.

In FY 2012, DAS euthanized 1756 animals. For every 100 more that are adopted, the City receives \$3267 in actual sales tax revenue in the first year alone. Our adoptions rate has increased from 31.7% in 2008 to 49.6% in 2012, roughly 4% a year, and we fully expect that trend to continue each year until every adoptable animal goes home, which is an estimated 70% of current intake.

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2013 11:19 AM
To: Kyle, Don; McKinney, Linda; South, Debbie; Faulk, Pennie
Subject: FY14 Animal Services
Attachments: Animal Services.pdf

At this point, please remove the required budget reduction of \$7,194 from line item 520-39 F/A< \$7,500 \$14,187.

More than likely, other adjustments will have to be made, but at present, the sign can wait. We've gone three years without it, and maybe the Shelter Board can be persuaded to raise money for it.

Longer term, one adjustment that should be made to address the need of shelter staffing is vacating one Animal Control Officer position currently occupied by Chris Phillips and moving him into the vacant Animal Care/Kennel tech position which would be a salary savings. The budget reduction for the last quarter of FY'13 will remain, which changed response to public calls for service by ACOS from 10 am to 5 pm M-F, 10 am to 2 pm Sat. and on-call overtime to noon – 4 pm M- F, none on Saturday; and no overtime calls for any reason after 5 pm, weekends and holidays, even police calls for assistance for drug cases, injured animals on road. DPD has access to the building for night time drop-offs.

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

From: South, Debbie
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2013 2:49 PM
To: Wicks, Carol
Cc: Kyle, Don; McKinney, Linda; Faulk, Pennie
Subject: FY14 Animal Services

Carol,

Attached you will find the Mayor's FY14 budget numbers.

Duran, Kristi

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 2:49 PM
To: Wicks, Carol
Cc: Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Kirby, Charles; Patti Fowler (pattirfowler@gmail.com); Marks, Herman
Subject: FW: Phone Kathy Malone RE: animal shelter and cats [REDACTED] (open for details)

Carol,

This is an absolutely wrong answer to a citizen. This is a basic Animal Services responsibility. I told you, in budget meeting, that we are an animal services/control operation and not a shelter, yet you still try to retain over 200 cats and several times the number of dogs that our staff and budget should allow. If you cannot accept this difference and amend your operation into the appropriate function, changes in management will be necessary.

I have, and will continue to consult with advisory board members. I have begun to consult a variety of reading materials. I am tired of hearing "no kill shelter" attitudes and the innuendo of threat if the city does not comply. I repeat, we are not operating a shelter, no matter what you wish it to be.

Now, try to serve our citizen.

Don Kyle

From: Hood, Susan
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 2:36 PM
To: Kyle, Don
Subject: FW: Phone Kathy Malone RE: animal shelter and cats [REDACTED] (open for details)

From: Hood, Susan
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:33 PM
To: Don Kyle (dkyle@decalur-al.gov)
Subject: Phone Kathy Malone RE: animal shelter and cats [REDACTED] (open for details)

She said that a stray cat with 6 kittens are roaming on her property. She said she called the animal shelter and was told that due to budget cuts, they were only picking up dogs and that she would have to catch the cats and bring them in herself. She said she has no idea how to catch cats and her daughter is allergic to them.

Susan Hood
Executive Sec/Coordinator
Office of the Mayor
402 Lee Street NE
P.O. Box 488
Decatur, AL 35602

Phone 256-341-4502
Fax 256-341-4504
sahood@decalur-al.gov

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 4:57 PM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Melson, Danny; Amy Smith (Amy.Smith@delmonte.com); Becky Bell (rbell807@charter.net); Carla Swinney (cswinney970@charter.net); Patti Fowler; Steven Osborne (oac@hiwaay.net)
Subject: RE: Phone Kathy Malone RE: animal shelter and cats [REDACTED] (open for details)

I am tired of hearing "no kill shelter" attitudes and the innuendo of threat if the city does not comply.

No Kill: I apologize for not doing a better job of explaining what the "No Kill Nation" is. It's a nationwide movement still gaining momentum to change municipal animal services shelters into "No Kill" shelters. Their definition of "No Kill" is that in excess of 90% of all animal intake gets out alive. One of their speakers was in Huntsville Monday July 29, 2013 with the intent of inciting followers to get Karen Sheppard at Huntsville Animal Services fired and a No Kill director hired. They were not successful.

I vigorously support Karen Sheppard and am opposed to the notion that municipal shelters can be No Kill, at least at this time. Nice goal but not currently practical.

I am aware that the No Kill Nation is looking to "turn" a N. Alabama municipal shelter into a "no kill" shelter as an example, and they have looked here. They use high euthanasia rates to incite the public against the shelter. My goal was to PREVENT them from coming to Decatur to agitate for No Kill. It's obvious that even with euthanizing close to 80% of animals some months of this current litter season, this shelter is overloaded and No Kill is simply not possible.

I also apologize if you felt that my trying to explain the potential problems of No Kill and the euthanasia rate was a threat in any way. I always want to have as much information as I can get about any potential problem, and so I probably go overboard in trying to provide all the variables to others who may have to deal with an animal services issue.

I have been working steadily to increase adoption rates and reduce euthanasia, which was a specifically expressed goal at my job interview. Most industry standards indicate that adoption is a far better result for everyone as cities benefit from sales tax revenues generated by adoptions.

Animal Inventory: Part of the animal numbers issue this year is the preventable spread of readily treatable disease like ringworm by poor work performance. This has been a recurring problem despite re-training and counseling since 2010. It works for this employee by reducing the workload of animals this person would normally be caring for, so it has been repeated annually since 2010, as shown by two supervisors' documentation.

Euthanasia is hard enough to do when animals are sick, injured, aggressive or unadoptable, but it is just intolerable when it's just killing animals to reduce numbers when much of the backlog was preventable if the animals were cared for appropriately all along.

One way to reduce animal inventory is to have employees who are willing and able to work to return or adopt them in a timely manner. It costs the City a lot more to find and correct mistakes than it does to do it right the first time.

Carol

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 8:39 AM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Melson, Danny; Amy Smith (Amy.Smith@delmonte.com); Becky Bell (rbell807@charter.net); Carla Swinney (cswinney970@charter.net); Patti Fowler; Steven Osborne (oac@hiwaay.net)
Subject: RE: Phone Kathy Malone RE: animal shelter and cats [REDACTED] (open for details)

I was at state required euthanasia recertification class all day Friday in Birmingham and got back after closing Friday night. Field Services Supervisor Danny Melson was available at the shelter all day Friday. I sent your email to him that night and talked to him Saturday after he spoke with Ms Malone.

She told him that a mother cat and 6 kittens appeared at her place, and the kittens run from her autistic daughter when she chases them. I don't know if the girl is allergic as well or not, but that was not mentioned to Danny.

I contacted Melissa Bagwell of Rescue Rangers as she is starting a program to deal with feral cats in Decatur by placing them in barn homes and a managed colony. This is a very common scenario in many towns in Alabama including Huntsville and Madison, and across the country; in which a private non-profit partners with animal control/services to help with abandoned cats. She spoke with Ms Malone who agreed to have her come capture the mother and kittens.

Has I known about the call, I would have contacted Melissa as I did this morning, but I have not said much to staff yet as this program is brand new. In fact, we were just notified Tuesday Sept. 24 that our grant proposal to the ASPCA for such a program was accepted. This program to keep feral cats out of the shelter will receive pallets of donated food from DelMonte.

I will address other issues in your email in other email shortly.

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 2:49 PM

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 11:06 AM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Melson, Danny; Amy Smith (Amy.Smith@delmonte.com); Becky Bell (rbell807@charter.net); Carla Swinney (cswinney970@charter.net); Patti Fowler; Steven Osborne (oac@hiwaay.net)
Subject: responding to cat calls

Decatur City Code ordinances for animals is in Chapter 4. Section 4.1 establishes the animal shelter and duties but refers to Sections 4-2 and 4-4, which is the "leash law" for Animal Control/Services enforcement. Only dogs are currently covered under the leash law.

Animal control/services agencies typically either include cats in all ordinances /practices or exclude them. For example, Huntsville licenses both dogs and cats and picks up all "running-at-large" dogs and cats. Probably the majority of animal control agencies in Alabama do not have any laws controlling cats, and respond to cat calls for injured, sick and biting animals that are considered a public health risk, as DAS does.

DAS receives most cats from the public, not ACOs as the "leash law" here does not include cats. Danny Melson said that ACOs responded to all cat calls at one time but thinks that changed when the ability to issue citations was removed from animal services, probably around 2007. What is not clear was whether the fiscal impact of responding to stray cat calls was part of that decision, as it would dramatically increase the budget. When I started work here in June 2008, that was the practice in place.

Using industry standard formulas for estimating animal population, there are some 16,000 cats in Decatur, both owned and non-owned. There are literally thousands more unrestrained outside cats than dogs in Decatur.

DAS used to loan cat traps out to citizens with a deposit to insure their safe rerun. Usually the citizen's check was held and given back to them when the trap was returned. The Finance department stopped that practice and traps were loaned without deposits, resulting in the traps being lost, destroyed or stolen. I asked to be able to require a deposit again but I was told by Finance that I could not do that. So when traps were gone, we told the public we had none left to loan.

Your email seem to be saying that you expect DAS to respond to all cat calls as a basic Animal Services responsibility. If that is not what you said, please correct my misunderstanding. Please clarify what you want DAS to do as far as cat calls are concerned, and how we handle this change with citizens who have been under the impression that cats being outside is not against the current leash law. Current staffing level is at the 2007 level.

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 12:06 PM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Melson, Danny; Amy Smith (Amy.Smith@delmonte.com); Becky Bell (rbell807@charter.net); Carla Swinney (cswinney970@charter.net); Patti Fowler; Steven Osborne (oac@hiwaay.net)
Subject: RE: Phone Kathy Malone RE: animal shelter and cats [REDACTED] (open for details)

This is an absolutely wrong answer to a citizen.

Long-time volunteer Ginger Speidel told me that at one point on Friday, there were 5 citizens lined up to surrender animals while one person, Vickie, was working the front desk, answering two lines, dispatching field calls and doing an adoption, all at the same time. I apologize for the fact that Vickie could not take the time to more appropriately or completely answer any caller. Unfortunately, this scenario is fairly typical.

When the front desk lines are all busy, I get calls on my extension but I was not in the office Friday. We get complaints continuously from callers that "the phones just ring and ring and we never answer them."

When I try to explain that the work load has both quadrupled and also shifted from the field to the front door, this is an example of what I mean, and that is why I have to pull officers out of the field to help at the front desk, especially in the busiest time in the mornings. That is why a citizen might be told that officers do not respond until noon because of budget cuts. It's also why Vickie works through her "lunch hour" every day. This was part of the 3% cut you requested for the last quarter of the FY; and will have to be continued because the budget cuts are essentially permanent.

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 2:49 PM
To: Wicks, Carol

Duran, Kristi

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 2:38 PM
To: Wicks, Carol
Cc: Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Patti Fowler (pattirfowler@gmail.com); rbell807@charter.net; oac@hiwaay.net; Amy.Smith@delmonte.com; Melson, Danny
Subject: RE: Phone Kathy Malone RE: animal shelter and cats [REDACTED] (open for details)

Carol,

E-mails are flying around, from your office, and they are not identifying the basics that are the true reasons for needed change.

Your staff is consistently over worked and some are making preventable mistakes.

Your facility never looks clean.

Your facility has a persistent strong, unpleasant odor.

Disease outbreaks are too often.

The education room is unusable for its intended purpose.

You have no system in place to account for the donated food that comes in and when/where it is used.

You receive donations for specified purposes, without ever turning it in for the record keeping that is necessary. (This will not affect your budget.)

Receipts are not issued for donations.

Animals are placed in rooms not designed for animal occupancy.

Staffers come across as unfriendly to customers.

Volunteers have keys to the facility.

You won't spay pregnant cats.

Volunteers sometimes transport animals to a cheaper Huntsville sterilization clinic.

You have allowed a worker to keep children at the facility, while working, even with the unsanitary conditions.

Your constant defense is " we don't have the budget, or, the staff doesn't have time."

Many of these situations have potential for liability exposure to the city.

I could go on, but I won't.

You can resolve most of the above by doing one thing. Stop hoarding, soliciting, collecting, or whatever you want to call it, the number of animals you are trying to keep. You'll solve the cleanliness and odor problems and your staff will have the time to be more friendly and do the kind of paperwork that you should be having done.

With 200+ cats and way too many dogs the Animal Services staff cannot do their jobs, and the facility cannot be kept clean.

Your advisory board, including the three licensed veterinarians, say that the continual inventory of animals should not be higher than 20 cats and 25 dogs. Don't tell me why you cannot get to that number. Tell me how you can get there within 30 days and then maintain it.

D.Kyle

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 3:58 PM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Patti Fowler (pattirfowler@gmail.com); rbell807@charter.net; oac@hiwaay.net; Amy.Smith@delmonte.com; Melson, Danny
Subject: FW: Adoptable animals at risk of euthanasia Tuesday Oct 1 2013
Attachments: Harpo.jpg; Freckles.jpg; Katnip.jpg; Simone.JPG; Melody.jpg; Arnold.JPG; Murry.JPG; Puddles.JPG; BooBoo Kitty.jpg; Odessa.jpg; Percy.JPG

This is the email I sent yesterday. Please let me know what is offensive or inaccurate as I plan to send another out today. You are welcome to check the Facebook page as many of these animals are posted there so you can see what the volunteers have posted.

Please note that there were 96 stray animals here as of yesterday morning. DAS can achieve the goal of 20 cats and 25 dogs in the building by not accepting any owner surrendered animals, which is not an animal control responsibility, and by euthanizing all cats at the end of their 48 hour stray hold and all dogs at the end of their 7 day stray hold. Please let me know if and when you want this implemented.

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 3:27 PM
Subject: Adoptable animals at risk of euthanasia Tuesday Oct 1 2013

I have an agreement with our volunteers to let them know when adoptable animals have to be pulled from the adoption floor, so they can try extra hard to get them adopted, rescued or fostered. The following animals are scheduled for euthanasia Monday Oct. 7th, 2013 unless adopted, rescued or in a foster home.

As of this morning, DAS has 55 dogs and 149 cats available for adoption, and 96 strays waiting. We have 41 dog adoption cages and kennels and 64 cat adoption cages and condos. We are beyond full. We will be sending additional lists this week.

Duran, Kristi

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 4:25 PM
To: Wicks, Carol
Cc: Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Patti Fowler (pattirfowler@gmail.com); rbell807@charter.net; oac@hiwaay.net; Amy.Smith@delmonte.com; Melson, Danny
Subject: RE: Adoptable animals at risk of euthanasia Tuesday Oct 1 2013

Carol,

I am told that some of your volunteers have been collecting animals and bringing them to your facility. This should not be an acceptable action by a volunteer, particularly since there are already so many animals already there. I would suggest that any animals presently in the facility that were brought in by volunteers, be given back to those volunteers, to be removed from the facility. We cannot remain a repository that allows anyone to unduly increase the resident population of animals.

I read of the recent opening of a Humane Society shelter in Morgan County. Maybe they can help transfer some animals to other shelters or adoptive owners.

Use whatever other resources are out there to ship out as many as you can. We are probably too easy for an owner to surrender a pet to. Inform the owners of the short live stay period and many of them will work harder to find a new home themselves.

You should have many more ideas and contacts than I do, to dispose of many of the animals without immediate mass euthanasia.

Use your resources and contacts and quit taking in so many and you can reach a much better/more manageable level sooner than you may think.

D.Kyle

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 3:58 PM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Patti Fowler (pattirfowler@gmail.com); rbell807@charter.net; oac@hiwaay.net; Amy.Smith@delmonte.com; Melson, Danny
Subject: FW: Adoptable animals at risk of euthanasia Tuesday Oct 1 2013

This is the email I sent yesterday. Please let me know what is offensive or inaccurate as I plan to send another out today. You are welcome to check the Facebook page as many of these animals are posted there so you can see what the volunteers have posted.

Please note that there were 96 stray animals here as of yesterday morning. DAS can achieve the goal of 20 cats and 25 dogs in the building by not accepting any owner surrendered animals, which is not an animal control responsibility, and by euthanizing all cats at the end of their 48 hour stray hold and all dogs at the end of their 7 day stray hold. Please let me know if and when you want this implemented.

Carol Wicks
City of Decatur, Alabama

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 4:43 PM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Patti Fowler (pattirfowler@gmail.com); rbell807@charter.net; oac@hiwaay.net; Amy.Smith@delmonte.com; Melson, Danny
Subject: RE: Adoptable animals at risk of euthanasia Tuesday Oct 1 2013

There are no volunteers collecting and bringing animals in here. The opposite is true as many FOSTER animals received from Decatur city residents and work very hard to get animals adopted. There are intake records on every animal with driver's licenses. What probably is true is that people in Lawrence and Morgan Counties are having their Decatur friends turn animals in here with their driver's licenses. Please send the auditors over to check. We welcome them verifying our records.

What whoever is telling you this probably misunderstood is that when Lawrence County Animal Shelter closed, rescue groups were organized to help get animals out of there. DAS was a focal meeting point where the people who physically went to Lawrence County to remove animals met with rescue groups accepting the animals. Some of them bathed dogs here which were heavily flea infested to avoid transporting the parasites in their cars.

Intake is down a couple hundred animals this year and overall in the last 6 – 10 years.

Morgan County Humane Society accepted 6 animals Monday.

I will address some of the other inaccurate rumors you have also heard as soon as I can, probably tomorrow.

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 4:25 PM
To: Wicks, Carol
Cc: Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Patti Fowler (pattirfowler@gmail.com);

Duran, Kristi

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 11:00 AM
To: Wicks, Carol
Subject: Animal Services

The following is right out of one of my e-mails to you from yesterday:

"You should have many more ideas and contacts than I to dispose of many of the animals without mass euthanasia."

Do you find fault with this statement too?

D.Kyle

Duran, Kristi

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 1:40 PM
To: Wicks, Carol
Subject: RE: Animal Services

I know it's hard, but we must get to manageable levels. If 30 days is too short a time, tell me a workable time frame and how we succeed.

I am not looking for a "spin" on things from you or anyone else, and I will have to trust the records you have. But, even you have said that your records are neither accurate or complete in every case. That problem, too, is exacerbated by too high a population.

I'd rather stop hearing about the past and hear how we arrive at a manageable level of activity, as a services/control operation, in the future.

D.Kyle

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 11:51 AM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Patti Fowler (pattirfowler@gmail.com); rbell807@charter.net; pac@hiwaay.net; Amy.Smith@delmonte.com; Carla Swinney (cswinney970@charter.net)
Subject: RE: Animal Services

I am reaching out to as many contacts as I can. I have worked 3 12-15 hour days this week and that does not include the time investigating and replying to your Friday email. The volunteers who maintain their Facebook page have animals for adoption posted there. We are getting responses and moving animals out as fast as we can. It's a double-edged sword, with the PR needed to move animals comes the questions and spread of both accurate information and rumor.

As I told Charles Kirby at the time, we did not and do not accept animals from out of jurisdiction if we know they are not Decatur animals. In June, Lawrence County Animal shelter asked me to post a request for rescue groups to help them, which I did. I am proud of the response of rescue people from TN, AL, FL, GA and NC who removed some 80 dogs in a week. This shelter was a focal point but we did not take in those 80 animals. I am continually asked or told that at least some City officials think I or volunteers are bringing animals in from other jurisdictions. Those who volunteer here and work hard along beside us know exactly what is correct information and what is blatantly false. Please, please audit our records so you will have actual and correct information, because you clearly have been given information that is not accurate.

I am trying to respond to you in a timely manner and provide what information I can to keep you accurately informed.

Carol

Carol Wicks
City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 11:51 AM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Kirby, Charles; Marks, Herman; Smith, Ken; Hood, Susan; Patti Fowler (pattifowler@gmail.com); rbell807@charter.net; oac@hiwaay.net; Amy.Smith@delmonte.com; Carla Swinney (cswinney970@charter.net)
Subject: RE: Animal Services

I am reaching out to as many contacts as I can. I have worked 3 12-15 hour days this week and that does not include the time investigating and replying to your Friday email. The volunteers who maintain their Facebook page have animals for adoption posted there. We are getting responses and moving animals out as fast as we can. It's a double-edged sword, with the PR needed to move animals comes the questions and spread of both accurate information and rumor.

As I told Charles Kirby at the time, we did not and do not accept animals from out of jurisdiction if we know they are not Decatur animals. In June, Lawrence County Animal shelter asked me to post a request for rescue groups to help them, which I did. I am proud of the response of rescue people from TN, AL, FL, GA and NC who removed some 80 dogs in a week. This shelter was a focal point but we did not take in those 80 animals. I am continually asked or told that at least some City officials think I or volunteers are bringing animals in from other jurisdictions. Those who volunteer here and work hard along beside us know exactly what is correct information and what is blatantly false. Please, please audit our records so you will have actual and correct information, because you clearly have been given information that is not accurate.

I am trying to respond to you in a timely manner and provide what information I can to keep you accurately informed.

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 11:00 AM
To: Wicks, Carol
Subject: Animal Services

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2013 9:05 AM
To: Kyle, Don
Cc: Hammon, Gary; Jackson, Billy; Anders, Roger; Ard, Chuck; Marks, Herman; Amy Smith (Amy.Smith@delmonte.com); Becky Bell (rbell807@charter.net); Carla Swinney (cswinney970@charter.net); Kirby, Charles; Patti Fowler; Steven Osborne (oac@hiwaay.net)
Subject: Pregnant cat spays

The article in the Decatur Daily Saturday said that DAS did not pay pregnant cats.

I just want to let you know that pregnant dogs and cats are scheduled with Dr. Osborne and taken there by ASO Lynne Johnson as she has been the usual ASO to deliver surgery patients to the various veterinarians. Dr. Osborne examines each animal and performs the surgery on almost all. There are times when he sends the dog or cat back saying that she is too far along to spay, which Lynne explains when she returns.

Whether we euthanize a pregnant animal or not depends on factors such as the likelihood of adoption and perhaps availability of a foster home. An easy-to-adopt cat such as Siamese is placed in a foster home, with the kittens being returned for adoption at 8 weeks of age. Foster homes become a lot more scarce as the litter season progresses.

Dr. Osborne's monthly statement itemizes each procedure and price, such as "pregnant cat spay" with a higher fee for this more complicated procedure. The statements are reviewed by Danny Melson and submitted to Finance for payment each month. I see them when I approved bills for payment. I think there are several pregnant spays on this month's statement, as there typically are throughout "litter season".

This has been the protocol since 2006 or 2007. I am not sure when the spay neuter program actually started so the date might be off.

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

Duran, Kristi

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 3:13 PM
To: Wicks, Carol
Cc: Hood, Susan
Subject: Status

Thanks for the reports. Do you think the momentum can be sustained? We need to talk about ACO availability to the Police Dept.

Susan Hood can book a time for phone or in person discussion.

D.Kyle

Duran, Kristi

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 4:05 PM
To: Wicks, Carol
Subject: RE: DAS animal stats 10/09/13

Is there a fee for voluntary drops? Would a fee work? Any data from other services to say yes or no?

D.Kyle

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 12:55 PM
Subject: DAS animal stats 10/09/13

DAS numbers:

236 in shelter start of day 10/09/13

Intake 10/09/13 **14** animals, 4 owner surrender and 11 strays; Dogs - owner surrender 1, Stray 1, subtotal 7; Cats - Owner surrender 0, Stray 2, subtotal; total 10.

Subtotal 250 animals

Out: Owner reclaims 0; Adoptions 15 (7dogs and 8 cats); Rescues 2 dogs total 17.

Subtotal 233

Euthanasia: 0 animals

Please note this is "normal" euthanasia, not an accelerated rate. Euthanasia is performed daily M- F on animals that are non-recoverably sick, injured, geriatric and pediatric; or aggressive, fighting or biting, and those that are difficult to adopt for other behavior reasons such as they are skittish; or have treatable health conditions beyond the scope of this shelter.

Total 233 end of day 10/09/13, start of day 10/10/13

We are having a huge response to the media activity. There **are many adoptions in process**, meaning they are scheduled for sterilization and rabies vaccination, and **are not yet shown in figures** above until the adopters and rescues have actually left. They will show each day this coming week as they leave.

Thank you so much for everyone saving these animals!

Carol

Carol Wicks
City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 5:44 PM
To: Kyle, Don
Subject: RE: Status

This momentum will likely last long enough to get all adoptable dogs and a high percentage of the cats out, but not much past the end of the month. There is only one active rescue group in Decatur. Morgan County Humane Society in Somerville does pull animals from DAS but it is VERY small. Evelyn Bibb in Courtland does Boston Terrier Rescue. Most rescues that are helping now are in the Huntsville area, are not big enough to sustain high numbers for long, and whose primary rescue goal is their own area or breed. They won't keep coming here when there are many animals in Huntsville Animal Services for them to pull.

North Shore Animal Rescue League does a caravan of animals north to New York area. They require 200 or so at a time to make the trip worthwhile, and all animals must be in a private foster home for a minimum of 14 days prior to transport to avoid spread of disease. We do not have sufficient adoptable numbers (that they will take) to participate, and if we did, we don't have sufficient foster homes here at any one time. I think Huntsville sends about 500 north each year. I have both HAS 2012 numbers and an updated comparison between Huntsville and Decatur Animal Services, if this would be helpful to you.

I had already registered with the ASPCA earlier this year to be a sending shelter, and am still trying to find other places that might be a receiving shelter. I contacted Greater Birmingham Humane Society in July, and they agreed to partner with DAS, Morgan County Humane Society and possibly one other group to reach high enough numbers for a transport but the GBHS veterinarian just said they have a disease problem at their shelter right now and can't pull from DAS or transport at this time.

So I'll keep trying.

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 3:13 PM

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 12:55 PM
Subject: DAS animal stats 10/09/13

DAS numbers:

236 in shelter start of day 10/09/13

Intake 10/09/13 **14** animals, 4 owner surrender and 11 strays; Dogs - owner surrender 1, Stray 1, subtotal 7; Cats – Owner surrender 0, Stray 2, subtotal; total 10.

Subtotal 250 animals

Out: Owner reclaims 0; Adoptions 15 (7dogs and 8 cats); Rescues 2 dogs total 17.

Subtotal 233

Euthanasia: 0 animals

Please note this is "normal" euthanasia, not an accelerated rate. Euthanasia is performed daily M- F on animals that are non-recoverably sick, injured, geriatric and pediatric; or aggressive, fighting or biting, and those that are difficult to adopt for other behavior reasons such as they are skittish; or have treatable health conditions beyond the scope of this shelter.

Total 233 end of day 10/09/13, start of day 10/10/13

We are having a huge response to the media activity. There **are many adoptions in process**, meaning they are scheduled for sterilization and rabies vaccination, and **are not yet shown in figures** above until the adopters and rescues have actually left. They will show each day this coming week as they leave.

Thank you so much for everyone saving these animals!

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2013 1:59 PM
Subject: DAS animal stats 10/10/13 -

DAS numbers:

233 in shelter start of day 10/10/13

Intake 10/10/13 **5** animals, 4 owner surrender, 2 stray. Dogs - owner surrender 2; Cats – Owner surrender 2, Stray 1, subtotal 3.

Subtotal 238 animals

Out: Owner reclaims 3, 2 dogs, 1 cat. Adoptions 7 (3dogs and 3 cats); total 10.

Subtotal 228

Euthanasia: 0 animals

Please note this is "normal" euthanasia, not an accelerated rate. Euthanasia is performed daily M- F on animals that are non-recoverably sick, injured, geriatric and pediatric; or aggressive, fighting or biting, and those that are difficult to adopt for other behavior reasons such as they are skittish; or have treatable health conditions beyond the scope of this shelter.

Total 228 end of day 10/10/13, start of day 10/11/13

Animals are "in process", 32, meaning they have adoption applications, are scheduled for sterilization and rabies vaccination, are at the vets today or are waiting to be picked up. These **are not yet shown in figures** above until the adopters and rescues have actually left. They will show each day as they leave.

Thank you so much for all the help!

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services
300 A Beltline Road SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Main 256-341-4790
Direct 256-341-4797
Cell 256-280-0429
FAX 256-341-4794
Email cwicks@decatur-al.gov
City Website www.DecaturAlabamaUSA.com
Adoption Website www.Decatur.petfinder.com

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2013 2:03 PM
To: Kyle, Don
Subject: DAS animal stats 10/10/13

Tomorrow is supposed to be a big day for pickup. As stray animals come up for evaluation, they are either euthanized or added to adoption floor. That's why there isn't a clean subtraction rate, and numbers of animals available for adoption fluctuate. There are 3 remaining dogs today but we have a liter of pups that likely will become available this coming week.

The rector from St. John's Church who did the Blessing of the Animals at his Church last Sunday has offered to come bless all remaining animals, staff and volunteers in the shelter this Saturday afternoon at 2 pm directly after closing. All staff and family are welcome to come, as of course are you.

Carol

DAS numbers:

233 in shelter start of day 10/10/13

Intake 10/10/13 **5** animals, 4 owner surrender, 2 stray. Dogs - owner surrender 2; Cats – Owner surrender 2, Stray 1, subtotal 3.

Subtotal 238 animals

Out: Owner reclaims 3, 2 dogs, 1 cat. Adoptions 7 (3dogs and 3 cats); total 10.

Subtotal 228

Euthanasia: 0 animals

Please note this is "normal" euthanasia, not an accelerated rate. Euthanasia is performed daily M- F on animals that are non-recoverably sick, injured, geriatric and pediatric; or aggressive, fighting or biting, and those that are difficult to adopt for other behavior reasons such as they are skittish; or have treatable health conditions beyond the scope of this shelter.

Total 228 end of day 10/10/13, start of day 10/11/13

Animals are "in process", 32, meaning they have adoption applications, are scheduled for sterilization and rabies vaccination, are at the vets today or are waiting to be picked up. These **are not yet shown in figures** above until the adopters and rescues have actually left. They will show each day as they leave.

Thank you so much for all the help!

Carol

Carol Wicks
City of Decatur, Alabama

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2013 2:38 PM
To: Kyle, Don
Subject: DAS animal stats 10/09/13, drop fees

Historically and nationwide, when drop fees are charged, the result is usually that people drive down the street to a park or a WalMart parking lot and dump the animals. Then an officer has to go get them and they have to be held for mandatory holding times, 48 hrs. for cats and 7 days for dogs. Since owner surrendered animals can be processed immediately, it's generally best to accept them as owned animals and avoid a pick up call and cage time. Owned animals that are not adoptable are euthanized the day after evaluation, as we try to get euthanasia done immediately after am cleaning.

I'm working on FY13 figures. I am going back and recalculating to be able to report the numbers in other ways that might be useful to you, like how many are owner surrendered, dogs and cats; strays, through the front and from field, etc.

The best way to lower intake is to aggressively promote spaying and neutering to prevent the unwanted litters. Unfortunately there is no lower cost spay neuter clinic on this side of the bridge, and numbers here clearly show the need. A public relations campaign is frequently something that a Shelter Board does in January to promote February as Spay Neuter Month with a veterinary association usually offering reduced fees to prevent their coming in heat the next month.

I think your idea to revitalize the Advisory Board is exactly what it needs. Dr. Osborne has done a good job but his 2 terms are long over. I thought that Dr. Brian Story had submitted an application quite a while ago but maybe he was just asking questions about it. Since there have been times when not enough members have been able to attend a meeting to have a quorum, perhaps it can be expanded to 7 members instead of 5. I will get the requirements of the board from Stacy.

Since Danny left today at 10 am, and wants to be in on the conversation with Chief Taylor, we'll contact him Monday about the overtime situation.

Carol

From: Kyle, Don
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 4:05 PM
To: Wicks, Carol
Subject: RE: DAS animal stats 10/09/13

Is there a fee for voluntary drops? Would a fee work? Any data from other services to say yes or no?

D.Kyle

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 12:55 PM
Subject: DAS animal stats 10/09/13

DAS numbers:

Duran, Kristi

From: Wicks, Carol
Sent: Saturday, October 12, 2013 4:09 PM
Subject: DAS animal stats 10/12/13 -

I hope this is a little clearer way to present numbers. There is no constant number of adoptable animals as numbers change as strays become adoptable, adoptables go home, and more come in.

DAS numbers 10/01/13 thru 10/12/13

Intake – 73

Dogs 16 owner surrender, 17 stray, 1 seized, total 34.
Cats 11 owner surrender, 20 stray, 1 adoption return, total 32.
Pigs 6 stray.
Rabbit (pet) 1 stray.

Dispositions – 177

Adoptions –	111; Dogs 49, Cats 56, Pigs 6
Rescues –	28; Dogs 16, Cats 12
Returned home –	4; Dogs 3, cats 1.
Euthanasia –	34; Dogs 10; Cats 24

Strays- Dogs 22, Cats 39, Rabbit, 1. When the holding periods are up, each will be evaluated for adoption.

Daily info 10/11 – 10/12/13

Intake 10/11 & 10/12 8 animals, 2 owner surrender dogs, 2 stray dogs, 1 stray rabbit; 2 stray cats, 1 cat adoption return

Out: 28 Adoptions 26 (12 dogs, 8 cats, 6 pigs); rescue (1 dog, 1 cat)

Subtotal 208

Euthanasia: 0 animals

Animals are "in process", 23, meaning they have adoption applications, are scheduled for sterilization and rabies vaccination, are at the vets today or are waiting to be picked up. These are not yet shown in figures above until the adopters and rescues have actually left. They will show each day as they leave.

A heartfelt thank you to all volunteers, rescues and donors!

Carol

Carol Wicks

City of Decatur, Alabama
Director of Animal Services