

Kennel Quarterly



Rochester Police Department
Animal Services Unit

Special points of interest:

- Inaugural Issue of Newsletter
- \$10,000 Grant!
- Dog Training Classes Begin!
- URI a big challenge!
- 2 New employees hired
- Volunteers Needed!

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Adoption Numbers

During the first quarter, our adoption figures were similar to those of the previous year's first quarter. However, we impounded 196 (18%) fewer dogs and 70 (7%) fewer cats compared to the first quarter last year.

There were 167 dog adoptions (18.5% of dogs impounded) during this first quarter compared to 180 (16.4%) last year. That represents 7% decrease in absolute number of dog adoptions, but a 2.1% increase in the adoption rate.

There were 108 cat adoptions (11.7% of cats impounded) this quarter compared to 103 (10.4%) last year. That's a 4.9% increase in absolute cat adoptions and a 1.3% increase in the cat adoption rate.

According to these first quarter number, we should be on target to match last years adoption totals of 651 dogs and 379 cats, but we may reach those goals with fewer animals impounded.

We have a number of events planned for the coming months including Adopt-A-Dog Month in October, National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week November 3-9, and Home For the Holidays leading into January. These and other events should help boost adoption numbers further.

Our staff and volunteers are doing a great job. Let's keep striving to place more animals in good homes!



Smokey was adopted in August

Animal Services receives \$10,000 grant!

PETSMART Charities approved the grant proposal submitted in March 2002. Chris Fitzgerald, Director of Animal Services, prepared and submitted a grant proposal for funds needed to incorporate a surgical unit into the existing shelter. On October 10, 2002, Dave Giacalone,

PETSMART Ridge Road Store Director, presented Fitzgerald with the \$10,000 grant check.

PETSMART Charities is a non-profit organization committed to eliminating euthanasia as a means of controlling the overpopulation of pets. They provide limited financial assis-

tance to fund new programs that will enable an organization to reduce or eliminate unnecessary euthanasia. The award will be used to purchase surgical equipment and holding cages for the proposed spay/neuter unit.

Rochester Animal Services Statistics



Animal Services shelter in spring

	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Other</u>
<u>July</u>			
Impounded	404	268	13
Adopted	66	27	23
Redeemed	99	0	0
Transferred	5	3	3
Euthanized	216	211	6
<u>August</u>			
Impounded	259	391	15
Adopted	53	38	5
Redeemed	72	7	0
Transferred	6	16	1
Euthanized	132	321	8
<u>September</u>			
Impounded	240	262	24
Adopted	48	43	14
Redeemed	65	7	1
Transferred	8	8	2
Euthanized	115	175	6

"We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same."

Rochester Animal Services temporarily houses approximately 7,000 animals annually. We are committed to reuniting owners with missing pets and to placing animals in new homes, however it is impossible to find homes for all of them. Some animals are euthanized due to illness or injury. Others may display vicious or feral temperaments. Currently, the City of Rochester does not authorize the adoption of "pit bulls" from the shelter, so those that are not reclaimed are euthanized or transferred to Lollypop Farm. Sadly, many animals are euthanized because there are just far too many stray and unwanted animals in our community and we do not have space to house them all. We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same. If the number of animals coming in declines, then we can devote more time and energy to those animals we do shelter, we can increase adoptions and redemptions and decrease euthanasia.

Obedience Training and Socialization Classes Begin



Leash training in the park

Our training programs began June 25, 2002 with concurrent socialization and training classes. Pam Kent, Animal Care Technician for Animal Services, is our resident dog training instructor. The first classes had the same four dogs attending both the socialization and the beginners obedience classes. After completing the 4-

week socialization program, the dogs and their guardians continued on for another 4 weeks of obedience training (Obedience classes run for 8 weeks) before graduating.

New classes began as soon as the previous ones were completed. Class sizes have been small with 3-5 dogs, but the program is still new and we ex-

pect enrollment to increase during this fiscal year.

To date, all classes have been held at the shelter or at neighboring Brown Square Park. However, beginning in November, classes will take place at the Danforth Community Center at West Avenue and Ames St. For information regarding training contact Pam at 428-7274.

From the Director's Chair

As this is the inaugural issue of our newsletter, I would like to explain the purpose and goal of the quarterly update. We wanted to have some means for informing the Animal Services staff, volunteers, and clientele about the variety of programs and services that we offer, about upcoming events, and about changes and improvements to our unit. Several employees have expressed interest in such a periodic publication, and I am excited to finally unveil our first of many issues to fol-

low.

The newsletter will be helpful in letting the rest of the Rochester Police Department and other City departments know what we are doing. We will report our quarterly statistics to illustrate the challenges that we face and the impact that we are making. As always, I think we must strive to get as many of the adoptable animals into suitable homes as possible and readers will be able to track our success from our newsletter reports. But it is also imperative that all

of us and the community that we serve know that thousands of animals must be euthanized each year. That is a sad reality that can be minimized through improved spay/neuter initiatives, through education, through greater compassion, and through more compliance with local animal control ordinances.

We welcome submissions and thoughts from staff, volunteers, and clients. I hope this newsletter will make us an even better animal care and control organization.

Chris Fitzgerald



My cluttered, but busy work area.



Ainsley as a Bee

Kennel Noise (What's going on in the shelter)

Things have been slowing down as fall approaches, kids return to school, and weather changes. With summer behind us, so too is our busy season. But there's always plenty of work and plenty of animals to care for.

One of the biggest challenges that we've been faced with in recent months is the increase in Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) in our adoptable cats.

This problem plagues shelters nationwide, but we are determined to make improvements in spite of that. URI is not fatal if treated, however, we do not have the resources nor the space to hold sick cats and provide antibiotics for 7-10 days. Sick cats may be adopted out if the client is willing to accept all medical and financial responsibility, however the cats cannot be spayed or neutered unless

they are healthy. That means that adopting clients pay an altering deposit to encourage them to get the cats sterilized once they are healthy. Such incentive programs typically do not have very high compliance so we are exploring our options for increasing vaccinations, improving disinfecting, and minimizing spread of disease by washing hands before and after handling any cat. This pertains to staff, volunteers, and clients.

Upper Respiratory Infection "... plagues shelters nationwide, but we are determined to make improvements..."

New Faces

During the first quarter of this fiscal year we were delighted to finally hire two new employees. Tim Wensel was hired as an Assistant Supervisor of Animal Control to work the first platoon (2230–0630 Hours). Tim previously held a similar title when the Humane Society at Lollypop Farm operated Animal Services for the

City of Rochester. The addition of Tim will ensure that a supervisor is assigned to each platoon.

Orlando Santos was hired as an Animal Care Technician. Orlando was working for Building Services before joining our unit. He is an amateur reptile expert and has helped pet stores improve and maintain

their reptile care and exhibits. Welcome to Animal Services guys! We're thrilled to have you join our team.

On September 18, 2002 Ainsley Morgan Gizzi Fitzgerald was born to Bethany Gizzi and Chris Fitzgerald. Ainsley has made a couple appearances at the shelter to see her daddy and she's certain to be an animal lover.



Tim Wensel



Orlando Santos



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Get personal. Adopt a pet.

Animal Services is a municipal animal care and control unit within the Rochester Police Department that is committed to improving quality of life and safety for city residents, the promotion of responsible pet guardianship, and the reduction of animal overpopulation to reduce animal suffering and euthanasia. Animal Services enforces all New York State and City of Rochester ordinances pertaining to animal control. We operate an animal shelter for stray, injured, menacing, and disowned animals. The shelter serves as a resource for locating lost pets and as an adoption center. We strive to provide the best possible care for all animals in our charge.

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WWW.ROCHESTERANIMALSERVICES.COM

Volunteer Corner

Our Volunteer Program continues to grow and improve. With the help of volunteers we have returned to our weekend visits to PETSMART on Ridge Road. We continue to bring animals to Noah's Ark on Monroe Avenue once a month as another outlet for displaying adoptable animals. Throughout this quarter volunteers have done an excellent job with attendance and walking dogs. We encourage all the volunteers to continue visiting the shelter and the animals during the colder, less pleasant days too. Brown Square Park should be plowed again this winter making dog walking easier despite the snow.

The Rochester Police Depart-

ment Volunteer Recognition Dinner was September 25, 2002. This year there were 35 RAS volunteers recognized compared with only 4 last year! Congratulations to all of you.

We are always looking for new volunteers and we have a number of events coming up that are still open for volunteer participation. PETSMART is taking pet photos with Santa Paws during December and our volunteers are expected to participate. If you are interested in Santa Paws or any other events, contact Yolanda Sayres at 428-7274.



Kurt relaxing in the park with one of his canine buddies.