

# Kennel Quarterly



Rochester Police Department  
Animal Services Unit

## Adoption Numbers

Adoption rates for dogs and cats illustrated an increasingly familiar trend related to declining numbers of dogs and growing numbers of cats impounded at Animal Services during the second quarter of fiscal year 2004-2005. Of the 709 dogs impounded between October 1 and December 31, 176 were adopted out into new homes. That's 24.8% of the dogs impounded. Last year during the same time period, 163 (20.9%) dogs of 780 total dogs seized were adopted out. There were 71 fewer dogs impounded (9.1% less) during this year's second quarter compared to last year's.

The story with cats is somewhat the opposite with slightly more cats impounded and a

relatively stable adoption rate. During this second quarter, Animal Services impounded a total of 654 cats compared to 643 during the same time period last year. That represents a 1.7% increase in cats impounded. Cat adoption numbers were virtually unchanged from last year with 146 (22.3%) this year compared to 148 (23%) during last year's second quarter. This decrease in adoptions of less than 1% is not statistically significant.

As with last year, the Open House in early November helped raise adoptions and awareness, however the boost in numbers was largely isolated to the days immediately preceding and following the event. Discussions have begun about

having a similar event in the spring in addition to the fall event. Animal Services needs to establish regular outlets for raising awareness and promoting the adoption program. The Unit is looking into additional advertising opportunities and promotional appearances during the second half of the fiscal year.



Animal Services shelter in winter



The lobby was crowded and busy throughout the open house event.

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## Open House Boosts Adoptions And Awareness

This year's open house, the 4th annual event at Animal Services, was another success. November 7, 2004 marked the commencement of National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week. The week-long campaign to raise awareness of the life-saving work performed by animal shelter personnel drew added attention to the shelter.

The open house is also an opportunity to promote the various services and programs provided by Animal Services including the adoption and volunteer programs, and dog training classes. We also invited special guests to discuss other animal-related topics. Retired professor Larry Wallnau, PhD, presented a seminar on service

dog laws and etiquette. Local Wildlife Educator and President of Scales & Tails, Tom Hudak, demonstrated and discussed the care and challenges of keeping exotic reptiles as pets. Jackie Storm of Uni-Pet Salon lead a grooming demonstration. Kathy the Animal Communicator conducted readings and donated proceeds to the shelter. Similarly, volunteer Trish Febrey sold animal-created artwork to raise funds for the shelter.

Adoption numbers for the day were high with five dogs and seven cats adopted on Sunday plus another two dogs and one more cat adopted on Monday as a result of the event.



Volunteer Trish Febrey displays her pet prints that she used to raise money for the shelter.



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

## Shelter Statistics

	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Other</u>
<b><u>October</u></b>			
Impounded	264	298	22
Adopted	58	55	8
Redeemed	71	4	3
Transferred	1	9	1
Euthanized	133	245	15
Sterilized	43	30	3
<b><u>November</u></b>			
Impounded	237	210	5
Adopted	61	39	2
Redeemed	44	1	0
Transferred	13	19	1
Euthanized	116	170	1
Sterilized	45	33	0
<b><u>December</u></b>			
Impounded	208	146	12
Adopted	57	52	3
Redeemed	40	2	0
Transferred	11	24	0
Euthanized	96	87	6
Sterilized	45	42	1

Rochester Animal Services temporarily houses approximately 6,500 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 aggressive 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.

Sterilization numbers for this quarter do not include those animals adopted from Animal Services that were previously altered before being impounded at the facility (18 dogs, 2 cats).

## Shelter Receives Free Food

At long last, Animal Services has joined Hills Shelter Nutrition Partnership. The Unit had been pursuing such involvement for the past 2-3 years and is thrilled that the agreement has finally come to fruition.

The Shelter Nutrition Partnership program provides dry Science Diet pet food to participating shelters at no cost in exchange for the distribution of starter bags of pet food with each adoption and endorsement of Hill’s ® Pet Nutrition as the exclusive pet food of Animal Services. The Unit is responsible for paying shipping charges for food used in the

shelter at \$0.25 per pound. Canned food is not included in the program and must be purchased from Hill’s separately.

According to projections based on pet food usage during the past few years, Animal Services should save \$4,000—\$5,000 annually through its participation in the program.

Additional savings may be realized upon submission of adopter information to Hill’s. Animal Services can receive a rebate of \$0.07 per pound of pet food received for every adopter willing to provide their contact information to Hill’s.

## Lang Gets Award

In November, Shelter Manager Jonelle Lang was nominated and approved for the Animal Services Outstanding Employee Award. Jonelle has been functioning as the Unit’s primary adoption counselor and receptionist while maintaining supervision over the shelter and shelter personnel during the past several months.



## From the Director's Chair

I'll pick up where I left off in the last issue. Help did arrive during the second quarter. We re-hired Tammy Bancroft-Brightman as Part-time Clerk/Typist to serve as our weekend receptionist and adoption counselor. Andrew Dunning was initially hired as a Part-Time Animal Care Technician (ACT), but then was selected and hired as Assistant Shelter Manager. We also hired Paul Soltzick as an ACT filling the vacancy left by Elaine Lalka's promotion to Animal Control Officer. However, former ACT Orlando Santos transferred to the Parking Monitor title thereby creating another vacancy. We have already interviewed and recommended a candidate for the

part-time ACT spot and should be interviewing for the full-time spot created by Orlando's transfer in the coming weeks.

As mentioned earlier in this issue, our annual open house was a relative success in early November and we hope to inaugurate a similar annual event in the spring. Pet First Aid classes resumed in November and will be offered on a monthly basis at the shelter. ACO Elaine Lalka is our new American Red Cross Pet First Aid Instructor.

In early December, Andrew Dunning and myself represented Animal Services on WXXI Channel 12 City Wise to discuss our programs and services. Animal Services also commenced a Pet-of-the-Week pro-

motion with City channel 12. I am hoping to continue to work with channel 12, R News, and other media outlets to continue to promote adoptions and responsible pet ownership.

The Low-Income Spay-Neuter (LISN) program for cats is moving forward. Although we are still attempting to secure additional veterinary and volunteer support and program sponsorship, applications are being accepted from City cat owners and cats are being sterilized on a daily basis. We established an information line at 428-SPAY (7729) and applications are available at the shelter, at Lollypop Farm, and online at: [rochesteranimalservices.com](http://rochesteranimalservices.com) and [lollypop.org](http://lollypop.org).



Qualified applicants pay \$25 for male cats and \$40 for females. Look for more on the LISN program in the next issue.

As always I welcome your comments regarding our programs, services, and procedures and any thoughts about this or any past or future issues.

Chris Fitzgerald

## FELV, FIV, FIP Part Two: What can I do if my cat tests positive?

By Mary Dyroff, DVM (Reprinted from Habitat For Cats newsletter)

In our last newsletter, the transmission of, differences/similarities between, effects of, and treatments for these three cat viruses were discussed. When a screening blood test reveals a positive result, what are our options? This discussion will focus on "healthy positives" or those with mild illness at the time of testing. Seriously ill cats testing positive are difficult to comment on in general terms and would need to be discussed with your veterinarian on a case-by-case basis.

**FELV-** If a cat appearing healthy tests positive for FELV on an in-house screening antigen test (commonly used in veterinary hospitals, often in combination with an FIV test), it is recommended to retest immediately using an IFA test (usually sent out to a lab). If the IFA test is also positive, consider the cat FELV infected. If the IFA test is negative, the infection may be in its early stages, or the initial

antigen test may have been a "false positive." In this case, it is recommended to retest with both types of tests within 28 days. Once a cat has been confirmed with FELV infection, the following management plan can be considered:

- 1) Treat any symptoms of illness in their early stages with your veterinarian.
- 2) Feed the cat high quality nutrition appropriate for its age and activity level.
- 3) Keep cat indoors and isolated from other cats. \*
- 4) Spay or neuter the cat to decrease stress.
- 5) Maintain a physical examination schedule as recommended by your veterinarian.
- 6) Maintain a proper vaccination schedule to protect cat from other diseases.

**FIV-** If a cat appearing healthy tests positive for FIV on an in-house screening antibody test, it is recommended to retest

immediately using a Western Blot Test (usually sent out to a lab). If the Western Blot Test is positive, consider the cat FIV infected. If it is negative, like with FELV, the infection may be in its early stages, or the initial antibody test may have been a "false positive." In addition, unlike FELV, a cat that has been previously vaccinated for FIV may result in a positive in-house screening test. Regardless, if the Western Blot Test is negative, it is recommended to retest using both types of tests in 60 days. Once a cat has been confirmed with FIV infection, the management plan outlined above can be considered.

**FIP-** As discussed in our last newsletter, there is no definitive reliable screening test for FIP infection, and therefore screening of healthy cats is of no use. Seriously ill cats showing symptoms of FIP would need to be treated with your veterinarian.

\*A cat that tests positive in a multi-cat household presents a challenge regarding isolation from other cats. Consider keeping your positive cat in a separate area of your house. This may take some creativity. If not possible, consider placing the cat in a reliable single-cat household, or in a household with other positive cats. Lastly, if you decide to keep your positive cat among your negative cats, the negative cats WILL be at risk for contracting these viruses. The negative cats should be properly vaccinated against FELV and/or FIV. Although not perfect, vaccination will greatly reduce the risk of your other cats contracting the disease.

In some cases, unfortunately, euthanasia of a positive cat may be the only practical option for a particular caretaker.

# Vets Wanted

*to Help Rochester's Animals.*

The Rochester Police Department is looking for veterinarians interested in providing veterinary assistance at the newly established spay-neuter suite at the Animal Services shelter.

For more information contact Chris Fitzgerald:  
cf1274@cityofrochester.gov  
or call (585) 428.6898

 City of Rochester, New York



## Shelter Noise

Animal Services had its holiday party at the shelter on December 22. Members of the staff gathered with a few volunteers and Veterinary Technician Aimee Willoughby to eat, laugh, and have a good time. The Unit seems in favor of establish-

ing more regular social events (e.g., bowling) and staff meetings. The shelter staff has resumed daily roll calls, and weekly or bi-weekly meetings. Monthly meetings will be scheduled for the entire staff. Attendance will be voluntary and it

will never be possible to gather the entire staff, however, there is agreement that such meetings are important for team building, staff morale, and improved communications among individuals, titles, and shifts.



Animal Services staff enjoying the pot luck Holiday Party.



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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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## Volunteer Corner

During the second quarter, Animal Services was involved in a few events that required volunteer participation. As mentioned earlier in this issue, National Animal Shelter Appreciation week began with an open house on November 7, 2004. Many volunteers attended the event and were essential to providing assistance to the high volume of shelter visitors.

On December 4-5, volunteers from Animal Services assisted with the Santa Claws photo shoots at PETSMART's Ridge Road location. Volunteers worked as photographers, Santa's helpers, or even as Santa to photograph people visiting Santa with their pets! A portion of the proceeds from the photo sales will be returned to Animal Services. The Unit would like to offer our thanks for those volunteers who helped

out with this event.

Assistant Manager Andrew Dunning is our new RAS volunteer coordinator. He will lead the next volunteer orientation seminar with Jessica Robinson on February 1, 2005.

RAS is once again welcoming youth volunteers ages 12-16 and accompanied by a parent or guardian. There are some new restrictions, but we hope to get the kids involved in as many facets as possible.



## New Faces

**Andrew Dunning** was born in Rochester, NY. Andy worked for Lollypop Farm for several years before coming to Animal Services. Andy was hired as Assistant Shelter Manager in November. Due to persistent personnel challenges, Andy has gotten a crash course in shelter cleaning and adoption counseling, two areas of which he had considerable experience. Andy will serve as the volunteer coordinator for Animal Services and he has begun preparing for leading his first orientation seminar in early February.

**Paul Sobtzick** was hired in late December 2004. Paul will be included in our next issue. Please join us in welcoming Andrew Dunning and Paul Sobtzick to the Animal Services Unit.



Andrew Dunning taking a brief break with Abby.