

Kennel Quarterly



Rochester Police Department
Animal Services Unit

Adoption Numbers

During the second quarter, Animal Services impounded 712 dogs. Of those, 110 (15.4%) were reclaimed by owners, 186 (26.1%) were adopted, 44 (6.2%) were transferred to other animal welfare groups, and 367 (51.6%) were humanely euthanized.

Of the 602 dogs not reclaimed by owners, 359 (59.6%) were deemed not adoptable due to temperament, policy, or medical issues, or were euthanized at the owner's request due to age or medical problems. That means that 243 dogs were actually available for adoption. Of those, 186 were adopted. That represents a 76.6% adoption rate for those dogs deemed adoptable. With the 44 transfers, that rate

increases to 94.6%.

The Unit also impounded 624 cats during the first quarter. Of those, only 11 (1.8%) were reclaimed by owners, 123 (19.7%) were adopted, 88 (14.1%) were transferred to other animal welfare organizations, and 423 (67.8%) were humanely euthanized.

Although only 15 cats were euthanized to make room for incoming cats, 331 cats were euthanized due to medical conditions. The majority of those were cats with Upper Respiratory Infections (URI). As mentioned in previous issues, URI remains a persistent challenge for managing the sheltered cat population. Although these infections are akin to the "colds" that we suffer, recovery is diffi-

cult in a stressful shelter environment without isolation from infectious pathogens. Most of these sick cats would recover quickly in less stressful home environments if only given the chance. If more of these mildly infected cats could be adopted out, that would help boost adoptions and provide space for incoming cats in the adoption room.



Animal Services shelter in autumn

Inside this issue:

Shelter Statistics	2
New Vans for ACOs	2
Director's Chair	3
New Faces	3
Mission	4
Volunteer Corner	4
Dog Training & Pet First Aid Classes Offered	4

Mid-Year Progress Toward Goals

Last spring, Animal Services developed a vision and a list of goals for the future. That vision was to be "...a dedicated and professional team of well-trained, compassionate, energetic individuals with the skills, facilities, and resources to provide animal care, control, and education for the City of Rochester." At a recent team-building meeting, the staff agreed that such a vision was certainly attainable and that additionally the unit aspires to be the best animal care and control agency in the country.

The goals for FY05-06 were to: Increase dog and cat adoptions by 10%, add dogs to the LISN program, increase outreach/education by 25%, and

temperament test all dogs available for adoption.

In terms of absolute adoption numbers, the unit was down 9.3% for dogs and 4.5% for cats. However, as reported above, the combined adoption and transfer rate for adoptable dogs is nearly 95%. So the unit is doing a fantastic job at rehoming those dogs deemed adoptable. There is still plenty of room for improvement on cat adoptions. To that end, the unit has initiated a foster program for cats. The ASU also hopes some new advertising and promotional projects will help boost adoptions.

Dogs have been included in the Low-Income Spay/Neuter (LISN) program and although

the demand is not nearly as high as that for cats, 24 dogs have been sterilized through the program since the beginning of the fiscal year.

Animal Services was involved with 32 outreach events, presentations, and training seminars during the first six months of FY05-06. That represents a 33% increase over the 24 events during the first half of FY04-05. The unit hopes to continue that trend during the winter months.

At this time, only select dogs of questionable temperament are being formally evaluated. Temperament testing all dogs placed up for adoption remains a goal for the remainder of the fiscal year and beyond.



Before and after shots of Winston, groomed by Uni-Pet Grooming Salon at open house, November 6, 2005.

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

Animal Services Quarterly Statistics

	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Other</u>
<u>October</u>			
Impounded	254	313	29
Adopted	57	37	6
Redeemed	45	4	0
Transferred	8	62	18
Euthanized	143	215	5
Sterilized	45(2)	23(38)	0
<u>November</u>			
Impounded	218	156	13
Adopted	53	35	3
Redeemed	37	4	0
Transferred	22	8	7
Euthanized	100	120	2
Sterilized	41(10)	20(46)	0
<u>December</u>			
Impounded	240	155	8
Adopted	76	51	2
Redeemed	28	3	0
Transferred	14	18	5
Euthanized	124	88	2
Sterilized	51(6)	26(42)	0

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. 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 greater responsibility for our animal companions. That means making sure our pets are licensed, vaccinated, securely confined, and spayed and neutered. 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 figures are separated into adopted pets and owned pets sterilized through the Low-Income Spay-Neuter (LISN) program, with the latter presented in parentheses.

New Vans Arrive



Animal Services received two new vans during the second quarter of FY05-06. The vans are Chevy 2500s and they were fitted with animal transport inserts by MAVRON, Inc.

Last year, the Animal Control Officers were asked to submit their suggestions for changes or upgrades for the replacement of two vehicles. With the help of Officer Cookie Baez and Lt. Jim Keenan, the unit was able to fulfill virtually all of the requests made by the ACOs.

The new vans have power windows to assist ACOs in communicating with citizens walking up to the van. They have

front and rear heat and a/c to maximize the comfort and well being of ACOs and their animal passengers. The cab is separated from the cargo bed by a sealed bulkhead which significantly reduces the animal and cage noise reaching the cab from the cargo area.

The cargo area is equipped with a bank of nine cages in an L-shaped configuration, with four cages accessible from the rear doors and five from the side. The entire interior around the cage bank is fitted with stainless steel with sealed seams. These features have several benefits over the old

vans. The L-configuration more evenly distributes the weight of the insert as compared with the in-line configuration. Also, the sealed areas around the cages aid cleaning and disinfecting and eliminate areas for animals to hide in the event of an escape. Additionally, there are lights in the cargo area that facilitate impoundment during evening and early morning hours.

Thanks Cookie and Lt. Keenan for helping the Animal Control Officers obtain these vital tools to help them continue to provide public safety and improved care for the animals.

From the Director's Chair



With the new administration came some new changes for our command. Captain George Markert was appointed Acting Commander for the Bureau of Organizational Development & Administration. Commander Markert was involved in the interview and hiring process when Animal Services was initially incorporated into the Police Department in 2000 and he has a solid understanding of the unit's responsibilities and challenges.

I'd like to express my appreciation to Captain Ed Giblin for the support and friendship he provided professionally and personally during those few months within his command. Thanks Captain and keep up

the excellent work at SIS.

Other items of note this quarter involve the establishment of a foster program/relationship with area veterinary hospitals. We began placing cats at a few area vet hospitals in the hopes of broadening our reach and improving their chances at adoption. Where better to locate responsible, loving homes for pets? The vet-visiting clientele are the ideal adopters. Although still in its infancy, two cats were placed in new homes as a result of being fostered by these vet hospitals.

As reported in the last issue, the open house in November was a great success and discussions have begun about a similar event this spring. Anyone

who would like to get involved in assisting with the planning, marketing, and promotion of such events is welcome to contact me.

A 501(c)3 not-for-profit group is forming to help support the shelter. This Friends of the Verona Street Shelter group will undoubtedly help raise awareness and promote the shelter as the premier pet adoption center in Rochester. I am anxious to witness the development of the Friends group and to begin working with its members towards the same goals: increased adoptions and reduced euthanasia.

I'm proud of our efforts toward reaching our goals for the year and in our progress toward



our vision of being the best animal care and control agency in the country. As a team, we are making that vision a reality.

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

New Faces

Michelle Colbert was born and raised in Rochester, NY. She attended Webster Schools and got involved with animals at an early age through an Explorer Program for Veterinary Technology. Later on, Michelle worked as a Kennel Attendant for 3 years at Penfield Veterinary Hospital. During this time, Michelle also pursued a grooming apprenticeship through the Poodle Shack. She left the vet hospital to work at PetCo as an Animal Technician and Groomers Assistant. Michelle was hired in late November as a Part-time Animal Care Technician (ACT). When not at the shelter, Michelle enjoys camping and caring for her three cats, Nala, Onyx, and Regan.

Wilburt Pagan-Lugo was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. After graduating high school, "Wil" joined the U.S. Army Reserve. He went to college at the bank and Commerce institute in

Ponce, PR and received a degree in Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic. A few months before completing his degree, he began working for the ambulance companies and continued working as an EMT with the town and private ambulance companies for three years. Also during that time, Wil worked as a hyperbaric technician at a clinic. In 2004, Wil moved from PR to the Bronx, NY where he spent a month receiving his security guard training and certificate. In January 2005, he relocated to Rochester. Wil was hired by Animal Services as an ACT in late November 2005. He is still in the Reserves and hopes to find a medical support unit for the remainder of his term. When not at work, Wil enjoys cooking, listening to music, and watching movies. Wil's newest interest is fishing, which he began since arriving in Rochester.

Anthony Pellegrino was born in Yonkers, NY where he lived for four years before relocating to Henrietta. A.J. got his first dog when he was 18 years old. He bought a house at age 20 and is recently engaged to Ms. Julianne Thurston. A.J. loves football...*How 'bout them Cowboys!* He also enjoys working out and socializing his dogs. AJ says that Monroe Avenue is his favorite place to socialize his two dogs. A.J. was hired as an ACT in early December.



Wilburt Pagan-Lugo



Michelle Colbert



A.J. being A.J.



Rochester Police Department Animal Services Unit

184 Verona Street
Rochester, NY
14608

Phone: 585-428-7274
Fax: 585-428-6130
Chris.Fitzgerald@cityofrochester.gov

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.

VISIT US ONLINE

WWW.ROCHESTERANIMALSERVICES.COM

Volunteer Corner

Once again the volunteers were key to the success of the open house on November 6, 2005. Thank you one and all!

During the second quarter, volunteers and interns also began assisting with more frequent website updates.

Whereas the unit formerly updated the adoptable animals weekly, now the photos are updated 2-3 times per week. The unit would like to recognize intern Crystal Dupree and volunteer Jerry Margolis for their commitment to this task.

Assistant Manager Pam Cook is our new RAS volunteer coordinator. She has been leading volunteer orientation seminars since October 2005. Animal Care Technician, Jamie Alexander, has begun assisting Pam with training and recruitment of new volunteers. With Jamie's assistance, the unit is planning

to schedule two volunteer orientations each month.

Animal Services continues to focus extra attention on recruitment of volunteers for specialized duties including positions at the front desk, cleaning cages, offsite promotions and events, clinic and surgery support, photographing animals for the website, and performing web updates. All of these duties are essential to improving the efficiency of the agency, enhancing customer service, and for increasing the visibility of the many programs and services provided.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact 428-7274 and submit an application to be included in an upcoming orientation. Applications are available at the shelter or on the *Join Us* page at rochesteranimalservices.com.

DOG OBEDIENCE & SOCIALIZATION CLASSES

Basic Obedience \$65
Puppy Socialization \$35
Or \$85 for both classes

Classes forming now.



PET FIRST AID COURSE

Certification class and
book only \$25

Call 428-7274 to enroll.