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Priority List of Animal Services Implementation Plan Recommendations

	Recommendation	Additional Cost	Continuum
1	<p>Revise Mission of Animal Services</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendation, we will include as a key indicator in our FY11 Business Plan, a live outcome goal of 90%.</p>	\$0	Education and Public Info
2	<p>Davenport Adoption Center</p> <p>The development of off-site adoption programs in the Davenport building offers opportunities for partner organizations to enhance our community efforts. Outsourcing this program to an organization with core competencies in off-site adoptions would bring the advantage of focusing Animal Services staff on the increased customer traffic that we expect at the new shelter as well as bringing experience with off-site adoptions to the table. This site would be the largest off-site adoption site in the community.</p>	\$76,617	Animal Placement
3	<p>Increased Make-Ready Capacity</p> <p>Increase in-house sterilizations by providing staffing for surgeries to be performed on Saturdays and Sundays, fully utilizing the surgery suite capacity. This would provide approximately 2,000 additional surgery slots and would increase total capacity from 3,600 to about 5,600 surgeries. Goals for this enhancement would be to reduce the wait time for surgery to an average of two days and maintain the inventory of adoption animals at 90% sterilized.</p>	\$60,590	Animal Placement
4	<p>Additional Veterinary Capacity for Injured/Ill Shelter Animals</p> <p>Fund a 0.5 veterinarian and one additional veterinary technician to provide additional capacity for treating injured/ill animals that are candidates for re-homing or returning to their original homes.</p>	\$95,000 (0.5 veterinarian and 1.0 veterinary technician)	Animal Placement
5	<p>Behaviorist Position</p> <p>Consistent with AAC recommendations, fund a behaviorist position to create programs that assist sheltered animals that have behavior issues and to create programs that reduce shelter intake.</p>	\$74,266	Affordable Animal Care

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6	<p>Owner Relinquishment Policy</p> <p>Implement an owner surrender evaluation program. This program would require pet owners considering relinquishment of a pet to schedule an appointment. On the spot drop off of owned pets would no longer be accepted. An evaluation of the pet would be conducted during the appointment. This would provide the pet owner with definitive feedback regarding options available for their pet, if relinquished.</p>	\$39,891	Animal Sheltering
7	<p>Enhance Foster Care Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consistent with the AAC recommendations, permanently fund make-ready costs for animals adopted directly from the foster home. ▪ Consistent with the AAC recommendations, permanently fund make-ready costs for animals re-homed by the finder. ▪ Fund additional make-ready capacity to provide medical services for foster animals adopted from the shelter. (See recommendation number 3.) ▪ Fund a pilot project with a partner organization to enhance the foster capability through leveraging the City investment. 	<p>\$20,000 for make ready (from Donations)</p> <p>\$25,000 for pilot (from General Fund)</p>	Animal Placement
8	<p>Enhance Spay Street Program</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations, enhance this neighborhood intervention program, which targets at-risk breeds, by adding the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for 300 sterilizations beginning FY11. • Provide funding for additional staff outreach position. • Emancipet will grow a volunteer program to support the outreach component of the program. • Emancipet will continue to seek funding to support the remaining sterilizations to achieve the program goals. 	<p>\$25,500 for sterilizations surgeries</p> <p>\$65,000 for outreach position</p>	Affordable Animal Care

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9	<p>Provide Sterilization Services at Rabies Clinics</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations, provide funding for sterilization at the five rabies clinics conducted each year in high-intake, low-income neighborhoods. Services will be provided by Emancipet.</p>	<p>\$40,000</p> <p>(\$30,000 donation funds, \$10,000 General Fund)</p>	<p>Affordable Animal Care</p>
10	<p>Provide Sterilization Services for Owned Cats</p> <p>Provide funding for free sterilization of owned cats. Services provided through partnership with Emancipet. Emancipet to provide a higher percentage of funding (through fund raising) each year as City funding decreases. Goals for this program are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY11 1,000 surgeries • FY12 1,200 surgeries • FY13 1,440 surgeries • FY14 1,728 surgeries 	<p>\$60,000</p> <p>(\$20,000 from donations funds, \$40,000 from the General Fund)</p>	<p>Affordable Animal Care</p>
11	<p>Emergency Care Fund</p> <p>Maintain the emergency care fund to assist animals that are brought into the shelter because of lack of money for needed medical care (usually trauma related.) In FY09, 252 animals were surrender due to medical reasons. Animal Trustees of Austin (ATA) currently provides \$50,000 for emergency care.</p>	<p>\$50,000</p> <p>(\$30,000 donation funds, \$20,000 from the General Fund)</p>	<p>Affordable Animal Care</p>
12	<p>Feral Kitten Foster Program</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations, develop a program to provide foster, socialization, spay/neuter and adoption of underage kittens trapped in colonies. Recommend funding the operations costs for the program and provide space for the program in the Davenport Adoption Center when operational. (See recommendation 2.)</p>	<p>\$52,230</p>	<p>Affordable Animal Care</p>

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14	<p>Free Animal Sterilization Programs</p> <p>Fund one additional day of free sterilization services beginning in FY11, bringing the City program to 3 free days per week/50 weeks per year. Fund one additional day of free sterilization services beginning in FY13, bringing the City program to 4 free days per week/50 weeks per year.</p>	\$120,000	Affordable Animal Care
15	<p>Feral Cat Sterilization</p> <p>Continue funding the feral cat sterilization voucher program at the current level of \$30,000. Austin Humane Society (AHS) currently provides free sterilization for 5,000 feral cats per year.</p>	Currently Funded	Affordable Animal Care
16	<p>Affordable Veterinary Care</p> <p>ATA provides affordable sterilizations, dental treatments, heart worm treatments, wellness services, and specialty surgeries. ATA intends to launch a capital campaign to expand services.</p>	ATA is going to launch a capital campaign for a new facility.	Affordable Animal Care
17	<p>PARVO Prevention Program</p> <p>Create a PARVO prevention program that will reduce the death of puppies. The program will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide free PARVO vaccinations at all rabies clinics • Provide free PARVO vaccinations at Emancipet and Animal Trustees of Austin during puppy season (February through May) • Conduct a PARVO awareness campaign throughout puppy season 	<p>\$5,500 for Rabies clinics program</p> <p>\$16,500 for vaccines at Emancipet and ATA</p>	Affordable Animal Care
18	<p>Pet Identification Ordinance</p> <p>Implement an ordinance requiring pet owners to keep visible identification on pets at all times. (Related to recommendation 28.)</p>	\$0	Animal Safety and Protection

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19	<p>Provide Euthanasia List to Partners</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations, expand opportunities for rescue groups to review the euthanasia list to identify animals that may be candidates for their program, similar to the current successful process utilized with Austin Pets Alive!.</p>	\$0	Animal Placement
20	<p>Last Resort Adoptions</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations, provide a program where an owner or person in the community who surrenders an animal and wants to be the last resort to prevent the animal from being euthanized may put a hold on the animal.</p>	\$0	Animal Placement
21	<p>Pit-Bull Task Force</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations, continue to work closely with the Pit-Bull Task Force, Love-A-Bull and other organizations interested in helping solve challenges associated with pit-bull type dogs</p>	\$0	Animal Safety and Protection
22	<p>Microchip Animals Not Relinquished</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations provide free microchips to animals when an owner decides not to relinquish an intact animal. This is an activity the City currently does. The owner is provided a voucher for animal sterilization and a microchip. The vouchers are funded from the donation fund.</p>	\$0	Animal Safety and Protection
23	<p>Revamp the Animal Services Website</p> <p>In Spring 2010, the Animal Services Web site will be “refreshed” with a new look, user-friendly architecture and links to new social media resources maintained by Animal Services staff. The site will enable first time visitors and longtime friends of the Animal Center to connect immediately with the resources, including adoption/fostering resources, lost/found help and options to volunteer/donate. Easily marketable and memorable URLs will be available including getapetnow.com and more.</p>	\$0	Education and Public Info

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24	Utilize 311 to Provide Pet Re-homing Options Consistent with the AAC recommendations, Staff will develop a new section of the website dedicated to alternatives, tips, and options (including the APA PASS Hotline) for re-homing a pet. 311 will be able to utilize this information as well as refer callers to the website.	\$0	Education and Public Info
25	Owner Surrender Acknowledgement Consistent with the AAC recommendations, individuals that surrender their animal are currently required to sign an owner surrender form. The form includes an acknowledgement that the animal may be euthanized. Additionally, there is a bilingual sign in the receiving area describing the options available for surrendered pets (including euthanasia) and a scrolling reader board that provides statistics.	\$0	Animal Sheltering
26	Animal Acclimation Program Consistent with the AAC recommendations, create a task force made up of Staff, rescue and volunteer groups to work with stray cats and dogs to acclimate them to the shelter environment. Fund a Behaviorist position to develop and coordinate this program. (See recommendation number 5).	\$0	Animal Sheltering
27	Rescue Group Task Force Consistent with the AAC recommendations, host a task force to examine any new opportunities for additional placement partners. Currently, Animal Services has a full-time position that coordinates the placement of animals with partner agencies and rescue groups. This position also researches opportunities for new placement opportunities and recruits new groups.	\$0	Animal Placement

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28	<p>Contact Reno, NV</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations, City staff spoke with Mitch Schneider, Shelter Director for the Washoe County open intake shelter in order to identify additional opportunities to return animals to their homes. Based on that discussion, we will continue the field return-to-owner program already in place and the planned elimination of the night drop boxes in the new shelter. Additionally we have recommended an ordinance mandating pet identification (see recommendation number 18.)</p>	\$0	Animal Safety and Protection
29	<p>Software/Database Review</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations, conduct a software/database review process in collaboration with the AAC and other stakeholders, as appropriate.</p>	\$0	Education and Public Info
30	<p>New Measures</p> <p>The additional measures recommended by the AAC that are readily available will be added to the measures posted to the Animal Services website each month. Measures for any new policies or programs implemented will be developed as a part of the implementation process. These new measures would be posted to the website as well.</p>	\$0	Education and Public Info
31	<p>Fee for Wildlife Relocation</p> <p>Implement a \$50 relocation fee for pest control companies that bring wildlife to the shelter for disposal.</p>	Costs: \$0 Revenues \$6,500	Animal Sheltering

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32	<p>Intake Fee</p> <p>Implement a \$160 intake fee for other jurisdictional agencies (outside of Travis County) that bring animals to the shelter for sheltering and disposition.</p>	<p>Costs: \$0</p> <p>Revenues \$16,000</p>	Animal Sheltering
33	<p>Feral Cat Food Bank Location</p> <p>Consistent with the AAC recommendations, a partner organization (or private sector) should provide a location to house a food bank for feral-cat colony managers to access cat food on a regular basis</p>	\$0	Affordable Animal Care
	<p>Costs:</p> <p>General Fund</p> <p>Donations</p> <p>Total</p> <p>Revenues</p>	<p>\$779,094</p> <p>\$100,000</p> <p>\$879,094</p> <p>\$22,500</p>	

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AAC Report recommendations not included as follows:

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1	Relocate stray cats back in to the community from where they came, after spaying or neutering them. The City should also ensure proper identification of cats capable of stray living who are not a threat to the community, and should encourage neighborhood support for relocation of strays by implementing outreach and education programs.	per AAC: \$78,447	<p>City staff does not impound stray cats. All stray cats are brought into the sheltering system by good Samaritans. In general, the following concerns drive citizens to bring cats into the shelter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fear for the animals' safety (predation, might be hit by car, dog attack, etc.)• The animal may have an owner looking for it• The animal is a nuisance in the neighborhood (property damage, breeding, etc.)• Fear of disease being spread that might affect pets or humans• Concerns about cat predation <p>Due to the concerns noted above, staff does not recommend the release of sheltered stray cats into neighborhoods. Strategies throughout the implementation plan will contribute to the reduction of euthanasia for stray cats.</p>
2	Should impose an immediate and permanent moratorium on the killing of any animal (except for humane reasons or aggression validated by a behaviorist) when there are empty cages and kennels.	\$0	<p>Staff is committed to the goal of limiting euthanasia to the euthanasia that is required for medical, behavioral, or aggression reasons. Current practices flex cage space requirements and animal hold times, as seasonal demand fluctuates, in order to maximize live outcomes. However, a blanket moratorium could be counter-productive and not in the best interests of the entire shelter population given that the City operates an open intake shelter where all animals must be admitted when presented.</p>

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3	Outsource to Austin Pets Alive the animal adoption program, including medical work-up services for adopted animals.	Cost analysis of outsourcing options should be conducted using standard city procurement processes.	Staff recommends outsourcing options be considered using standard city procurement processes. We recommend beginning with a solicitation of proposals for: Operation of Davenport Building adoption center when it becomes available in 2011. (See recommendation number 2.)
4	Allow Austin Pets Alive to have volunteers present at TLAC intake area to freely converse, after approved City of Austin volunteer training, with owners Regarding alternatives to Shelter surrender. City should provide \$40,000 to APA for a coordinator.	\$40,000	Staff agrees that discussion with owners who are considering relinquishment of their pets is important. They are currently counseled about alternative solutions by City staff. Pet owners that indicate an interest in APA services are referred to the APA PASS program hotline. Based on our experience, we are recommending strategies for accomplishing this goal, including emergency veterinary care funding to families in need, a new owner surrender program, and a pet retention program that will provide early interventions.