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**For Immediate Release**

**FORT BEND ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF COUNTY BUDGET;  
ELIMINATION OF EUTHANASIA IN COUNTY SHELTER**

**Richmond, Texas, September 21, 2015 – Fort Bend Pets Alive!, a Sugar Land-based non-profit 501(c)3 organization focused on transitioning Fort Bend County animal shelter to a “no-kill” operation, testified in support of the County increasing the Animal Service Department budget by 20% for the Fiscal Year 2016.**

The “no-kill” movement is a humane and comprehensive approach to achieving a 90% or higher save rate for shelter pets through adoption, reclamation, and transfer efforts. A successful “no-kill” approach to management ensures that less than 10% of shelter cats and dogs ever require euthanasia. Across the United States, more than 200 governments have adopted the “no-kill” program, including nine in Texas. The City of Austin/Travis County is the largest city and county in the United States to adopt “no-kill”.

“Fort Bend County is poised to continue its rapid growth and with that comes a responsibility to provide our citizens with modern government programs,” said Claudine Vass, Founder and President of Fort Bend Pets Alive!. “We understand taking Fort Bend County from an euthanasia rate of 70% to less than 10% will not happen overnight but we are here today to commit to the County and the Animal Services Department that we will be their partner as we eliminate mandatory timeframes to euthanize shelter pets.”

“While we support this budget, there is a \$4000 line item budget allocation to Vortech Pharmacy which provides the euthanasia drug for the County”, said Chuck Sweeney, Fort Bend County resident and Fort Bend Pets Alive! volunteer. “According to our calculations, that amount is enough to euthanize over 3,500 fifty pound animals which is well over 50% of all dogs and cats the shelter is expected to intake in Fiscal Year 2016.”

About Fort Bend County Pets Alive!

FORT BEND PETS ALIVE! is a non-profit, 501(C)3 organization, dedicated to helping make Fort Bend a no kill community through programs such as adoptions, education and community outreach, low cost spay and neuter surgeries, fostering, Positive Alternatives to Shelter Surrender (PASS), and rescuing from euthanasia list.

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