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For Immediate Release

FORT BEND ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP, COMMUNITY LEADERS TESTIFY FOR STRONGER AMENDMENTS OF STAFFORD CITY ANIMAL ORDINANCE

Wednesday, December 16, 2015 (Stafford, TX) --- The Stafford City Council held a hearing to consider amendments to Chapter 10 of their ordinance code, which is specific to animals, including dogs, cats, and livestock. The proposal makes limited changes to the current ordinance. Fort Bend Pets Alive! and other community members argued for a more robust marketing of adoptable dogs held by the shelter, establishment of a trap-neuter-return program, and the release of \$25,000 in capital funds to study construction of animal shelter in the city of Stafford.

“We understand the city has limited resources but we ask you to allow Fort Bend Pets Alive! to assist and to make connections with the community to induce pet adoptions through free resources like volunteers, rescue groups and social media,” said Chuck Sweeney, Fort Bend Pets Alive! board member. “If you put it in your ordinance, we will work with you and Missouri City to implement the ordinance.”

Stafford City Council members raised significant concerns over the community cat challenges their neighborhoods are enduring. Salise Shuttlesworth, founder and Executive Director of Houston non-profit, Friends for Life (a no kill animal shelter & sanctuary) articulated the practical application of a trap-neuter-return program. Ms. Shuttlesworth cited the significant flaw of removing all community cats from a neighborhood which results in the re-colonization by a new cat population. She provided further evidence that science has proven “catch-and-kill” policies have been ineffective.

Xavier Herrera, Stafford resident, trustee of the municipal school district, and chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission urged the council to release funds for the study of Stafford constructing its own animal shelter. “I know you have had a great relationship with Missouri City in sheltering Stafford's stray dogs and I commend you on that,” Mr. Herrera explained. “At some point of time, Stafford will have to go on its own. I urge the council to initiate discussions to address alternative solutions for sheltering Stafford’s stray dogs should the current arrangement with Missouri City be dissolved.”

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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