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For Immediate Release

A "BIG WIN" FOR THE ANIMALS IN CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS

MAYOR SCARCELLA AND CITY COUNCIL



Stafford, Texas, February 3rd, 2016 – Animal Welfare Leaders and Volunteers turned out to Speak for the Animal at an intense City Council Meeting to Support Amendments to the Proposed Animal Ordinance Sec 10.

The primary goal is to institute a “no kill” mission with clarity of language to ensure the successful partnerships with non-profit groups. Policy and procedures which guarantee all impounded animals will be offered for adoption and ample time for owners to cover all basis to find and be reunited.

Speakers with Fort Bend Pets Alive! spoke for the animals before City Council, Dec 16th 2015, Jan 27th 2015 and Feb 3rd 2015 and brought support in volunteers, and statistics and education material to validate how other municipalities have been successful in adoption a “NO KILL” policy.

- Less than 500 animals a year. With est. 770,000 people in Fort Bend County, it takes much less than ½ percent to adopt to prevent unnecessary euthanasia.
- PETS Act passed in 2006 to include family pets in emergency rescue operations.
- Over 530 localities participate in Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) programs with success of reducing unwanted populations.*
- Texas has 43 municipalities with TNR ordinances.*

Claudine Vass, along with several like minded animal advocated co-founded the non-profit for pets in Fort Bend County in October of 2014. “This is a great win tonight for our family members “ said Claudine, “by postponing the ordinance to be passed for Stafford, this give us time for proper language to be revised that will ensure all animals will get a chance to live.”

Other speakers who spoke for the best interest of people and the animals included:

- Salise Shutterworth J.D., Executive Director of Friends for Life, located in Houston, the only LEED certified No Kill Animal Shelter in the State of Texas.
- Sandy Holloman, a Stafford resident and an animal foster.

Each speaker concurred the following to be of importance:

- Form a work group to create language in the ordinance to paramount to cover all bases in what will ensure a successful policy to save lives and to engage private partnerships to help.
- The selling of animals need to be prohibited.
- Community outreach in marketing of animals importance creates success in saving lives.
- The website Pet Harbor should be utilized.

All supporters gave an extended sincere and warm thanks for the opportunity the elected officials have afforded this community. Mayor Scacella conducted a meeting of leadership with welcome mat for the speakers willing to share their expertise on how to make this exciting program for the community to work for all.

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. Fort Bend Pets Alive! relies on donations. Please contact claudinevass@fortbendpetsaliv.org to donate , or volunteer.

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