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**For Immediate Release**



**FORT BEND ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP MEETS WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONER TO  
SUPPORT FUNDING FOR ONSITE VETERINARIAN**

**Richmond, Texas, November 2, 2015 – Fort Bend Pets Alive!, a Sugar Land-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on transitioning Fort Bend County animal shelter to a “no-kill” operation, met with Fort Bend County Precinct One Commissioner, Richard Morrison to support several budget initiatives to be included in the Fiscal Year 2017 Animal Control Services Budget.**

Fort Bend Pets Alive! discussed with Commissioner Morrison four budget items that resulted directly from an October meeting held with Fort Bend Animal Control Services director, Rene Vazquez and assistant director, Rodney Garcia. Messrs. Vazquez and Garcia expressed the need for operating funds to hire an onsite veterinarian and veterinary technician, and establish a streamlined fostering program. Additionally, they raised the need for capital budget funds to purchase a mobile spay and neuter van and retrofit the veterinary room, which is currently unused. Commissioner Morrison committed to working with Fort Bend Pets Alive! and Animal Control Services on the initiatives in the coming year.

Commissioner Morrison also understands and sees the need of being proactive and to use a combination of solutions to achieve a higher save rate in Fort Bend County. Emphasis of sustainability of life saving programs has also been discussed and stressed.

Some effective immediate solutions that Commissioner Morrison was receptive to were:

- 1) Putting the number of deaths of community cats back into monthly reports
- 2) Switch simple monthly reports to the nationally accepted Asilomar Accords
- 3) Initiate partnerships with local rescue groups
- 4) Adopt an aggressive marketing plan to advertise for shelter adoptions.

“We will continue to work with the Commissioners Court and the Animal Control Services leadership to make Fort Bend County a no-kill shelter” said Claudine Vass, Co-Founder and President of Fort Bend Pets Alive!. We know they can do better and we are committed to make them better.”

**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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**For Immediate Release**

**FORT BEND COMMISSIONER SUPPORTS CAPITAL FUNDS TO RETROFIT VETERINARIAN ROOM AND ADDITIONAL VETERINARIAN PERSONNEL**

**Rosenberg, Texas, December 17, 2015 – Precinct One Commissioner, Richard Morrison, arranged the meeting with 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, to provide a status report on the budgetary and operational issues discussed during the November 2, 2015, meeting between the two parties.**

Commissioner Morrison issued his support for Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Budget funding to retrofit the veterinarian room in the Fort Bend County animal shelter. Additionally, Morrison indicated his support to work with the City of Rosenberg to share an onsite veterinarian and veterinarian technicians. Successful implementation of these measures would guarantee vaccinations, spay and neuter surgeries, and medical care for all dogs and cats at both shelters. FBPA! welcomes the opportunity to work with Commissioner Morrison and the City of Rosenberg to implement these measures.

Fort Bend County Animal Services is transitioning to Asilomar Accords record keeping. Asilomar Accords is the nationally accepted shelter data tracking software. However, the county does not include feral cats in their euthanasia rates, classifying them as (wild) animals. Commissioner Morrison did indicate there are complications in the process. To be in compliance to the county's goal to reduce euthanasia by 50% as stated in the annual operating budget in the last few years, FBPA! reiterated the importance of including deaths of feral/community cats in the euthanasia rate. FBPA! supports maximum transparency which enables all stakeholders to be on the same page.

Claudine Vass, President of FBPA! said following the meeting, “We are excited to hear the support growing for these critical animal welfare issues.” She continued, “While we have a long way to go, if we are able to implement these measures then we have made significant improvements over the status quo.”

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**For Immediate Release****FORT BEND COMMISSIONER ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN CAPITAL FUNDS TO RETROFIT VETERINARIAN ROOM AND ADDITIONAL VETERINARIAN PERSONNEL**

**Richmond, Texas, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Precinct One Commissioner, Richard Morrison, arranged the meeting with 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, to provide a status report on the budgetary and operational issues discussed during the November 2, 2015, meeting between the two parties.**

Commissioner Morrison gave it a 45 day time frame to work in budget funding to retrofit the veterinarian room and add a medical staff in the Fort Bend County animal shelter for Fiscal Year 2017. The prospect of CIP (Capital Improvement Project) under the General Fund account was also discussed. Commissioner Morrison indicated his support to work with the City of Rosenberg to share an onsite veterinarian and veterinarian technicians.

Per Commissioner Morrison’s request of the assessment of building a new shelter as a viable solution, FBPA! provided statistics of a vast population and the number of kennels needed in terms of number of intake based on the MIS Formula for Projecting Animal Shelter Size. FBPA! expressed concerns of volatility of data provided by the County, Shelter Director Mr. Vasquez and his staff. Based on the provided data, FBPA! was not able to establish the need of building a new animal shelter for Fort Bend County. The high kill rate of the county shelter is a problem of lack of sustainable life saving programs, not a facility problem. An amount much less than the construction cost of a new shelter is much needed for a community low-cost (\$20 max.), high-volume and targeted spay and neuter program. The urgent need of adding a medical quarantine area is much needed, as mentioned in the December meeting.

Several recommendations were provided to Commissioner Morrison by Fort Bend Pets Alive!

- 1) To main transparency and to continue to build trust with the community, the shelter and County are to release accurate save rate to the public at all times. Monthly reports must be posted on line in a timely manner. Omitting a month is not recommended.
- 2) Animal adoption with responsible procedures is best practice. The goal is to “Help People Help Pets” and it can be achieved by providing thorough pre-adoption counseling with post-adoption resources. Consistency will also help.
- 3) FBCAS is urged to share a DNA (Do Not Adopt) and DNF (Do Not Foster) list with all nearby animal shelters to better protect our animals.
- 4) The community has proven that they are willing to offer their time and resources to help the county shelter to protect the animals and to save their lives. FBPA! kindly reminded the Commissioner that continued consistent and open communication between the community, the Shelter and the County will facilitate the growth process more efficiently.
- 5) Whether feral cats are included in the intake number is still an uncertainty due to delayed posting of report.

Commissioner Morrison will follow up with FBPA! about the contract status of the veterinarian servicing bi-weekly wellness visits at the shelter and a few other operational issues. He also suggested to contact him if there are unresolved issues, questions or problems with the county shelter and issues of animal cruelty.

Claudine Vass, President of FBPA! said following the meeting, “Lives are precious. Accountability is crucial in the process to identify problems and allocating limited resources.” She continued, “While we have a long way to go, if we are able to implement these measures then we have made significant improvements over the status quo.”

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