



December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear all,

On behalf of Fort Bend Pets Alive!, I would like to give you an annual overview of our organization. Your support helps us continue in our mission to make Fort Bend County a no kill community.

In the last two years, we have hosted over fifty community events in Sugar Land, Katy, Rosenberg, Stafford and Richmond in Fort Bend County. We reached out and engaged with different communities and schools to promote compassion and local shelter adoption. Our adoption events were all held in high traffic areas with heavy pre-event promotion. Marketing for our voiceless pets is the key to increase adoption rates. In attendance were elected officials, local athletes, families, animal lovers and prospective adopters.

Adoption events are an integral part of life-saving methods. At the annual Fort Bend Shelter Pets Expo Adoption Event in May, we had 28 volunteers with 110 hours dedicated to help find homes for our animals. Another showcase event we had this year was the Free Adoption Event at Fort Bend Kia in August. The compassionate and generous operator/owner of the FB Kia dealership, Mr. Virgil Skinner, brought Ol' Railroad Cafe, HEB, three municipal shelters and a non-profit No Kill shelter from Houston under one roof to help animals find homes. Collaboration works and we set the record of finding homes for 27 dogs and cats in four hours!

On the political advocacy side, we have built public and private partnerships with different municipalities at different levels. More education brings more awareness. After 6 months of advocating communally and politically, we successfully raised awareness of community cats in Fort Bend County. Fort Bend County Animal Shelter included the number of deaths of community cats in monthly reports beginning with calendar year 2016. That was a big change in the right direction to increase transparency. Concurrently, we successfully stopped proposed inhumane changes to the animal ordinance in the City of Stafford from passing on two different occasions. The final draft is the first ordinance in our area to have provisions of life saving programs for shelter pets, such as TNR for community cats and a shelter adoption program with stronger protection. In this particular legislative process, hundreds of Staffordians, concerned animal lovers from all over the Greater Houston area, Brazoria County and Fort Bend County residents came together to participate and support the cause. That has definitely set the tone in Fort Bend County.

Throughout this year, we have also gained a handful of valuable and dedicated volunteers who do not only give us their time, they give us their talent and expertise. Fort Bend Pets Alive! is proud to have the ability to produce two PSAs to promote shelter adoption and TNR in our area.

With over 15 community partners from both for-profit and non-profit sectors and multiple mentions in local magazines, newspapers (Houston Chronicle, The Katy News) and evening news by Fox 26 Houston, we can say it was a great year for Fort Bend Pets Alive!

Fort Bend Pets Alive! is run by all volunteers and it solely depends on donations to continue our mission of making Fort Bend County a no kill community.

Thanks again for your trust, support and continued support.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you, your family and your furry loved ones.

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Claudine Vass  
President, Fort Bend Pets Alive!

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