

**Mayor and City Council Candidate Survey**  
**City of Stafford, Texas Municipal Election 2017**

**Candidates' views on**  
**Stafford's future animal sheltering system**

**Fort Bend Pets Alive!**

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### Introduction

Fort Bend Pets Alive! has initiatives to increase the Save Rate of companion animals at City of Stafford's taxpayer funded animal control facility/shelter that will be built in the near future. The purpose of this survey is to understand the stances and intentions of the candidates running for mayoral and city council positions regarding animal welfare issues generally and related to City of Stafford becoming a No Kill community.

Definition of a No Kill community:

A No Kill community is a community in which all healthy and treatable shelter pets are saved, including at Open Admission facilities like the animal shelter that will be built in City of Stafford. The only animals euthanized are those who are irremediably sick or injured and suffering or who pose a genuine danger to the public. The benchmark to be recognized as a No Kill community is the ability to save all healthy and treatable pets (generally 90% to 98% of all animals). There are currently hundreds of shelters/communities who are saving 90% or more of all shelter pets.

For instance:

- Roughly 1,000,000 people live in communities saving between 98% and 99% of dogs and cats in their shelters.
- About 9,000,000 people live in communities saving between 90% and 99% of dogs and cats in their shelters.
- Over 40,000,000 people live in communities saving at least 80% of dogs and cats in their shelters. (See [Saving90.org](http://Saving90.org))

Those No Kill communities have very little in common other than a commitment to save the lives of shelter pets, while saving money in the process. These communities have achieved their life saving successes by rigorously implementing the No Kill Equation, which is a suite of fiscally-responsible, humane, 21<sup>st</sup> century animal sheltering programs that have been proven to work. The programs of the No Kill Equation or No Kill model of sheltering are:

- Rescue Partnerships
- Volunteers
- Foster Care
- Trap, Neuter, Return
- Pet Retention
- Comprehensive Adoption Program
- Public Relations/Community Involvement
- Medical & Behavior Prevention & Rehabilitation
- High-Volume, Low-Cost Spay & Neuter
- Proactive Redemption
- **Hard-working, Compassionate Shelter Director**

Every candidate is being asked to complete this survey. Candidates' responses will be compiled as part of a voting guide that will be distributed to City of Stafford voters in preparation for the May 2017 election.

As part of an awareness campaign by Fort Bend Pets Alive!, candidates' responses will also be rated, and then released to the media and posted on some or all of our websites and social media sites. **Responses, as well as non-responses, will be reported.**

Thank you for your participation in this opportunity for the voters to get to know you better.

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The survey is composed of 11 questions. Candidates are encouraged to respond in writing with enough detail to adequately represent the candidates' view of the current state of the ordinance that mandates the animal shelter to be built in the future, and his or her views on how the animal shelter should operate in coming years.

### Survey Questions

1. Do you see animal welfare as an issue the municipal government should care about?  
If elected or re-elected to City of Stafford city council, are you committed to supporting/enforcing the No Kill Implementation plan recommended by Fort Bend Pets Alive! ?

**Response:** Yes

No

*Yes, I support the philosophy of No Kill and it's implementation in a joint Public/Private Partnership. I cannot speak towards all the components of the specific Fort Bend Pets Alive Plan at this point not knowing the full details. Some components may need to be negotiated. I do not think it would be possible to implement a full flagship no kill plan without a Private Partnership.*

2. If the animal welfare issue were to come before you, would you commit to making "No Kill" the official policy of City of Stafford and support any laws or policy changes necessary to allow provisions of life saving programs and appropriate funding to implement no kill initiatives in City of Stafford ?

**Response:** Yes

No

*Yes, only under a Private/Public Partnership (PPP) with an organization that has an official "No Kill" policy. I am still considering if it would be wise for the City to adopt specific language within its own policy but I do support giving strong preference to awarding a PPP to an organization that has such a policy. I would look for an expert or legal opinion to find comfort on the legal and financial risk that would come with implementation of a specific policy by the City at this point. For example, what would happen if the Partner was no longer able to provide service or a city shelter became overcrowded and the City needed to place animals somewhere that did not have a no kill policy. There are financial barriers for a municipality but all efforts to avoid hitting those barriers must be explored.*

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3. If elected or re-elected to City of Stafford city council, would you support the animal shelter taking proactive measures to ensure the shelter adoption program would have adopter friendly hours such as open on Saturday or Sunday (extended hours) and staying open till 7:00pm during the week?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

Yes. Hours of operation should be an administrative decision by the Private Partner based on volunteer and financial resources. At a minimum, I would expect the Partner organization to offer split or modified hours that would give citizens who are retrieving found pets or adopting pets to have access to the shelter regardless of what their personal work hours maybe. This can be accomplished by splitting normal day/eve work hours, weekends, or on-call advance scheduling during afterhours.

4. People frequently surrender animals to shelters when they perceive they cannot feed, train or medically care for them.

If elected or re-elected to City of Stafford city council, would you support programs which have been proven to keep pets in their homes and out of shelters, such as surrender counseling, a pet food bank, pet behavior assistance, and distribution of heartworm preventative?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

Yes Absolutely, surrender counseling should be mandatory to determine what the barrier was for the pet owner and find out any special needs the surrendered pet may have. Assistance should be available if the barrier is related to a financial hardship.

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- 5 If elected or re-elected to City of Stafford city council, would you support an progressive programs such as "Return to Owner" program? The quicker an animal is reunited with owner, the less the cost of care will be incurred.

**Response: Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

6. Many dog breeds are being banned in many of the rental housing markets in Fort Bend County. This makes finding appropriate housing very difficult for owners of these dogs, despite high levels of owner responsibility and great dog temperaments and training. This slows adoptions of these breeds and forces many owners to surrender their pets to shelters or abandon them.

If elected or re-elected to City of Stafford city council, would you take proactive action to find lasting solutions to this problem, in working with the apartment associations and property managers in Stafford ?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

Maybe. I would be slow in enacting any ordinance that would mandate private property managers to accept all breeds or give them the responsibility to determine dog temperaments and training as a sorting criteria prior to rental. I would support education and outreach to adopters to help them understand the rental challenges that exist prior to adopting. For property owners, perhaps a voluntary acceptance of an industrywide training or temperament certification could be encouraged if such a certification is available.

7. If elected or re-elected to City of Stafford city council, would you support the

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implementation of performance standards that measure for the city shelter leadership's performance, particularly with regard to the number of live releases, to salary increments or continued employment at the city shelter? If not, please explain why not.

**Response: Yes**

**No**

Yes. A major reason for supporting a PPP is so government will not have to be engaged in this type of administrative policy making. If the Partner organization has a no kill policy then this type of salary incentive matrix would not be applicable. Without a PPP, using this type of incentive and performance review matrix would be critical to achieving the goals.

8. If elected, or re-elected, would you form an Animal Advisory Board? What do you envision as the role of Fort Bend Pets Alive! in providing oversight for the city shelter that maybe built in the future?

What kind of person will you appoint to the Committee?

Would you consider appointing No Kill advocates as members to provide an alternative viewpoint to the committee?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

- Yes. A Citizens Animal Advisory Board is a good idea rather or not the city owns the shelter or outsources to a Private Shelter. No Kill advocacy would not be a disqualifier for someone to be appointed to an Advisory Board.

A PPP would require FBPA to have full responsibility and independent operation of the shelter and to implement fundraising and revenue generation to support its operation. I envision the City providing financial incentives in the form of credit enhancements, limited grants and long-term service contracts to support the PPP.

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9. If elected or re-elected to City of Stafford city council, would you support a city mandate that the animal shelter in Stafford to provide and publish statistics, on their websites, regarding the numbers and types of animals that the shelter takes in and euthanizes? (Note: some states, such as Colorado, already mandate that all shelters and rescue groups must provide their statistics to the state so that it is available to the public).

If so, why do you feel this important? If not, why not?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

- Yes. This type of reporting should be required if not already a state law. It should be made available to the public. If the PPP has a no kill policy this requirement would not apply.

10. With so many community cats roaming in neighborhoods, do you believe and support Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) to be the only humane solution to control population of outdoor cats in City of Stafford? Would you support any laws or policy changes necessary to allow appropriate provisions and to provide funding to implement TNR in City of Stafford?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

- Yes. I am not an expert in this subject, but I believe TNR is a valid and documented solution overtime. I would be reluctant to say it is the only solution that should be looked at for control of cat population in extreme situations. TNP (Trap Neuter Place) may be appropriate in already hazardous conditions. This could be part of the PPP relationship for funding assistance.

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11. Do you agree with the saying "Helping people help pets" will make the community a better place?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

Yes, absolutely

Thank you for responding to this survey. **Please make sure your response is returned to Fort Bend Pets Alive! by Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.** If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact [info@FortBendPetsAlive.org](mailto:info@FortBendPetsAlive.org)

You may email your completed survey form to:  
[info@FortBendPetsAlive.org](mailto:info@FortBendPetsAlive.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Arthur "AJ" Honore \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ **AJ Honore** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ April 14, 2017 \_\_\_\_\_