

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

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

**Fort Bend Pets Alive!**

# PLEASE PRINT

## Introduction

Fort Bend Pets Alive! has initiatives to ensure a 90% Save Rate of companion animals at City of Fulshear's taxpayer funded animal control facility/shelter which maybe 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 Fulshear 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 maybe built in City of Fulshear. The only animals euthanized are those who are irretrievably 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)

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 Fulshear 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.



## **PLEASE PRINT**

3. If elected or re-elected to City of Fulshear 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 for longer hours and staying open till 7:00pm during the week?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

Yes, I would certainly support adopter friendly hours for any future animal shelter built in Fulshear. I do not know whether a shelter will be built by the City or by a non-profit initiative in the future but there is certainly a need for our area.

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 Fulshear 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**

I agree that services such as surrender counseling, a pet food bank, pet behavior assistance and distribution of heartworm preventative would make a positive contribution to the health of pets and reduce the number of animals ending up in a shelter. Whether these services can be offered by the City or through a non-profit initiative is a question I would require more information to answer. Also, perhaps some of these pets need to go to a home where they can get proper care. If elected, I would give this issue careful consideration.

## **PLEASE PRINT**

- 5 If elected or re-elected to City of Fulshear 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**

I understand the Return to Owner programs have been successful for many shelters across the country. Any future shelter in Fulshear should look at implementing such a program to reduce the cost of care.

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 Fulshear city council, would you take proactive action to find lasting solutions to this problem, in working with the apartment associations and property managers in Fulshear ?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

Yes, I agree this is a problem that needs to be discussed. At the heart of the problem are insurance companies that increase premiums if certain breeds are in the home and landlords' concerns about maintaining their property values. These business problems are legitimate and need to be considered in any solution that works for everyone.

## **PLEASE PRINT**

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

I think having performance standards that measure a future shelter's leadership would be a good idea. In my 34 years of IT management experience at a major oil and gas company I learned the importance of tracking performance for over 300 direct reports. The specific measure of the number of live releases should be included among other performance measures.

8. If elected, or re-elected, would you consider forming 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 Animal Advisory Committee?

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

**Response: Yes**

**No**

I think forming an Animal Advisory Committee would be a good idea to provide advice to City Council and to a future animal shelter on animal welfare policies and budget priorities. Appointees should include a broad cross-section of stakeholders including one or more No Kill advocates to ensure that their viewpoint is represented.

## **PLEASE PRINT**

9. If elected or re-elected to City of Fulshear city council, would you support a city mandate that the animal shelter in Fulshear 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, I believe that a future shelter in Fulshear should publish statistics on the web regarding the numbers and types of animals that the shelter takes in and euthanizes. This is important as a performance measure of the shelter and also so that the public is kept fully informed.

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 Fulshear? Would you support any laws or policy changes necessary to allow appropriate provisions and to provide funding to implement TNR in City of Fulshear?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

I believe TNR is a good and humane solution to control the population of outdoor cats in Fulshear. Regarding funding, I would have to see a specific proposal and details of the financing before making a commitment of support.

**PLEASE PRINT**

11) Do you agree with the saying “Helping people help pets” makes the community a better place?

**Response: Yes**

**No**

Yes, I agree with the saying “Helping people help pets” and believe it would make the community a better place.

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: Debra Cates  
Please print

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: April 6/17