

**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!

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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 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)

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, 21st 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.

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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 Fulshear city council, are you committed to supporting/enforcing the No Kill Implementation plan recommended by Fort Bend Pets Alive! ?

Response: **Yes** **No**

At a minimum it reflects on the city's image, at its most pivotal it speaks to the character of the people of this city. I am for supporting a no kill shelter as long as it is run in a manner that is humane and is honest with what it can achieve. I have had several shelter dogs as family pets. Fulshear is full of animal loving volunteers – so this should be a natural fit.

2. If the animal welfare issue were to come before you, would you commit to making “No Kill” the official policy of City of Fulshear 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 Fulshear?

Response: **Yes** **No**

That would be the idea. I have not looked at any of the numbers involved there are a lot of other cities who have made it work. It would be something I would need to research into greater detail. Shelter animals often have so much to give back, the city has such a great sense of community this would be a natural fit for the people of Fulshear.

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**

I think there are enough volunteers that this wouldn't be hard to realize.

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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**

Without having the data or understanding of such programs or how they are funded I can't say, but if any city in Texas can make this work it's our animal friendly peace of heaven.

- 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**

See above response

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 think it all starts with Discussions. This starts to tread on Liability concerns and insurance issues with the Property owner/ Management companies. As a person who has close ties with professional handlers there is a lot that goes into rehabbing an animal as well assessment. I will always be open to initiating subjects that are not well understood.

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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**

If it's tied to the city, regardless of position – then we need to have metrics and standards. Without them it's hard to keep things operating at their best.

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**

Any organization if fully or partially funded by the city needs to be run by people with core knowledge and the resume to support that position. This includes any associations or board that are represented. All sides would need to be considered alternative views, no different than any other committees or councils that would want to be effective in its mission.

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 – numbers paint pictures, they communicate data. Data is imperative to make decisions, the clearer the data the better the decisions. This is on all levels - be it a shelter or running the day to day operations of the city.

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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 need to know more about the programs. However animals not claimed after certain period of time should be fixed if adopted out.

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

Response: Yes

No

It helps speak to the people of Fulshear whether it be animals or people – caring for life starts at the very basic of beings. You can tell a lot about a community at how they come together, even if it’s something as simple as posting about a lost or stranded dog on FB. I have done this several time myself, pets are part of your family and it’s nice to be able to help reunite families with their missing pets. Like I said, you can tell a lot about a person by how they treat animal.

Thank you for responding to this survey. **Please make sure your response is returned to Fort Bend Pets Alive! by Friday April 7th, 2017.** If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact info@FortBendPetsAlive.org

You may email your completed survey form to info@FortBendPetsAlive.org

Name: _____ Jason Cherubini Please print

Signature: _____

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Date: _____ 4/17/2017 _____