

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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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

Should the City of Fulshear at some point in the future own/operate an animal shelter, it would appear that these programs promoted by Fort Bend Pets Alive would help to reduce the number of animals surrendered by their owners.

- 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

Should the City of Fulshear at some point in the future own/operate an animal shelter, this practice would appear to make sense, albeit some exceptions might need to be taken into account – for example, if the animal's owner(s) were known to have neglected or abused the animal. Best practices, based on other cities' experiences with proven track records, and that can have an impact on optimizing costs would be beneficial.

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

I don't know that this is simply an issue that apartment owners can control on their own. To some extent, I think this might go beyond them into the realm of what their insurance companies may be requiring. As a homeowner, I'm aware that some insurance companies avoid giving policies to homeowners with a few targeted breeds. Currently I'm not aware of any apartment buildings in Fulshear.

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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

This practice sounds like it would merit due consideration.

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

Response: Yes

No

Yes – while the City of Fulshear doesn't have an animal shelter, there are some groups who have provided great benefits to the pet population of Fulshear:

- neglected/stray animals have been rescued by groups such as Houston K911 with donations from the Fulshear community (among others) helping to offset expenses
- Fort Bend Pets Alive helped with sponsoring a microchip clinic for Fulshear in March 2017
- Forever Fulshear has sponsored pet adoptions at the Fulshear Farmers Market

Fulshear has experienced exponential growth over the last decade. While the City does not own/operate an animal shelter at the present time, it is likely that this could become a reality in the not too distant future. When that occurs, it would be very beneficial for the City to take advantage of best practices based on the successes of other cities' experiences to optimize operations and spend tax dollars wisely.

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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: Kaye Kahllich
Please print

Signature: Kaye A. Kahllich

Date: April 6, 2017