

PLEASE PRINT

Mayor and City Council Candidate Survey City of Sugar Land, Texas Municipal Election 2017

Candidates' views on the state of Sugar Land's animal sheltering system

Fort Bend Pets Alive!

Introduction

Fort Bend Pets Alive! has initiatives to increase the Save Rate of companion animals at City of Sugar Land's taxpayer funded animal control facility/shelter. 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 Sugar Land 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 in City of Sugar Land. 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 Sugar Land 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

Response: Yes No

Response: YES – Convenient timing will be of benefit to all stakeholders.

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 Sugar Land 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

Response: YES – Any education of pet owners should be part of the comprehensive approach.

5. If elected or re-elected to City of Sugar Land city council, would you support an internal review, and if necessary, a restructuring of the City's "Return to Owner" program to a higher success rate? The quicker an animal is reunited with owner, the less the cost of care will be incurred.

Response: Yes No

Response: YES – Any deficiencies in this area should be addressed by a study and comparisons to other successful programs.

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

Response: Yes

No

Response: NO – I don't believe in private citizens' rights. However, I am open to working with non-profits in the area to help educate the apartment businesses.

7. If elected or re-elected to City of Sugar Land 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

Response: YES – Suggested measures can certainly be added to performance measurement. However, these can not be the only ones to consider.

PLEASE PRINT

Response: Yes

No

Response: YES – Will need to understand better if these statistics can be defined, measured, and reported in an efficient manner.

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

Response: Yes

No

Response: YES – As long as that does not create public health issues.

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

Response: Yes

No

Response: YES – Absolutely.

PLEASE PRINT

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: Qaisar "Q" Imam _____
Please print

Signature: _____ **Q Imam (signed on 04/13/2017)** _____

Date: _____