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

Candidates' views on Missouri City's s future animal sheltering system

Fort Bend Pets Alive!

Introduction

Fort Bend Pets Alive! has initiatives to ensure at least 90% Save Rate of companion animals at City of Missouri City'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 Missouri City 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 is in City of Missouri City. 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 Missouri Cit voters in preparation for the November 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.

The survey is composed of 8 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 contributions and dedication made by Fort Bend Pets Alive! as a valuable asset to improving outcomes of companion animals in the city shelter?

Response: Yes No

Yes

2. If elected or re-elected to City of Missouri City council, are you committed to supporting appropriate budget increases necessary to improve positives outcomes of animals under the care of City of Missouri City?

Response: Yes No

The overall goal is to have a successful shelter and supporting it financially is one key element, however it is equally important to take a close look at the overall operation of the shelter. A shelter must be efficient, must be interconnected with adoption groups and have the support of the community. There are other important factors as well and all this should be looked at in parrallel. Throwing money at an operation and hope for a better outcome is not the lone factor to improve positive outcomes.

3. If the animal welfare issue were to come before you, would you commit to making "No Kill" the official policy of City of Missouri City 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 Missouri City?

Response: Yes No

I need more info on this.

I support no Kill. But I also am concerned that keeping an animal in a shelter is not good for the animal's welfare. All measures should be taken to adopt and to reduce the days in a shelter. Animals can get sick if they stay too long in shelters.

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

Response: Yes No

N/A

I am not well versed in this and would need some data to further understand.

I assume that one reason owners don't allow pets is because of pet allergies. The proteins found in a pet's dander, skin flakes, saliva and urine can cause an allergic reaction or aggravate asthma symptoms in some people. Also, pet hair can collect pollen, mold spores and other outdoor allergens.

5. If elected or re-elected to City of Missouri 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

With the support of our great Volunteers and Staff data is already being tracked. Volunteers just recently came to a council meeting and shared the data.

Missouri City is dedicated to their employees, that is why we committed to a salary review and paying up to 95% market. Another example of our committment was how we handled health insurance. Recently that was an increase in health insurance and the City did not pass that expense onto the employees.

6.	If elected, or re-elected, would you consider engaging no kill advocates, Fort Bend Po Alive! volunteers to be members of the animal advisory board in providing guidance a oversight for the city shelter?				
	Response:	Yes	No		
	I have alrea	ady met with FB Pet A	live		
7.	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 outdoor cats in City of Missouri City? Would you support any laws or policy chan necessary to allow appropriate provisions and to provide funding to implement TNF City of Missouri City?				
	Response:	Yes	No		
		control the population niliar with TNR and th	n of outdoor cats. erefore would need more info.		
8.	Do you agree with the saying "Helping people help pets" makes the community a better place?				
	Response:	Yes	No		
	Yes, and I also agree with "Man's Best Friends" :)				

Thank you for responding to this survey. Please make sure your response is returned to Fort Bend Pets Alive! by Monday, Oct 9th, 2017. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact info@FortBendPetsAlive.org

You may email your completed survey form to $\underline{\mathsf{info@FortBendPetsAlive.org}}$

Name:	Anthony Maroulis Please print	
Signature:	Anthony Maroulis	
Date:	10/10/17	