
The 2012 Annual Report

of the City of Columbus – Animal Care Services

City of Columbus





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This Annual Report is prepared for the citizens of the City of Columbus and the following 2012 public officials:

Columbus Mayor:

The Honorable Kristen Brown

Columbus City Council:

Dascal Bunch

Ryan Brand

Frank Jerome

Frank Miller

Tim Shuffett

Aaron Hankins

Jim Lienhoop

Animal Care Commission:

Ashley Anderson

Doug Evans

Angela Robertson

Bob Freeman

Dr. Brock Wagner, DVM

Dascal Bunch, City County Liaison





Executive Summary

Overview

Columbus Animal Care Services (ACS) is a division of the Columbus Police Department, under the direct supervision of Major Todd Harry. The Department provides a wide range of animal care services for the citizens of Columbus. ACS also provides out-reach educational programs and benefits greatly from the efforts of its volunteers.

ACS Staff

Kevin Konetzka – Manager

Mike Briner – ACO

Alyssia Burris – KA

Chris McDaniel – ACO

Travis Anderson – ACO

Departmental Budget

The Animal Care Services Department is operated by both City tax dollars and through fines/fees and monetary donations. The general operating budget covers basic services including wages, utilities and maintenance of both the facility and vehicles. The operating budget for the department in 2012 was \$388,000 of which approximately 8% was returned to the general fund.

The Adoption/Medical fund does not use tax dollars and is supported by fines, fees and monetary donations and cover spaying and neutering costs, pet care services, veterinarian treatment for pets housed at the facility; pet food; and promotion of adoptions and education programs. Approximately \$40,000 was spent in 2012 for care of pets that came through Animal Care Services Center.

Field Services

Field Services are provided by four animal care officers (ACO) who provide coverage seven days a week on a rotating basis, as well as “on-call” services after normal working hours. Field services include the following:

- Investigation of complaints of loose, neglected, abused, abandoned, or nuisance animals
- Recovery of stray animals
- Coordination of humane trapping program by citizens
- Recovery and relocation of wildlife (non-domesticated animals)
- Collection and disposal of dead animals



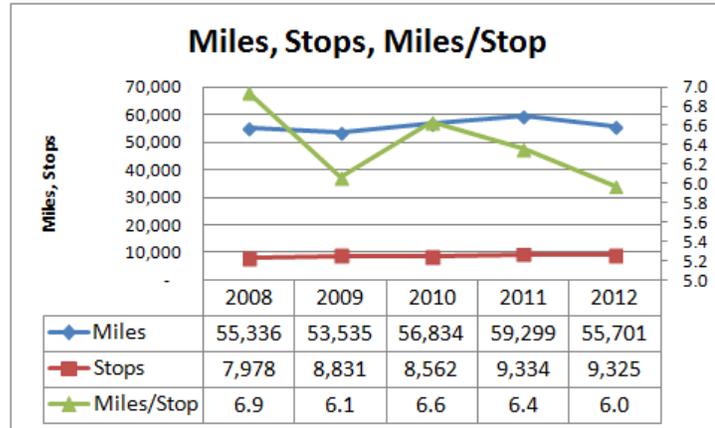
Sheltering Services

Sheltering Services are handled primarily by the kennel assistant (KA), with the support of the animal care officers and volunteers. Sheltering services include the following:

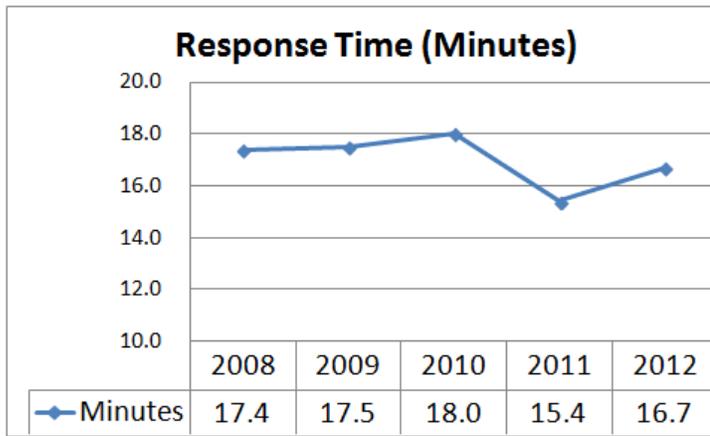
- Intake of and care for stray animals brought in by the animal care officers or the public and animals surrendered by their owners, all from within Columbus city limits
- Facilitation of animal adoption by new owners
- Provision of “lost and found” services to reunite owners with animals

ACS Statistics

Field Services



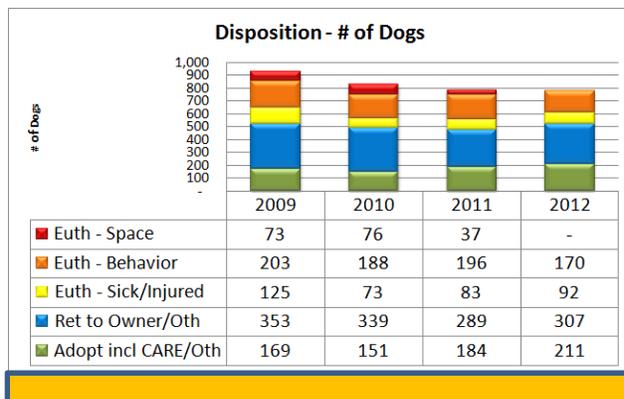
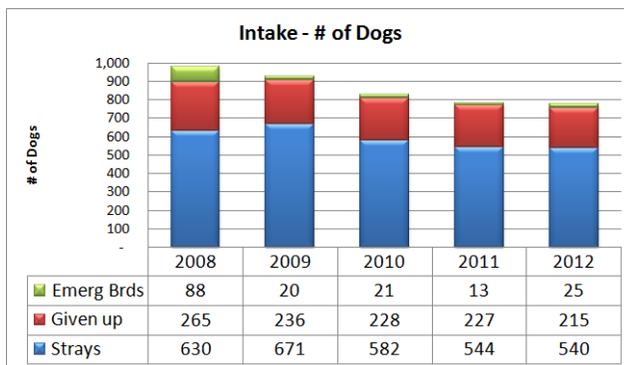
- Officers decreased mileage on vehicles by almost 4,000 miles from 2011, while still responding to the same number of service calls (2,900) and making over 9,300 stops
- Miles-per-stop in 2012 averaged 6.0 (a 5-year low)
- Officers dealt with 60 bite cases in 2012; over the past five years, the number of cases has been in a range between 55 and 65 annually



- Response time (in minutes) to service calls has been consistently at or below 18 minutes for the past 5 years; this is a combined average from both normal and after-hours responses

Animal Care Services

In 2012, ACS handled 2,260 live animals, including 590 of “wildlife” species and 640 deceased animals.

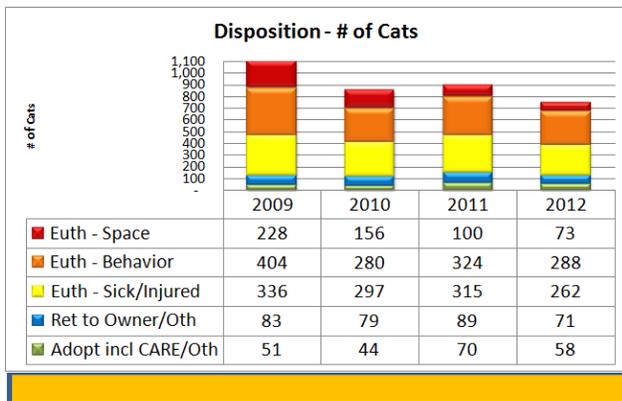
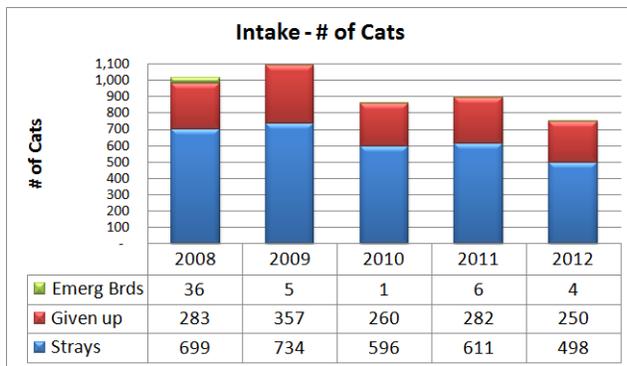


Euthanization by category not available before 2009



Dogs

- Intakes in 2012 due to Strays and those Given Up by owners reflects 5-year low
- No dogs were euthanized due to lack of space in 2012 for first time, and overall # euthanized was a 5-year low
- Adoptions in 2012 were a 5-year high, including those animals fostered by C.A.R.E. and other rescue groups



Cats

- Intakes in 2012 due to Strays and those Given Up by owners reflects 5-year low
- The number of cats euthanized in 2012 due to space (73) and overall was the lowest to-date; due to space, 2012 was a 27% decrease from 2011 and a 53% decrease from 2010



Partnerships

Community Overview

ACS and Bartholomew County Animal Control provide support for each other in a variety of ways. The cooperation between ACS and the local veterinary community has aided in providing quality care for the pets housed at the Animal Care Center, healthy pets placed back into the community, and information and training of the staff. Thanks especially Athens Animal Clinic, Eastside Veterinary Hospital, and Hope Veterinary Clinic for their continued close relationship and support through lower cost services and donations.

ACS continued to partner with local Community Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.); through their tireless volunteers, they continue to make a difference in the community. C.A.R.E. has been instrumental in the following:

- Facilitating adoption events and participation in other community events
- Fostering of pets from the Animal Care Center
- Organizing and preparing animals for participation in low cost spay neuter programs (below with Pets Alive)

UTOPIA Wildlife Partnerships Inc., directed by Kathy Hershey, has been invaluable to ACS. Her work in the community has had an effect on the numbers of wild animal calls we respond to and our ability to deal with wildlife issues properly.

Columbus Canine Rescue representative Connie Jackson, who also serves on the commission's dangerous animal committee, has been instrumental in placing a number of pets with various regional rescue groups. Dog World provided help in evaluating pet behavior and a "day out" for the dogs housed at the Animal Care Center.

Other local partnerships are with Bartholomew County Youth Services, Centerstone, Bartholomew County Probation Department, the local high school's C4 Health Careers program and the Start Restart Program. Bob Poynter auto dealership sponsored adoption events during 2012.

Local FM radio station QMIX 107.3's "Q Wake Up Crew" morning show with Brittany Gray and Chris Wooldridge provided free radio segments as another outlet to discuss adoptable Animal Care Center animals. Special thanks to Kathy Baumgart for helping coordinate programs and live remotes.



Comcast Cable provided free local television programming, On Demand's "Pet Adoptions," for ACS to introduce adoptable Animal Care Center animals. The Republic includes weekly full-page "Pet Page" promoting adoptable local animals and daily the "Found" animals recovered by ACS. The free monthly local advertising magazine "Deal Dogs" included one print page of adoptable Animal Care Center animals at no cost to ACS.

The City has recently partnered with Kuranda USA, which manufactures chew-resistant cot style pet beds, to provide animals at the Animal Care Center with comfortable resting places up off the concrete floor. Community members can visit the Kuranda website www.kuranda.com/donate/8433 to donate a bed at a 28% discount.

Other Partnerships Overview

ACS and the Columbus Animal Care Services Commission would like to thank Mayor Kristen Brown for her support throughout 2012. The Mayor has been instrumental in challenging current practices and programs and promoting new ideas. ACS and the Commission would like to thank Kelly Benjamin, City Attorney, and Jeff Logston, Director of Operations and Finance, for their assistance throughout the year.

Deputy City Attorney Shari E. Long, assisted by her Legal Assistant, Alexis Roberts, worked very patiently and tirelessly with ACS and the Commission on legal matters and court cases, and continued the nearly perfect record of judgments in the City's favor. Their assistance was instrumental in drafting ordinance revisions and policies.

The members of the Commission are appointed by the Mayor to four-year terms and provide guidance to and supervision of the Animal Care Services department. Commission meetings are typically held on the 4th Tuesday of each odd-numbered month and are open to the public. The following are the Commission members who served in 2012:

- Ashley Anderson
- Dascal Bunch - City Council
- Doug Evans - President
- Bob Freeman
- Angela Robertson
- Dr. Brock Wagner, DVM



Many thanks to Martha Myers, Sue Chapple, and Dr. Greg Baer, whose terms ended since 2011, for their many years of valuable guidance while serving on the Commission.

Volunteers

Overview

In this type of work, we could not provide the services that we do without the support of individuals, businesses and other civic organizations. ACS has been very fortunate to have such caring people and organizations in our community. Those efforts include the following:

- Over 900 hours volunteered by regular volunteers
- Over 500 hours volunteered by those in the local high schools' C4 Health Careers program
- Over 500 hours volunteered by those serving thru community service programs

Regular Volunteers

These young people come in every week to the Animal Care Center. They provide the much needed companionship for the pets as well as performing some of the less glamorous tasks that may be necessary. Our regulars include:

Jacob Acton	Brandon Estes	Taylor Hollman	Ciara Phares
Zoe Arbuckle	Ashley Evans	Mikayla Hounshell	Tony Pita
Joel Barrix	Dawnetta Everhart	Tricia Howard	Madisyn Prince
Lainey Bell	Brandon Fields	Brianna Hutson	James
Leanne Bergstrom	Gary Fields	Bernice Isacc	Raelyn Repp
Brandy Black	Patricia Fields	Trevor Jessup	Riley Repp
Christen Bosley	Mary Folger	Evert Jimenez	Devan Rhoades
Jill Bosserman	Joseph Fowler	Agne Jonaityte	Kayli Schaefer
Debbie Briner	Courtney Frost	Geoffry Tyler Jones	Brianna Scholar
Rylie Bringle	Catherine Gallant	Jon Keene	Edward
Beth Anne Brooks	Sam Genter	Maranda Knight	Alisha
Lydia Brooks	Emmalyn Gentry	Karyn Konetzka	Sara Searcy
Evangeline Burriss	Eason Gentry	Jaedon Konetzka	Molly Sherman
Kaylee Burriss	Marleah Goodwin	Patrick Lawler	Nate Shoop
Nicholas Bush	Marleah Goodwin	Dana Madden	Monica Skinner
David Cash	Shelby Gooldy	Delany Maddix	Allison Smith
C.A.R.E Volunteers	Emma Hancock	Jenna Mann	Leonnie Sorrels
Julie Chambers	Samantha Hardin	Monique Maqueda	Kelsey
Mary Chisholm	Jo Harker	Devin Mathews	Jen Stinson
Chris Clark	Chris Harman	Sara McCleary	Libby Storkman
Shannon Clark	David Harris	Vonda McDaniel	Codi Tarr
Belinda Coleman	Linda Jo Hauersperger	Chrissy Meador	Jose Vega
Keely Collier	Jennifer Hendershott-	Amanda Murphy	Alex Webb
Danita Crow	Katie Hill	Lillian Nettrou	Tash West
Carylin Eaglen	David Hill	Madissen Pearson	Thane Wilson
Sarah Estes	Alma Hobson	Jason Perkins	Blair Witt
Anna Estes	Ben Holl	Krystal Perry	



Health Occupations

ACS wants to thank the C4 program through the local high schools and Ms. Green for providing us another great group of young people to help out. These students are provided a training site at the Animal Care Center. 2012 Health Occupations Students include the following:

- Nicole Fish
- Morgan Grady
- Sabrina Schipper
- Mikayla Weekly
- Bayleigh Williams



Donations In-Kind

The Animal Care Center received thousands of dollars worth of donations, including services, food and bedding, to help care for the pets, defray operating costs, and, therefore, reduce the cost to taxpayers. The following individuals and groups donated services or items:

- Athens Animal Clinic
- Carolyn Findlay Davis
- Caspers Clippers
- Columbus City Garage
- Columbus Mayor's Office
- Dog World
- Eastside Veterinary Hospital
- Hope Veterinary Clinic
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Newcomers Club
- Petco
- Pierre's Pet Salon
- Sam's Club
- Target
- Teresa's Pet Grooming
- Walmart
- Other Anonymous Donors



Monetary

The Animal Care Center received over \$3,100 in monetary donations to the Adoption Medical Fund in 2012 from individuals and business. Several of the contributors were students working on their senior projects and other young people who collected donations instead of birthday presents. The following donated:

Dortha Anderson

Athens Animal Clinic

Bill Beard

Debbie Bishop

The Blasdel's

Kate Brunson

Caleb Burriss

Nicholas Bush

Jane Bush

Sandra Cain

Francis Carrier

Letitia Casebourn

Gabrielle Cheek

Jarod Cooper

Creepy Legends Paranormal Research

Carolyn Findlay Davis

Nina Del Bianco

Kelsey & Adam Endres

Faithful Friends In Passing

Caroline Fennelly

Daniel Fox

Teresa Harris

Hope Veterinary Clinic

Stephanie Johnson

Mason King

Joan Mabe-In Memory of Vicki Moffitt

Lou Marr

John McGuire

Marilian Miller

Ann Miller

Perr Investments

Ronald Schaub

Carolyn Shaw

Tim Sticker

Darch Styke

Betty Tuttle

Julie Tweed

Ilse Woehrle

Carol Wood





2012 Accomplishments

Field Services

- Even though short-staffed for several months, officers responded to 750 after hour calls, the most in the last 5 years
- Officers decreased mileage on vehicles by more than 4,000 miles (to 55,700) from 2011, while still responding to the same number of service calls (2,900) and over 9,300 stops. Miles-per-stop in 2012 averaged 6.0 (a 5 year low)
- Travis Anderson was welcomed as a new animal care officer in July

Sheltering Services

- For the first time, no dogs were euthanized due to lack of space in 2012 - a 100% save rate for adoptable dogs
- The number of cats euthanized overall and the number of adoptable cats euthanized due to lack of space was the lowest to-date
- 211 dogs were adopted in 2012, the highest number for dogs in the last 5 years
- 276 dogs were returned to their owners
- Fortunately, for owner surrenders, 2012 had the lowest number of surrenders of cats and the 2nd lowest number of surrenders of dogs to-date

Outreach/Special Programs

- The name "Columbus Animal Control" was changed to "Columbus Animal Care Services," reflecting a shift to greater focus on animal care, adoption, and education
- ACS sponsored an open house and adoption event in June celebrating the name change and attended with adoptable pets the "Meet a Cop" at City Hall in August
- Additional open houses were facilitated by Columbus North student Emily McMillian at the Animal Care Center and at City Hall in February, March, and April
- ACS initiated a pilot community outreach program, with Colleen Herrick as coordinator
- ACS participated in the Festival of Lights Parade in December for the 2nd year in row
- Adoption events were held at Petco and Bob Poynter thru C.A.R.E., with live remote assistance from QMIX 107.3



2013 Goals

Field Services

- Implement and/or upgrade hardware and software in the mobile units to facilitate responding to and logging field reports
- Continue to reduce the miles-per-stop ratio (6.0 miles-per-stop in 2012)
- Develop more efficient management of wildlife issues, including the humane trapping program

Sheltering Services

- Increase the number of adoptions of animals received at the Animal Care Center
- Continue in 2013 the goal of not euthanizing any adoptable dogs due to lack of space that was first achieved in 2012
- Continue efforts to lower the number of adoptable cats euthanized due to lack of space
- Begin participation in the Canine Express Transport Project, an organization that humanely transports shelter dogs from south-central Indiana to shelters in New England, where there is a shortage of adoptable shelter animals
- Dampen the sound of barking in the kennel area by installing acoustic material
- Implement software at the Animal Care Center to facilitate tracking and improve reporting of animal intake, care, and disposition

Outreach/Special Programs

- Pursue regular use of social networking sites to communicate information about ACS activities
- Increase participation in adoption events
- Organize an open house welcoming all Bartholomew County animal service agencies to participate
- Provide funding to support spay-neuter activity in celebration of World Spay Day on February 26