

# **ANIMAL SERVICES UPDATE**

September 20, 2022



## Implementation Plan Background

In 2019, a multi-disciplinary committee developed an implementation plan to guide the San Marcos Regional Animal Shelter (SMRAS) to achieve and sustain a 90% live outcome rate within five (5) years, or by the end of FY24. ***We are happy to report a live outcome rate (LOR) of 92% in each of FY20 and FY21!***

*Documentation of the implementation plan development process can be found online at [www.sanmarcostx.gov/implementationplan](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/implementationplan)*

# Animal Services History



New facility  
2001

ILA – Hays  
Co. and Kyle  
2006

Renovation  
2007

ILA – Buda  
2012

Current Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) / partnership with Hays  
County, City of Kyle, and City of Buda  
2019

# Animal Services Improvement Timeline

Implementation  
plan created



**FY19** (85% LOR)

LOR = Live Outcome Rate

**FY20** (92% LOR)



**Status quo due to COVID**

No new funding except \$15k contractual  
obligation for veterinary services



**FY21** (92% LOR)

**FY22** (est. 90% LOR)

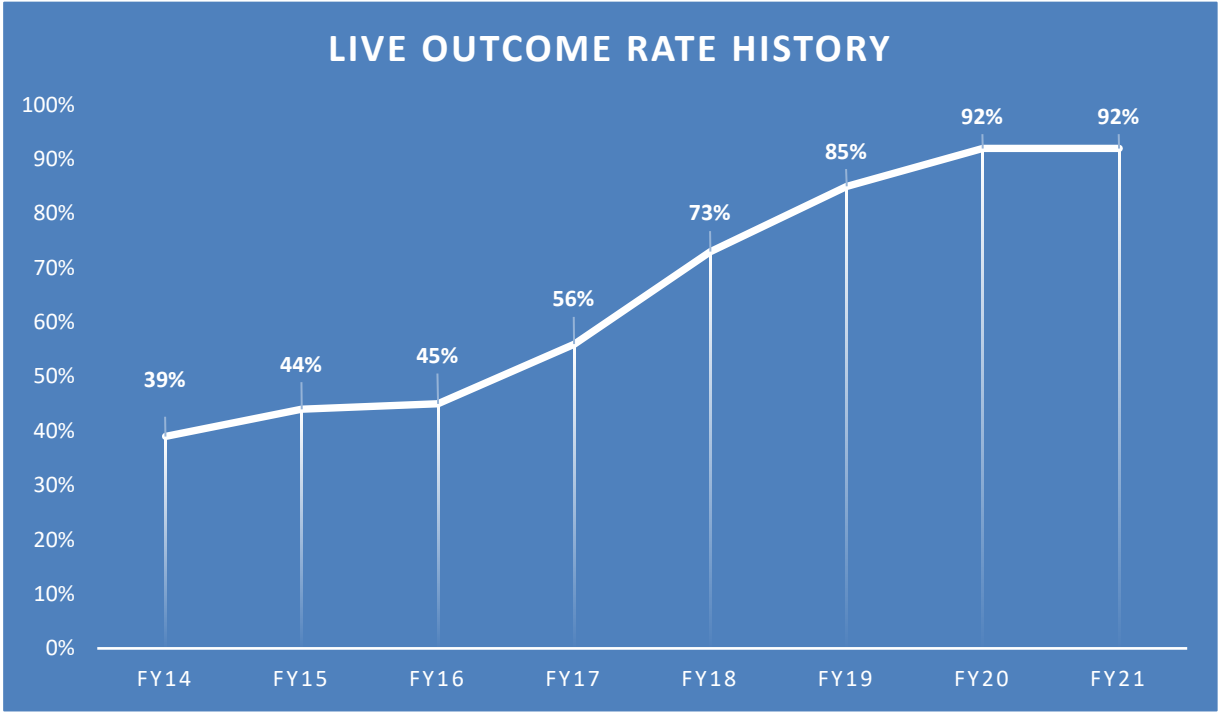


## Reinforce core services

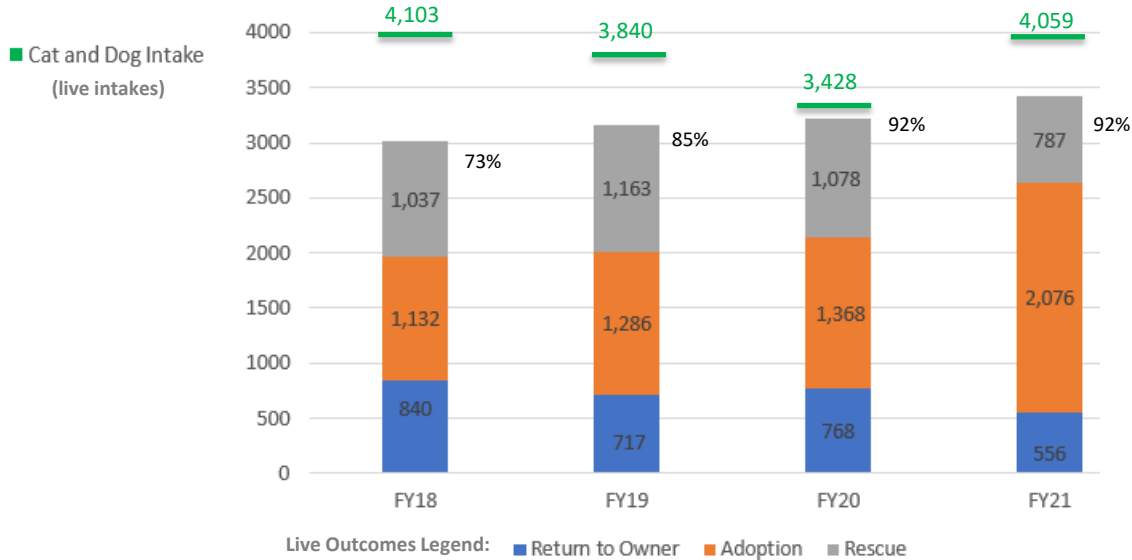
\$10k volunteer/foster program; \$22k veterinary services; \$48k medical supplies; \$15k temp labor; \$25k replace washers /dryers; \$78k facility repair/ improvements; add Shelter Tech and Program Coordinator positions

## Additional programs

\$80k intake diversion / owner assistance efforts; \$45k animal enrichment and training resources

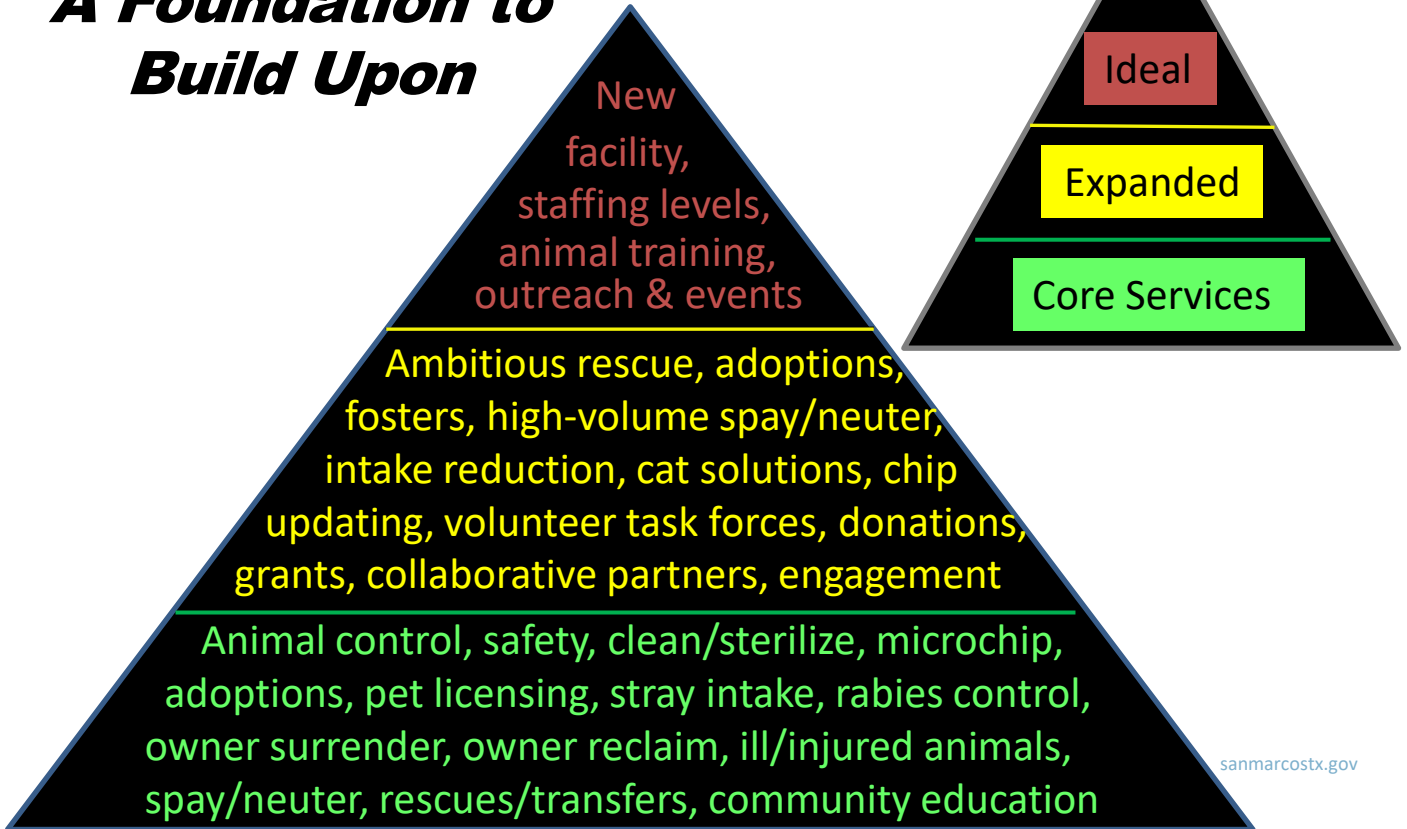


# Statistics Overview



	Live Out	Non-Live Out	Total Outcomes
FY18	3,009	1102	4,111
FY19	3,166	580	3,746
FY20	3,214	199	3,413
FY21	3,419	316	3,735

## ***A Foundation to Build Upon***



## 12 Implementation Plan Objectives

1. Ambitious spay/neuter efforts
2. Progressive adoption initiatives
3. Reduce animal intake / shelter diversion strategies
4. Transparency
5. **Un-socialized cat solutions(including TNR/SNR programs)**
6. Increase rescue/transfer outcomes
7. Control/prevent illness and disease at the shelter
8. Robust volunteer program
9. Unified/countywide vision and strategic partnerships
10. Robust foster program
11. Community involvement and empowerment
12. Target safety net programs



## Objective 1

### Ambitious Spay/Neuter Efforts

a.	Provide responsible owner assistance (for s/n, training, fencing, food, vet care, etc.)	✓
b.	Keep free-roaming cats out of the shelter ** (pending participation from other government partners)	✓
c.	Develop a consortium of partners (for education/awareness, S/N voucher distribution and acceptance)	✓
d.	Increase public awareness	✓
e.	Analyze data to target strategies (target areas where the most strays/litters are found)	✓
** = controversial issue		









✓ = fully/mostly implemented


✓ = partially implemented


✓ = not yet implemented


## Objective 2

### Progressive Adoption Initiatives

a.	Create/hire 3 new positions (Adoption Initiatives Coordinator and two Adoption Techs)	
b.	Streamline the adoption process* (policy/procedure revisions)	
c.	Foster and finder to foster program	
d.	Create a large dog program	
e.	Animals to be showcased even while on stray hold or awaiting medical, with an adopter waitlist *	
f.	Animal behavior/training program (better prepare animals to be adoptable; train the trainer, use volunteers)	
g.	Increase public awareness	
h.	Analyze data to target strategies	
* = low-cost/high-impact		

 = fully/mostly implemented

 = partially implemented

 = not yet implemented

## Objective 3

### Reduce Animal Intake / Shelter Diversion Strategies

a.	Provide responsible owner assistance for pet retention (referrals/resources for s/n, training, fencing, food, vet care)	✓
b.	Encourage microchipping, data updates, and use of scanners throughout the county *	✓
c.	Keep free-roaming cats out of the shelter ** (pending participation from other government partners)	✓
d.	Create a large dog program	✓
e.	Update “Animal Control” to “Animal Protection”	✓
f.	Increase awareness/use technology to provide owner tips, online tutorials, online posting/network of lost/found	✓
g.	Finder to foster program	✓
h.	Analyze data to focus efforts	✓
* = low-cost/high-impact		
** = controversial issue		



= fully/mostly  
implemented



= partially  
implemented



= not yet  
implemented

## Objective 4 Transparency

a.	Post photos upon intake	✓✓
b.	Keep intake open/expand capacity (improvement/expansion at current facility and possible satellite centers)	✓✓
c.	Use technology to make intake and details accessible online	✓✓✓
d.	Moratorium on euthanasia for certain reasons	✓✓✓
e.	Open selection adoptions/waitlist	✓✓✓
f.	Ensure accurate record-keeping	✓✓✓
g.	Count every cat and dog euthanized	✓✓✓



= fully/mostly  
implemented









= partially  
implemented





= not yet  
implemented

## Objective 5 Un-Socialized Cat Solutions (Including TNR/SNR Programs) (Trap-Neuter-Return / Spay-Neuter-Return)

a.	Keep free-roaming cats out of the shelter TNR/SNR/RTF** (pending participation from other government partners)	
b.	Barn cat program	
c.	Analyze data to target strategies	
d.	Increase public awareness on the benefits of barn cats, SNR/TNR/RTF *	
e.	Increase Vet Tech staffing	
* = low-cost/high-impact		
** = controversial		






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 = not yet implemented


## Objective 6

### Increase Rescue / Transfer Outcomes

a.	Use technology to coordinate efforts (online forums, email, networked system)	
b.	Develop a consortium of rescue/transfer partners	
c.	Implement an animal behavior/training program	
d.	Increase Vet Tech staffing	
e.	Ensure disease control and vaccinations	

 = fully/mostly implemented

 = partially implemented

 = not yet implemented

## Objective 7

### Control / Prevent Illness and Disease at the Shelter

a.	Make building/environment improvements and expand capacity	✓
b.	Increase Vet Tech staffing	✓
c.	Expand/involve Veterinary partners	✓
d.	Incorporate Veterinary interns	✓
e.	Partner with drug companies	✓
f.	Refine protocols and procedures	✓
g.	Expand foster program (foster, finder to foster, and train fosters to take medical cases) *	✓
* = low-cost/high-impact		



= fully/mostly implemented







= partially implemented





= not yet implemented

## Objective 8 Robust Volunteer Program

a.	Tiered volunteer program *	
b.	Create job descriptions (ex: volunteer photographers) *	
c.	Volunteers post pictures (if allowed) *	
* = low-cost/high-impact		

 = fully/mostly implemented





 = partially implemented


 = not yet implemented





## Objective 9

### Unified / Countywide Vision and Strategic Partnerships










a.	Keep intake open/expand capacity (improvement/expansion at current facility and possible satellite centers)	
b.	Develop a consortium of partners to involve and empower the community	
c.	Network with surrounding shelters for available space	
d.	Analyze data countywide to target strategies	

 = fully/mostly implemented

 = partially implemented

 = not yet implemented

## Objective 10 Robust Foster Program

a.	Use technology/social media to recruit and train fosters	
b.	Add a dedicated position (Foster Coordinator)	
c.	Foster to adoption program *	
d.	Focus on at-risk/special needs populations (large dogs, neonatal kittens, medical cases, seniors)	
e.	Add dedicated position to develop foster program	
f.	Finder to foster program *	
g.	Animal behavior/training program specific for fosters	
h.	Analyze data to target strategies	
i.	Develop a foster medical fund	
* = low-cost/high-impact		



= fully/mostly  
implemented











= partially  
implemented





= not yet  
implemented


## Objective 11

### Community Involvement and Empowerment

a.	Use technology for community involvement	
b.	Provide responsible owner assistance for pet retention (referrals/resources for s/n, training, fencing, food, vet care)	
c.	Update “Animal Control” to “Animal Protection”	
d.	Develop a consortium of partners	
e.	Increase public awareness	
f.	Encourage microchipping, data updates, and use of scanners throughout the county *	
g.	Analyze data to target strategies	
h.	Tiered volunteer program	
* = low-cost/high-impact		

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## Objective 12

### Target Safety Net Programs

a.	Bottle feeding volunteers and fosters	✓✓
b.	Create a large dog program	✓✓
c.	Promotions of the long-stay animals *	✓✓
d.	Fundraising for medical cases	✓✓
e.	Partner with rescues and vets	✓✓
f.	Train volunteers to work with unsocial and fear-based animals ** (pending liability/risk assessment by all partners)	✓✓
g.	Add dedicated positions (Foster Coordinator and Rescue Coordinator)	✓✓
* = low-cost/high-impact		
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# Proposed Ordinance Revisions

## **Significant changes for consideration:**

- >Section 6.017 Feral cat management; transition to community cat program
- >Section 6.030 Impoundment and redemption:
  - } limited impoundment of visually healthy cats
  - } no stray hold requirement for animals less than three (3) months of age
  - } no stray hold requirement for cats of any age without identification
- >Section 6.031 Disposition of animals; refined language for legal purposes
- >Section 6.044 Registration required; deleted in its entirety

# Proposed Ordinance Revisions

## **Significant changes for consideration, continued:**

>Section 6.050 Dog and cat microchipping required; new section to require microchips, registered with current owner information (all pets 4+ months old)

>Section 6.051 Dog and cat sterilization required; new section to require sterilization of a pet upon first impoundment OR all dogs and cats

>Section 6.065 Pet shop/pet store requirements; new section to restrict source of pets, require certain conditions, and notifications to consumers

***Survey for community input closes 9/22/2022;  
responses will be compiled for City Council review.***



***QUESTIONS?***