



June 23, 2015

Lawrence City Commission
City Hall
PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Commissioners,

The City of Lawrence and the Lawrence Humane Society have a long history of collaborating to keep our community healthy and safe by controlling the population of stray animals running at large and by providing shelter and care for the City's lost, homeless and abandoned stray animals. Because of this partnership, our community has achieved what many others are unable to do: maintain a live release (save rate) of over 85%; the national average is 55%. This means that 85% of the animals we receive each year leave our facility alive, through adoptions, reunions, and transfers to other organizations. Most city-run municipal shelters are unable to provide the level of service and care needed to accomplish this, and many traditional no-kill shelters turn away animals who are deemed unadoptable. We serve all animals who require the shelter safety net, regardless of health status, behavior or breed.

We are embarking on a capital campaign for a much-needed total renovation and moderate addition to our 20-year old facility. Our leadership completed an evaluation of our building by a renowned animal facility engineer in 2014 which made the recommendation to stop spending large amounts on repairs and replacements to faulty and failing mechanical systems, caging units, and the facility itself and instead master plan a renovation, which we have done. The project will cost approximately \$5 million and nearly 25% of the funds needed have been raised or committed at this time.

Annually, we provide shelter and care to 3,400 homeless animals, of which more than 50% are City stray animals. Currently, the City funds approximately 25% of our operating budget through our vendor agreement, which covers half of the expenses incurred for each City stray animal we serve. The remainder is subsidized by the support of our generous donors and robust fundraising initiatives.

We are formally requesting a 50% contribution --\$2.5 million over two years-- from the City for this project, to match the typical intake numbers received by our facility as City stray animals. Our partnership has been instrumental in keeping our streets safe, reuniting thousands of lost pets with their owners, providing medical care and treatment to stray animals, and maintaining a live release rate that is remarkable for a community like ours. This project is not an option for us, but a necessity to reduce unnecessary maintenance repairs and replacements, decrease the costly spread of disease in the shelter, and allow our facility to operate efficiently at modern animal sheltering standards. Investment in our facility renovation project is critically needed to ensure that the City stray animals continue to receive the high-quality shelter and care that we provide and our community expects. The City Commission has a history of supporting our facility, and voted to financially support our building campaign in 1995 at 20% of the overall projected cost.

Thank you very much for your service to our community, and for considering our request. You may reach me at (217) 721-6986 or director@lawrencehumane.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kate Meghji
Executive Director

Enclosures: Case for Support, Facility Evaluation, Concept Plan

1805 East 19th St. Lawrence, KS 66046 · (785) 843-6835 · www.lawrencehumane.org

LAWRENCE HUMANE SOCIETY



2014 INTAKES



943

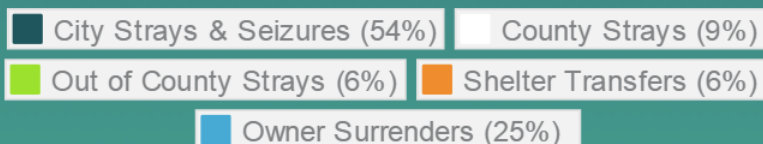


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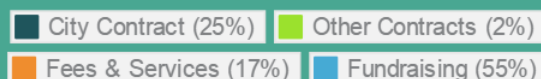
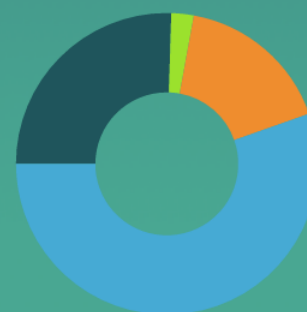
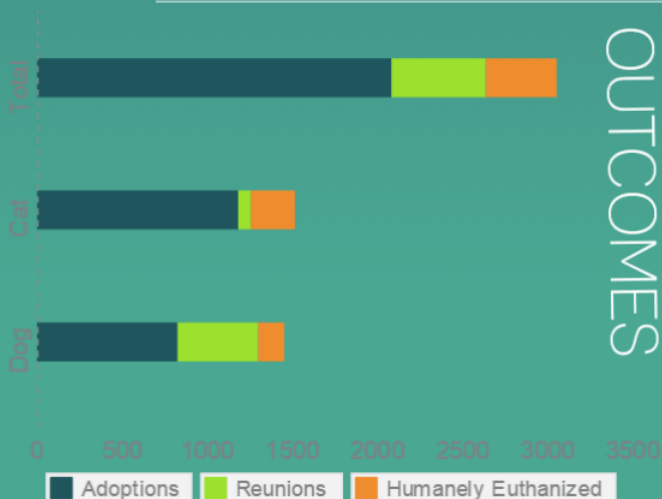


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Stray Animals Served



Visit www.lawrencehumane.org to help us save more lives.



Who Does What?

	LHS	Animal Control
Picks up stray animals		
Provides shelter and care for stray animals during and after the impoundment period (3 days), provides lost/found services		
Issues citations to animal owners for stray animals and other animal ordinance violations		
Rescues injured/ill stray animals	On duty 24 hours a day	On duty during business hours
Ensures emergency veterinary and follow-up care for stray injured animals		
Rescues dogs in hot cars		
Rescues animals from abuse and neglect, investigates neglect and abuse	Primary responder	Back-up
Prosecutes animal cruelty	Primary responder	Back-up
Responds to barking complaints		
Picks up DOA wildlife and other animals		