

## Advisory Panel to the Genesee County Animal Control Sub-Committee

**Recommendation #:** 4

**Date:** May 26, 2013

**Recommendation:** Increase transparency by utilizing an existing tool to measure and celebrate the progress that is achieved by the shelter as they adopt new progressive policies and procedures. The shelter is required to report animal intake and disposition to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on an annual basis, broken down by month. We recommend that GCAC report the following statistics on a monthly basis to the Animal Control Sub-Committee as well as make it available to the public by either releasing it to the Advisory Panel or by posting it on the County website.

- 1) Total intake
- 2) Total adopted (adoption fee collected)
- 3) Total transferred to another MDARD Licensed Animal Control or Animal Protection Shelter
- 4) Total reclaimed by owner
- 5) Total euthanized
- 6) Total owner requested euthanasia (if the County Board continues to allow this category)
- 7) Total Other – with explanation of any “other” disposition type

Each of the above 6 referenced categories should be broken down into the below sub categories:

- a) Puppies 0-6 months
- b) Dogs over 6 months
- c) Kittens 0-6 months
- d) Cats over 6 months
- e) Ferrets
- f) Other

If so desired, the Animal Control Sub-Committee could also request that the following road patrol statistics also be reported monthly.

Citizen Complaints (City / County)

Reroutes (City / County)

Animal Bite Cases (City / County)

### **How does this recommended change compare with policy at other Michigan Animal Control**

**Facilities?:** All MDARD Licensed Animal Control and Animal Protection Shelters are required to report on the monthly statistics annually. Saginaw County reports their monthly statistics to its Board of Commissioners and posts them on the County website.

**Why this recommendation is good for GCAC:** Increased transparency promotes increased trust. Trust leads to a higher perception of integrity both for GCAC and for the Genesee County government in general. Currently the trust level between GCAC and the public is very low. As policies and procedures change and the number of animals with positive outcomes increases, this will be a tool that will immediately show the progress and give GCAC and the animal advocates something positive to communicate.

Also, the numbers reported to the MDARD for 2011 were less than half of what was reported in each of the previous four years, and some of the numbers reported for 2012 did not sum properly. Reporting monthly can reduce the potential for inaccurate reporting going forward.

**Will this recommendation create new costs?:** No. As stated above, GCAC already has a legal requirement to track and report these numbers broken down by month. Any best-practice would include keeping track of the numbers on an ongoing basis so that end-of-year reporting is accurate as well as quick and easy to provide. Tracking these statistics and reporting them on a monthly basis should be more convenient given the recent purchase of the Shelter Pro computer system.