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Committed to Progress, Compassion and Care – FBCAS Unveils 2025 Assessment-Guided Initiatives *Insights From the Evaluation of Nine Key Areas Guide Care and Adoption Improvements*

Rosenberg, TX — Building on insights from its 2025 independent shelter assessment, formally accepted by Fort Bend County Commissioners Court on December 18, 2025, Fort Bend County Animal Services (FBCAS), is implementing a **new wave of improvements to enhance animal care and community services**. Led by Director Rene Vasquez’s whose three decades leadership have shaped the shelter, FBCAS remains committed to ensuring the safety, health and successful placement of every animal in its care.

Independent assessments have been pivotal in shaping FBCAS’s progress. The 2017 assessment laid the groundwork that brought FBCAS to where it is today, and the most recent 2025 review by Houston Pets Alive! (HPA) builds on that foundation. Conducted at no cost to taxpayers, the 2025 assessment evaluated FBCAS operations across nine key areas—Intake Policies, Population Management, Shelter Medicine & Surgery, Length of Stay, Behavior Support, Enrichment, Community Involvement, Access to Services, and Equity Issues—and is guiding initiatives to shorten shelter stays, expand adoption and foster programs, and further elevate overall animal welfare standards.

“Compassion is at the heart of everything we do, and our dedication to ongoing improvement strengthens the quality of care we provide,” said Rene Vasquez, Director of Fort Bend County Animal Services. “By collaborating with expert organizations and engaging our community, we’re ensuring each animal in our care receives the attention, respect and compassion they deserve, and the best possible chance at a happy, healthy life.”

Improvements Guided by the 2025 Assessment

- **14-Day Length of Stay Goal:** Streamlining intake, adoption, fostering and reunification processes to promote faster, healthier outcomes.
- **Enhanced Medical Care:** Implementing vaccinations at intake, individualized treatment plans, and weekly veterinary oversight to safeguard both animal and public health.
- **Behavioral Support & Enrichment:** Daily playgroups, socialization and enrichment programs that keep animals happy, active and better prepared for loving homes.



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- **Pathway Plan Program:** A comprehensive, compassionate, and pilot program data-informed initiative—that is modernizing shelter operations by implementing clear, efficient and transparent pathways **for every animal** from intake to outcome.
- **Community Accessibility:** Spanish-language materials, bilingual outreach and inclusive events to connect more residents with adoptable pets, bridging language and cultural gaps.

“Our goal is a clear, humane and data-informed pathway for every animal entering our care,” said Barbara Vass, Assistant Shelter Director and Life-Saving Program Manager. “Our pilot Pathway Program, focused on our long-stay dogs, was a successful first step in shaping a permanent approach to how FBCAS supports all animals from intake to outcome. The insights gained allowed us to refine the process, which has now been implemented to ensure that every dog has the best possible chance for a positive outcome.”

FBCAS’s Pathway Plan Program shifts shelter medicine from traditional herd-health management to a more individualized approach. The medical team evaluates each animal for treatable conditions that might otherwise create adoption barriers by requiring costly veterinary care. Recent examples for long-stay dogs include necrotic tooth extractions, mass removals, and scrotal ablations. The support of this program is directly enhancing animals’ medical care and improving their chances of successful adoption.

“Our team is continuously enhancing how we monitor and evaluate each animal’s well-being,” said Carrie Foltyn, FBCAS veterinarian. “By streamlining how we track and report health and behavior data, we’re improving our ability to identify needs quickly and make timely, evidence-based decisions for every animal’s care. Our medical team also performs essential surgical and dental procedures that enhance comfort, health and overall adoptability for the pets in our care. These positive changes are already contributing to better outcomes, including shorter stays and higher adoption rates.”

Complementing its 2025 assessment-guided improvements, FBCAS also expands access to pets and breaks down barriers for adoption through innovative programs:

- **Mobile Pet Adoption Unit:** Brings adoptable pets directly to neighborhoods, breaking down barriers for residents, and increasing chances for animals to find loving homes.
- **Collaborative Adoption Events:** Partnerships with neighboring shelters and rescue organizations connect more pets with adopters.
- **Media Campaigns:** Promote awareness and highlight pets in need to engage the broader community.



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Fort Bend County Animal Services is deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our County elected officials and the leadership of Fort Bend County Health & Human Services (FBCHHS). Their guidance, commitment, and dedication to transparency and humane care make our work possible and enable FBCAS to provide the highest standard of care for every animal in our shelter.

“Animal welfare is a cornerstone of public health, and through compassion, purpose and strong partnerships, we are building a healthier, more caring community,” said Dr. Letosha Gale-Lowe, FBCHHS Director and Local Health Authority. “By ensuring the well-being of our four-legged residents, we strengthen the health, safety and quality of life for all county residents.”

For more information on Fort Bend County Animal Services or to learn more about how to adopt, foster, volunteer or donate, please contact AnimalServices@fortbendcountytexas.gov or by phone at 281-341-1512.

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About Fort Bend County Health and Human Services

Fort Bend County Health & Human Services (FBCHHS) is committed to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of Fort Bend County residents. Through disease prevention and intervention, public health emergency preparedness and response, community engagement, and efforts to ensure the equitable provision of basic human needs, FBCHHS works to build healthier communities. Our vision is healthy neighbors living, learning, working and playing together in vibrant, thriving communities.

About Fort Bend County Animal Services

A Division of FBCHHS, Fort Bend County Animal Services (FBCAS) works tirelessly to eradicate the spread of rabies among the county's animals, prevent rabies in the human population, and control wild, potentially dangerous animals in areas of high population density. We work with the community, rescue organizations and foster homes to give animals a second chance at finding loving forever homes and to ensure that all domestic animals are treated with respect, dignity and compassion. FBCAS strives to protect public health and promote public awareness concerning the importance of spaying/neutering to prevent overpopulation. We utilize the newest technology available to reunite lost pets with owners, identify breeds and characteristics, and advertise the availability of adoptable pets. We strive to consistently provide compassionate enforcement of current laws relating to the treatment of animals and to educate the community about responsible pet ownership.