



FY2017

Mat-Su Borough

Department Budget Proposals



ANIMAL CARE & REGULATION DIVISION

“The greatness of a nation can
be judged by the way its
animals are treated”

Mahatma Gandhi



Mat-Su Animal Care Shelter



Variety of Domestic
Animals Creates
Challenges

Animal Care & Regulation

Budget (Operational)		FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
			\$2,028,622	\$2,044,758	\$2,164,975
Staff	Full-time	11	11	11	11
	On-Call	10	10	11	13

FY2016 Big Accomplishments

- ❖ Educational outreach: hosted several schools to educate students about animal care, our services and Title 24.
- ❖ Fund raisers: hosted several special events that brought in approximately \$23.7K revenue including walk-n-roll, haunted house, and the annual garage sale.
- ❖ Developed a plan for a task force focused on disaster preparedness planning for animal care.
- ❖ Spay Day for low income totaling 106 animals spayed or neutered.
- ❖ Partnered with DES for ice and safety training for officers.
- ❖ Improved our safety program including hearing mitigation & tazer training.
- ❖ Partnered with Highland & Goose Creek to initiate and maintain a Shelter Pet Obedience- training program (SPOT) and volunteer their time.

Educational
Outreach



MATANUSKA SUSITNA BOROUGH
ANIMAL CARE FACILITY

◀ DROP OFFS

ADOPTIONS ▶





Handwritten notes on a bulletin board, including a list of names and dates.

Colorful cutouts of the months: May, June, July, August, September, October, and December.

2015
Calendar grid showing dates 3 and 4.

Red t-shirt with "UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK" and "FISH LANDING" printed on it.

Red hoodie with white and grey stripes on the chest.

Black hoodie with a blue graphic on the front.

Teal long-sleeved shirt with a large pink star on the front.

Grey t-shirt with a cartoon character and the text "Anna Elsa".

ANIMAL CARE & REGULATION

Department Major Goals

- ❖ Maintain and improve the quality of our current services.
- ❖ Expand our educational outreach in the community specifically with the school district.
- ❖ Improve our disaster response plan for sheltering animals and partnering.
- ❖ Enhance our safety program for our employees and volunteers.
- ❖ Research revenue enhancement opportunities to consider events and grants to supplement our budget.
- ❖ Partner with local entities to increase our resources for animal welfare.



No Rescue is the Same



Challenges

- ❖ The Mat-Su continues to grow, yet our budget and staffing have remained the same.
- ❖ Animal Care is funded with non-area-wide taxes and donations.
- ❖ Very lean staff creates ongoing challenges to provide critical care to animals 24/7.
- ❖ Injuries at shelter due to employee fatigue and/or not enough training due to lack of time and resources.
- ❖ Very dependent on our volunteers but it's difficult to always rely on volunteers.
- ❖ Ever-growing human and pet population.
- ❖ Officers' workload makes it challenging to be more proactive, especially with educational outreach.
- ❖ Livestock and a wide variety of exotic animals coming into the shelter create additional challenges for animal care.

Partnering with the water rescue team



Cottonwood Lake
May 2011



Ice Rescue

FY2017 Proposed Budget Impacts

- ❖ Proposed an increase in number of personnel for 2016 .
 - ❖ 1 position moving from a part-time 32 hour per week to a full-time 40 hour per week position.
 - ❖ Added two, part-time shelter assistants.
- ❖ Rising costs result in fewer patrols and rising animal care costs.
- ❖ Population increase results in serving a larger population of both animals and customers.
- ❖ Rising population base and geographic size of the borough results in officers' inability to respond to complaints as promptly as we would like.
- ❖ Rising animal medication costs for thousands of doses, **some rising as much as \$2.00 per dose.**
- ❖ Rising costs in animal food and operating supplies.
- ❖ Inability to fund adequate training for staff.

Upgrade Opportunities

- ❖ Increased part-time staffing will help alleviate the intense workload of the shelter staff and may result in increased retention.
- ❖ Our current vehicles are extremely old, unreliable and present serious risks to our officers' safety.
- ❖ Two /new trucks for the officers were requested on the CIP list this year for a total of \$110,000.
 - ❖ Each Animal Care officer drives over 22,000 miles per year.
 - ❖ The vehicles to be replaced have over 100,000 miles.
 - ❖ Breaking down in remote locations can be life threatening.



Shelter Fundraisers Walk-n-Roll Event

Upgrade Opportunities

- ❖ Improperly engineered night drop make it impossible to keep the facility properly sanitized. Night drop slab modifications for \$9,500 was requested on the CIP.
 - ❖ The slab does not properly drain and it is difficult to keep the night drop clean to uphold our standards for animal care.
 - ❖ The heavy-duty grates currently separating the animals guarantees transmission of disease and makes it impossible to eradicate any remaining disease.
- ❖ The sidewalk needs repair to eliminate risk hazards and create less maintenance for staff. Sidewalk Modifications for \$17,000 was requested on the CIP.
 - ❖ The sidewalk presents a safety hazard with slip, trip and falls with uneven, broken debris
 - ❖ The expense of plowing and maintaining the existing sidewalk is costly for staff.



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