

Commission on Animal Care and Control (ACC)

2015 Budget Statement to the City Council Committee on Budget and Government Operations

Sandra Alfred, Executive Director

Chairman Austin, Vice-Chairman Reilly and honorable members of the City Council. As Executive Director of the Commission on Animal Care and Control (CACC), I am privileged to be here today to highlight and discuss our budget, review our progress, and present our initiatives for the upcoming year.

The mission of the CACC is to protect public safety and to ensure the humane care of animals through sheltering, pet placement, education and animal law enforcement. We achieve this by responsibly and humanely enforcing animal-related laws; providing a safe environment and medical treatment for unwanted, stray, abused and neglected animals; educating the public about responsible companion animal ownership; returning lost pets to their owners; and finding new owners for the adoptable animals at our shelter. We have presented a budget for 2015 which will allow us to efficiently and effectively carry out our mission.

Homeward Bound Transfer Program

CACC has steadily increased the number of animal reunifications, adoptions and transfers. This has been a collaborative effort including hard work from the staff, volunteers, as well as the dedication of over 200 animal rescue transfer groups, and private supporters like the Donald Levin Family Foundation, the Chicago Wolves, the Bickell Foundation, Realtors to the Rescue, and the Humane Society of the United States. Our efforts, along with the support of our partners, have resulted in 10,330 animals being reunited with an owner, adopted into a new home, or transferred to a rescue agency during the first three quarters of 2014, a more than 20% increase from 2012.

Our greatest opportunity to address Chicago's animal population is through transfers to licensed animal shelters and rescue organizations. Through the first three quarters of 2014, CACC partnered with rescue groups to successfully transfer 8,149 animals out of the shelter. This represents a 26% increase from the number of animals transferred over the same period in 2012 and more than two times the number of animals transferred five years ago, over the same time period. CACC is on pace to transfer around 10,000 animals out of our shelter by the end of the year.

Operations and Service Delivery

By the end of 2014, CACC will have responded to nearly 55,000 service requests for the year. We respond to a variety of different types of service requests through 311, including animal attacks, stray and vicious animals, injured animal assistance, inhumane treatment complaints, animal business complaints, dangerous dogs, wildlife in living quarters, and animal fighting complaints.

Investigations & Inspections: In the first three quarters of 2014, there were 1,495 animal bite reports submitted to CACC, each investigated by Animal Control personnel. Animal Control Inspectors initiate Dangerous Dog Investigations to follow up on the most serious bite incidents. Animal Control inspectors are also responsible for ensuring that animal-related businesses comply with the Municipal Code. CACC investigates complaints and has conducted routine inspections on 213 animal-related businesses licensed in the City including, vet clinics and boarding facilities licensed by Business Affairs and Consumer Protection under the consolidated Animal Care License. CACC also directly issues temporary animal exhibition permits in situations of one-time or limited run animal exhibitions, including circuses.

We are currently using the licensing system to record impoundments of animals for inventory management and monitor the health and status of animals. In addition, this software enables residents look online for a lost pet that may be housed at our facility.

Efficiencies

Starting in 2009, CACC has been managing its inventory of animals utilizing the "Chameleon" shelter software system. In 2014, we have expanded the use of this software, reducing our reliance on manual record keeping. Since 2012, we have been refining our procedures to perform inventory electronically, using low-cost scanners and barcodes. This addition has resulted in more accurate shelter data and allows for a real-time population count. In 2014, we have been working on advanced metrics to determine performance and efficiency to maximize our limited resources. We are also looking to geocode and analyze available data to determine which areas will need increased services in 2015.

In an effort to maximize productivity and minimize costs, CACC hired an Animal Placement Coordinator in 2013, responsible for recruiting, organizing and mobilizing a stronger volunteer force at CACC. By working closely with rescue groups to reduce the length of time and associated costs of animals housed at CACC before being rescued. This year, CACC limited costs and increased operational flexibility by expanding the use of the Animal Care Clerk-Hourly title, a part-time position. These employees will provide greater staff coverage at CACC during peak periods, and ensure front desk coverage as

CACC remains open 365 days a year from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. for over the counter animal impoundments.

Collaboration and Coordination

We have been continuously working with the Chicago Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Public Health monitoring bat rabies by submitting species for the purpose of testing for rabies and providing City residents rabies information when affected. In 2014, CACC has submitted 174 specimens to the health department for rabies testing, including 149 bats with three confirmed rabies positive bats.

CACC routinely works with the Police Department's Animal Crimes Unit, to assist in response to reports of dog fighting and animal cruelty. Since 2012, CACC has provided animal handling training to the Police Department's SWAT units.

In 2014, we have continued to partner with other community agencies – including PAWS Chicago, Animal Care League, HSUS, the Bickell Foundation, and the Anti-Cruelty Society – to help meet the demand for low cost spay/neuter services. In 2014, CACC has continued to increase community outreach and we will continue utilizing private funding from donations and grants to provide services to the community.

CACC will continue to provide resources, training and information to Chicagoans in their local community. CACC will continue to attend community meetings, and provide support and enforcement throughout the City, with particular focus on areas with historically high incidences priority service requests.

CACC has focused community efforts on engaging the younger generations to reinforce positive attitudes toward companion animals. Through the “Lifetime Bonds” Program, Safe Humane Chicago and CACC collaborate to introduce animals to young men at the Illinois Youth Center to teach responsible pet ownership and reinforce positive values. CACC has also engaged the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America to provide support to the animals at the shelter by making toys and donating food. In 2014, CACC hosted multiple adoption events at a space shared with Sit, Stay, Read, a non-profit focused on improving child literacy in underserved communities.

CACC is continuing to leverage private support in all areas of departmental operations. In September of 2013, CACC received a promise of two million dollars in grant funds from the Donald Levin Family Foundation for the purpose of renovating interior spaces at the City's sole animal shelter. This TIF-funded project to replace the shelter's roof and HVAC system was awarded in 2014, and work may begin this year. The two million dollars in private grant will specifically fund improved sanitation, and animal housing in

an estimated four of seven dog pavilions at our shelter. The redesigned cages are expected to increase living space between 55% and 150%, increasing the quality of life for animals temporarily in the care and control of CACC. In addition, natural light will be added and artificial lighting will be enhanced within the renovated pavilions. This grant will also fund an improved waste drainage system in key animal housing areas, improving sanitation and quality of life for the animals at the shelter, while making the facility a more inviting and welcoming place for Chicago residents searching for their lost pets, potential pet adopters, and all other visitors.

In addition to working with our donor community and growing support from donors, CACC is also maximizing opportunities to receive additional training from industry experts. Friends of Chicago Animal Care and Control has contracted the services of nationally renowned shelter medicine consultants from the University of California at Davis to assist with the planned renovations of the shelter. CACC worked with Safe Humane Chicago and the Animal Farm Foundation to host an expert animal trainer who provided staff and volunteers information on how to properly utilize the animal exercise playground previously donated by Safe Humane Chicago.

CACC also hosted the “One Picture Saves a Life” seminar sponsored by Pet Finder Foundation, which brought in dozens of area shelter workers and 10 featured rescues to receive advanced training on photographing and marketing shelter animals to promote placement. CACC shelter staff received compassion fatigue training from the Illinois Animal Welfare Federation. Meanwhile, CACC field officers received chemical immobilization training from Safe-Capture and have worked with Cook County to practice the newly learned techniques. In addition, CACC received training from the University of Missouri on topics like exotic animal training, animal exhibitions and crime scene investigations. CACC also received training on dangerous animal handling, and OSHA General Industry Health and Safety training. Through these partnerships, CACC will benefit from the assistance of qualified individuals while providing these students with experience in a fast-paced open admission municipal shelter.

Our goal in 2015 is to continue to diligently respond to 311 requests so as to ensure a better quality of life in all of our neighborhoods. We will continue to prioritize the requests of animal bites and vicious animals to ensure a timely response. And we will continue to work with organizations to reach pet owners in need to both reduce the number of animals given away by owners and ease the transition for animals where the owner has no choice but to relinquish ownership responsibilities. CACC will remain committed to building community partnerships that promote the best interests of Chicago’s animals and to facilitate the redemption, transfer and adoption of as many animals from our shelter as possible.

Commission on Animal Care & Control

2015 Budget Hearing

MBE/WBE Contracting Data

Period: 01/01/2014 THROUGH 09/30/2014

Total Purchases: \$310,080.00

<u>MBE/WBE Spend</u>	
WBE:	\$48098 (16%)
Asian MBE:	\$4881 (2%)
African-American MBE:	\$83204 (27%)
Hispanic MBE:	\$0 (0%)
Total Purchases:	\$136,183 (44%)

Staffing Data

<u>Department Ethnicity and Gender</u>				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	2	0	2	2%
Black	14	10	24	33%
Hispanic	15	8	23	32%
White	6	17	23	32%
Total	37	35	72	
	51%	49%		

<u>New Hires Ethnicity and Gender</u>				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian			0	
Black		1	1	10%
Hispanic	4	1	5	50%
White		4	4	40%
Total	4	6	10	
	40%	60%		

<u>Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender</u>				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	1		1	25%
Black	1	1	2	50%
Hispanic	1		1	25%
White			0	
Total	3	1	4	
	75%	25%		

Interns

School	Gender	Race
<u>NONE</u>		

2015 Animal Care and Control

ADMINISTRATION

ANIMAL CONTROL / ANTI-CRUELTY

ANIMAL CARE

