



# City of Denton

City Hall  
215 E. McKinney St.  
Denton, Texas 76201  
[www.cityofdenton.com](http://www.cityofdenton.com)

## Meeting Agenda

### Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

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Wednesday, August 12, 2026

10:00 AM

Animal Services Training Room

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#### AMENDED 8.5.2026

After determining that a quorum is present, the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee will convene in a meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Animal Services Training Room at the Linda McNatt Animal Care & Adoption Center, 3717 N. Elm Street, Denton, Texas at which the following items will be considered:

#### 1. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This section of the agenda permits a person to make comments regarding public business on items not listed on the agenda. This is limited to two (2) speakers per meeting with each speaker allowed a maximum of four (4) minutes. Such person(s) shall have filed a "blue card" requesting to speak during this period prior to the calling of the agenda item.

#### 2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A [ASAC26-008](#) Consider approval of the minutes for May 13, 2026.

Attachments: [Minutes May 13, 2026](#)

- B [ASAC26-009](#) Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding Animal Services Department programs, metrics, shelter, and field operations.

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet](#)  
[Exhibit 2 - Presentation](#)

#### 3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

- A. Under Section 551.042 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, respond to inquiries from the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee or the public with specific factual information or recitation of policy, or accept a proposal to place the matter on the agenda for an upcoming meeting and under Section 551.0415 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, provide reports about items of community interest regarding which no action will be taken, to include: expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence; information regarding holiday schedules; an honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen; a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body; information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the municipality; or an announcement involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the municipality that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the official website (<https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>) and bulletin board at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas, on August 5, 2026, in advance of the three (3) business day posting deadline, as applicable, and in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

NOTE: THE CITY OF DENTON'S DESIGNATED PUBLIC MEETING FACILITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. THE CITY WILL PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION, SUCH AS SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, IF REQUESTED AT LEAST TWO (2) BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING. PLEASE CALL THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT 940-349-8309 OR USE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES FOR THE DEAF (TDD) BY CALLING 1-800-RELAY-TX SO THAT REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION CAN BE ARRANGED.

## City of Denton Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

### Minutes May 13, 2026

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After determining that a quorum of the City of Denton, Texas, Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was present, the Committee convened in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the training room at Linda McNatt Animal Care and Adoption Center, 3717 N. Elm Street, Denton, Texas.

**Present:** Chair Lara Tomlin, Members Jonathan Birden, Bailey Coleson, Wanda Coonce, Emily McComas.

**Absent:** None

#### 1. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- None

#### 2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. **ASAC26-003:** Receive nominations and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Denton Animal Shelter Advisory Committee for 2026.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Following discussion, Member Coonce nominated Chair Tomlin to service as Chair; Member Birden seconded. Motion carried.

AYES (4): Chair Tomlin, Members Birden, Coleson, Coonce

NAYS (0):

ABSENT FOR VOTE (1): Member McComas

Chair Tomlin nominated Member Coonce to service as Vice-Chair; Member Birden seconded. Motion carried.

AYES (4): Chair Tomlin, Members Birden, Coleson, Coonce

NAYS (0):

ABSENT FOR VOTE (1): Member McComas

- B. **ASAC26-007:** Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the Denton Animal Shelter Advisory Committee 2026 meeting schedule.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Following discussion, Member Coonce moved to adopt the item as presented; Member Coleson seconded. Motion carried.

AYES (4): Chair Tomlin, Members Birden, Coleson, Coonce

NAYS (0):

ABSENT FOR VOTE (1): Member McComas

- C. **ASAC26-004:** Consider approval of the minutes for September 10, 2025.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Following discussion, Member Birden moved to adopt the item as presented; Member Coonce seconded. Motion carried.

AYES (4): Chair Tomlin, Members Birden, Coleson, Coonce

NAYS (0):

ABSENT FOR VOTE (1): Member McComas

**D. ASAC26-005:** Consider approval of the minutes for February 11, 2026.

McComas joined at 10:09 a.m.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Following discussion, Member Coleson moved to adopt the item as presented; Member Birden seconded. Motion carried.

AYES (5): Chair Tomlin, Members Birden, Coleson, Coonce, McComas

NAYS (0):

**E. ASAC26-006:** Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding Animal Services Department programs, metrics, shelter, and field operations.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

**3. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

Member McComas requested a discussion regarding the possible use of feline leukemia vaccines at the shelter.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

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LARA TOMLIN  
CHAIR  
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

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MARK JACKSON  
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER  
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

MINUTES APPROVED ON: \_\_\_\_\_



## City of Denton

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### AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Animal Services

**ACM:** Kenneth Hedges, Interim Assistant City Manager

**DATE:** August 12, 2026

#### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding Animal Services Department programs, metrics, shelter, and field operations.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Animal Services Department staff to provide periodic updates to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee regarding programs, metrics, shelter, and field operations.

#### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1: Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2: Presentation

Respectfully submitted:  
Nikki Sassenus  
Director of Animal Services



# Animal Services Department Update

August 12, 2026

# Animal Services Performance Metrics

| Measure                                    | 2023-24 Actual | 2024-25 Actual | 2025-26 Actual<br>(through June) |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Live Animal Intakes                        | 5,608          | 4,274          | 3,274                            |
| Animal Adoptions                           | 2,888          | 2,674          | 2,063                            |
| Animal Transfers                           | 280            | 162            | 223                              |
| Calls for Service                          | 6,175          | 5,722          | 4,788                            |
| Live Release Rate (Average Cats and Dogs)* | 87.8%          | 93.1%          | 92.3%                            |
| Volunteer Hours Worked**                   | -              | 6,400**        | 8,126                            |
| Volunteer Impact***                        | -              | \$213,707**    | \$284,414                        |
| Foster Homes                               | -              | 794            | 579                              |
| Spay/Neuter performed                      | 2,341          | 2,232          | 1,670                            |
| Microchips                                 | 3,225          | 2,410          | 1,725                            |

*\*Data collected for this measure is from April 2023 forward.*

*\*\*Data collected for this measure is from October 2024 forward.*

*\*\*\*Data collected for this measure is from November 2024 forward.*

- [Website Link to Performance Scorecard Dashboard](#)

# Budget Update

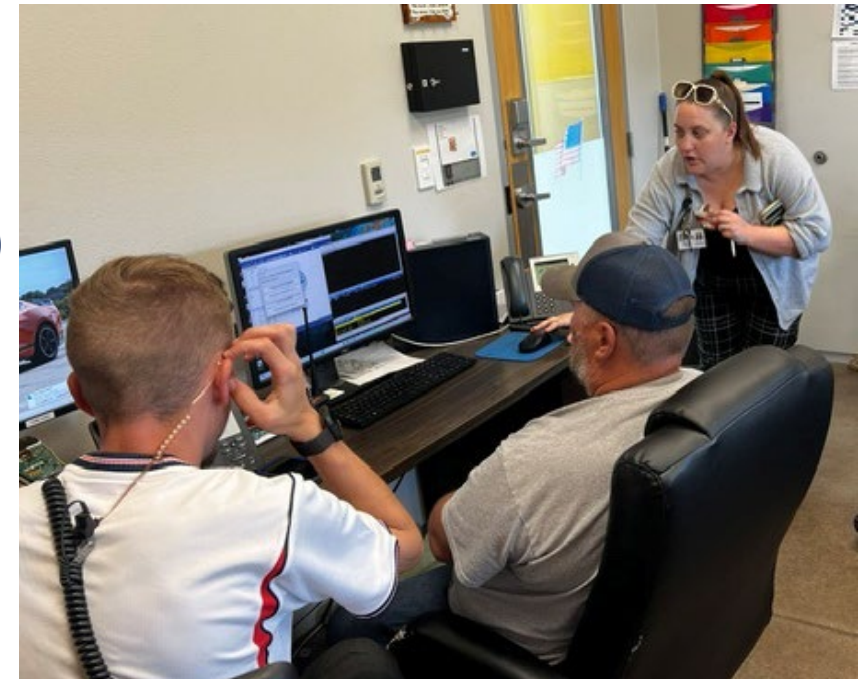
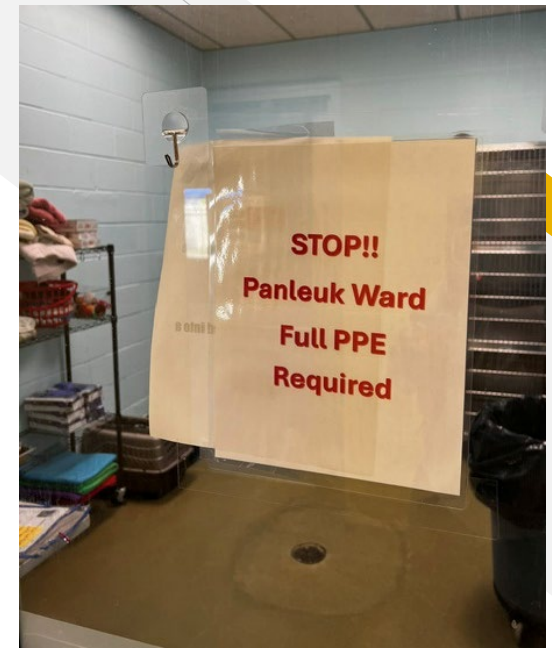
- Exceeding FY26 budget allocation in several areas
- Attributed to higher level of service expectation and rising costs for good and services
- Following the 2024 audit, Animal Services implemented a number of operational and policy changes according to audit recommendations and Council direction. Changes have included:
  - Advanced diagnostics and medical care
  - Increased treatment of animals with complex medical needs
  - Enhanced daily health and wellness practices
- Higher service level has led to:
  - Sustained Live Release Rate above 90%
  - Increase length of stay for shelter animals
  - Higher daily count of animals in house
  - Increase in medical, supply, and operational costs
  - Working with Finance and Budget office for FY 27



| Category/Obj Code                             | FY 26 Budget     | Projected FY 26 total | Requested FY 27  |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| RSVP & Off-site veterinary services - 7879    | 685,500          | 1,496,264             | 1,650,000        |
| Food and Supplies - 6307                      | 94,159           | 104,730               | 110,000          |
| Medical Supplies- 6336                        | 268,000          | 355,541               | 400,000          |
| Temporary services (ODB contract labor)- 7868 | 0                | 209,859               | 215,000          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                 | <b>1,047,659</b> | <b>1,967,261</b>      | <b>2,375,000</b> |

# Operational Updates

- **Kitten Season**
  - Large influx of neonate kittens
  - Creation of Panleuk ward to isolate and treat
- **Medical Treatment and Partnerships**
  - Utilizing TCAP to cover additional spay/neuter needs
  - Pre-qualified vet service providers solicited
    - Eliminate 3rd party pass through costs
    - Expedite treatment delivery
    - Ability to treat complex cases beyond in-house capabilities
- **Working with 311 on shoring up call categories**
  - June 26 Statistics:
    - 3 of the top 10 request types
    - 3 of the top 10 responsiveness (closed on time)
    - 381 total cases for June 98.7% closed on time (City average 93%)
- **CAD dispatching**
  - Working with 911 to expediate calls for service and more
  - Access to CAD dispatch for AS staff
  - Modeling PD and FD for efficiency
- **Navigating construction**
  - New temp yards



# Staff Training and Development

- Focusing on safety training compliance; partnering with City's Safety Team
- Biosecurity training with Merck
- Staff Field Trip to Dallas Animal Services



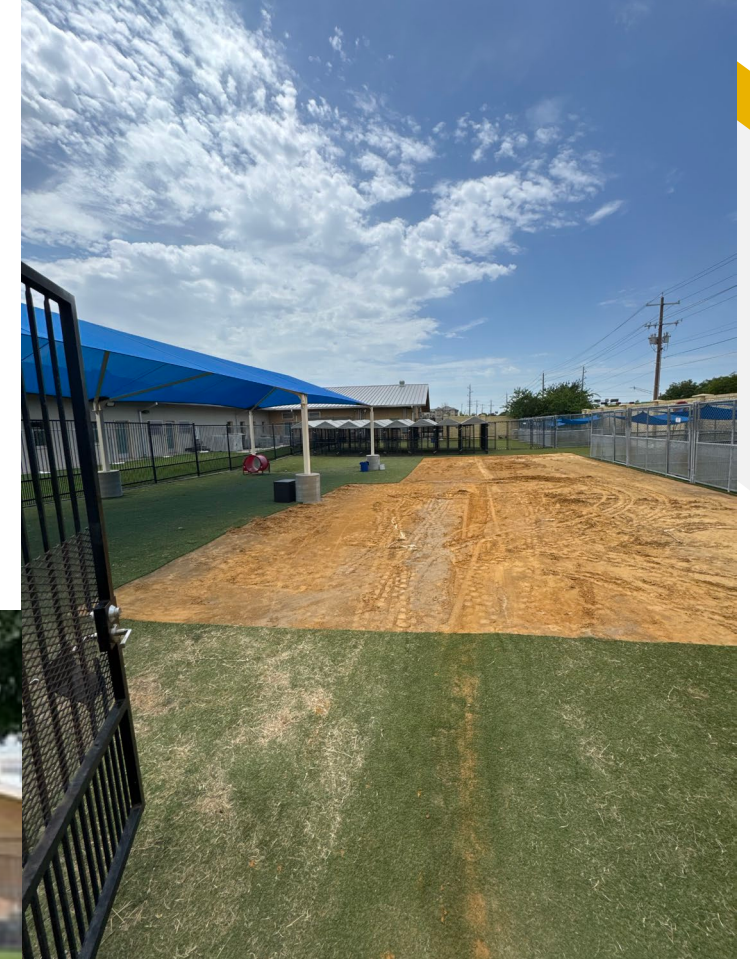
# 2023 Bond Project

## Project Progress

- 6/17 First OAC meeting
- 6/24 Began moving dirt
- Temp yards relocated and activated
- 7/20 Demo of large yard, front green space, and screen wall
- 8/12 Groundbreaking Ceremony

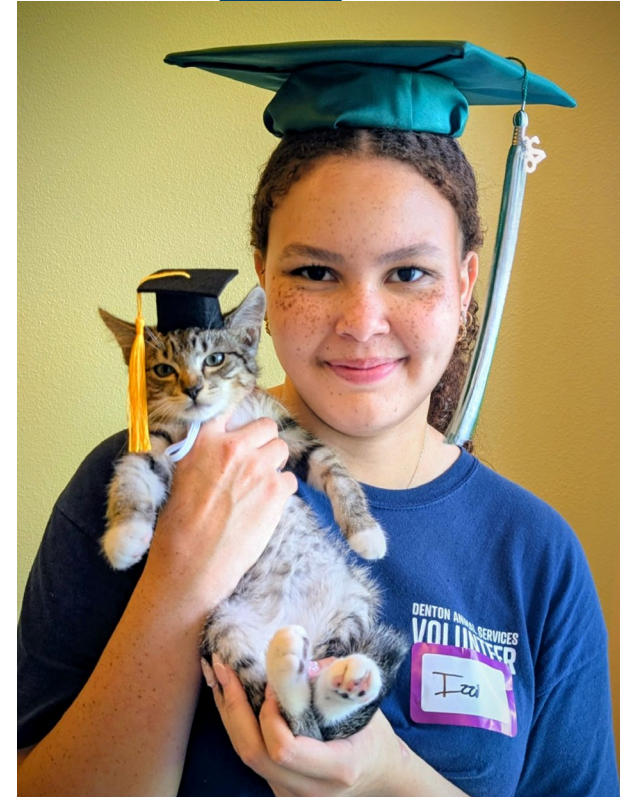
## Project Schedule

- 12 Months Phase 1 (May 2027)
- 6 Months Phases 2 & 3
- Estimated completion November 2027



# Volunteer Program Update

- Updated Pup Pal training and safety protocols to reflect changes related to construction and extreme heat.
- Expanded volunteer opportunities to include creating and maintaining online dog profiles and photos, contributing to social media content, and assisting with newsletter development.
- Established a dedicated volunteer team to produce in-shelter pup profiles that provide a personalized, engaging touch and help attract potential adopters.
- Continued to grow overall volunteer participation and strengthen community partnerships, including our collaboration with the TWC Workforce Ready Program.
- Hosted our first annual “Let’s Paw-ty” Dog Foster and Volunteer Informational Social on June 14 at the Civic Center, offering an opportunity for interested community members to learn about our programs in a fun, engaging setting.
- Identified a new volunteer management software and initiated the City’s approval process to enhance training, coordination, and the overall volunteer experience.



# Programs, Events & Community Engagement

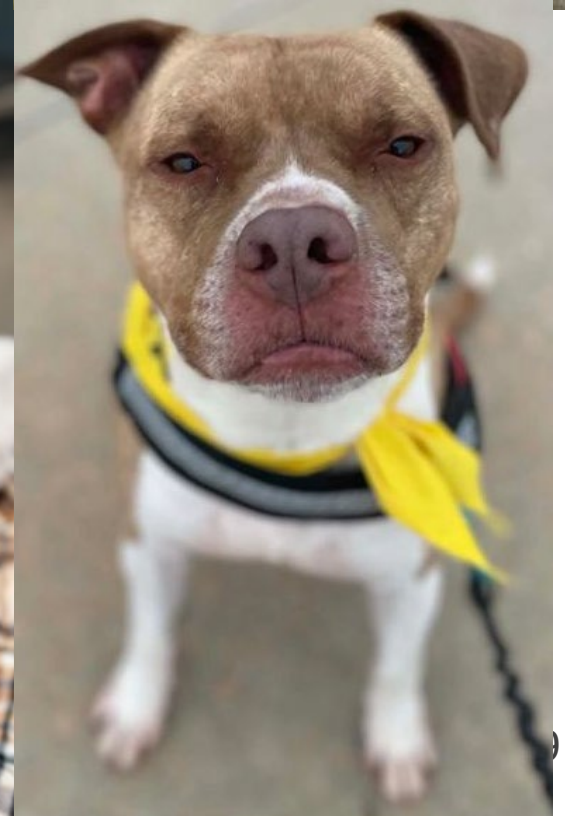
- **Doggy Day Out**
  - Open to the public
  - Gives our dogs a break from the shelter environment
  - Volunteers provide feedback on dogs' personality and behavior outside the shelter to add to the animal's profile
  - 85% of program dogs have been adopted in the first 6 months of 2026
- **CUDDLY Offsite Adoption Event**
  - Once a month due to heat
  - In Fall will be doing 2-3 times a month
- **North Texas Mega Adoption Event**
  - August 15th -16th
  - 2nd time participating
- **Owner Surrender List**
  - Working to get requests processed



*Frank E Stein on his Doggy Day Out on 7/4. He was adopted on 7/11 after 100+ days in the shelter*

# Rescue Placements and Notable Adoptions

- 224 animals transferred out to rescue for FY 26
- Notable long-term resident placements:
  - Pineapple transferred to rescue, 78
  - Princess adopted, 83 days
  - Frank E. Stein adopted, 160 days
  - Booker adopted, 143 days
  - Popeye adopted after 112 days
- Behavior cases placed– Topaz, Jade, Django, Xena



# Behavior & Enrichment Program Updates

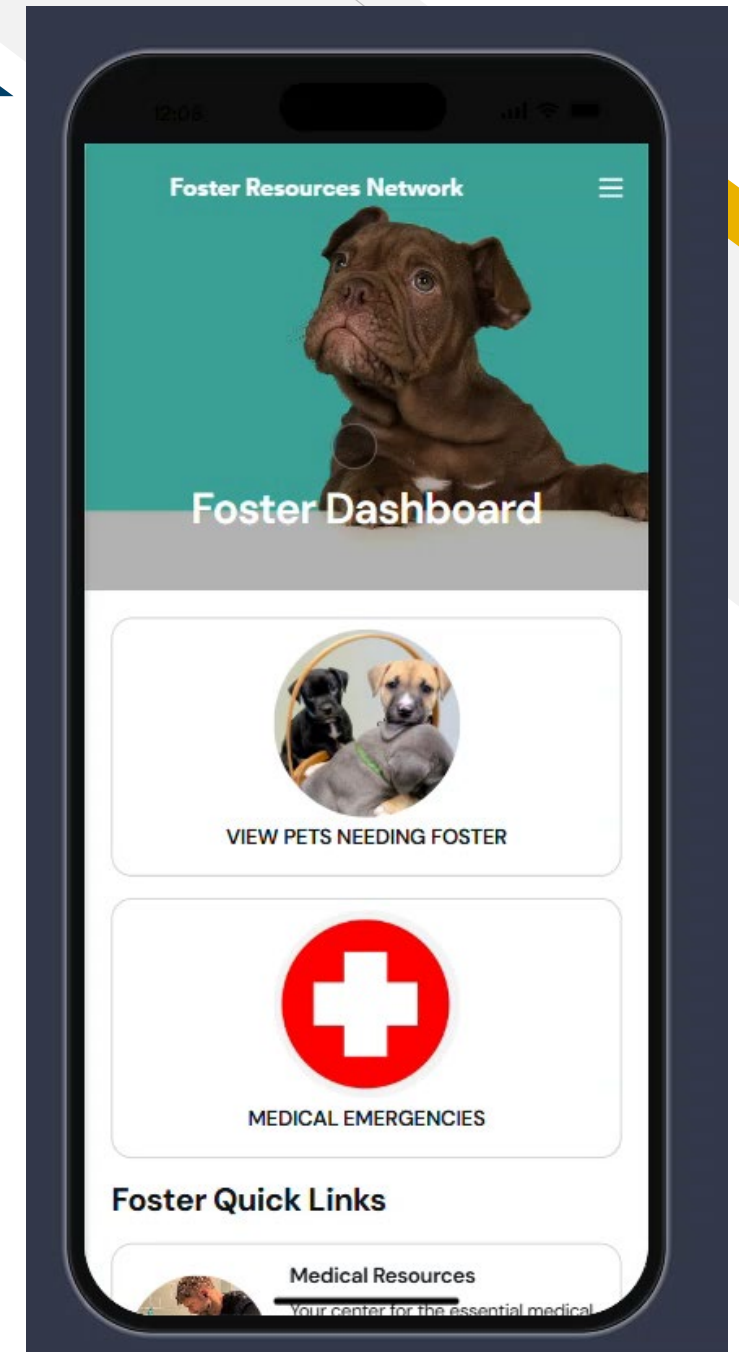
- Behavior evals and training sessions being tracked in PetPoint under care activities and behavior tests
- Enrichment being consistently made by volunteers and staff – new items ordered, need additional donations to stock new items
- Pathway planning SOP in development to effectively move animals through the shelter system and reduce length of stay
- Behavior training SOP complete – will begin training with staff



# Foster Program Updates

- 549 pets in General Foster program from 1/1 - 5/30 2026.
- Began offering Virtual Orientation alongside in-person.
  - Increased participation and foster interest.
- In the works: Foster Resource App
- Facebook Foster group: more active than ever before!
- Offering hands-on Bottle Baby Demos for new fosters.
- Integrating Foster Communications with 311 for easier access for fosters

ASAC26-009, August 12, 2026





# Questions?