

Cameron County
Department of Health and Human Services

Animal Control Program
February 18, 2011

Yvette Salinas, Health Administrator
Raquel Castillo, MPH, Environmental Health Director
Gustavo Olivares, Assistant Director of Environmental Health
Carlos Agado, Animal Control Supervisor



Cameron County
Department of Health and Human Services

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June 24, 2009

Yvette Salinas, Health Administrator
Raquel Castillo, MPH, Director of Environmental Health
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Animal Control

- The Animal Shelter was built in ~1985 and has 7 general population kennels and 3 quarantine kennels.
- Additional kennels are needed but the current septic system cannot support another kennel(s).
- Based on the Animal Shelter area (fenced shelter area), the septic system cannot be expanded.
- A euthanization room is needed as euthanization is conducted in a semi-open area.
- A rabies control room is also needed to perform the necessary procedures to send specimens for laboratory analysis. This process is also conducted in a semi-open area.
- Therefore, the Animal Shelter has reached its maximum infrastructure capacity.
- To improve and expand the Animal Shelter, a re-design needs to be conducted for the Animal Control Program Office, the Animal Shelter, the Chemical Storage, and the Incinerator as three separate facilities with their own entry.

Department of Health and Human Services Officials Met with Municipality Officials

- Bayview December 3, 2009
- Combes October 13, 2009
- Indian Lake October 22, 2009
- Laguna Vista October 14, 2009
- Los Fresnos October 14, 2009
- Los Indios December 1, 2009
- Palm Valley October 20, 2009 and December 3, 2009
- Primera October 13, 2009
- Rancho Viejo October 22, 2009
- Rangerville December 1, 2009
- Rio Hondo October 20, 2009
- Santa Rosa October 20, 2009

* Primarily Animal Control Program and also, Animal Issues Committee, evacuation, pick up points, and vector control.

Texas Health and Safety Code

Chapter 826. Rabies

(Rabies Control Act of 1981)

Commissioners Court of a County may:

- adopt chapter and the minimum standards for rabies control [§826.013];
- adopt ordinances or rules that establish a local rabies control program and set local standards equal to or more stringent than program established by chapter & board rules [§826.014(a)];
- enter into contracts/agreements with public/private entities to carry out activities [§826.016];
- shall designate an officer to act as the local rabies control authority [§826.017];
- adopt ordinances or rules requiring the registration of each dog and cat [§826.031(a)].

The governing body of a municipality may:

- adopt chapter and the minimum standards for rabies control [§826.013];
- adopt ordinances or rules that establish a local rabies control program and set local standards equal to or more stringent than county and the program established by chapter & board rules [§826.015(a)].
- enter into contracts or agreements with public or private entities to carry out activities [§826.016];
- shall designate an officer to act as the local rabies control authority [§826.017];
- adopt ordinances or rules requiring the registration of each dog and cat [§826.031(a)].

Cameron County Ordinance Number 1985-1

- Approved by Commissioners Court on February 11, 1985
- To regulate roaming and stray dogs and cats in the unincorporated areas of Cameron County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas
- “Animal” means dog or cat
- “Unincorporated area” means any part of Cameron County, Texas that is not already subject to the jurisdiction of an incorporated city, town, municipality or village

Animal Control Budget FY 2010

- General Fund Budget (estimated) \$183,984
- Staff (1 Supervisor, 3 Animal Control Officers, 1 Clerk, & % of Environmental Health Program Management/Oversight) \$119,349
- Fringe \$47,384
- Equipment/Supplies \$9,584
- Other (vehicle repairs, vehicle insurance, fuel, dues and memberships, and education/training) \$7,664
- **Does not include:**
 - vehicle purchases (3 trucks), incinerator, building maintenance
 - indirect costs i.e., Health Department, Auditors, Purchasing, Legal

Revenues Compared to Budget FY 2010

Revenues = \$10,496
compared to
Budget = \$183,984

- Revenues are dog and cat registrations and quarantines.
- Revenues generated 5.7% of the budget.
- Budget is 17.5 times greater than revenues.
- In FY 2008 the budget was 14.6 times greater than revenues.

Animal Control Facilities FY 2009 and FY 2011

	ENTITY	State Approved Shelters	Impoundment Facility	None
1	Cameron County Jurisdiction	✓		
2	Brownsville	✓		
3	Harlingen	✓		
4	La Feria	✓		
5	Port Isabel	✓		
6	San Benito	✓		
7	South Padre Island	✓		
8	Bayview			✓
9	Combes	✓		
10	Indian Lake			✓
11	Laguna Vista			✓
12	Los Fresnos	✓		
13	Los Indios			✓
14	Palm Valley			✓
15	Primera		✓	
16	Rancho Viejo			✓
17	Rangerville			✓
18	Rio Hondo		✓	
19	Santa Rosa		✓	

Cameron County Animal Control Assistance Provided FY 2010

	MUNICIPALITIES	Animal Pick-up	Quarantine	Euthanization
1	Brownsville			
2	Harlingen			
3	La Feria			
4	Port Isabel			
5	San Benito			
6	South Padre Island			
7	Cameron County Jurisdiction	2,438	101	1,650
8	Bayview	25	0	24
9	Combes			59
10	Indian Lake	34	2	29
11	Laguna Vista	52	4	36
12	Los Fresnos			150
13	Los Indios	20	5	18
14	Palm Valley	3	0	1
15	Primera			26
16	Rancho Viejo	16	2	8
17	Rangerville	23	1	19
18	Rio Hondo			48
19	Santa Rosa			90
	TOTAL	2,611	115	2,158
	Animals Euthanized	2,158		
	Dead Animals	275		
	Released to Wild	17		
	Animals Released to Owner	134		
	Animals Adopted/Rescued	27		
	TOTAL	2,611		

= No Assistance

* Note: Currently, there are no mutual aid agreements in place.

Fees Comparison

Services	Cameron	Veterinarian Quote	Hidalgo
Animal Pick-up (per animal; live, dead, or consult)	\$0	\$35	City/County Transport
Room & Board	\$0	\$15 Per Day	\$65* Flat Rate
Quarantine	\$0	\$22 Per Day	\$65 Flat rate
Euthanization	\$0	\$75 Per Animal	*
Incineration/Disposal (per animal)	\$0	\$180	*
Laboratory Handling and Postage	\$0	NA	*
Medical	\$0	As needed	*
Same Service Type Fees	\$0	NA	NA
Cameron County Animal Control Program General Public Fees			
Registration Fee	\$5		
Room and Board/Quarantine (per day)	\$6		

Proposed Fees

Services	Option One		Option Two
Animal Pick-up (live, dead, or consult)	\$72 Per Animal/Consult		\$57 Per Animal/Consult
Room & Board			\$20 Per Day
Quarantine			\$41 Per Day
Incineration/Disposal			\$14 Per Animal
Laboratory Handling and Postage			\$50 Per Animal
Euthanization	\$0 for Animal Pickup	\$30 Per Animal At County Shelter	\$30 Per Animal At County Shelter
Medical	Veterinarian Fees		Veterinarian Fees
Same Service Type (Mutual assistance provided between city and county)	\$0		\$0
Cameron County Animal Control Program General Public Fees			
Registration Fee	\$5		\$5
Room and Board/Quarantine (per day)	\$6		\$6

For more information, please contact:

Cameron County
Department of Health and Human Services
Environmental Health Program
(956) 247-3599

www.co.cameron.tx.us/Health/environmental_health.html