

CONTACT:

Judy Nichols & Associates
Judy@JudyNicholsPR.com
713 781.0053 Office
713 306.7222 Cell



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rice University, Houston PetSet Partner on Animal Welfare Study

Houston, TX – (May, 2017). . . Houston PetSet and Rice University’s Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) today announced the launch of a study that will analyze the state of animal welfare in Harris County (including the City of Houston). Houston PetSet will fund the study, which will be carried out by the CCL. Through an analysis and comparison of the practices, programs, facilities and funding of animal welfare and control organizations, the study seeks to identify best practices to improve animal welfare.

“In order to solve the problem of animal overpopulation in Harris County, we must have metrics that help define the problem,” said Houston PetSet co-presidents Tena Lundquist Faust and Tama Lundquist. “Partnering with Rice University to author this study gives it a great deal of credibility. We feel it is key to attracting and recruiting other partners that will help create and execute a strategy for solving this crisis of animal overpopulation.”

“Animal welfare is a pressing public health and quality-of-life issue for Harris County,” said Dr. Caroline Quenemoen, Associate Dean of Undergraduates at Rice University. “The Center for Civic Leadership is proud to partner with Houston PetSet to understand the scope and impact of this issue and to recommend policies that will both ensure the proper treatment and care of animals and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods throughout the city and county.”

The project begins with a literature review and interviews with key stakeholders to understand the current state of animal welfare and best practices in Harris County and peer counties/cities. Additionally, this study will catalog shelter and animal control data, including conducting organizational and stakeholder mapping and geo-location of stray animal reports, to examine socio-economic demographics in relation to animal welfare. This level of analysis has not previously been collected in Harris County, making it difficult to accurately define the scope of the county’s homeless animal population.

The study also will examine Harris County’s public policy, as compared to peer counties/cities, to identify how government involvement may play a role in improving animal welfare.

The study will commence May 15 and will be completed by December 15.

About Houston PetSet

Houston PetSet is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to making a difference by providing grants to animal welfare-related nonprofits in Houston. This project will support Houston PetSet by identifying the challenges Houston faces in regards to improved animal welfare and identifying the roles shelters and rescues play in addressing the issue. www.houstonpetset.org.

About Rice Center for Civic Leadership

The Center for Civic Leadership seeks to foster engaged citizenship through integrated curricular and experiential learning opportunities, and to cultivate mutually beneficial university-community partnerships that promote positive, sustainable change in Houston, the United States, and around the world. <https://ccl.rice.edu>.