



[Houston PetSet](#) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to ending the homelessness and suffering of companion animals and elevating their status in society. Houston PetSet works to achieve its mission by focusing its efforts in six key impact areas including spay & neuter, transport & rescue, community service & education, cruelty prevention, research, and advocacy. In addition, Houston PetSet provides annual grants to animal welfare-related organizations in the Greater Houston area. By providing critical funds and collaborating with strategic partners, Houston PetSet seeks to end the crisis of animal homelessness in our community.

On behalf of Houston PetSet, our partners, and those in the animal welfare community, we thank you in advance for taking the time to provide your responses to this questionnaire. It is important to note that Houston PetSet will **NOT** be endorsing any candidate in any municipal race and will be using this completed document as a resource for groups and individuals that are interested in learning more about your candidacy. Your responses will be posted to our website and will be accessible for all.

The current animal homelessness population presents a public health and public safety issue that affects the quality of life of many Houstonians. The Houston PetSet questionnaire includes questions covering general animal welfare, city services, and partnerships. **We ask that you complete this questionnaire (by filling in your answers via Microsoft Word) and return it to marketing@houstonpetset.org no later than July 1st, 2019.**

Sincerely,

Tena Lundquist Faust
Co-President

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Co-President

Animal Welfare

1. To what extent have you been involved with any animal welfare issues, including rescue, spay & neuter, foster, transport programming, legislation, and anti-cruelty?

Answer: I love animals, and they should be treated and given respect just as much as humans. In the past, I have assisted in rescuing a number of animals who were kept in harsh conditions and/or treated unfairly. I appreciate organizations like Houston PetSet because of their genuine concern in ending homelessness for our pets and providing animal welfare to those who need it the most.

2. Do you have a plan to address underserved areas that need low cost spay & neuter programming and other veterinary services?

Answer: Spay & neuter programming, and other veterinary services, may be labeled low-cost, but that doesn't mean people can afford them. I will partner with local animal shelters such as BARC Animal Shelter, Veterinary Public Health, and Affordable Pet Clinic by hosting a fundraiser to offset animal care procedures.

3. Do you have, or have you ever had in the past, a companion animal? If so, was it a rescue animal?

Answer: Yes, in the past, I rescued a dog who was on the brink of starvation and in dire need of love and affection.

Quality of Life/Public Safety/Public Health

- 4. What impact, and how will reducing the stray animal population improve the quality of life of all Houstonians, if any?

Answer: Reducing the stray animal population will improve quality of life by increasing everyone's safety and health. Stray dogs, especially feral dogs that roam in packs, are more liable to attack, spread diseases such as rabies, and cause car accidents.

- 5. How do you plan to work with communities that have historically reported high rates of stray animals? Please describe below.

I plan to work with communities by educating them about pet overpopulation, adoption, and local resources, such as the Trap-Neuter-Return Program at the BARC Animal Shelter. I also plan to host a fundraiser in which donations will benefit spay and neuter programs.

6. How do you plan to address animal homelessness and the stray population citywide?

Answer: I will support city funding for low cost spay & neuter programming and other veterinary services, so people can have access to affordable services throughout the City of Houston.

City of Houston Services

7. Do you have a strategy to address overcrowding in the city animal shelter? If so, please describe below.

Yes____ No____

Additional Comment: I plan on educating my community on the benefits of microchipping pets, training and access to medical care, and the importance of spaying and neutering their animal. Additionally, I would look into funding animal shelters to provide financial assistances for veterinarian care.

8. Should BARC (City of Houston animal shelter) receive additional funding based on budget comparisons to national standards and peer cities? If so, how much and how would you increase the department's overall budget?

Yes___ No___

Additional Comment: To prevent stray animals overpopulating neighborhoods and becoming a health risk to its residents, BARC should receive appropriate funding to help reduce this situation. It would be necessary to provide BARC with funding that is equivalent to other city-based animal shelters who provide similar services for a city that is comparatively as populated as Houston.

9. Will you commit to expanding intake hours for animal surrenders at the city shelter?

Yes___ No___

Additional Comment: Expanding intake hours will create more opportunity for individuals to surrender their animals instead of letting them loose into the wild where they present a danger to others and the pet itself.

10. Will you commit to funding additional Animal Control Officers to respond to 311 and BARC calls?

Yes____ No____

Additional Comment: Animal Control Officers respond to a wide-range of requests from near-fatal or fatal maulings and aggressive animals on school premises to livestock incidents. BARC alone receives hundreds of requests daily. With additional funding, the City would be able to hire more officers and be better equipped to handle BARC's requests.

11. What is your plan to address animal abuse, including dog fighting (and cock fighting) in the City of Houston and how would you involve the community to assist in this effort?

Answer: Partnering with BARC and other animal services throughout the city would assist in educating residents on the impact and dangers animal abuse and dog/cock fighting have on the community. I would also look into expanding the Neighborhood Watch program to include paroling and the prevention of dog/cock fighting and animal abuse.

12. There are a number of duplicative services (ex. animal control services, investigative/enforcement, wellness services, etc.) that are offered between the City and County. Do you believe in the existing model, based on geography OR would you explore other options? If you would explore other options, what specific options do you have in mind?

Yes____ No____

Additional Comment: The existing model is able to provide different services all across the city and county to all who are in need, instead of one centralized location.

Partnerships

13. Would you support a partnership with local animal welfare organizations to address the growing issues relating to animal welfare? What specifically would you propose?

Yes____ No____

Additional Comment: Various neighborhoods in District B are plagued with stray dogs. As I previously stated, it is important to educate residents on the impact the lack of animal welfare has on a community. Partnering with local animal welfare organizations

would create the opportunity to educate and gain community support in reducing the issues surrounding the lack of animal welfare. This can be done through better community engagement such as informationals to educate the community and fundraisers to better fund these organizations.

14. Are you familiar with the six key impact areas of Houston PetSet? How would your administration support Houston PetSet's impact areas?

Yes____ No____

Additional Comment: My administration is focused on creating a better quality of life for the community of District B. I would look into creating a partnership with Houston PetSet to help reduce the stray population the district is plagued with, whether that is through community engagement programs or fundraising initiatives.

City of Houston Ordinance/Advocacy

15. Would you support a local ordinance that prohibits apartments or home owners' associations from banning specific dog breeds?

Yes____ No____

Additional Comment: This is particularly a problem for apartment renters. Several apartment complexes impose a breed restriction on dog owners. If their breed is prohibited, the owners are forced with a decision to abandon their pet for a place to live. This creates a problematic situation in finding a new home for the pet. In the event the owner can't find a new home, they are then tasked with sending the pet to a shelter or leaving it on the side of the road, which poses a danger to the community. To best prevent this scenario from occurring, City Council needs to step in.

16. Will you support the creation of a local ordinance that better defines and creates a higher standard of shelter for animals?

Yes ___ No ___

Additional Comment: If City Council sets in place an ordinance such as this one, it would protect the animals' physical health and would ensure shelters are able to provide minimum wellness services.

17. Will you support a local ordinance that bans the sale of dogs from breeders and puppy mills in retail locations within the City of Houston?

Yes____ No____

Additional Comment: As City Council, we need to better when it comes to taking a stand against puppy mill cruelty. By creating this local ordinance, it will decrease overcrowding in animal shelters by ensuring pet stores offer rescue-only pets.

18. Would you support mandatory microchipping for dogs and cats in the City of Houston?

Yes____ No____

Additional Comment: This will create a sense of accountability on pet owners that would help reduce the stray population. Also, it would help identify the owner responsible and hold them accountable for any offenses the dog may have done.

In future, please contact Houston PetSet if you would like information or educational materials relating to the subjects above.

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