



[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](mailto:marketing@houstonpetset.org) no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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:

In my work with the City of Houston Health Department I have partnered with the City's BARC Spay & Neuter program to offer these services at the Multi-Services in Southwest Houston. Provide basic education to our families regarding the importance of spaying & neutering their companion animals.

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

Answer:

I am interested in expanding the spay and neuter program that the City of Houston already has. I will look into partnerships with organizations and ways of funding for these particular services. Provide education in our diverse communities through multi language advertising by working with our partner organizations. Work with experts and leaders to create a city-wide education campaign on the importance of spay and neuter and how it affects our quality of life.

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

Answer:

No

**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:

Houston is one of the cities with the most stray animal population in the Country. If we focus on implementing and funding programs such as spay and neuter, pet ownership, fostering, education programs and others, it would help reduce the number of strays, have safer and healthier streets and sidewalks, reduce the number of dead animals on the roads, improve the cleanliness of our communities. We would build healthy interactions and relationships with animals, providing strays a positive outlook to finding a home.

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

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Additional Comment:

I plan on building relationships and partnerships with such communities so we can lower the rates of stray animals. I will listen to their concerns and needs, fight for funding for programs to be implemented in their communities. I will look into the hours of spay and neuter programs – most of our residents are busy working all day and taking care of their family that having services only given during work hours does not help our communities. I would look into expanding programs and partnerships with organizations to assist in these communities.

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

Answer:

I believe spay and neuter, education programs and pet ownership are what would help us tackle such issue. Education programs in communities and prior to adopting will equip our communities to better care for their pets, reduce animal homelessness and strays. I will also look farther at how to become a no-kill shelter just like Austin and other cities have done. I believe some strays end up in the streets because some people do not want to drop them at the shelter, knowing they will get killed. Others have other reasons, but we must be able to tackle this issue from every angle.

### 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:

Education programs

Promote adoption and not breeding

Spay and neuter

Be a responsible pet owner

Assist low income families with medical services

Assistance with animal training, pet adoption would be faster and more attractive

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:

In 2018, due to budget restrictions, BARC had to adjust their intake hours. I will advocate for more funding, make all our services accessible at different times to the community like other city services such as libraries, parks and multi-service centers. I will look at the budget and allocate appropriately, encourage digital and in person fundraising events.

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

Yes  No

Additional Comment:

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

Yes  No

Additional Comment:

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:

Create multilingual education campaign to encourage communities with reporting incidents of animal abuse and evaluate the current plan in place with the city.

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:

I would take a look at the city and county services and see if there is really a need to duplicate efforts. I think if we partner and get more organized, we could be more efficient.

## 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:

Assess services currently offered, how to best maximize services and resources, utilize the latest research to acquire additional funding and create multilingual education campaign.

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:

Support through advocating for changes in city ordinances, additional funding through the city and public private partnerships, additionally creating multilingual educational campaign on the importance on healthy pets and healthy communities.

**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:

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:

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:

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

Yes  No

Additional Comment:

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

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