



[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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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?

I have rescued stray kitties, taken them to have them neutered and vaccinated. I found homes for them to go to.

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

Answer: A stream of financial support to expand the spay and neuter program in our disadvantaged areas is needed. More animal control officers need to be assigned to those areas as well to deal with the bands of loose dogs and cats.

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

Answer: I have had Labrador Retrievers, horses, cattle, turkeys, quail, chickens, pigs, pheasants and quail. These were not rescue animals.

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 is best for the animals and the City.

They need homes where they are cared for and not out there on their own raising more animals that cannot survive without care.

Houstonians will be safer with the lessening of loose bands of dogs roaming the neighborhoods.

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

Education. More animal control in those areas, more opportunity for adoption facilities.

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

Answer: Education and more animal control with the help of non-profits and volunteers.

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: Co-ordination with non-profits, Harris County and animal protection groups nationwide.

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: I do not know enough about national animal shelter budgets to answer. BARC's budget should reflect it's needs, the solutions and the City's budget.

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

Yes x___ No___

Additional Comment: If there are periods of extreme overcrowding, particularly after flooding disasters.

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

Yes___ No___

Additional Comment: I do not know enough about the number of current BARC calls, as to the exact need for additional personnel. I have always found animal control to be responsive in the past.

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: We have many people living in Houston from a variety of foreign cultures, where this type of activity is considered normal. Education is the way to change this unpleasant use of animals. Dog and cock fighting do not belong in Houston.

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?

I believe in co-operation between the City and the County and the practicality of working together on animal control in problem areas. Working together gets more done than standing by because of geography.

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, with qualified local animal welfare organizations. Partnerships within specific problem areas of the City, a local organization will know more about the local problems.

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

No, I am not familiar enough with Houston PetSet.

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: it would depend on the language of the ordinance. Having raised large dogs in the past, they do not belong cramped up in small apartments.

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

It would depend on the language of the ordinance. The City is overwhelmed with animals most of the time, it is difficult to have quality when the quantity is so large.

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: It would depend on the language of the ordinance. I have many responsible friends that breed and show dogs, the ordinance would have distinguish them from the puppy mills on the sides of the road.

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

No, microchipping is not inexpensive and many people in our City are on limited incomes, this would create a burden for them. Non-Profits should participate with the City and offer discounted microchipping to encourage people to do so.

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

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