

Animal Control Contracts and the Impact on Public Safety



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November 2006

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Abstract

Stray animals and animal related complaints fall into the category of social disorder and as a result, the responsibility of animal control often falls upon the police. The police are not usually experts in the field of animal control nor are they equipped to handle related functions such as animal pickup and impound. As a result, most municipalities contract these services with local humane organizations.

Contracts for animal control services may be outdated and quite possibly do not take into consideration changes in the field of animal control. Special interest groups may also influence the way humane organizations carry out the work that they are contracted to perform. The end result may be services performed in a manner inconsistent with the mission of the contracting agency. Audits may reveal that municipalities are paying for things they did not intend to. Contracts with local humane organizations are often renewed without in-depth analysis and generally do not involve those departments charged with the responsibility of running the program.

Humane organizations attract dedicated people concerned for the welfare of animals. Because these organizations are generally not for profit, they rely on donations and volunteers to supplement their paid staff in order to function. Humane organizations find it difficult to compete with the salary levels of the private sector and as a result are likely to experience a high rate of turnover. High turnover means a lack of experience in dealing with animals and may result in higher than normal exposure to animal bites and diseases that accompany them.

Animal bites and the potential for the spread of disease are two reasons that animal control is directly related to public safety. Too little attention has been paid to the correlation between stray animals, animal bites and the potential for the spread of disease.

Little competition exists for animal pickup and impound services. Municipalities view these as important and required services and as a result, humane organizations may try to take advantage of a monopoly situation.

This research paper explores the complex field of animal control and its relationship to public safety. Several methods of reducing stray animal populations exist but research reveals that some methods have unintended secondary effects and consequences.

Local governments should examine current contracts for service to be sure the needs of the community are met. They should also be prepared to find an alternative if the services provided are unsatisfactory or the contracted service provider discontinues service.

Methodology

The research for this paper was conducted by reviewing journals, articles, books and the Internet. Also reviewed were the Green Bay's municipal contract for animal pickup and impound services, ordinances and state statutes that pertain to animal control.

Statistical analysis was conducted by reviewing 2005 animal impound records for the City of Green Bay. The Brown County Health Department provided animal bite statistics for the years 2004, 2005 and through mid-July of 2006.

Research included several interviews with people involved in municipal government, humane organizations and the animal control profession.

The research of this paper coincided with the development of a request for proposal (RFP) for animal impound services for the City of Green Bay. The author engaged in meetings and discussions with others involved in the process of negotiating a new contract for animal impound services.

Research was conducted on the subject of feral cats. This included review of a proposal by a local organization, "Cats Anonymous". The proposal offers an alternative method of reducing the feral cat population.

Chapter 1. Introduction

On February 15, 2005, fourteen rats were admitted to the Bay Area Humane Society (BAHS) as stray animals. BAHS invoices did not list a reason why the rats came into their care. On March 22, 2006, another nine rats were admitted. The only explanation listed on intake document was, “found on the sidewalk Broadway.” All of the rats were held at BAHS and were eventually euthanized. Because the City of Green Bay contracts with the BAHS for animal pickup and impound services, the City paid \$668.75 for this service.

This situation caught the attention of Green Bay’s animal control officer, Sharon Hensen, and as a result, raised a number of questions. Where did the rats come from? Were the rats someone’s pet or were they wild animals? Was the City of Green Bay responsible to pay for housing them?

Animal impound services are often taken for granted. The rat situation and other issues caught the attention of Green Bay city officials, prompting them to take a closer look at the contract with BAHS. An audit of 2005 invoices from the BAHS revealed a number of areas that warranted closer scrutiny. In doing so, a number of other issues were identified that may be of interest to other communities.

Virtually every community in the United States is called upon to address problems relating to wild and domesticated animals. Animal bites and the spread of disease are just two examples of why managing animal populations in our communities is directly related to public safety.

A majority of this responsibility falls under the law enforcement sector of local government as a public safety concern, for several reasons. Animal bites and the spread of diseases is certainly a public safety concern. Law enforcement also has the responsibility to investigate cases of animal neglect and abuse, including animal fighting. Finally, there is often a connection between illegal activity, such as drug dealing, and the use of aggressive dogs for “security.”

Stray and domestic animals each have distinct public safety and animal control issues to be addressed. Stray animals pose a threat to public safety for a variety of reasons but mainly due to the potential spread of communicable diseases.

Most people in today’s society are fully aware of the danger posed by communicable diseases such as rabies. However, there are numerous other health and safety factors relating to our coexistence with domestic animals and human interaction with undomesticated animals. Zoonotic diseases, those which can be transmitted from animals to humans, are once again moving to the forefront of public concern with the recent revelation of avian flu.

Some pet owners do not behave responsibly and allow their animals to run loose, compromising the safety of the public. Pet owners that do not sterilize their animals add to the overpopulation and stray animal problem. Unvaccinated pets also pose the same threats as strays in regards to animal bites.

Law enforcement also has the duty of investigating cases of animal neglect and abuse. This can be seen in many forms. For example, unscrupulous individuals use animals for criminal activities such as dog fighting. Individuals engaged in drug trafficking use trained attack dogs to guard their drug supplies and defend against the police (Scully interview).

Chapter 2. Animal Control and Public Safety

Animal control encompasses a wide range of duties, including the capture and control of loose or stray animals and enforcement of animal-related ordinances and statutes, as well as the investigation of animal neglect, abuse and bites. A good animal control program will also incorporate proactive measures such as education to promote sterilization and public safety. Animal control has evolved into a profession that is expected to grow faster than other professions nationwide ("Service Occupations").

With respect to domestic animals, when pet owners behave irresponsibly, the burden of managing this public health issue often falls upon local governments and police agencies. Unfortunately, police officers receive little or no training in the field of animal control. Humane officers typically are the front line people with the experience and training necessary to handle these situations.

Role of the humane officer

Wisconsin statute 173.03 allows for the appointment of humane officers for the governing body of any political subdivision, such as a city, village or town.

Humane officers appointed under this statute are empowered to enforce statutes and ordinances related to animals. Humane officers are also authorized to seek subpoenas, investigate alleged violations of animal related laws, issue citations and refer criminal charges to district attorneys for prosecution.

While not every community has the financial resources to appoint a humane officer, these communities, too, will undoubtedly be called upon to handle stray animals. Police officers are often called upon to handle animal related complaints when humane officers are unavailable and, in some cases, transport stray animals to local shelters in their squad cars.

Animal control encompasses a much larger range of activities and functions than those defined under Wisconsin Statute 173.03. Local governments must also be concerned with public health issues such as animal bites, the care for lost or abandoned animals and providing some mechanism to return lost pets to their owners. While adoption services are not mandated by statute, the public has an expectation that stray animals will not be unnecessarily euthanized. Failure to provide some avenue for adoption of stray animals would probably be troublesome for local politicians.

Green Bay's situation

According to the 2004 US census estimate, Green Bay has a population of 102,313. The City of Green Bay covers 46.1 square miles. The city employs one full time humane officer.

Green Bay's first humane officer was appointed 30 years ago, at a time when the city's population was 87,800. With a population growth of over 16%, it is safe to assume that the city's animal population has grown as well. Today, the city

continues to employ only one humane officer, who in 2005 responded to over 1,300 calls for service.

As the city's population has grown, so has the volume of animal related complaints. These complaints include reports of animal bites, strays, an increasing feral cat population, and the advent of criminal gangs engaged in the blood sport of dog fighting (Hensen interview).

Partnerships between Law Enforcement and Humane Organizations

Since most local governments do not have the facilities or the resources to care for lost or abandoned pets, these services are generally contracted. In addition, most local governments lack the mechanism required to handle animal adoptions or return lost pets to their owners. A natural partnership has developed between municipalities, charged with the responsibility of capturing and housing stray animals, and humane organizations which are equipped to deal with housing and providing adoption services. Local humane organizations may be affiliated with the Humane of the United States or the National Humane Society. Humane organizations are generally non-profit organizations.

The terms humane officer and animal control officer are often used interchangeably. This can create confusion with the public who assume that humane officers are employees of the local humane society when in fact the municipality employs them (Hensen interview). Humane organizations do not

investigate animal abuse or neglect. That function is the responsibility of the police or humane officers. Crimes against animals are enforceable under Wisconsin Statute 951.

Humane organizations generally provide animal impound and pickup services. These services can be unpleasant, demanding and may not be appealing to the private sector. A lack of competition coupled with limited knowledge of animal impound services can spell trouble for local governments. If the provider of these services discontinues service or provides unsatisfactory service, the local government is faced with a difficult challenge. When a healthy partnership exists the needs of the community are met. But what happens if this partnership dissolves? How would a municipality deal with stray animals? Who would respond to animal related complaints? Where would stray animals be housed? Who would care for them? How would lost pets be reunited with their owners? How would adoptions be handled?

Chapter 3. Analysis of the stray animal problem

Wisconsin Statute 173.19 requires that a stray animal be held for 7 days. In order to meet the City's needs, the City of Green Bay entered into a written contract with the Bay Area Humane Society. In order to gain a better understanding of the city's needs, staff conducted an analysis of 2005 invoices issued to the City of Green Bay by the BAHS. In the year 2005 a total of 1,319 animals were admitted to the BAHS as strays. These statistics reveal that in 2005, 58% of stray animals were cats, 37% were dogs and 5% were other animals. (Appendix 4)

Unclaimed animals are adopted, euthanized, or in some cases released back into the community (BAHS response to RFP 2006). The City bears the financial burden for animals that are not reclaimed.

Since the contract between the City of Green Bay and the BAHS places financial responsibility on the animal's owner, it is helpful to understand how many stray animals are actually reclaimed by their owners. In 2005, 25% of all stray animals admitted to the BAHS from the City of Green Bay were reclaimed. However, the percentage of cats reclaimed was only 7%. (Appendix 5) These statistics indicate that cats are far more likely than dogs to be homeless stray animals. Since stray animals are unlikely to have been vaccinated against diseases such as rabies, the danger to the public increases exponentially with the number of stray animals in the community (Hensen interview).

Chapter 4. Stray animals and the spread of disease

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) warns that toxoplasmosis, an infection caused by a parasite spread through cat feces, can cause serious health problems. Cats that become infected by eating infected rodents, birds and other small animals commonly spread the disease. The parasite is then passed on through the cat's feces. Human contamination can occur through exposure to cat feces in litter boxes, gardens and sand boxes. Pregnant women are at greater risk because the parasite attacks the fetus. The parasite can cause blindness and mental retardation in children (Toxoplasmosis: An Important Message for Women 1).

Animal Bites

Wisconsin Statute 95.21 (Rabies Control Program) requires that all dogs be vaccinated against rabies. Local municipalities may pass ordinances requiring cats and other animals to be vaccinated against rabies. State law requires that *all* animal bites be reported. Scratches caused by animals are considered reportable when the skin is broken. The Brown County Health Department maintains the bite records and conducts a follow up to ensure the animal involved is not infected with rabies. This is accomplished through quarantine and observation or laboratory testing.

“Rabies in humans is a fatal illness characterized by severe encephelopathy and generalized peresis. When the disease is not treated, death typically occurs

within 5 to 7 days after the onset of symptoms (Survival after Treatment of rabies with Induction of Coma 2508).” The only documented case of a person surviving rabies without being vaccinated after exposure is 15-year-old Jeanna Giese. In this case the exposure to rabies resulted from a bat bite.

Unless the animal involved can be located, quarantined and observed, people who are bitten by stray animals must go through the rabies series of vaccinations to avoid contracting the deadly disease. The rabies series is not only painful, but it is costly as well. Local health professionals at Prevea Clinic in Green Bay state that the recommended treatment for a stray animal bite includes a series of 5 vaccinations, each costing \$402.50 for a total of \$2012.50.

Animal bite statistics from the Brown County Health Department were reviewed for this study. The data reviewed was compiled for 2004, 2005, and 2006 through mid-July (Appendix 6). Upon review of animal bite statistics the following observations were made:

- ❑ Animal bites in Brown County involved mainly dogs and cats
- ❑ Dogs make up 75% of the total animal bites in Brown County
- ❑ Cats accounted for 61% of stray animal bites
- ❑ 19% of all animal bites in Brown County occur at the BAHS

Since the City of Green Bay and its contracted service provider deal mainly with stray animals, bites that involve strays are of particular interest. While it is true that dogs account for the majority of animal bites in Brown County, cats account for a higher percentage of stray animal bites. Absent other factors, the percentages of dog and cat bites should remain constant. The statistics suggest that other factors are responsible for the disproportionate amount of stray cat bites.

Reducing animal bites is a goal that promotes public health and safety. Effective problem solving involves the identification of clustered incidents. Since 19% of all animal bites in Brown County are occurring at one location, the BAHS, it would be beneficial to understand why this is happening.

The sheer volume of animals handled by this facility puts staff members at a greater risk of being bitten. Still, the statistics warrant further investigation to see if there is anything that can be done to reduce animal bites at the facility. Most humane organizations utilize volunteers to supplement their paid staff.

Volunteers may not have the same level of training and expertise that humane professionals do. Green Bay's full time humane officer estimates that she handles over 500 animals per year. In 20 years of animal control work she has suffered two bites (Hensen interview). If handling large amounts of animals were the only factor increasing a person's risk of animal bites, Officer Hensen would have been bitten more than twice. This suggests that experience and training can

reduce a person's likelihood of being bitten despite handling a large amount of animals.

Recommendation 4.1 Provided additional training to persons handling animals in order to reduce animal bites.

Recommendation 4.2 Conduct public education campaigns about the dangers of handling stray animals, animal bites and zoonotic diseases.

Chapter 5. Domestic, free roaming and feral cats

Domestic Cats, (*Felis Catus*) are descended from the wild cat (*Felis silvestris libyca*) of Africa and southwestern Asia. Wild cats were domesticated about 4,000 years ago. The HSUS estimates that there are 73 million owned cats in the United States. A poll by the American Bird Conservancy shows that 47 million owned cats are allowed to roam and prey on wildlife. The number of feral cats ranges from 40 to 60 million. In all the number of cats outdoors is probably over 100 million ("Impacts of Feral and Free Ranging Cats on Wildlife in Florida").

Cats are extremely popular house pets due to their unique personalities and relative independence. Unlike dogs, cats can be easily litter trained and therefore can remain indoors indefinitely. Cats do not make a lot of noise and can be left unattended for longer periods of time than dogs. These characteristics make cats a logical choice for house pets, especially in urban settings.

Domestic cats

Domestic cats are provided shelter and sustenance and cohabitate with humans. These are generally indoor pets that have frequent human contact. Domestic cats are commonly spayed, neutered and/or declawed.

Free roaming cats

Free roaming cats are cats are owned and domesticated but allowed to be outdoors without means of restraint. Free roaming cats run a greater risk of

contracting diseases than cats that are kept indoors. A cat's exposure to diseases such as rabies increase because cats are hunters and are more likely to encounter other diseased animals in the wild (Paul interview). What makes free roaming cats unique in this sense is that they lead a dual existence, house pet by day, predator by night. "All domesticated animals instinctively have the means and desire to hunt and kill (Christel)."

Feral Cats

Feral cats are unsocialized cats, which are one or more generations, removed from a home environment and may live in a group, or colony, of similar cats. "Feral cats are introduced, established, non native species (National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. 1)." Such cats would have no collar or other obvious signs of human intervention such as spaying, neutering or declawing. A feral cat exhibits behavioral characteristics such as attempts to bite or claw when handled.

Response to the feral cat problem

Since cats will likely make up the majority stray animals any animal control program will deal with, it is important to make a decision of how feral cats, in particular, are dealt with. There are varying philosophies regarding the best way to reduce the feral cat population. As this will likely become an issue in most communities, law enforcement should establish what their stance will be and be

prepared to have it addressed publicly.

Trap Neuter and Release

A concept known as Trap Neuter and Release (TNR) is gaining momentum across the nation. On November 2, 2006 an Internet Google search using the words, “trap neuter and release” produced 115,000 results.

TNR is defined as the act of trapping, neutering and releasing feral cats.

Supporters of TNR hope to avoid euthanasia and reduce the natural breeding of feral cats. TNR methods generally include the use of volunteers to trap feral cats and maintain managed colonies. As a means of identification, the cats left ear is surgically altered, a process known as ear tipping. Ear tipping serves as a method of identification so efforts are not wasted on repeat trappings. The theory behind TNR is that cat populations in the managed colonies will eventually stabilize and diminish (Winter 4). Advocates of TNR claim it is the “only scientifically proven method to reduce the feral cat population.” (Solving the Feral Cat Over Population Problem in Green Bay 1-5)

Roger Messick, Executive Director of the Bay Area Humane Society is quoted, “If someone had suggested TNR to me 14 years ago, when working as an animal control officer, I would have called them crazy. Years later I witnessed first hand a TNR program in action. I now realize TNR is the ONLY method of successfully reducing the feral cat population. Trap and kill temporarily lessens the

population, which is then brought back to status quo during the next breeding season.” (Trap-Neuter-Return: Developing an Effective Strategy for the Permanent Reduction of Feral and Stray Cat Populations in Green Bay, Wisconsin)

Trap and Euthanize

Trap and euthanize is used as a humane method to manage feral cat populations. The term “euthanasia” is derived from Greek meaning “good death”. The Humane Society of the United States recommends the injection of sodium pentobarbital (Humane Society of the United States 1). With respect to feral cats, this method of population control is preferred based on the belief that feral cats are unadoptable and being allowed to roam free poses a risk to public health due to the risk of bites and disease (Hensen interview).

Wisconsin Statute 173.23(4)(b) grants authority to local government to euthanized animals that pose an imminent threat to public health or safety. Based on animal bite statistics, feral cats fall into this category.

Animal rights advocates contend that TNR is more humane than euthanization. There is some debate over what method is more humane. “TNR does not save cats from the many hazards of being outdoors, including injury, disease, parasites, getting hit by cars being attacked by other cats, dogs or wildlife and human cruelty (Winter 5).” According to the Humane Society of the United

States, free roaming and feral cats live a much shorter lives than their house pet counterparts. “A cat properly cared for can live 15 to 20 years, but the HSUS estimates the average life span of a free roamer is less than 3 years (Handy 23).”

Environmental concerns

The fact that cats are non-native predators has made a measurable impact on the environment. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources estimates that in Wisconsin alone, 38 million songbirds are killed each year by feral and free roaming cats (Christel). Since a bird’s primary food source is insects, an unintended consequence of a reduced bird population is an increased insect population.

The natural factors that limit animal populations are predation, disease, available food supply and habitat. Since cats are non-native species to North America, few natural predators exist. Cats are prolific hunters and have an impressive ability to adapt to harsh environments. Unnatural food sources exist because people commonly feed stray cats out of concern and compassion. These factors combined with the cat’s protected status have allowed cat populations to grow to artificially high numbers. “ A paradox of this tragic state of affairs is that humans perpetuate it, and at the same time are distressed by it (Hatley 444).”

Trained humane professionals have no trouble determining if a cat is feral (Henson interview). “Feral Cats are simply little tigers in cat suits. To be kept

even 2 or 3 days in common housing causes distress to a feral cat. Since there is such a large population of stray domestic cats efforts should be concentrated on adopting those (Lewis interview). ” Cats are more likely to be carriers of rabies than other species of domestic animals (Paul interview).

Regardless of one’s belief that one option is better or more humane than the other, few would agree that releasing feral cats near a wildlife sanctuary is a good practice. This is exactly what happened in Green Bay with the BAHS. “ In the past the Humane Society has trapped feral and semi feral cats on its property. The cats were spayed/neutered and released back on the property of the Humane Society (Messick 6).” The BAHS facility is located within 1000 feet of the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Feral cats have been seen on the Wildlife Sanctuary grounds in areas where waterfowl nest (Roznik interview). Cats have a history of decimating bird populations, especially in nesting grounds, where they are most vulnerable. “In New Zealand alone, cats were primarily responsible for the extinction of eight bird species and the eradication of 41 others from the islands (Winter 3).”

Cats involved in animal bites

Based on Brown County animal bite statistics, humans are nearly twice as likely to be bitten by a stray cat than a stray dog. One possible explanation is that feral cats resemble house pets. As a result, people can develop a false sense of confidence when encountering these animals. Few people would attempt to pick

up and cuddle a raccoon or a squirrel because it is naturally assumed the animal may bite or scratch. Since a feral cat is similar in appearance to a common household pet, people do not use the same level of caution as they would with other wildlife.

Legal considerations of TNR

Advocates of TNR acknowledge that a change in local ordinance would be required to implement the program in Green Bay. City ordinance 8.06(1) ANIMALS TO BE CONFINED would need to be amended to permit “ear tipped cats registered as part of a Cats Anonymous colony to roam free without penalty (Solving the Feral Cat Over Population Problem in Green Bay 2).”

Municipalities may have more than their own ordinances to worry about if they endorse TNR. “TNR practices likely violate the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), because they may result in the direct take of protected species (Winter 5).”

The proposal by Cats Anonymous includes the use of volunteers to assist in the capture of feral cats. Volunteers lack the experience and training necessary to avoid bites and scratches, which puts them at risk. In the interests of public safety, the proposal is ill advised.

Recommendation 5.1 Feral cats should be trapped when possible and euthanized in a humane manner. Since feral cats are unowned animals that pose a public health risk, they should not be held 7 days like domestic animals. A municipal government endorsing a TNR program exposes itself to unnecessary liability.

Chapter 6. Contracts

The City of Green Bay currently contracts with the Bay Area Humane Society (BAHS) for the pickup and impound of stray animals in the city limits. Contracted animal pickup services are utilized when the City's humane officer is not available. Impound services include the provision of food, water, shelter and basic veterinary care for animals brought in as strays. Impound service also includes quarantine for animals involved in bite cases.

The services contracted through the BAHS fall under the budget of the Green Bay Police Department. However, the negotiations of annual contracts with BAHS have been handled through the mayor's office. On the surface, animal control issues are not typically associated with the public's perception of police responsibility and the cop on the beat. Animal control does however have a direct link to public safety, which clearly falls under the purview of the police.

Partnership City of Green Bay and the Bay Area Humane Society (BAHS)

The City has a long-standing two-part agreement with the Bay Area Humane Society and the current contract, previously overseen by the Mayor's assistant, will expire December 31, 2006. On June 7, 2006 city staff met with Executive Director of the BAHS, Roger Messick. During this meeting the city learned that the BAHS was considering discontinuing service to the City of Green Bay at the end of the contract period (Messick interview). In light of this information, and the city's dissatisfaction with the current level of service, city officials began looking

for alternatives for animal pickup and impound services.

Since the administration of this contract is performed by the Green Bay Police Department and services fall under the police budget, a request was made to transfer the negotiation from the mayor's office to the police department, with assistance from Green Bay's purchasing department. This request was granted in July of 2006.

For many years the contract language has remained the same with minor variations over time allowing for an increased fee schedule for services.

Appendix 1 summarizes the services performed and who is responsible to perform the services under the 2004-2006 contract between the City of Green Bay and the BAHS.

The BAHS website lists the activities it is involved in as:

- ❑ Animal adoption
- ❑ Animal rescue and Community Animal Control
- ❑ Lost & found
- ❑ Spay & neuter discounts
- ❑ Education programs
- ❑ Pet therapy
- ❑ Volunteer opportunities
- ❑ End of life pet services

While these services are worthwhile, they are not necessarily a primary responsibility of the municipality. Municipalities entering into a contract with a humane organization should keep this in mind when negotiating fees. Like the BAHS, most humane organizations are non-profit. These organizations receive funding through donations, fundraising efforts, and contracted services.

Financial accountability

In June of 2006 the City of Green Bay conducted an audit of 2005 invoices. The audit revealed that the city had been charged for services outside of the contract with the BAHS. Examples include charges for animals picked up in other jurisdictions, double billing, and billing for animals that had been reclaimed by their owners.

BAHS staff may have been unaware of municipal boundaries when processing invoices. One possible explanation was that certain areas outside the city still use Green Bay mailing addresses thus making it unclear to staff that the address was actually in another jurisdiction. The cause of other billing errors was unclear.

Recommendation 6.1 Provide detailed maps and street guides to contract service providers to assist them in determining jurisdictional boundaries. Develop simplified billing methods, which clearly define allowed and disallowed charges.

Determining a fair price for service

First, it is important to determine exactly which services the municipality intends to contract. Some municipalities pay one fee for pick up and impound while others pay separate fees for these services. The practice of billing per animal is the most common method in Wisconsin (Dupuis Interview). How a humane organization arrives at a price per animal can vary, however. For example, the Fox Valley Humane Association requested an independent audit to determine the actual cost of an animal impound. Only services related to the care for an animal under the municipal agreement were considered (Lewis Interview). Based on a 7-day stay, the Fox Valley Humane Association calculates its cost to be \$83.00 per animal. The BAHS calculates the cost per animal differently. All operating expenses, including fundraising, special event, and program expenses are calculated into the fee per animal charged to a municipality. As a result, the BAHS calculates the cost per animal of \$184.25. “Fund raising expenses should be considered a cost of doing business (Bay Area Humane Society).” The BHAS was calculating fees based on all expenses incurred through its various activities, not just those incurred under the City of Green Bay contract.

In October 2006, discussions between the City of Green Bay and the BAHS emphasized the importance of defining what services the city was actually paying for. In a communication to the police department, the City's purchasing manager wrote, "The City of Green Bay's intent is to fully pay for services required by contract. Other services provided by the BAHS are supported by contributors through donations. There is absolutely no expectation that donations to BAHS will be used to subsidize City animal impound services. Neither should there be an expectation that the City will subsidize anything other than those services under contract (Bay Area Humane Society / City of Green Bay Discussions)."

Recommendation 6.2 Municipal impound agreements should assess a fee per animal that is calculated in a manner that does not include unrelated expenses.

In a recent review of the contract between the City of Green Bay and the BAHS, the city's purchasing agent noted that the contract was written in a narrative format with pricing information scattered throughout the document. Contracts structured in this manner are difficult for both sides to administer and create a higher likelihood for mistakes and misinterpretations (Dupius interview).

Recommendation 6.3 Avoid narrative descriptions of fees. Create a pricing page that includes allowable charges. A pricing page will assist clerical staff in conducting periodic audits.

Negotiations

Part of the negotiation process is to identify mutual objectives and needs. In doing so, it is helpful to understand the missions of each of the parties involved. Both the Green Bay Police Department and the Bay Area Humane Society have clearly defined mission statements, published on their respective web sites.

Green Bay Police Department's Mission Statement

"We, the men and women of the Green Bay Police Department, are dedicated to providing service through a partnership with the community that builds trust, reduces crime, creates a safe environment, and enhances the quality of life in our neighborhoods." (Green Bay Police Department Mission Statement)

The Bay Area Humane Society Mission Statement

"The Bay Area Humane Society & Animal Shelter, Inc. is a non-profit organization which promotes the humane treatment of animals, reunites pets with their owners, and provides protection, care, and shelter for unwanted and homeless companion animals." (BAHS Mission Statement)

Housing stray animals is clearly in the best interests of both entities. While it is safe to assume that both the Green Bay Police Department and the BAHS are concerned for the humane treatment of animals, the city must also be concerned with public safety. The BAHS supports a trap neuter and release program (TNR) as an alternative to euthanization. Releasing stray animals not only violates city ordinance but adds to the public health and safety problems related to stray animals. Release of feral cats is inconsistent with the City's mission of improving the quality of life for the citizens of Green Bay.

Information sharing and communication.

Article 9 of the impound agreement between BAHS and the City of Green Bay reads, "The Humane Society shall keep good and accurate records in compliance with this agreement which shall be open and available to inspection by the municipality through its employees and agents at all reasonable times."

Beginning in 2006, the BAHS denied requests for information from the city's humane officer. The BAHS Executive Director, Roger Messick, cites privacy rights of individuals reclaiming and relinquishing pets. The city cites public health and safety reasons for the information requests. Information relating to animal welfare and criminal investigations freely given in the past now must be obtained through subpoena, which often takes more time and work. The city and BAHS are still working to find some middle ground on this issue.

It is critical to have a clear understanding of each organization's expectations in this relationship. The complexities of animal control and its direct impact on public safety mean there is more at stake than what to do with stray animals. Humane officers or the police should be notified to investigate cases where animals show visible signs of injury, abuse, or neglect. The city recognizes that persons handling the intake of animals are in an excellent position to detect animal abuse or neglect. An open line of communication between a humane organization and the municipality is mutually beneficial. The following are example of situations when information sharing is beneficial.

- Dog fighting: This shocking and egregious activity can go undiscovered without a cooperative working relationship between those involved in animal impound and the police. Animals showing physical signs of injury are most likely to be detected by intake workers receiving them. As a result, a free flow of information between animal impound facilities and the police is vitally important to curtail this cruel blood sport.

- Reclaimed pets: These are animals that generally come to the BAHS because they were running loose, in violation of Green Bay City ordinance 8.06(1) "Animals to be confined." Keeping records of these violations is important to establish and take action if there is an ongoing problem. If the city is not notified, there is no way to track problems and correct them.

- Relinquished pets: These are animals that are voluntarily given up. The humane officer or the police should be notified in cases where an animal shows obvious signs of injury, abuse or neglect.

- Animal hoarding: Persons involved in hoarding are likely to have frequent contact with humane organizations. Staff may be able to identify possible hoarders as persons who frequently adopt animals. Hoarding cases have been documented in the City of Green Bay. In one case, a hospice volunteer relinquished a family of 26 rats to the BAHS on behalf of an elderly man. The health care worker discovered the rats in the home of the man who had apparently allowed the rats to propagate. Cases like this one illustrate the importance of information sharing so that public health officials can investigate. Large populations of animals in confined spaces create health hazards and are of concern not only to law enforcement but public health officials as well (Hensen interview).

Other Considerations for Law Enforcement

Police investigating drug trafficking are likely to cross paths with animal control professionals because individuals involved in drug activity often use trained attack dogs to guard their illegal activities. The Brown County Drug Task Force (DTF) estimates that over 50% of drug suspects own a vicious breed of dog such as a pit bull. These animals are often trained to defend against intruders who would steal a drug dealer's contraband or delay police entry, allowing the

offender time to dispose of evidence (Scully interview).

Since drug trafficking involves persons of questionable character, it is unlikely they would be concerned with the humane treatment of their pets. The municipality and the BAHS have a common interest in seeing that the right people adopt dogs.

Recommendation 6.4 Both the municipality and the contracted service provider should have a clear understanding of what information will be shared and how it is communicated.

Adoption Policies

Humane organizations specialize in animal adoptions. There are two primary considerations through the adoption process: those seeking the adoption and the adoptability of the animal.

Adoption policies that are too strict or cumbersome may discourage people from adopting pets. Adoption policies that are too liberal can have adverse effects. Humane organizations can partner with police to spot persons who are adopting dogs, such as pit bulls, for the purpose of dog fighting. Since the BAHS mission statement stresses the humane treatment of animals, it makes good sense to prevent the adoption of a dog for this purpose. People who are not equipped or capable of providing proper care and treatment of animals should not be allowed

to adopt them. People adopting animals should be advised of city ordinances limiting the amount of pets in a home. Local ordinances relating to the number of animals should be respected and efforts should be made to ensure that people adopting animals are aware of them.

There are several reasons why an animal should not be adopted out. Animals prone to biting and causing injury to people should not be adopted (Lewis interview). Temperament testing is a growing field of study for humane organizations and it can be an effective tool in determining the adoptability of an animal (Hensen interview). Feral cats cannot be tamed and turned into house pets. These animals are not suitable pets and are unadoptable (Lewis interview).

Recommendation 6.5 Contracted service providers should establish a method of screening persons adopting animals that does not discourage responsible people from adopting pets, but at the same time, makes an effort to prevent people from adopting pets for the wrong reasons.

Shelters should also implement some form of temperament testing to ensure that animals prone to attack or biting are not adopted.

Because the field of animal control relates directly to public safety, it is important to be sure that any contract for animal control services incorporates these principles.

Fees for the Pickup and Transport of Stray Animals

Fees associated with a recovered pet include transport, admittance to the BAHS and boarding fees. Transport fees are only incurred when the BAHS is called to pick or transport the pet. The BAHS transports pets when the city's humane officer is unavailable. The BAHS requires a pet owner to pay admittance and boarding fees upon reclaim of their pet. However, the BAHS does not collect the transport fee at the time the animal is reclaimed. Instead, the BAHS bills the City of Green Bay for the transport fee. The city attempts to recover the money from the pet owner at a later date. The city receives monthly invoices from the BAHS and as a result there is a significant delay between the time an animal is transported and the time the owner receives a bill for the transport. Additional time is required for city staff to process the invoices. Since the fee is \$43.50 the city may expend more resources in this effort than it recovers. In 2005 the city wrote off over \$6,000 in transport fees that were considered uncollectable.

The Green Bay Police Department's Records Manager, Cathy Allcox, is responsible for reviewing the transport invoices and sending them out. Allcox receives numerous complaints from citizens who question the charge. Based on phone complaints, Allcox concludes that there is considerable confusion because pet owners receive a document stamped "paid in full" from the BAHS upon reclaim of their pet. It is no wonder that they are surprised when they receive an additional bill from the city (Allcox interview).

Recommendation 6.6 The service provider should collect all fees up front, including transport. Since the owner of a reclaimed animal is responsible for the fees associated with it, there is no sense to bill the city and expect the city to recover these fees at a later date.

Analysis of invoices from the BAHS to the City of Green Bay revealed that in 2005, the City of Green Bay paid \$16,857.50 for animal pickup services. The BAHS was requested a total of 386 times to pick up animals. Of those requests, 70 resulted in no pickup because the animal was not restrained and the responder was unable to locate the animal. As a result, the city paid \$2,903.00 for calls when no animal was recovered. See Appendix 3

Recommendation 6.7 The contracting agency should establish guidelines that specify when an animal control service should be dispatched. Dispatch should be avoided when an animal is not confined because the animal may be gone by the time the service provider arrives. Exceptions should be made when emergency situations arise. One example would be an animal that has bitten a member of the public and capture is necessary to determine if the animal is infected with a contagious disease.

Due to the difficulties Green Bay experienced with the animal pickup service, an alternative was developed. The Green Bay city council approved the hiring of

interns to handle animal pickup. The interns will provide animal pickup service during the hours that were previous contracted to the BAHS. The advantage of hiring interns is that they are limited term employees. The city is not required to make a long-term commitment by adding another permanent employee. Interns receive an excellent opportunity to learn the field of animal control and the city receives the benefit of a part-time employee with minimal commitment. The interns will receive formal training in animal control.

Identifying alternative impound services

Regardless of the nature of the contracted service, periodic review of a contract is in the best interests of those receiving the service. Most municipal governments follow a structured process in developing contracts for service. The author has worked with Linda Dupuis, the Purchasing Manager for the City of Green Bay, to develop a request for proposal (RFP). Other options include a request for quote (RFQ). According to Dupuis, an RFQ is more suitable for tangible, easily defined items, such as a truck. With an RFQ, as long as the requirements for the service are met, the City would generally accept the lowest bid unless there is a good reason not to. An RFP allows the City to look at all proposals and pick the one that best suits the City's needs even if it is not the lowest price. This process is desirable in certain cases where the service requested is not easily defined or the vendor may have another way of accomplishing the same goal. Ideally, the RFP will serve as a template for a

contract. The following excerpt is language taken directly from the City of Green Bay's boilerplate RFP.

"This document is a REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL. It differs from a Request for Bid/Quotation in that the City is seeking a solution, as described herein, and not a bid/quotation that meets firm specifications for the lowest price. As such, the lowest price proposed will not guarantee an award recommendation. Competitive Proposals will be evaluated based upon criteria formulated around the most important features of a product or service, of which quality, testing, references, availability or capability, may be overriding factors, and price may not be determinative in the issuance of a contract or award. The City of Green Bay reserves the right to select, and subsequently award, the proposed service which best meets its required needs, quality levels, and budget constraints."

Municipalities interested in contracting with a service other than a local humane organization may find it difficult to find a prospective vendor. Humane organizations have an advantage over privatized services in competing for government contracts. One prospective bidder for services gave the following reasons why (Dupuis interview):

- ❑ The volume of animals is too large for most private veterinarian or kennel services to handle.
- ❑ Private operations such as kennels and veterinary clinics must show a profit to survive. It is difficult for them to compete with non-profit

organizations because they do not have the benefit of donations and volunteers.

- Animal boarding fees are one source of income for kennels. These private boarding fees can amount to \$30.00 per day. Boarding fees under municipal contracts typically range from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per day.

- Stray animals admitted under the city contract may be infected with parasites and contagious diseases. There is concern that animals belonging to other clients may become infected and therefore must be separated from animals boarded under the municipal contract. This would result in a capital investment in the facility to accommodate separate facilities.

- Humane organizations have a system of animal adoption, which allows them to set their own policies of what to do with animals after the 7 day holding period. Private organizations are acclimated to the care and boarding of owned animals. They are not set up for adoption of strays. The municipal contract will pay boarding fees for 7 days. At the end of the holding period, what would they do with the animals?

- Since a private vendor would probably need to make a capital investment in order to accommodate the number of animals the city impounds,

potential vendors are concerned with exit clauses that are included in city contracts. Since the city operates on a one-year budget, a two-year contract requires the municipality an out, because the funds are subject to annual council approval.

The amount paid for service in the past is valuable information when looking for alternative service. See appendix 2 for annual animal impound and pickup fees paid to the BAHS.

Careful review of the City of Green Bay's needs helped determine what questions to ask when negotiating a contract for animal impound services.

A. Does the service provider have an adequate quarantine facility?

Wisconsin Statute 95.21 defines the requirements of Wisconsin's rabies control program. A contracted service provider must be able to meet the statutory requirements regarding quarantine and isolation. The potential service provider will need an estimate of how many animals they may be asked to house. The service provider should articulate their plan to ensure that reclaimed and adopted pets are vaccinated for rabies. The BAHS charges a \$20.00 deposit that is refunded when the animal owner returns with a certificate of vaccination. The actual cost of a rabies vaccination is \$45.00.

B. How will the service provider handle record keeping and requests for information?

A free flow of information between the local government and the contracted service provider is vital to public health and safety. Animals that exhibit signs of abuse should be reported to local law enforcement immediately. Growing trends such as dog fighting can be curtailed through a cooperative working arrangement. Both parties to the contract should come to some agreement on a procedure regarding the release of information and what information will be released.

C. Are fees clearly defined?

Since most service providers for animal impound are humane associations, they are likely to be non-profit organizations. As a result, their financial statement is subject to public record. The receiver of contract services should be financially responsible only for those services it has agreed to pay for. Good record keeping and attention paid to local boundaries can help insure that the local municipality is charged only for the services within its own borders. Other fees such as daily impound services should be clearly defined.

Chapter 7. Proposed Solutions

Low cost spay and neutering programs appear to offer the greatest hope in reducing the problem of overpopulation to a manageable level. The state of New Hampshire implemented an aggressive program in 1994 aimed at controlling the stray animal population through spaying and neutering. The program was subsidized through dog registration fees. Persons adopting pets were eligible to have their pets sterilized at a reduced rate. From 1994 to 2000, over 25,000 animals were sterilized. As a result the states largest shelters realized a reduction of 30,985 dogs and cats in the six years preceding the program (Handy 23).

Licensing

The City of Green Bay has implemented a concept known as differential licensing. This refers to charging higher registration fees for unsterilized animals. Differential licensing can also be an effective means of reducing the stray animal population. The concept was adopted in King County Washington in 1992. By the year 2000 the number of sterilized registrations had increased 93% for dogs and 228% for cats (Handy 26). As seen in the New Hampshire case, increased sterilizations result in reduced admittance to shelters, meaning less stray animals. Less stray animals means less animal bites. Less animal bites means improved public safety.

The additional funds Green Bay expects to receive through differential licensing will be used to fund a subsidized spay and neuter program in the city.

Public awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate the public about the dangers of stray animal bites. The public should be discouraged from feeding stray cats for the same reasons that the Wisconsin DNR restricted the public from feeding deer in 2003. Feeding stray animals exacerbates the problem by altering the natural environment. Common food sources are a gathering place for stray animals and increase the chance for the spread of disease.

Alternatives for service

Fortunately for the City of Green Bay, an alternative service provider was located. While negotiations are not complete, the Fox Valley Humane Association has agreed to work with the City. The Fox Valley Humane Association is a state of the art facility with principles that are in line with the City of Green Bay. The only obstacle is that the facility is 35 miles away. In order to accommodate the city's needs, a substation would need to be established so that daily trips are not necessary.

This proposal is to lease a small facility to house 6 to 8 animals at a time for up to 72 hours before transporting them to the contracted facility. Only a small facility is needed to accommodate a few animals until they are transported to the City's contracted service provider. The facility would not need to be staffed full time; rather interns and Green Bay's humane officer would visit the facility several

times a day. They will handle the small amount of care needed for any animals in the facility.

Here are the advantages to the City of Green Bay:

- Based on analysis of 2005 records, the city estimates that fees for over 350 feral cats were billed last year that were known to be unadoptable. If the city handles the intake, these animals would not be allowed to suffer in a cage for a week, unnecessarily and would be humanely euthanized. This policy change could save \$30,000 per year. (Appendix 7)
- Most reclaimed pets would be turned over to the owner from the City's facility. All other adoptable animals would continue to be transported to our contracted service provider.

Under the current contract between the City of Green Bay and BAHS, the City has no way to be sure animals receive a license or rabies vaccination. If the City operates its own intake, the City would be in a position to collect a fee from people reclaiming their pets. The City would also be in a better position to issue licenses to pet owners as they reclaim their pets. In those cases where a citation must be issued, the humane officer would have the opportunity to have contact with the pet owner.

Neighboring jurisdictions have expressed interest in contracting with the city to

handle their animal pickups. The city could realize income never seen before, at the same time, providing better service to the community.

While the solutions discussed above may be unique to Green Bay, the concepts provided in this paper are universal.

8. Conclusion

Government officials charged with the responsibility of animal control can improve public safety and the quality of life for the citizens they serve by running an effective animal control program. An important element is a good animal impound contract. Agencies contracting for these services would benefit from testing the market, especially when it appears that a monopoly exists. It is not only prudent to identify other potential service providers; you may learn that there are better alternatives.

Based on Brown County Health Department animal bite records, reducing the feral cat population would reduce the number of stray animal bites. The method of reducing the feral cat population is where there is disagreement. No matter where a person stands on the issue of TNR vs. trap and euthanize, everyone agrees that something must be done to address the problem of feral cats.

Supporters of TNR are primarily focused on preservation of one specific breed of animal. Those who oppose TNR primarily cite reasons relating to wildlife

preservation and public health concerns. This may explain why humane organizations and law enforcement share opposing views on the subject.

TNR has the virtue of being unconventional but the author is unconvinced that this method of population control is effective and in the best interests of public safety. If TNR were an effective method of population control, wildlife management experts would have embraced the concept long ago to control the populations of deer and other wild animals. Capture of feral cats is best left to professionals who are less prone to being bitten.

People are drawn to animal related professions because of their love and compassion for animals. Sadly, thousands of animals must be euthanized each year through no fault of their own. Humane professionals and animal lovers no doubt find this situation troubling and understandably look for other options.

As activist groups mobilize, local governments may be pressured to implement a TNR program. Government officials should be prepared to respond and defend their position, no matter what it is. They should also be aware that this is a sensitive issue that may result in public debate. “As the most popular pet in America, however, domestic cats enjoy the support of the most ardent animal rights activists who strongly oppose euthanasia of homeless cats (Winter 1).”

To be true to our mission, the debate should focus on public safety. All other considerations such as cost and animals rights should take a second seat to public safety.

Since the problems relating to stray animals are the result of human behavior, only a change in human behavior can improve the situation. Public awareness campaigns combined with aggressive enforcement of animal control laws offer the best hope of altering human behavior.

Humankind has not demonstrated a great track record in altering the natural ecosystem. The introduction of non-native species has been problematic, no matter the species. As with most problems relating to social disorder, the author does not believe that issues relating to animal control can ever be totally resolved. A more realistic goal is to reduce the problem or the harm caused by the problem to a level that is manageable.

Be aware of trends in the world of animal control and adapt accordingly, keeping in mind the relationship between animal control and public safety. By implementing the suggestions contained in this research paper, problems related to stray animals can be reduced to a manageable level.

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Appendix 1. Animal impound/pickup responsibilities

Type of Service	Who is responsible
Animal Adoption	BAHS
Animal Impound (food, shelter, water)	BAHS
Bites cases, investigation and reporting	City of Green Bay
Bites cases, quarantine of animals	BAHS
Enforcement of animal related ordinance and statutes	City of Green Bay
Euthanasia of unadoptable animals	BAHS
Exotic Animals	City of Green Bay
Injured Animals	City of Green Bay (contracted veterinarian)
Investigation of animal abuse/neglect	City of Green Bay
Issuance of license	BAHS/ City of Green Bay
Pickup and disposal of dead animals	BAHS/ City of Green Bay
Pickup and transport of stray animals Monday through Friday 4:00PM to 10:00PM	BAHS
Pickup and transport of stray animals Monday through Friday 7:30AM to 4:00PM	City of Green Bay
Pickup and transport of stray animals Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 8:00AM to 10:00PM	BAHS
Relinquished pets (owned but unwanted)	BAHS/animal owner

Source:

Impound Agreement between the City of Green Bay and the Bay Area Humane Society. Green Bay: 2004-2006.

Pickup Agreement between the City of Green Bay and the Bay Area Humane Society. Green Bay: 2004-2006.

Appendix 2. Annual Animal Impound/Pickup Fees

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	TOTAL
January	6,671.14	7,827.66	5,401.55	5,169.55	7,432.35	\$32,502.25
February	5,768.17	6,044.29	6,040.90	5,515.19	6,533.65	\$29,902.20
March	6,029.30	6,055.15	4,835.30	8,547.50	7,304.95	\$32,772.20
April	6,622.88	7,954.06	6,971.45	11,148.20	6,782.60	\$39,479.19
May	7,403.26	10,999.20	10,317.95	11,352.60	11,906.20	\$51,979.21
June	12,281.00	12,862.70	11,961.30	11,262.20	14,526.20	\$62,893.40
July	11,057.83	17,624.09	16,237.10	10,850.45	15,120.30	\$70,889.77
August	11,854.69	12,087.30	11,297.75	10,122.40	13,582.67	\$58,944.81
September	11,105.60	12,014.15	10,144.55	13,746.75		\$47,011.05
October	11,209.17	10,605.75	10,076.50	13,431.00		\$45,322.42
November	7,024.96	10,503.35	8,884.00	13,238.35		\$39,650.66
December	6,613.97	9,781.70	7,142.89	11,491.20		\$35,029.76
	\$103,641.97	\$124,359.40	\$109,311.24	\$125,875.39	\$83,188.92	\$546,376.92

Source: City of Green Bay Finance Department

Appendix 3. 2005 Animal Transport Costs

Invoice date	No transport	Regular transport	On Call Fee
1/31/2006	\$288.50	\$367.50	\$85.00
2/28/2005	\$290.50	\$664.00	
3/31/2006	\$290.50	\$664.00	\$585.00
4/30/2006	\$124.50	\$1,162.00	\$170.00
5/31/2006	\$332.00	\$1,245.00	\$900.00
6/30/2006	\$373.50	\$871.50	\$75.00
7/31/2006	\$249.00	\$1,245.00	
8/31/2006	\$124.50	\$1,079.00	
9/30/2006	\$373.50	\$1,079.00	\$330.00
10/31/2006	\$207.50	\$1,203.50	\$85.00
11/30/2005	\$83.00	\$1,120.50	\$75.00
12/31/2006	\$166.00	\$788.50	\$160.00
			Grand total
Total	\$2,903.00	\$11,489.50	\$2,465.00
			\$16,857.50

Source: Bay Area Humane Society Invoices

Appendix 4. Stray animals admitted to BAHS in 2005

Type of animal	Number of animals	Percentage of total
Dog	488	37%
Cat	761	58%
Other (ferret, bird, rat)	70	5%
Total	1319	100%

Source: 2005 BAHS invoices

Appendix 5. Reclaimed Animals (2005)

Type of animal	Number of animals	Reclaimed	Percentage of total
Dog	488	280	57%
Cat	761	50	7%
Other (ferret, bird, rat)	70	6	9%

Source: 2005 BAHS invoices

Appendix 6. Animal Bite statistics

Brown County Animal Bite Cases

Percentage of Total Animal Bites

Year	Cats	Dogs	Other	Total	Cats Percent	Dogs Percent	Other-Percent
2004	47	139	0	186	25%	75%	0%
2005	73	147	0	220	33%	67%	0%
2006	32	99	4	135	24%	73%	3%
Total	152	385	4	541	28%	71%	1%

Brown County Stray Animal Bite Cases

Percentage of Stray Animal Bites

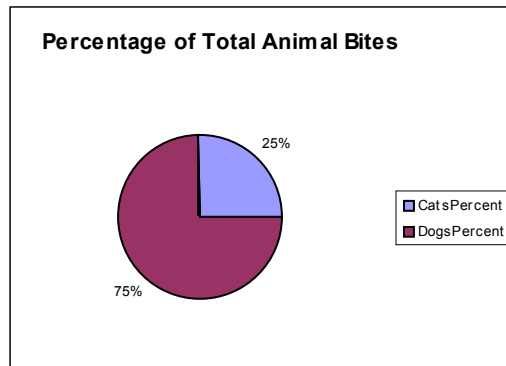
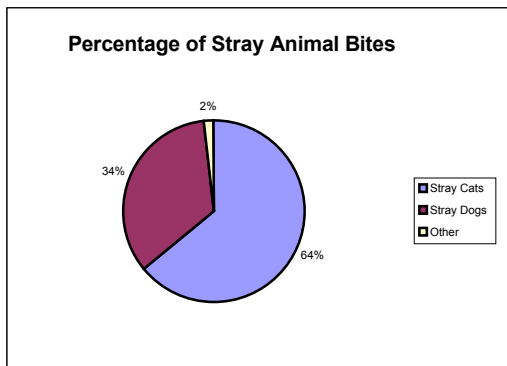
	Stray Cats	Stray Dogs	Other	Total	Stray Cats	Stray Dogs	Other
2004	30	19	0	49	61%	39%	0%
2005	55	26	0	81	68%	32%	0%
2006	23	13	3	39	59%	33%	8%
	108	58	3	169	64%	34%	2%

Bites Occurring at BAHS

	Cats	Dogs	Other	Total
2004	11	11	0	22
2005	34	12	1	47
2006	22	11	1	34

103

Percentage of all animal bites 19%



Source: Brown County Health Department

Appendix 7. Animal impound contract cost

2007 Proposed BAHS Costs: \$220,000

BAHS - 2005 ACTUAL COSTS	
\$ 121,682	Amt pd BAHS
\$ (16,858)	Deduct animal pickup & misc. costs
\$ 104,825	Actual animal Inpound costs - 2005
divided by 983 animals euthanized or adopted (excluding reclaims)	
\$ 106.64	BAHS Impound cost per animal - 2005

2007 Proposed FVHA Costs: \$81,589

FVHA - 2005 Projected Costs	(based on City impound requirements)
	983# animals euthanized or adopted (excluding reclaims)
\$ 83	Cost per animal
\$ 81,589	Expected FVHA annual cost - 2005 requirements

2007 Proposed FVHA Costs: \$51,460

NOTE: FVHA cost wd likely be lower if the feral cats are euthanized by GBPD Humane Officer, rather than held, transported & then euthanized.	
550 cats euthanized = ~2/3 feral = 363 feral cats	
	983# animals euthanized or adopted (excluding reclaims)
	-363 less # feral cats
	620# animals sent to FVHS
\$ 83	Cost per animal
\$ 51,460	Possible FVHA annual cost - 2005 requirements

NOTE: Above costs are based on 2005 animal pickups. Cost adjustment is required, and will be based on 2006 actual #'s & 2007 forecasted numbers.