Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission (LAWC) Assessment Report for Animal Shelter Facilities in Louisiana

LOUISIANA ANIMAL
WELFARE COMMISSION

Date **March 9, 2012**

Inspectors: **Dr. Gary A. Balsamo, State Public Health Veterinarian**

Name of Facility **City of Crowley Animal Shelter**

There are several state laws that set minimum legal requirements for animal shelters, impoundment facilities, and quarantine facilities. They include…

- Louisiana minimum legal requirements for animal shelters, impoundment facilities and quarantine facilities, Title 3, Chapter 17, Louisiana Revised Statutes 2431 et seq.
    - This statute addresses requirements for veterinary treatment of animals, limitations on fees, authority of parish governments to adopt, general shelter standards, shelter construction, shelter operating procedures, sterilization requirements, adoption standards, and branding.
- Continuing education requirements for certified animal euthanasia technicians, Louisiana Revised Statutes , Title 37, Chapter 18B, Louisiana Revised Statutes 1551 et seq.
- The control of rabies and other zoonotic diseases, Louisiana Administrative Code, Chapter 51, Part III
- American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines on Euthanasia (http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf)

You should familiarize yourself with these laws and any requirements that may pertain to your facility or its employees.

Many features and practices that enhance facility operations for the animals or the facility staff are not addressed in the above statutes. LAWC considers the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Animal Control Association, the

Humane Society of the United States, and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians in shelter evaluations. Resources are listed below:

- National Animal Control Association Guidelines (http://www.nacanet.org/guidelines.html)
- Humane Society of the United States Guidelines for the Operation of an Animal Shelter (http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/policies_and_guidelines/guidelines_for_animal_shelter_operations.html)
- Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters, Association of Shelter Veterinarians (http://www.sheltervet.org/associations/4853/files/Standards%20final%20bookmarks_with%20security.pdf)

The list of questions below should be retained and utilized for self evaluations on a routine basis. This list contains features and practices that strengthen facility operations. Some are required by law (these are labeled as "**MANDATED**") and are reiterated in this supplement as a reinforcement of their requirement.

LAWC Comments and suggestions are added under each item in the assessment.

A. Animal Euthanasia

1. ☐Y ☒N Have staff who perform euthanasia successfully completed a **MANDATED** Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine-approved euthanasia training course within 120 days of initial employment and earned the required 6 hours of continuing education credits annually?
   The staff does not perform euthanasia. This is caried out by a contracted local licensed veterinarian. LAWC recommends that efforts are made to certify at least one individual as a licensed eithanasia tech. Having a certified animal euthanasia tech in house would permit the shelter to address severe injury or pain immediately, and would not delay humane procedures that may alleviate pain and suffering.
2. ☐Y ☒N Is a written protocol available for the euthanasia of ill or injured animals in the field or before the end of the impoundment period?
   Euthanasias are not performed at this facility.
3. ☐Y ☒N Is a written protocol available for routine euthanasia?
   LAWC recognizes the importance of written policies for procedures at public animal shelters. The staff of the City of Crowley Animal Shelter does not, at present, have written policies governing euthanasia. LAWC recommends that management finalize and publish written policies for storage of food and supplies, shelter hygiene, employee training, isolation of animals, euthanasia, feeding, and shelter oversight. These protocols will assist in training employees and should reduce the chance for inadvertent errors. LAWC recommends a two-tiered approval process for euthanasia, where the primary decision maker garners additional approval from a supervisor or equally ranked co-worker.

Questions 4-10 are for facilities using injectable euthanasia:

4. ☐Y ☐N If a written protocol is available, does the protocol require two or more people to be present to perform injectable euthanasia techniques?
   NA
5. ☐Y ☐N Are the injectable euthanasia standards **MANDATED** in the latest report of the American Veterinary Medical Association on Euthanasia, being met?
   NA
6. ☐Y ☐N Is there a sturdy, sanitizable table in the euthanasia room?
   NA. There is no euthanasia room and euthanasia is not performed at this facility.
7. ☐Y ☐N Is the lighting sufficient to allow easy visualization of the injection site?
   NA
8. ☐Y ☐N Are the controlled drugs stored in a securely locked cabinet?
   NA. Controlled drugs are not stored at the facility.
9. ☐Y ☐N If controlled drugs are used in the field, are they securely locked in the animal control vehicle?
   NA. Controlled drugs are not kept in vehicles.
10. ☐Y ☒N Are euthanasia drug logs used, kept current, and available for inspection?
    The shelter does not maintain records of euthanasia. Personnel at the shelter referred the state public health veterinarian to the local veterinarian, maintaining that the veterinarian records each visit. The revised statutes governing Louisiana animal shelters require that "a record shall be prepared for every animal that enters the shelter and shall include a description of the animal; veterinary treatment; length of time held; fees collected; and date euthanized, died, reclaimed, or adopted…Records shall be available for inspection at all times." The state public health veterinarian could find no such records at the Crowley animal shelter.

Question 11 is for facilities using carbon monoxide euthanasia:

11. ☐Y ☐N Does the carbon monoxide chamber meet standards for safe operation and is the machine in good working order?
    NA

B. Management:

1. ☐Y ☒N Has the facility manager successfully completed a Louisiana Animal Control Association-approved Animal Control Officer Basic Training course?
   Many of the deficiencies noted may be due to a lack of training of shelter personnel. LAWC recommends that the City of Crowley contact the Louisiana Animal Control Association for details of training opportunities.
2. ☒Y ☐N Is an office available at the facility, or elsewhere, for facility staff and/or animal control officers?
3. ☒Y ☐N Is the facility attended by a veterinarian or is there a relationship established with one or more local veterinarians to provide advice, assistance, or treatment to animals?
   Dr. Artel, a local veterinarian, provides veterinary care.
4. ☐Y ☒N Does this facility employ a full-time veterinarian

5. ☐Y ☒N Are formal **MANDATED** semi-annual inspections conducted by an authorized parish official to ensure compliance with state statutes?
At present the head of code enforcement conducts informal sporadic inspections. LAWC recommends implementation of a semi-annual inspection program by a city official or operational unit in city government. The inspection's purpose would be to routinely monitor the management, practices and conditions of the shelter and to assess needs for improvement. In essence, the commission recommends "self regulation" by the government agency under which jurisdiction of the animal shelter lies.
6. ☐Y ☒N Are standard operation procedures (SOP) written for the facility's operation, including housing, cleaning, animal care, and facility maintenance?
See above recommendations for written protocols.
7. ☒Y ☐N Are animals separated by their behavior and age in addition to their state of health, species, sex, and size (separation by health, age (puppies and kittens separated from adults) species, sex (unneutered males separated from females) is **MANDATED** by law)?

8. ☒Y ☐N Does the facility have a sterilization program for its adopted animals (this is **MANDATED** for animal control facilities under La. R.S. 2472)?
The Crowley shelter mandates that anyone adopting an animal sign a written statement to the effect that the animal will be spayed or neutered after adoption. The shelter has no means of verifying compliance.
9. ☐Y ☒N Have staff been immunized against rabies?
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that animal control personnel receive pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis. The vaccine regimen is comparatively expensive and many shelters only administer vaccinations to workers who have been employed for some specified duration (usually 6 months to one year). The City of Crowley Animal Shelter should pursue a goal of administering pre-exposure prophylaxis to animal contact shelter employees who complete a probationary tenure of work.
10. ☒Y ☐N Do animal contact staff work with terrestrial wildlife or bats?
The shelter traps nuisance wildlife. Crowley lies in a region of the state that is endemic for both terrestrial (skunk) and bat variant rabies. Any personnel trapping wild animals should receive rabies vaccination (pre-exposure).
11. ☐Y ☒N Are staff rabies vaccinations evidenced by adequate titers (This is only recommended if bats are handled routinely. This is also recommended if terrestrial wildlife are handled routinely in skunk variant rabies endemic areas of the state)?

12. ☐Y ☐N Does this shelter restrict or ban adoptions of pit bulls?
However, the shelter does release pit bulls to rescue groups.
13. ☒Y ☐N Does this shelter restrict or ban adoptions of any other breed or type animal?
Pit bulls are not adopted to the public, however they are released to reputable rescue groups.
14. ☐Y ☒N Does this shelter sell or donate live animals for education or research?

15. ☐Y ☒N Was this shelter a plaintiff or defendant in any civil or criminal court case in the past year?

16. ☐Y ☒N Are shelter standards included in city or parish ordinances?
Although the City of Crowley Animal Shelter abides by city and parish ordinances in issues related to impoundment, shelter standards, such as those specified in the Louisiana Revised Statutes, are not included in the ordinances. Local government officials are strongly urged to include shelter standards in local ordinances.
17. ☒Y ☐N Are hours and emergency telephone prominently displayed on building exterior as **MANDATED** by La. R.S. 2463?

18. ☐Y ☒N Does the shelter have a receiving area for the public to bring in or adopt animals?
There is an office, but it is not a true receiving area.
19. ☒Y ☐N Does the shelter have an area for the public to acquaint themselves with adoptable animals?
There are fenced, grassy areas where the public may interact with potential adoptees prior to adoption.

C. Records:

1. ☐Y ☒N Are records computerized?

2. ☐Y ☒N Do the animal records include accurate descriptions of the animals? Suggested information includes: impounding officer's name, date and time of capture, location of capture, tag and/or collar identification, breed, sex, age, size (height and weight), coat color and pattern, ear and tail types, description of markings and unusual findings (scars, tattoos, microchips), and the condition of the animal.
The records on individual animals were inconsistent and insome cases, absent.
3. ☐Y ☒N Do the animals' records document daily observation?
A record documenting daily observation of each animal is also recommended. This ensures that none of the resident animals are overlooked. This type of record often consists of a checklist, or a list requiring daily data input, such as proportion of food consumed, body weight etc.
4. ☒Y ☐N Are incoming animals scanned for microchips and/or identification tattoos?
All incoming animals are checked for tattoos and are scanned on intake. LAWC recommends that all animals be re-scanned prior to any follow-up action, e.g. adoption, euthanasia, rescue.

D. General Structure:

1. ☐Y ☒N Is a secured area used to safely unload and load animals to prevent their escape?
The area is sufficiently secure for offloading canines, however felines may escape, since this is not an enclosed or screened area. Care must be exercised when offloading cats. Cats are presently offloaded in secure animal carriers or cages, which should be sufficient to prevent escape.
2. ☒Y ☐N Is the facility built in such a way that it prevents access by unauthorized persons?

3. ☒Y ☐N Is a secure area for storing vehicles available?

4. ☒Y ☐N Is a secure area for storing outdoor equipment available?
   There is very little storage area at the facility. Several areas that should not be used for storage must be utilized due to a lack of space.
5. ☐Y ☐N Are drains covered with grates to prevent animals from stepping into them?
   NA. Animals are not kept in areas with open drains.
6. ☐Y ☒N Are drains covered with grates to prevent people from stepping into them?
   There is one central drain trough that is not accessible to animals. A grate with tractions points could be useful to promote safety for employees.
7. ☐Y ☒N Are there problems apparent with drainage or moisture at this facility?

E. Water and Electric Power:

1. ☒Y ☐N Are an adequate number of water faucets available?

2. ☒Y ☐N Are the water hoses strong and in good repair?

3. ☒Y ☐N Are adequate hose bibs and hoses available?

4. ☐Y ☒N Are hoses kept off the floor when not in use?
   When hoses are stored they still have a capability of draping to the floor, which could be a safety hazard.
5. ☒Y ☐N Is hot water available?

6. ☐Y ☒N Is a backup generator available to provide electricity during power outages?
   There are no generators available onsite.
7. ☐Y ☒N In the animal areas, are the electrical outlets mounted at least 3-4 feet above the floor?
   Animals are never free in areas where electrical outlets are present.
8. ☒Y ☐N In the animal areas, do the electrical outlets have protective coverings?

9. ☒Y ☐N Are the electrical outlets, in areas of water use, Ground Fault Interrupt (GFI) protected?

10. ☐Y ☒N Are there adequate sinks to wash food and water bowls and other equipment?
    Besides the bathroom, there is only one sink in the facility.
11. ☐Y ☒N If a bathtub or large sink is used to bathe animals or wash equipment, is there adequate toe space under it to allow staff to work comfortably?
    There is no tub present at the facility. Extremely soiled animals are either bathed in the sink (if size permits) or hosed and bathed in the yard adjacent to the building. Should funds become available, a bath tub of some type is greatly recommended, especially one specifically for use on larger dogs.
12. ☒Y ☐N Is there a restroom for staff use?

F. Waste Disposal:

1. ☒Y ☐N Is there a holding area for carcasses awaiting final disposal?
   A freezer is present at the shelter and is used for carcass storage.

2. ☒Y ☐N Is there a freezer or refrigerator to store animal carcasses until final disposal?
   See above!
3. ☒Y ☐N Do the dog pen floors slope ¼-½ inch per foot toward drains and gutters?
4. ☒Y ☐N Is animal waste washed into a sewer or septic system?
5. ☐Y ☒N Does this shelter employ special practices for handling medical or potentially infectious waste?
   No medical procedures are conducted at the facility, so no medical waste is generated.

G. Storage:

1. ☐Y ☒N Is adequate space available for facility supplies?
   Storage spaces and animal areas appeared somewhat cluttered. Extra storage space would be helpful.
2. ☐Y ☒N Are cleaning chemicals stored in a separate area, room, or cabinet?
   Cleaning supplies were observed in several areas, including storage on a window sill in the food storage area.
3. ☒Y ☐N Is adequate space available to store the current quantity of animal food?
4. ☒Y ☐N Is the food storage area clean and free of spilled food?
5. ☒Y ☐N Is there a procedure to use older food first?
6. ☐Y ☒N Are storage shelves and racks at least 12 inches off the floor and at least 4 inches from walls to permit adequate air circulation around food products?
   Dry food should be stored in a more organized fashion. Dry food bags should be placed above floor level on pallets or shelves. Dry food should also be stored at least 4 inches from the wall. The above recommendations will assist in assuring freshness and safety of pet foods.
7. ☒Y ☐N Are food storage containers adequately sealed against infestation by insects or other vermin?

H. Primary Enclosures:

1. ☐Y ☒N Is one dog housed per pen?
   The goal is to house one dog per pen, however occasionally two dogs are housed in a pen. Again, there is no written protocol governing this policy.
2. ☒Y ☐N Do cat cages offer a minimum of 4 square feet per cat?
3. ☐Y ☒N Are the dog pen side walls solid to at least 4 –5 feet in height between animals?
   In most cases the dog pen walls are only 3 feet high. This may facilitate interaction between neighboring animals and also may facilitate transmission of disease.
4. ☒Y ☐N Do the pens have tops on them?
5. ☒Y ☐N If the pens have tops, do the tops offer at least a 7-foot clearance?

6. ☒Y ☐N Does the chain-link fencing of the dog pens appear to be at least 9-gauge wire (heavier than typical fences)?

7. ☒Y ☐N Is the dog-pen fencing securely attached to the frames and gates?

8. ☐Y ☒N Do the dog pens offer indoor and outdoor access?

9. ☐Y ☒N Are guillotine doors present between the indoor and outdoor runs?

10. ☐Y ☐N If guillotine doors are present, can these doors be operated by staff outside the pen?
NA

11. ☒Y ☐N Do the gates on the cages and pens latch securely?

12. ☒Y ☐N Is there a way to prevent the general public from entering the animal containment area without the knowledge of facility staff?

13. ☒Y ☐N Are primary enclosures constructed of materials that are easily sanitized?

14. ☒Y ☐N Are primary enclosures well maintained and in good repair?
Canine primary enclosures are concrete and can be sanitized thoroughly as long as the flloors are peridically cleaned under pressure and re-sealed. Feline cages can also be sanitized easily.

I. Feeding/ Watering:

1. ☐Y ☒N Is a work table that can be easily sanitized available in the food preparation area?
There appears to be a deficiency in work surfaces (food prep surfaces) in the facility. The size of the shelter is a likely culprit in preventing correction of the problem.

2. ☐Y ☒N Are water bowls secured in the cages to prevent tipping?
Not all are secured.

3. ☒Y ☐N Are food and water bowls washed and sanitized daily?

4. ☐Y ☒N Are shelves or racks present to store food and water containers that are drying?
No drying racks are utilized.

J. Pest Control:

1. ☒Y ☐N Is the premise maintained so that the potential for rodents and insect pests are kept to a minimum?
There is a contract for monthly service from a licensed pest control company.

2. ☐Y ☒N Does the facility have a program to remove external parasites from animals as they enter the facility?
There is no program to do so upon entry, however animals are monitored for ectoparasites and are sprayed with an approved flea spray or with a chemical dip. This is NOT documented in any written policy.

3. ☐Y ☐N If a program exists, does the product's label include the target species?
NA

4. ☐Y ☐N If a program exists, are personal protective equipment and training offered to staff who use parasiticides?
NA

K. Rabies Quarantine

1. ☒Y ☐N Does the facility quarantine animals for rabies observation? *If "no," skip the remainder of this section.*

2. ☐Y ☒N Is it easy to distinguish which animals are quarantined for rabies observation and which animals are housed in quarantine pens due to "overflow"?
Only one ward is available for use at this shelter, therefore strict isolation of animals for rabies isolation is impossible. LAWC recomends that each cage used for rabies observation be padlocked and a "Danger-Rabies Quarantine" sign be displayed on each cage. If possible a roped off area of the ward should be created and appropirate signage displayed.
3. ☒Y ☐N Is public access prohibited from the quarantine area by a secure door or gate?
The kennel area is secured when that animal shelter manager is not present.
4. ☐Y ☐N If a secure door or gate is not available, is there a barrier to exclude the public from the quarantine area?
NA
5. ☐Y ☒N Are there guillotine doors to confine rabies-suspect dogs in one part of the pen during cleaning or inclement weather?

6. ☐Y ☐N If guillotine doors are available, can these doors be operated by staff outside the pen?
NA
7. ☐Y ☐N Should testing of animal brains be required, would this shelter submit the sample to the OPH laboratory for analysis?
The shelter manager had never submitted an animal for rabies testing, therefore no standard procedure was specified.
8. ☐Y ☐N Does this shelter participate in the OPH rabies testing and surveillance program?
DHH reminds the shelter that, in instances where human victims are involved, the Public Health Laboratory will perform testing free of charge. The only requirement is that the submission be cleared first by the state public health veterinarian (504-568-8315) or a member of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section Staff (800-256-2748). Data pursuant to bites processed by the public health laboratory also are included in rabies surveillance data submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

L. Disease: regarding the following diseases, please rate the severity of the problem in animals taken into the facility. Your answers should reflect the gravity of the problem in incoming animals, not persistent problems at the facility.

1.	☐Major	☒Minor	☐No problem	Intestinal parasites
2.	☐Major	☐Minor	☒No problem	Scabies (mange)
3.	☐Major	☒Minor	☐No problem	Ringworm (dermatophytes)
4.	☐Major	☒Minor	☐No problem	Parvovirus

5.	☐Major	☐Minor	☒No problem	Canine distemper
6.	☐Major	☒Minor	☐No problem	Canine cough
7.	☐Major	☒Minor	☐No problem	Feline upper respiratory disease
8.	☐Major	☐Minor	☒No problem	Feline diarrhea
9.	☐Major	☐Minor	☒No problem	Canine heartworm disease
10.	☐Major	☐Minor	☒No problem	Feline leukemia

M. Infection Control

1. ☐Y ☒N Are all animals isolated on intake to this facility and screened in a separate area for disease and temperament before being placed in the general population?
There is no isolation on intake. There is no testing for temperament. In the above section "L" it was indicated that upper respiratory problems in cats cannot be isolated due to inadequacies in the physical layout of the facility. Should funds or space become available, creation of an isolation area is warranted. Isolation of intake animals is conducive to maintaining a healthy population of adoptable animals. Temperament testing is also desirable to prevent problems with the adoption of aggressive animals. Identification and removal of aggressive animals is desirable for public safety.

2. ☐Y ☒N Are all animals vaccinated (Dogs: distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza, parvovirus, leptospirosis, bordetella. Cats: rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, chlamydia, panleukopenia, feline leukemia) upon intake to the facility?

3. ☐Y ☒N Are all animals vaccinated after being determined to be adoptable?
No vaccines are administered.

4. ☐Y ☒N Are incoming animals checked for heartworms?
There is no way to gauge prevalence of heartworms in the shelter animals because no testing is done.

a. ☐Y ☒N (only adoptable are checked for heartworms)

5. ☐Y ☒N Are incoming animals dewormed for intestinal parasites?

a. ☐Y ☒N (only adoptable are dewormed for intestinal parasites)

6. ☐Y ☒N Are rabies vaccines administered at this facility?

7. ☐Y ☒N Are rabies vaccines required after pets are adopted out of the facility?
There appears to be a somewhat informal policy of "asking" adopters to take animals to the veterinarian and have the animals vaccinated for rabies, however no specific mandate, written or otherwise, exists.
Animals are released with no requirement to be vaccinated for rabies. The Louisiana State Sanitary Code (Title 51, Part III, Chapter 1 of the Louisiana Administrative Code) states, "No person shall own, keep or have in his custody a dog, cat, or ferret over three months of age that has not been vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Every owner of a dog, cat, or ferret shall cause said animal to be vaccinated initially with a series of two vaccinations, the first to be administered at three months of age, the second to be administered one year after the initial vaccination. Dogs, cats, or ferrets initially vaccinated later than three months of age shall also be administered a series of two vaccines, the second vaccine to be given one year after the initial

vaccination. Subsequent booster vaccines shall be administered one year after the administration of a vaccine that confers one year of immunity and three years after the administration of a vaccine that confers three years of immunity. Approved vaccines and durations of immunity are listed in the most recent Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control prepared by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc." The City of Crowley animal shelter does not ensure that all adopted animals are vaccinated for rabies. It is nearly a universal policy of all public shelters to ensure compliance with rabies laws. Most shelters originally came into existence as part of a nationwide initiative to decrease the number of incident cases of rabies virus infection in humans. In fact, animal control and pet vaccine requirements have been successful in reducing the incidence of human rabies in the United States to an average of one or two cases per year, although nothing about the epidemiology of the disease in nature has changed. Bat and terrestrial variants of rabies virus circulate within Acadia Parish and surrounding areas and pose a danger to all warm blooded animals in the area, including pets and humans. The presence of a rabid dog, cat, or ferret in populated areas is considered a public health emergency. Studies have demonstrated that compliance with vaccine requirements for pets in some areas of Louisiana is woefully inadequate. A primary part of the mission of any animal control shelter is rabies control and prevention. Louisiana DHH implores shelters in the state to ensure vaccine compliance in adopted pets. Several methods are employed by shelters to ensure rabies vaccination compliance in adopted animals. LAWC and DHH are available for consultation to suggest accepted methods.
The shelter director should consider mandating in writing the vaccination of all animals that leave the shelter. Other shelters in small communities often charge a nominal fee that covers the cost of rabies vaccination and issue vouchers that are honored at veterinary clinics throughout the community. Still other shelters include a nominal fee for adoption that includes the cost of rabies vaccines administered at the shelter itself.

N. Population Control

1. ☐Y ☒N Are all animals determined to be adoptable spayed or neutered prior to adoption?

2. ☐Y ☒N Are only some animals spayed or neutered prior to adoption?

3. ☒Y ☐N Are intact animals that are adopted required to be spayed or neutered after adoption?
   The Crowley shelter mandates that anyone adopting an animal sign a written statement to the effect that the animal will be spayed or neutered after adoption. The shelter has no means of verifying compliance.

Additional comments:

The Crowley shelter manager related that a minimum hold time of six days is enforced on all animals taken into the facility. All animals are held for six days, then ideally if space permits, only sick or vicious animals are euthanized. This policy, if practiced routinely, is a noble goal for the facility. Unfortunately, since no written policies were produced by the management, and since records were not available, the state public health veterinarian had no means of verifying this procedure. LAWC recommends that policies be accurately recorded in writing and available for observation by interested parties and government agencies.
The staff of the Crowley shelter has struggled to keep the adoption fee very affordable. LAWC salutes this effort.

The facility's walls are deteriorated and pieces of wall, in some areas, are falling into the kennel area. These defects should be repaired with the proper materials to facilitate maintenance of a safer and more hygienic environment.

The allocated number of personnel manning the facility is two persons, a manager and technician. At the time of the audit, only one person was employed. Naturally, a full staff is desired as soon as possible. More accurate record keeping could be used to accurately gauge the needed workload.

Some areas of the shelter appeared cluttered or featured the storage of items in areas not intended for storage, e.g. storage of humane traps above animal caging. This is primarily due to space limitations.

LAWC has assigned a rating of "needs significant improvements to meet standard" to the Crowley shelter. The primary reason for this rating was the nearly universal lack of records of any type, which is clearly a violation of the standards set forth in the referenced laws listed in the preface of this document. These deficiencies can be easily corrected.

LAWC makes the following suggestions for improvements:

Staffing deficiencies are a consistent problem at Louisiana Animal shelters. The present level of funding and staffing precludes adoption of several suggestions in the text above. LAWC asks that those in city government authorizing future improvements consider the results of this inspection when making decisions related to the shelter.

LAWC also recommends that administrators of the shelter consult with the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Shelter Improvement Program for suggestions in regard to future correction of deficiencies.

RATING:

☐ **Generally exceeds standards**

☐ **Meets standards**

☒ **Needs significant improvements to meet standard**

Brian Melius, DVM : _____ **Date:** 5-10-12
Chairman, Shelter Inspection Subcommittee
LAWC