



LOUISIANA ANIMAL
WELFARE COMMISSION

Governor's Office of Community Programs

P.O. Box 60630, New Orleans, LA 70160

(504) 568-8315

January 31, 2014

East Baton Rouge Parish Government

Dear Mayor and Council,

I performed an inspection of the East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Shelter on October 23, 2013. The East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Shelter is an excellent facility that performs an exemplary job in its mission to serve your parish and its people. The structure is expansive, yet functional and well maintained. Many standard operating procedures are recorded in written policies; records are strictly maintained and readily available for review. Animals appear to be adequately cared for and are housed under conditions that promote health and hygiene. Cages and other enclosures are easily sanitized and of sufficient durability to provide a secure and healthy environment. The facility's procedures regarding cleaning are excellent. Adequate ventilation and protection against the elements are provided to all animals. The shelter complies with state requirements for animal population control.

Please see the attached Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission Inspection Form. You will see that the inspection identified several minor departures from the state standards, none of which presently affect the health and welfare of the animals. A major violation of LAWC recommendations, a recommendation by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that animal contact personnel be vaccinated against rabies, was observed. CDC 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). East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control should pursue a goal of administering pre-exposure prophylaxis to animal contact shelter employees who complete a probationary tenure of work. Workers who refuse vaccination should sign a release of responsibility, holding the shelter harmless should a rabies exposure occur.

In addition, inspectors noted that several corrections had been made in the facility, since the shelter had last been inspected by LAWC.

Parishes or municipalities may appeal the decision of the inspector in writing, and should send a written request for review by fax (504-568-8290, attention: Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission) or email (gary.balsamo@la.gov) within fifteen days of receipt of the inspection document. All appeals will be addressed at the first regularly scheduled meeting of LAWC after receipt of the appeal. LAWC will make each inspection document available to the public thirty days after the inspection date. Any inspection under appeal will include the words "under appeal" next to the assigned rating in the rating box, until the issue can be addressed at a regular meeting of LAWC.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Balsamo, DVM, MPH&TM
Chair, Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission
State Public Health Veterinarian

Attachment:
LAWC Inspection Form

...to ensure and promote the proper treatment and well-being of animals

Name of shelter: East Baton Parish Animal Shelter	Contact person: Beth Brewster
Phone: (225) 774-7700 Companion Animal Alliance 225 774-7701	Email address: bbrewster@caabr.org
Physical address: 2680 Progress Road Baton Rouge, LA 70807	

Name of inspector: Gary A. Balsamo, DVM, MPH&TM, State Public Health Veterinarian, Sharell Westry-Lewis, Walden University	Date of inspection: October 23, 2013
	Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-inspection <input type="checkbox"/>

Critical	Major	Minor		Category
				A. Animal euthanasia
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				B. Management
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B4	No formal inspection program exists.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B14	Fees are not conspicuously posted in an area apparent to the public.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B20, B21	No program exists to offer immunizations to animal contract workers, and wildlife are occasionally handled at the facility.
				C. Records
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C1	Since many former office areas are now used for animal activities, and since animal control and CAA now occupy the building, offices appear cramped.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C8	Although animals are observed on a daily basis, there is no documentation of daily observation on records.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				D. General structure
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D6	There is a chronic problem with drainage (clogged drains) at the facility.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				E. Water and electric power
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				F. Waste disposal
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				G. Storage

			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			H. Primary Enclosures	
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H8	Some cages utilized in outdoor areas do not have tops, however cages appear to be temporary in nature and used primarily for exposure to sun.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H9	Cage tops in adoptable ward do not permit 7 foot clearance. This can be a safety hazard for employees.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			I. Feeding and watering	
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			J. Pest control	
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			K. Rabies quarantine	
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	K6	Samples are not sent to the state public health laboratory as is requested by the Department of Health and Hospitals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			L. Infection control and rabies vaccination requirements	
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	L7	There is no dedicated isolation area. New intakes are sometimes placed with the general population of animals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			M. Population control	
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Additional comments:				
Management administers this facility and cares for the animals in an exemplary manner. The present director has done a wonderful job correcting problems which recently existed at the shelter.				
Overall, there appears to be a need for work surfaces for kennel workers in animal boarding areas. The state public health veterinarian is available to discuss methods to submit rabies testing to the appropriate public health laboratory.				
Rating: Below standards <input type="checkbox"/> Meets standards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceeds standards <input type="checkbox"/>				