



LOUISIANA ANIMAL
WELFARE COMMISSION

Governor's Office of Community Programs

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

(504) 568-8315

July 2, 2013

Parish President and Parish Council
Thibodaux Government Complex
P.O. Drawer 5548
Thibodaux, LA 70301

Dear Parish President and Council Members,

I performed an inspection of the Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter on May 13, 2013. The Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter is an animal shelter facility dedicated to performing a mission for Lafourche Parish and its people. The structure, for the most part, is well maintained. Many standard operating procedures are recorded in written policies. Animals appear to be adequately cared for and are housed under conditions that generally promote health and hygiene. Cages and other enclosures are easily sanitized and of sufficient durability to provide a secure and healthy environment. 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 five major departures from the state standards or from LAWC best-practice recommendations. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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). Lafourche Parish Animal Control should pursue a goal of administering pre-exposure prophylaxis to animal contact shelter employees who complete a probationary tenure of work. No separate room and table are provided for euthanasia, although the shelter appears to have adequate space to do so. Animals are scanned once upon entry into the facility. LAWC recommends scanning animals a minimum of twice, to prevent inadvertent inability to identify pets. Dogs are adopted out with no effort to determine heartworm status. Animals are not dewormed upon entry into the facility and no vaccines to preserve the health of shelter animals are administered. Since four or more major departures from state standards were observed, the shelter was given a "below standards" rating.

Shelter management was given a minimum of 30 days to provide evidence that minor deficiencies had been corrected. LAWC did receive inquiries from shelter management during that 30 day period, and some evidence of corrections has been provided. LAWC has no choice but to finalize the report and request that shelter staff continue working to improve the standing of the shelter.

This communication has been made available to the public. The attached LAWC Inspection Form is also publicly available. If you have any questions regarding this inspection or LAWC in general, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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: LAFOURCHE PARISH ANIMAL SHELTER	Contact person: JONI TUCK, DIRECTOR
Phone: 985-493-6901	Email address: tuckjb@lafourchegov.org
Physical address: 934 LOUISIANA HIGHWAY 3185 THIBODAUX, LA 70301	
Name of inspector: DR. GARY BALSAMO, STATE PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN	Date of inspection: 5/13/2013
	Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-inspection <input type="checkbox"/>

Critical	Major	Minor		Category
				A. Animal euthanasia
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A5	THERE IS NO SEPARATE ROOM AND TABLE PROVIDED FOR EUTHANASIA. EUTHANASIA IS PERFORMED IN ANIMAL CAGES.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A9	The written euthanasia protocol should identify the shelter personnel authorized to make decisions to euthanize animals.
				B. Management
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B20	CDC RECOMMENDS RABIES VACCINES FOR ANIMAL CONTACT STAFF.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B4	Parish should identify an official responsible for semi-annual formal recorded shelter inspections.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B13	Staff should consider use of shelter management software.
				C. Records
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C2, C8	Records do not include all information required in RS 3:2465. Animal records do not document daily observation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C9	ALL ANIMALS SHOULD BE SCANNED TWICE, ONCE ON ENTRY AND AGAIN PRIOR TO EUTHANASIA, RESCUE OR ADOPTION.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				D. General structure
			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"/>		
				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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	G2	Too many items are haphazardly stored in kennels and wards (Often atop cages). Shelter is in need of additional storage space.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				H. Primary Enclosures
			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"/>		
				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"/>	K2	Signs & barriers (chains, banners, etc.) are needed to identify cages and/or areas where rabies observation & aggressive animals are housed.
<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"/>	L6	HEARTWORM DIAGNOSTICS (OCCULT OR DIRECT SMEARS) ARE NOT PERFORMED ON ADOPTED ANIMALS.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	L8, L9, L11	ONLY PUPPIES AND KITTENS ARE DEWORMED ON ENTRY TO THE SHELTER. ALL ANIMALS SHOULD BE DEWORMED. NO VACCINES ARE ADMINISTERED.
				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:				
The shelter staff may be able to easily correct some of the major citations, and in fact, may have corrected some in the interval between release of the preliminary and final reports. The staff shows a willingness to improve and follow suggestions for improvement made by LAWC and the LSU Shelter Improvement Program.				
Rating: Below standards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets standards <input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds standards <input type="checkbox"/>				