



LOUISIANA ANIMAL  
WELFARE COMMISSION

*Governor's Office of Community Programs*

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

(504) 568-8315

January 31, 2014

St. Bernard Parish President and Council Members

Dear St. Bernard Parish Officials,

I performed an inspection of the St. Bernard the Parish Animal Shelter on October 17, 2013. The St. Bernard Parish Animal Shelter is an excellent facility that performs an exemplary job in its mission to serve St. Bernard Parish and its people. The structure is attractive, extremely functional and well kept. Animals appear to be adequately cared for and are housed under conditions that generally promote health and hygiene, although difficulties with moisture may create significant problems. The facility's procedures regarding cleaning are excellent. Adequate ventilation is 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 two departures from the state standards that were determined to be "major" problems. The lack of formal training by the director should be addressed. The Louisiana Animal Control Association conducts annual trainings and the parish should provide the director this educational opportunity in addition to continuing education on an ongoing basis. A severe problem exists with drainage and resistance to moisture at the facility. Ineffective drainage and excessive moisture can affect the health of resident animals. LAWC realizes that correction of these problems may involve a significant output of funds; however the commission recommends that the parish address these problems as soon as feasible.

Parishes and municipalities may appeal the decision of the inspector in writing, and should send a written request for review within 15 days of receipt of the inspection document by fax (504-568-8290, attention: Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission) or email ([gary.balsamo@la.gov](mailto:gary.balsamo@la.gov)) to LAWC. All appeals will be addressed at the first regularly scheduled meeting of LAWC after the receipt of the appeal.

LAWC will make each inspection document available to the public thirty days after release of the initial report to the shelter. 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

cc. LAWC members

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

Name of shelter: St. Bernard Parish Animal Shelter	Contact person: Ms. Charlotte Luna, Director
Phone: 504-278-1534	Email address: animalcontrol@sbsp.net

Physical address: 5455 East Judge Perez Drive  
Violet, LA 70092

Name of inspector: Dr. Gary Balsamo, State Public Health Veterinarian; Sharell Westry-Lewis, Walden University	Date of inspection: October 17, 2013
	Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-inspection <input type="checkbox"/>

Critical	Major	Minor		Category
				<b>A. Animal euthanasia</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>B. Management</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B1	Shelter Director is in need of TRAINING. It is imperative that parish government provide funding as soon as possible.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B2	There is no office for animal control officers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B4,B20, B21	St. Bernard Parish officials do not routinely inspect the facility. No program exists to vaccinate shelter employees against rabies.
				<b>C. Records</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C8	It is recommended that records should document, with a check, employee initials, signature, etc. daily observation of each animal resident.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>D. General structure</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D12	The structure is not impervious to moisture. Many areas and primary enclosures flood during periods of rain.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D22	One drain in the isolation ward and one drain in the cat ward were uncovered and could be a hazard to employees.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>E. Water and electric power</b>
			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"/>		
				<b>F. Waste disposal</b>
			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"/>		
				<b>G. Storage</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	G3	Cleaning supplies were stored on shelves above food.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>H. Primary Enclosures</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H2	Some cages in isolation exhibited rust and pitting, and may be difficult to sanitize.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>I. Feeding and watering</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I6	Food preparation is often carried out in kennels. There are NO work surfaces present in kennels.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I8	There are no racks upon which to dry food and water bowls.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>J. Pest control</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	J1	There is no specific violation, however an expert should be consulted about appropriate use of rodent bait stations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>K. Rabies quarantine</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>L. Infection control and rabies vaccination requirements</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	L7	The management does an exemplary job of attempting to isolate intake animals, however ward C sometimes is used for multiple purposes, not exclusively for isolation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>M. Population control</b>
			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 shelter is understaffed and possibly underfunded for the population served. The private volunteer organization that provides funding and assistance to the shelter is to be commended.

Rating: Below standards  Meets standards  Exceeds standards