



LOUISIANA ANIMAL
WELFARE COMMISSION

Governor's Office of Community Programs

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

(504) 568-8315

October 15, 2013

St. John the Baptist Parish President and Parish Officials

Dear St. John the Baptist Parish Government Officials,

I performed an inspection of the St. John the Baptist Parish Animal Shelter on August 28, 2013. The St. John Parish Animal Shelter is an excellent facility that performs an exemplary job in its mission to serve St. John Parish and its people. The structure is attractive, extremely functional and well kept. 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 generally 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 departures from the state standards, none of which presently affects 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). St. John Parish Animal Control should pursue a goal of administering pre-exposure prophylaxis to animal contact shelter employees who complete a probationary tenure of work.

In addition, LAWC recommended that the standard procedures for the shelter be amended to require that all animals are scanned for microchips on more than one occasion during residence at the facility. Problems with floors and drains in the older of the two shelter buildings were also pointed out and corrections were suggested.

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

cc.
LAWC
General public

Attachment:
LAWC Inspection Form

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

Name of shelter: St. John Parish Animal Shelter	Contact person: Racheal Sance, Shelter Manager
Phone: 985-651-7387	Email address: r.sance@sjbparish.com
Physical address: 488 West 2 nd Street Laplace, LA 70068	
Name of inspector: Gary A. Balsamo, DVM, State Public Health Veterinarian; Ms. Carmen Arsuaga, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine	Date of inspection: August 28, 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 parish official conducts a semi-annual formal recorded shelter inspection as is suggested by Louisiana Revised Statutes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B20	CDC recommends rabies vaccines for all animal contact staff. At present, no rabies vaccination program for workers exists.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				C. Records
				Citation
				Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C2,C6, C7	Computerized shelter management software is not utilized at this shelter. Records do not include all recommended data.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C8	Although animals are observed by staff regularly, animal records do not require daily documentation of observation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C9	the "Scan for microchip" SOP should require microchipping upon entry, then again before any final action, such as adoption or euthanasia.
				D. General structure
				Citation
				Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D4,D22	Floors in older, sparate kennel facility need sealing. Drains in older facility are open and should be covered by grates for safety.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D10	Ventilation system mixes animal housing area air with waiting, office, and public areas. Unpleasant odor is intense throughout the facility.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D18,D20	Personnel make accomodations to offload animals securely, but the shelter lacks a secure area to offload animals.
				E. Water and electric power
				Citation
				Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E2	Faucets in some animal housing areas are non-existent, which may occur because some storage/utility areas are being used to house animals.
<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	The facility appears to be quite short on storage areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	G6	Food is NOT stored a minimum of 12 inches off the floor, however the staff does use pallets to elevate the food.
			H. Primary Enclosures	
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H7	Some dog pen walls are NOT solid to a height of four and one half feet, in fact some are not solid at all.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H8,H9	Some pens (runs) do not have tops and, when present, some tops are not a minimum height of 7 ft.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Comment	Correcting pen deficiencies helps protect animals from injury and limit disease transmission.
			I. Feeding and watering	
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16,18	There is a counter in the food prep area, however the counter is covered with drying food and water bowls. Drying racks should be utilized instead.
<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,K3	No animals were present in the rabies/vicious dog quarantine area, however the interview indicated that inadequate signage is utilized.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			L. Infection control and rabies vaccination requirements	
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<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:				
Should funding become available, or should the housing facilities be rearranged, it is recommended that the shelter create a ward for intake animals, allowing a "quarantine" period before introduction to the general adoptable population. A powder-like residual is always present in the cat ward after cleaning. Although not causing immediate problems, rectification of the problem is recommended. In addition, the shelter appears to be seriously understaffed for the number of animals served.				
Rating: Below standards <input type="checkbox"/> Meets standards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceeds standards <input type="checkbox"/>				