
The 2013 Annual Report

of the City of Columbus – Animal Care Services

City of Columbus





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This Annual Report is prepared for the citizens of the City of Columbus and the following 2013 public officials:

Columbus Mayor:

The Honorable Kristen Brown

Columbus City Council:

Dascal Bunch

Ryan Brand

Frank Jerome

Frank Miller

Tim Shuffett

Aaron Hankins

Jim Lienhoop

Kenny Whipker

Animal Care Commission:

Ashley Anderson

Doug Evans

Angela Robertson

Bob Freeman

Dr. Brock Wagner, DVM

Dascal Bunch, City County Liaison



Executive Summary

Overview

Columbus Animal Care Services (ACS) is a division of the Columbus Police Department, under the direct supervision of Major Todd Harry. The Department provides a wide range of animal care services for the citizens of Columbus. ACS also provides out-reach educational programs and benefits greatly from the efforts of its volunteers.

ACS Staff

Nicohl Birdwell Goodin – General Manager

Kevin Konetzka – Enforcement Manager

Travis Anderson – Animal Care Officer (ACO)

Mike Briner – Animal Care Officer (ACO)

Alyssia Burriss – Kennel Assistant (KA)

Chris McDaniel – Animal Care Officer (ACO)

Departmental Budget

The Animal Care Services Department is operated by both City tax dollars and through fines/fees and monetary donations. The general operating budget covers basic services including wages, utilities and maintenance of both the facility and vehicles. The operating budget for the department in 2013 was \$390,017 of which approximately \$10,836 was returned to the general fund.



The Adoption/Medical fund does not use tax dollars and is supported by fines, fees and monetary donations. These donations cover spaying and neutering costs, pet care services, veterinarian treatment for pets housed at the facility, pet food, as well as promotion of adoptions and educational programs. Approximately \$45,000 was spent in 2013 for care of pets that came through Animal Care Services Center. With the addition of Canine Express, we have had an increase in medical expenses for preparation of the animals for transport. Our budget relies heavily on monetary and in-kind donations by the public that allow us to stretch our budget further than otherwise possible.

As we reach our second year of not euthanizing dogs for space reasons, and continuing to reduce the total number of cats euthanized, tax-deductible donations are needed now more than ever.



Field Services

Field Services are provided by three animal care officers (ACO) and one enforcement manager who provide coverage seven days a week on a rotating basis, as well as “on-call” services after normal business hours. Field services include the following:

- Investigation of complaints of loose, neglected, abused, abandoned, or nuisance animals
- Recovery of stray animals
- Coordination of humane trapping program by citizens
- Recovery and relocation of wildlife (non-domesticated animals)
- Collection and disposal of dead animals
- Animal rescues eg; dogs in abandoned wells, cats in trees and animals in drain pipes.



Sheltering Services

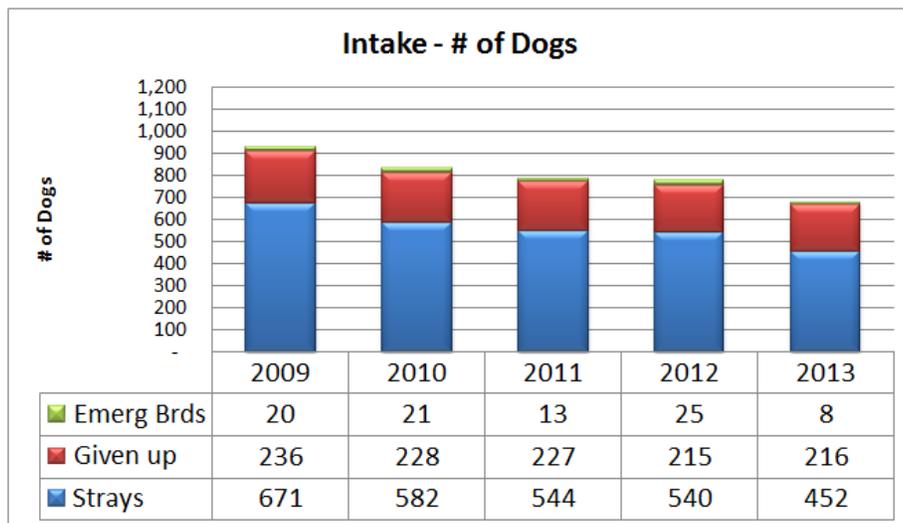
Sheltering Services are handled primarily by the kennel assistant (KA), with the support of the animal care officers and volunteers. Sheltering services include the following:

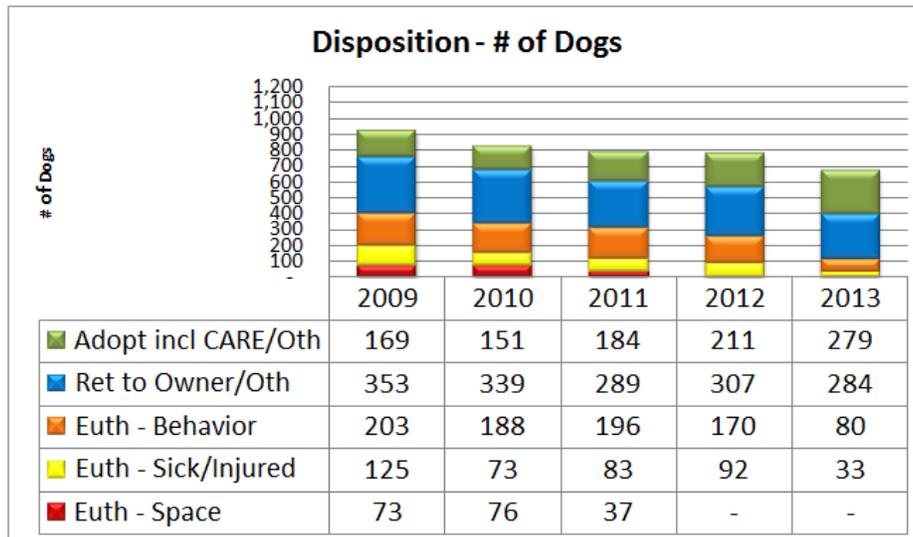
- Intake of and care for stray animals brought in by the animal care officers or the public and animals surrendered by their owners, all from within Columbus city limits
- Facilitation of animal adoptions by new owners
- Provision of “lost and found” services to reunite owners with animals
- Coordination and preparation of temperament testing and medical requirements for dogs going on transport to shelters in the Northeast through our Canine Express partnership.

ACS Statistics

Animal Care Services

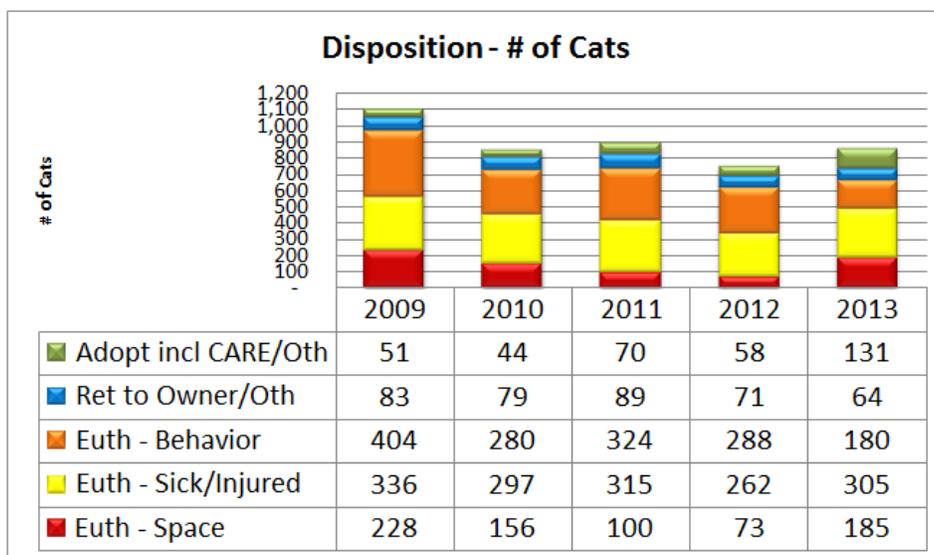
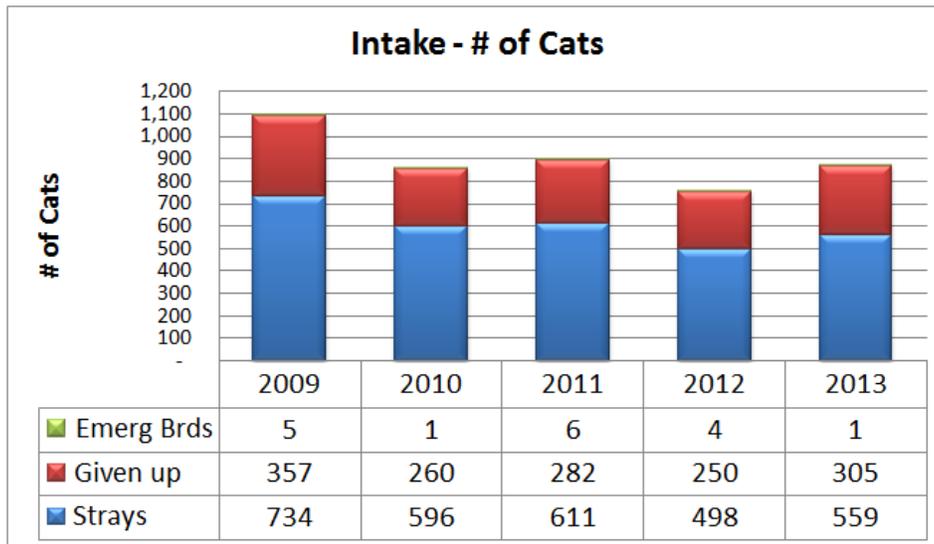
- In 2013, ACS handled 2,230 live animals, including 658 of “wildlife”.
- We continue to handle more cats than we do dogs.





Dogs

- Intakes in 2013 due to strays and those given up by owners combined reflects 5-year low
- No dogs were euthanized due to lack of space in 2013 for the second year in a row, and overall # euthanized dropped to 17% from 35% in 2012.
- Adoptions in 2013 were a 5-year high. This number includes adoptions through C.A.R.E., other partner rescue groups and Canine Express. Canine Express is a transport program out of Brown County Indiana that sends adoptable dogs to shelters to New England that do not have enough adoptable dogs. Since its inception in 2004, Canine Express has sent over 9,000 dogs to new homes out east. This year, with start-up assistance from C.A.R.E., ACS became a sending shelter partner with Canine Express. In our first 11 months, ACS sent 118 dogs on Canine Express.
- The number of dogs adopted in 2013 was a 5-year high, while the number received was a 5-year low.

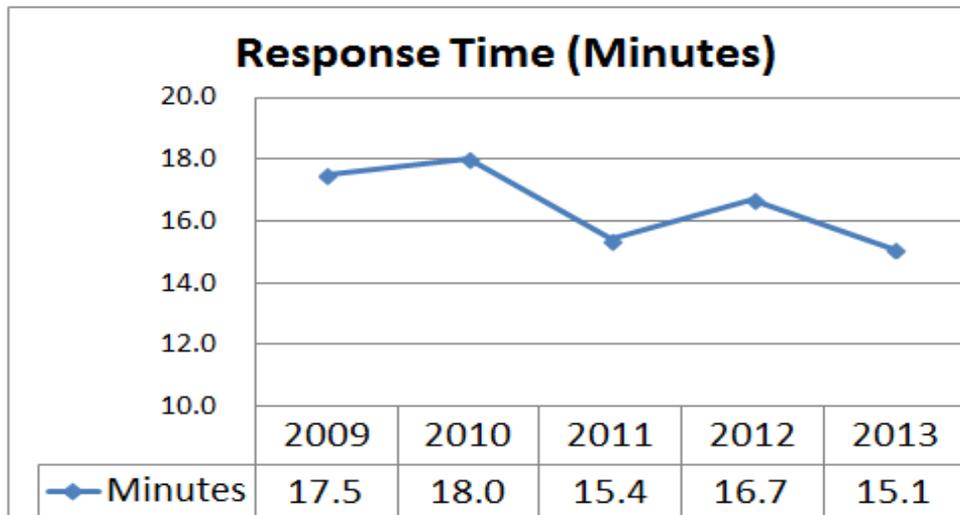
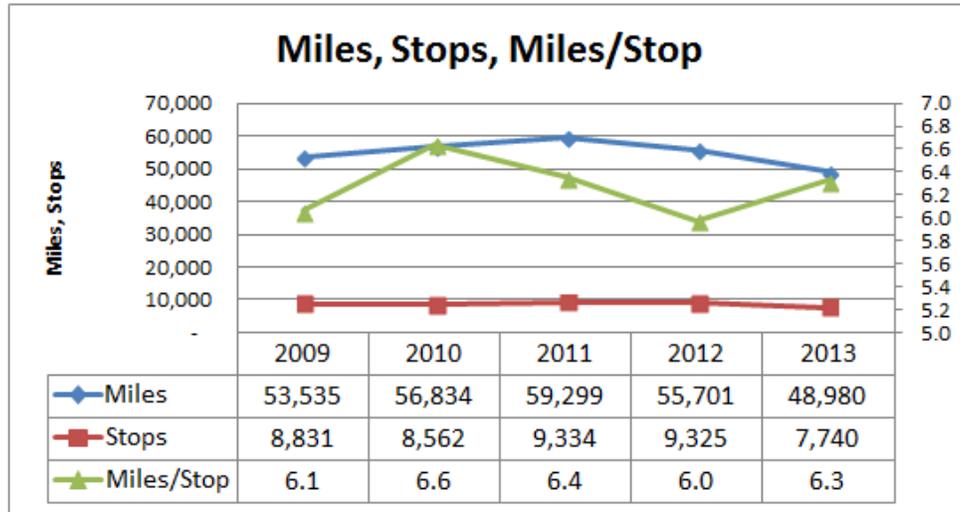


Cats

- Adoptions in 2013 for cats were also a 5-year high. This number includes adoptions through C.A.R.E., and The Litter Box Kitty Rescue.
- Despite an increase in the number of cats received, 2013 saw the lowest euthanasia percentage rate in five years; an 11% decrease. The sheer number of cats received and the fact that cats, unlike dogs, tend to come in large groups or full litters, continues to be a challenge in reducing this number
- Our rescue partners C.A.R.E. & The Litterbox Kitty Rescue, both were a huge help to us by pulling adoptable cats for their rescues. C.A.R.E. took in 36, while Litterbox took in 28.



Field Services



- Miles-per-stop in 2013 averaged 6.3.
- Response time (in minutes) to emergency calls has been consistently at or below 18 minutes for the past 5 years; this is a combined average from both normal and after-hours responses
- Average response time in 2013, was the shortest over the last five years.
- Officers dealt with 56 reported bite cases in 2013; over the past five years, the number of cases has been in a range between 55 and 65 annually



Partnerships

Community Overview

ACS and Bartholomew County Animal Control provide support for each other in a variety of ways. The cooperation between ACS and the local veterinary community has aided in providing quality care for the pets housed at the Animal Care Center, healthy pets placed back into the community, and information and training of the staff. Thanks especially to Athens Animal Clinic, Eastside Veterinary Hospital, and Hope Veterinary Clinic for their continued close relationship and support through lower cost services and donations. A special thanks also to Columbus Animal Hospital who assisted as our primary provider of interstate health certificates for Canine Express.

ACS continued to partner with local Community Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.). Through tireless volunteers, they continue to make a difference in the community. C.A.R.E. has been instrumental in the following:

- Facilitating adoption events and participation in other community events
- Fostering of pets from the Animal Care Center
- Organizing and preparing animals for participation in low-cost spay neuter programs (below with Pets Alive)

ACS began several new partnerships this year. In February of 2013, with the support of C.A.R.E., ACS started the first Canine Express Monthly Transport to shelters in the New England states that are lacking dogs due to their strict spay/neuter laws. We sent 118 dogs to New England and Cleveland shelters, dramatically assisting us in our quest to not euthanize for space.



The Litter Box Kitty Rescue, a newly formed cat specific rescue in Taylorsville, began a new partnership with us this year, helping tremendously in our goal of lowering euthanasia of cats for space.

Kentuckiana Boxer Rescue, Kentuckiana Pug Rescue, Illinois Doberman Rescue and Old English Bulldog Rescue were all either continued or became new partners for us this year as well.

UTOPIA Wildlife Partnerships Inc., directed by Kathy Hershey, has been invaluable to ACS. Her work in the community has had an affect on the numbers of wild animal calls we respond to and our ability to deal with wildlife issues properly.

Columbus Canine Rescue representative Connie Jackson, who also serves on the commission's dangerous animal committee, has been instrumental in placing a number of pets with various regional rescue groups.

Dog World provided help in evaluating pet behavior and a "day out" for the dogs housed at the Animal Care Center as well as the Safer Test evaluations for Canine Express.

Other local partnerships are with Bartholomew County Youth Services, Centerstone, Bartholomew County Probation Department, the local high schools' C4 Health Careers program, C4 ICE program, and the Start Restart Program. Bob Poynter auto dealership sponsored adoption events during 2013.

Local FM radio station QMIX 107.3's "Q Wake Up Crew" morning show with Brittany Gray and Chris Wooldridge provided free radio segments as another outlet to discuss adoptable Animal Care Center animals. Special thanks to Kathy Baumgart for helping coordinate programs and live remotes.

The Republic included weekly full-page "Pet Page" promoting adoptable local animals and daily the "Found" animals recovered by ACS. Hope Star Journal provided discounts for out pet ads in their paper.

Nancy Snider of Caspers Clippers donated multiple hours of "spa days" to us for dogs that need a good grooming prior to their adoption.



UTOPIA
WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS



Volunteers Lauren Nielsen & David Chader purchased supplies and built dog kennel covers to help contain our more athletic canine guests.

The City continues to partner with Kuranda USA, which manufactures chew-resistant cot style pet beds, to provide animals at the Animal Care Center with comfortable resting places up off the concrete floor. Community members can visit the Kuranda website www.kuranda.com/donate/8433 to donate a bed at a 28% discount.

Last but not least, in 2013 CACS began a new partnership with Energize Indiana. For every free, no obligation energy audit that community members complete after signing up thru Columbus Animal Care Services, Energize Indiana will donate \$25 to the shelter. To sign up, go to: www.columbus.in.gov/animal-care-services.



Other Partnerships Overview

ACS and the Columbus Animal Care Services Commission would like to thank Mayor Kristen Brown for her support throughout 2013. The Mayor continues to challenge current practices and programs and encourage new ideas. ACS and the Commission would like to thank Kelly Benjamin, Former City Attorney, and Jeff Logston, Current City Attorney, for their assistance throughout the year.

Attorneys Don Edwards & Aaron Edwards, worked very patiently and tirelessly with ACS and the Commission on legal matters and court cases, and continued the nearly perfect record of judgments in the City's favor.

The members of the Commission are appointed by the Mayor to four-year terms and provide guidance to and supervision of the Animal Care Services department. Commission meetings are typically held on the 4th Tuesday of each odd-numbered month and are open to the public. The following are the Commission members who served in 2013:

Ashley Anderson

Bob Freeman

Dascal Bunch

Angela Robertson

Doug Evans

Brock Wagner, DVM



Volunteers

Overview

In this type of work, we could not provide the services that we do without the support of individuals, businesses and other civic organizations. ACS has been very fortunate to have such caring people and organizations in our community. Those efforts include the following:

- Over 1,775 hours volunteered by regular volunteers
- Over 463 hours volunteered by those in the local high schools' C4 Health Careers program
- Over 725 hours volunteered by those serving thru community service programs

Regular Volunteers

These volunteers come in every week to the Animal Care Center. They provide the much needed companionship for the pets as well as performing some of the less glamorous tasks that may be necessary. Our regulars include:

Daniel Abrego	Jaydon Gilmore	Jaedon Konetzka	Raelyn Repp
Ashley Allen	Macleah Godwin	Karyn Konetzka	Riley Repp
Lainey Bell	Clint Goodin	Mykala Matheny	Sara Searcy
Gretchen Brand	Emry Gribbons	Dalton Maxwell	Constance Seward
Isiah Breeben	Jenna Hashagen	Pam May	Malia Shoaf
Skylar Brock	Leah Hashagen	Pat May	Nate Shoaf
C.A.R.E. Volunteers	Autumn Haynes	Erick McCoy	Tonja Sims
David Cash	Stephanie Heck	Kenton McInteer	Monica Skinner
Chris Clark	Colleen Herrick	Chrissy Meador	Randall Steele
Braydon Cox	Devon Herron	Shyla Moore	Libby Storkman
Bryson Cox	Devin Hodapp	Tina Noronha	Lauren Thompson
Zach Deberry	Shreya Hurlli	Emma Ortman	Daniel Vaca
Jennie Dirks	Luis Hurtado	David Parks	Sarah VanHoene
Lizz Dunn	Dakota Hutson	Melissa Patton	Angel Walls
Branden Estes	Jackee Ison	Bre Pender	Alex Webb
Sarah Estes	Olivia Ison	Elijah Peters	Carlie Williams
James Fish	Tammie Jackett	Sarah Phelps	Lorna Wilson
Catherine Gallant	Jasper Jaetz	Braydon Pickett	Ethan Wood
Schweta Gallant	Trig Johnson	Madisyn Prince	Yazmin Yang
Madison Giles	The Litter Box Rescue	Kayla Reaser	



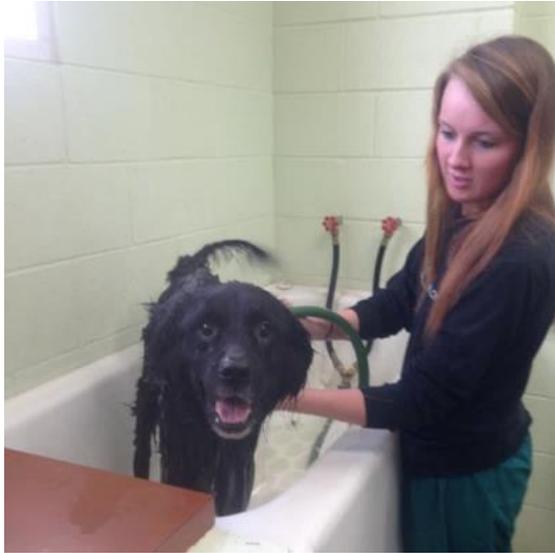
Health Occupations

ACS wants to thank the C4 program through the local high schools and Mrs. Krumb for providing us another great group of young people to help out. These students are provided a training site at the Animal Care Center. 2013 Health Occupations Students include the following:

Megan Bowling
Dixie Burton
Lizz Dunn

Erika Gadberry
Sylvia Hornback
Haley McKinney

Johnathon Phelps
Tristan Nickerson
Kayla Reaser



Donations

In-Kind

The Animal Care Center received thousands of dollars worth of donations, including services, food and bedding, to help care for the pets, defray operating costs, and, therefore, reduce the cost to taxpayers. The following individuals and groups donated services or items:

Athens Animal Clinic	Carolyn Findley Davis	Pierre's Pet Salon
Colleen Brennert	Dog World	Lori Philips
Canine Express	Eastside Veterinary Hospital	Marilyn Robbins
C.A.R.E.	Richard Hawes	Sam's Club
Caspers Clippers	Hope Veterinary Clinic	Spay Neuter Services of IN
Columbus Animal Hospital	Lincoln Elementary School	Target
Columbus City Garage	The Litter Box Rescue	Teresa's Pet Grooming
Columbus Mayor's Office	Newcomers Club	Cheryl Thompson
Columbus Parks & Recreation	Petco	Walmart

We also wish to thank the numerous anonymous donors who attended our events or walked-in with in-kind donations. This support is very helpful to our budget.

Monetary

The Animal Care Center received over \$8500 in monetary donations to the Adoption Medical Fund in 2013 from individuals and businesses. Several of the contributors were students working on their senior projects and other young people who collected donations instead of birthday presents. The following donated:



Lowell & Dortha Anderson	Pamela Hagedorn	Don & Linda Robertson
Bar-Cons Federal Credit Union	Stephanie Heck	Brenda Ross
Eileen Booher	Robert Hendershot	Alberta Ruble
Colleen Brennert	Hope Veterinary Clinic	Jim Ryse
Mayor Kristen Brown	Carol Johnson	Nancy, in memory of her sister who lost both dogs
Kathryn Bush	LHP Realty	Nancy Seed
Columbus Area Arts Council	Kittles	Mary Stadler Butler
Columbus East High School	Janice Llewellen	Marsha Sunkel
Ann Courtney	Clyde & Patricia Martin	Cheryl Thompson
Dunn & Associates	Lynette May	Jennifer Thompson
Faithful Friends in Passing	Patricia McGraw	Lauren Thompson
Caroline Fennelly	Ralph Olivo	Sharon Verchek
Mary Ferdon	David Parks	Sherry Walker
Loretta Garrison Clark	PEO Sisterhood, Chapter DI	Beth Wischmeier
Melvin Gilbert	Margaret Pongracz	Woods & Grooms Endowment Fund
Nancy Green	Research Club	

We also wish to thank our numerous anonymous donors who also gave to our adoption medical fund in 2013.

2013 Accomplishments

Field Services

- Two new vans were added for field work in July.
- New computers with software programs were installed in the vans in September.
- ACS participated in statewide emergency training exercise in Muscatatuck in September.
- In February, took in approximately 20 dogs into the shelter after their transport vehicle crashed on 65.
- Assisted in Tornado evacuation in November by taking in animals until weather had cleared.

Sheltering Services

- Two part-time positions approved by City Council for 2014
- Created a Facebook site for ACS. Please check us out and “like” us on Facebook – name: Animal Care Services
- Sound dampening panels installed in the dog runs



- For the second year in a row, no dogs were euthanized due to lack of space in 2013 - a 100% save rate for adoptable dogs
- The percentage of cats euthanized was the lowest to-date.
- 279 dogs were adopted (including transport) in 2013, the highest number for dogs in the last 6 years
- 284 dogs were returned to their owners
- Highest number of cats adopted or placed in rescue in last five years.



Outreach/Special Programs

- Adoption events were held at Petco and Bob Poynter, with live remote assistance from QMIX 107.3
- A holiday open house held on December 22 brought numerous people and donations to the shelter to help “Bring Christmas to the Animals”
- Numerous school groups visited the shelter for tours

2014 Goals

Field Services

- Continue to reduce the miles-per-stop ratio
- Develop more efficient management of wildlife issues, including the humane trapping program
- Continue to improve the interface with field and shelter computer programs.

Sheltering Services



-
- Two part-time positions to fill by Spring 2014
 - Continue to increase the number of adoptions of animals received at the Animal Care Center
 - Continue in 2014 the goal of not euthanizing any adoptable dogs due to lack of space that was first achieved in 2012
 - Continue efforts to lower the number of adoptable cats euthanized due to lack of space
 - Construction of a cat room in the front office of the shelter to double the space for adoptable cats.
 - Continue participation in the Canine Express Transport Project, an organization that humanely transports shelter dogs from south-central Indiana to shelters in New England, where there is a shortage of adoptable shelter animals
 - Implement software at the Animal Care Center to facilitate tracking and improve reporting of animal intake, care, and disposition
 - Dog walking trail around building

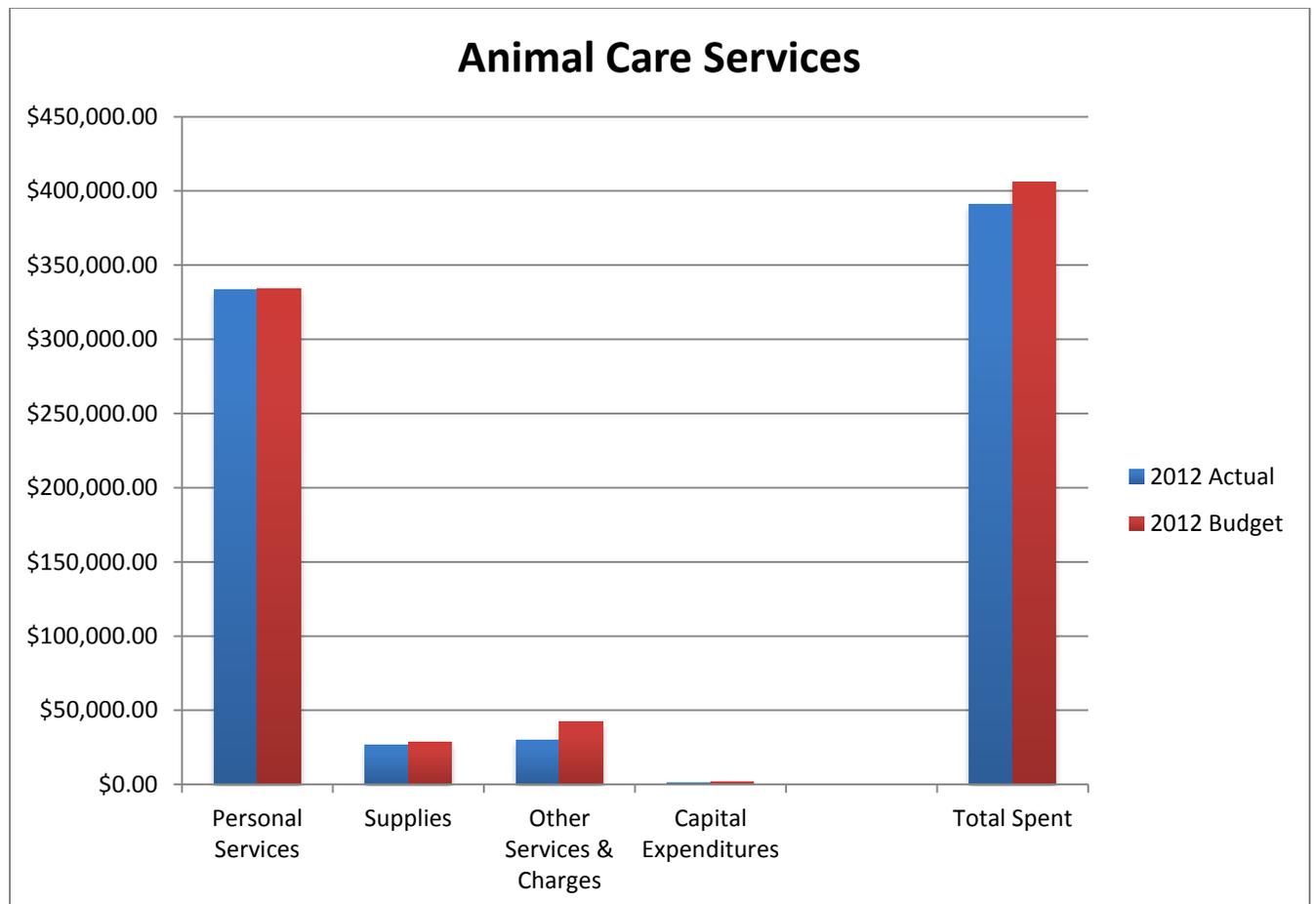
Outreach/Special Programs

- Increase the use of social networking sites to communicate information about ACS activities
- Increase participation in adoption events
- Create a mailing/emailing list for newsletter and donor mailings
- Organize an open house welcoming all Bartholomew County animal service agencies to participate in Summer of 2014 to celebrate the opening of the new cat room.
- Provide funding to support spay/neuter activity to our clientele in the month of February.
- Begin the process of shelter expansion plans and evaluations.



Financials

Animal Care Services	2012 Actual	2012 Budget	Difference	%
Personal Services	\$333,098.00	\$334,087.00	\$989.00	100%
Supplies	\$26,545.55	\$28,445.00	\$1,899.45	93%
Other Services & Charges	\$30,113.70	\$42,020.00	\$11,906.30	72%
Capital Expenditures	\$1,107.85	\$1,500.00	\$392.15	74%
Total Spent	\$390,865.10	\$406,052.00	\$15,186.90	96%





Animal Care Services	2013 Actual	2013 Budget	Difference	%
Personal Services	\$332,293.17	\$342,770.00	\$10,476.83	97%
Supplies	\$27,020.45	\$27,460.00	\$439.55	98%
Other Services & Charges	\$25,021.32	\$30,623.00	\$5,601.68	82%
Capital Expenditures	\$46,139.00	\$61,000.00	\$14,861.00	76%
Total Spent	\$430,473.94	\$461,853.00	\$31,379.06	93%
Year Over Year- 2012/2013	\$39,608.84	\$55,801.00	\$16,192.16	
Year Over Year- 2012/2013	10%	14%	107%	

