



## Public Input Meeting 2

April 3, 2019

Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/SanMarcosAnimalShelter/videos/370284047147433/>

Webpage [www.sanmarcostx.gov/implementationplan](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/implementationplan) (for survey link and committee work)

Email [pawsitiveoutcomes@sanmarcostx.gov](mailto:pawsitiveoutcomes@sanmarcostx.gov)

### Questions:

Q: When does the survey close?

A: Some notice will be given prior to the survey closing, but it will be open through April.

Q: For those who can't attend a meeting, how can they provide input?

A: Send email to [pawsitiveoutcomes@sanmarcostx.gov](mailto:pawsitiveoutcomes@sanmarcostx.gov) ; a Q & A file will be posted.

Q: Can you talk about the forecasting for the cost of the plan and how money will be raised?

A: Some needs and costs are already known just from the basic shelter operations standpoint. The cost estimates for the implementation plan cannot be determined until the implementation plan is finalized in June and City Council provides direction.

Q: What is the timeline for funding and implementing the different components; and who implements?

A: Because current-year budgets will start in October, San Marcos and the regional partners will need to work quickly to fund any year 1 components. The success of the plan depends on collaboration among all partners but the duty to implement falls on the shelter staff.

Q: Why is the timeline 5 years?

A: The City of San Marcos has many needs and considerations; it will take time to allocate funding and dedicate staff time. Although 5 years is allowed, we will work as quickly as we can.

Q: When will the foster and volunteer programs be enacted?

A: Those programs are under review and should be rolled out soon.

Q: Is there a plan or timeline to have free spay/neuter clinics for TNR community and feral cats?

A: We have some funding available and are trying to get some clinics going soon.

Q: What are the numbers of cat intake compared to those adopted out?

A: The statistics are on our website; please keep in mind that other cities in Hays County have different ordinances and the shelter only handles cats in San Marcos or cats brought to the shelter from other areas of the county.

Q: Will there be specific communications/education regarding TNR/RTF (community & feral cats)?

A: Yes and we are looking at initiatives that are easy to achieve; these initiatives have come up repeatedly through the committee's work and we anticipate they'll be included in the plan.

Q: What is it about the Target Zero data/presentation that stands out?

A: Cats and large dogs. There may be additional factors, such as the large renter population in San Marcos and the low income levels, that the committee needs to review to determine how we can best improve the live outcome rate for both cats and dogs.

Q: What is the progress on getting a Facebook page to facilitate animal rescues?

A: It is being discussed and improving the rescue process is a priority.

Q: Is it a viable option to have play groups and a behaviorist to work with dogs?

A: That has come up during the committee's work and the prioritization is still to be determined. We are definitely interested in solutions for large dogs as identified by the data.

Q: Will the low income levels in the area affect our ability to obtain funding?

A: We will work with our government partners to cost-share as well as with organizations such as Best Friends and Maddie's Fund to secure funding.

Q: How will Veterinarians county-wide be involved in the efforts and initiatives?

A: The committee members can bring feedback indirectly; community partners and engagement is a component already seen throughout the draft plan and we anticipate vets will be involved. We are currently looking to partner with vets for spay/neuter services.

Q: How actively have the government partners engaged their own communities and promoted this?

A: All communications/information departments have been working together. For example, they're sharing Facebook posts originated in San Marcos. We are also relying on the general public to spread awareness through their own networks.

Q: People are still afraid to take their animals to the San Marcos shelter for fear they're going to die; how can I help promote and share the good information and work that's been done?

A: We have achieved a consistent increase in the live outcome rate and we would appreciate assistance in sharing the good news to combat any negative perceptions.

Q: How will you get more local veterinarians involved in spay/neuter initiatives?

A: We are simplifying our process and contract; we will make individual contacts and request collaboration.

Q: Are you interested in becoming a Best Friends network partner to be eligible for free fundraising?

A: We are now connected to Best Friends and plan to explore that partnership further.

Q: Does the shelter participate in the Amazon Smile program?

A: Unfortunately, because the shelter falls under a municipality and not a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, we are not eligible for fundraising programs such as that one.

**Ideas/Feedback:**

- TNR and RTF programs to greatly impact the live out come rate; include education
- Use a behaviorist/trainer for cats too
- Analyze income levels and population growth for the possibility of financial support from the community; engage the higher income levels and retired residents