



## Public Input Meeting 3

April 25, 2019

Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/SanMarcosAnimalShelter/videos/274530000157982/>

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

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

### Questions:

Q: When will the implementation plan be proposed to City Council?

A: Staff will give a presentation to San Marcos City Council on June 18<sup>th</sup> including the proposed plan, timelines, cost estimate, and benchmarks of success. At that time, we expect to receive feedback and direction on taking it to a regular City Council meeting.

Q: Are animals spayed/neutered before being adopted from the shelter?

A: Yes; also, the implementation plan currently includes spay/neuter across the entire community.

Q: Will there be an opportunity to speak at the June 18<sup>th</sup> work session or other city council meetings to provide input regarding the implementation plan, such as suggesting San Marcos invest substantially in public spay/neuter?

A: Written comments can be submitted to the City Council at any time and people can sign up to speak at the regular City Council meetings. We are capturing all comments received at the public input meetings as well as through the email address [pawsitiveoutcomes@sanmarcostx.gov](mailto:pawsitiveoutcomes@sanmarcostx.gov) and will make all available to the City Council.

Q: Where are the sterilizations performed on shelter animals prior to leaving the shelter?

A: Shelter animals are spayed/neutered on-site at the shelter

Q: Is there a veterinarian on-site at the shelter?

A: A veterinarian is on-site for surgeries and is available as needed for other medical issues or concerns.

Q: When spay/neuter services are offered to the general public, where will that service be provided?

A: Community spay/neuter will not be performed at the shelter; instead, we contract with various vets and other services such as Emancipet.

Q: We need to educate the people about sterilizing their animals.

A: Yes, and that is a recurring theme in the implementation plan.

Q: Has there been discussion about having a heartworm treatment program/fund so that all adoptable animals are at least starting treatment prior to being adopted or rescued?

A: We are working on a system to track donations specific to treatments, and we're also working on a foster program to help those animals find the proper environment for the duration of treatment.

Q: How many kennels do we have for adoptions vs intake?

A: We are in the process of adjusting the space for each to maximize the amount of space to make adoptable animals more visible. Restricted areas will be marked with a notice that entry past a certain point is limited to staff only due to the risk of exposure to dangerous and contagious animals.

Q: Will there be a proposed budget to review prior to the June 18 work session?

A: We will do our best to cost out each year of the implementation plan for the City Council. However, budget requests for Fiscal Year 2020 (beginning October 1, 2019) were submitted earlier this year based on the estimated funds needed to bolster core services. Once that is done, we can focus on funding the implementation plan over the next 5 years. There is some overlap, so some of the initiatives in the implementation plan may have been included in the existing budget requests.

Q: Have the other government partners (Hays Co, Kyle, Buda) been planning for the implementation as well?

A: We have been holding regular meetings with them as well and keeping them up to date on the progress of the committee. We recognize that the implementation plan has a better chance of success if all entities' policies and initiatives are closely aligned.

Q: What is the definition of "No-Kill" and what is included in the calculation of the live outcome rate?

A: It is defined by some animal welfare organizations but it's not as clearly defined or differentiated for a municipal animal shelter with open intake (meaning we take animals hit by a vehicle with no chance of survival, or owners who request we euthanize their animals so they don't suffer). The directive we have from San Marcos City Council is to come up with an implementation plan to reach a 90% live outcome rate. We want to make sure we can meet that number but also not lose sight of being humane in all things we do.

Q: When you foster an animal, how do you know that it will be adopted out?

A: We rely on fosters to help us promote the animal and showcase their behavior in a home environment (as animals often display different/less favorable behavior in the shelter). Between fosters, rescues, and our own advertising, we hope each animal will get the exposure they need to get adopted.

Q: Is there anything that can be done to improve the environment for the animals, using sounds or scents?

A: We are currently working on installing some sound baffles. We also had someone offer to help us play soothing music. We are starting a Task Force internal to the City to help move some of these projects along.

Q: How long has the longest stay animal been at the shelter?

A: Meri just got adopted, after 165 days at the shelter.

Q: Is there a maximum length of stay we will allow an animal to stay in the shelter?

A: It depends on each animal and their tolerance level. Different programs and breaks from the shelter can enhance quality of life. All of the components being implemented will hopefully make this a non-issue.

Q: Is there a plan to expand the shelter and/or incorporate some play yards?

A: We do have some play areas now. The land adjacent to the shelter is City land but there are already other plans for it. We are anticipating the need for expanded and/or new space.

Q: Do you have any plans to work with the college?

A: We do get volunteers from the college. One of the ideas we have for college students is to leave their pets at home and when they come to San Marcos, they can adopt an animal from the shelter and bring it back at the end of the semester or when the need arises.

Q: Do you find that the \$15 orientation fee prohibits people from volunteering?

A: We no longer charge a fee for volunteers.