



Public Input Meeting 1

March 21, 2019

Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/SanMarcosAnimalShelter/videos/330352870949120/>

Webpage www.sanmarcostx.gov/implementationplan (for survey link and committee work)

Email pawsitiveoutcomes@sanmarcostx.gov

Questions:

Q: Are there plans for a large scale spay/neuter program and where would they occur?

A: The City has some funds secured and working on a contract. A variety of resources would be utilized including private vets and mobile clinics.

Q: Will any of the implementation plan changes affect how you do animal intake (at the shelter)?

A: The pros and cons of policies, procedures, & initiatives were assessed by the committee; also looking at creative solutions to managing intake.

Q: Is the shelter allowed to close intake, being a municipal shelter?

A: We've had to close intake a few times recently due to overcrowding (from an additional 176 animals from the seizure case); owners wishing to surrender their animals were referred to other resources or asked to delay bringing their pet to the shelter.

Q: Will there be a limit on the # of cats/dogs people can have in the city of San Marcos?

A: The committee will look at this eventually, as a City of San Marcos Ordinance revision will occur upon completion of the implementation plan. City staff meets regularly with regional government partners to discuss the regional impact, contracts, and initiatives.

Q: Has the increase in hours of availability at the shelter had an impact on adoptions? Will there be additional hours, days, or locations added in the future?

A: Extended hours only began in January, so it's too soon to show an impact. Plans are also in place to increase adoptions through off-site events. Budget requests are being considered to increase staff, which might allow for more days/hours open for adoptions. Events and locations outside of San Marcos require coordination with other government partners.

Q: How will we know the progress of the government partners meetings in comparison to this process? Will that be available to the public so feedback can be provided on that as well?

A: The government partners receive updates from the implementation plan committee but their meetings have mainly been to discuss operations and contracts. The request for the government partners meeting minutes has been noted.

Q: Will the widespread spay and neuter efforts be done at the shelter?

A: The shelter does not have the space to provide services to non-shelter animals but we are looking at a variety of alternatives, including private veterinary offices and mobile services.

Q: Is there currently a plan to increase the visibility of the shelter and its needs?

A: We have been doing more in regards to visibility and promotions and will continue to do so. Others in the audience confirmed the tremendous increase and impact.

Q: What is the role of the community of vets, techs, pet groomers, and other industry professionals?

A: Committee members are already involved in the animal community and those perspectives should filter into the committee through them. Priorities identified so far by the committee include bolstering the involvement of those mentioned.

Q: Can there be a Facebook page to help rescues pull animals to help them and help the shelter?

A: We are working on improving the rescue process and it is one of the new Program Coordinator's priorities. Budget requests are being considered to increase staff, which might allow for more staff time dedicated to the rescue program.

Ideas/Feedback:

- Code red/urgent Facebook page to help rescues pull high-risk animals (injured, sick, or behavioral/aggression issues)
- Marketing/flyers/collateral for businesses/supporters to give out to their network & customers
- Sharing info and photos on Nextdoor
- Satellite locations and portable buildings to increase capacity
- Joint meeting of the government partners and implementation plan committee
- Send a survey/questionnaire to veterinarians in San Marcos and Hays County