
CORPUS CHRISTI ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

CHAPTER 6 ORDINANCE REVISION



Corpus Christi Animal Care Services

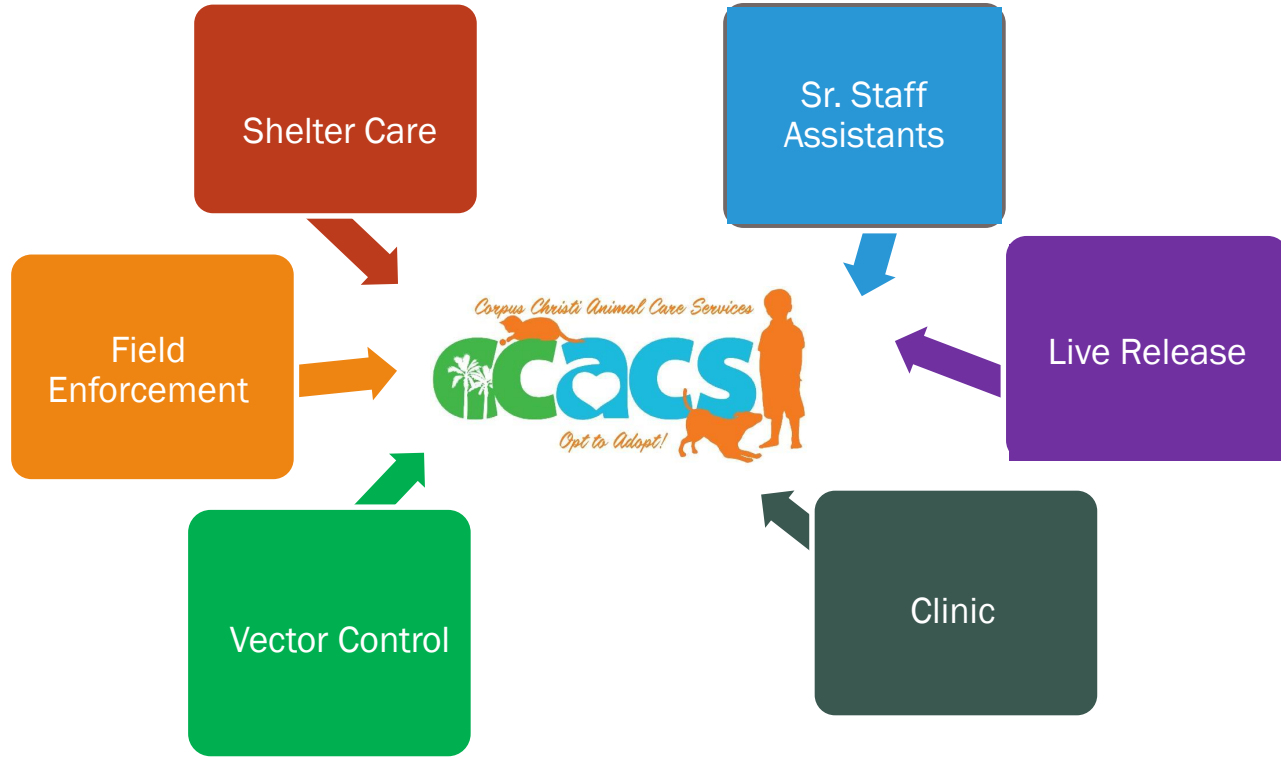
2626 HOLLY RD. CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78415

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Corpus Christ Animal Care & Vector Services is to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and pets of Corpus Christi



CORPUS CHRISTI ANIMAL CARE SERVICES DIVISIONS



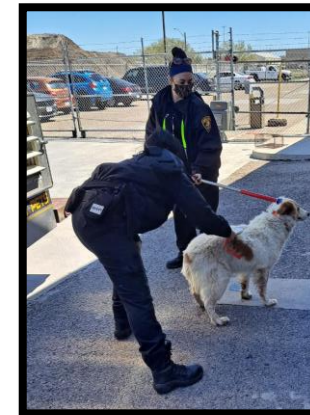
Customer Service



Clinic Care



Vector



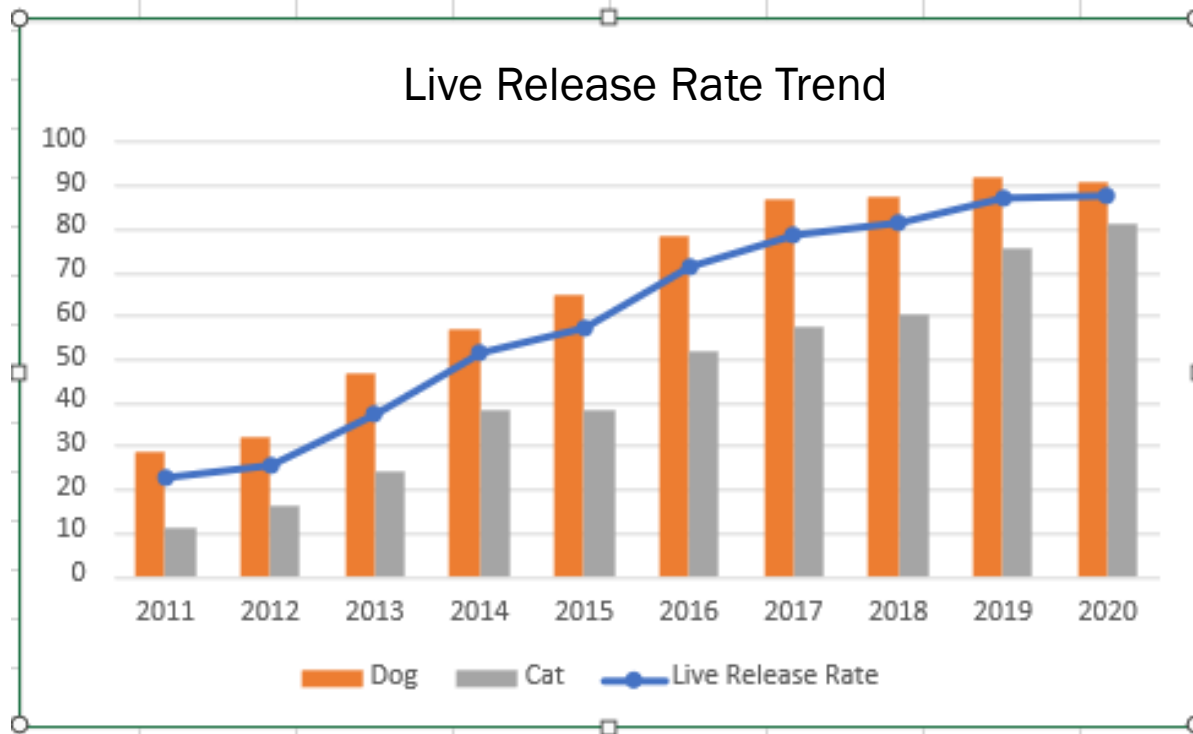
Field Enforcement



Shelter

Temp Employees	Full Time Employees
1 - Vet Tech	Total = 35
2 - Sr Staff Assistants	
8 - Kennel Techs	
Total = 11	

What is our Goal at Animal Care Services?



- CCACS has an operating budget for FY21 of \$3.26M
- CCACS has a Live Release goal of 90% for FY21

Total Live Release Rate			
Fiscal Year	Dogs	Cats	Total %
FY 11	27.98%	8.52%	21.24%
FY 15	59.89%	54.14%	53.37%
FY 20	91.14%	78.99%	87.06%

The Live Release Rate reflects the number of animals leaving the shelter alive whether it be through adoption, return to owner, or rescue. This has become the focus of all animal shelters through out the nation. While we have consistently seen our live release rate climb, we believe these proposed ordinances will help us continue forward.

CORPUS CHRISTI CHAPTER 6 ORDINANCES

- Ordinances were adopted on March 25th, 1981
- Ordinances were last amended on December 14th, 2014
- Most recent addition was the Vicious Dogs Section in 2019



MODIFIED DEFINITIONS TO SUPPORT ORDINANCE CHANGES

➤ **Abandoned** - shall mean an animal left without care by the owner and or keeper without making reasonable arrangements for assumption of custody by another person

➤ **Impound** - means any of the following;

- the placing of an animal in the city's animal care services facility
- the taking of an animal into custody for purposes of transporting the animal to the city's animal care services facility
- an officer in pursuit of an animal, and in lieu of taking custody of the animal, elects to return the animal to its owner with proper written notices, warnings and admonishments

➤ **Keeper** - means any person, firm, corporation, organization, or department holding, caring for, having an interest in, or having control or custody of an animal

- If the keeper of an animal is a minor, the parent or guardian of that minor shall be responsible for compliance with animal care related ordinances

➤ **Microchip** - means an identification chip implanted under the skin of an animal for the purpose of identifying its owner or keeper which has been registered with a microchip registration company with current ownership information to include the current owner or keeper's name, address and telephone number, and the description of the animal

- **A microchip will act as a city license indefinitely** and will be required to register said animal with department

MODIFIED DEFINITIONS TO SUPPORT ORDINANCE CHANGES...CONTINUED

➤ **Owner** - means any person owning, keeping, or harboring one (1) or more animals.

- An animal is deemed to be harbored if it is fed or provided water
- An animal is deemed to be kept if it is fed or provided water and sheltered or restrained except upon the authorization of the animal care services manager
- If the owner of an animal is a minor, the parent or guardian of that minor shall be responsible for compliance with animal care related ordinances and shall be identified as the legal owner of said animal

➤ **Public Nuisance** (addition) – Bites, attacks or injures a person

➤ **Reclaim** - means to retrieve or recover an animal from the city animal shelter after quarantine or impound

➤ **Registration** - means a privilege granted, upon compliance with the terms of this chapter, to lawfully own, keep, harbor, or have custody or control of a dog or cat within the city.

- **A microchip will serve as a form of registration indefinitely**

➤ **Shelter** - means a structure that has three sides, a roof, and a floor... *reference 6-164 for additional requirements*

WHAT ARE THE IDENTIFIED ANIMAL RELATED ISSUES IN CORPUS CHRISTI?



OWNER
RESPONSIBILITY



NEGLECT



NUISANCES



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS FOCUSED ON OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

- ✓ **6-28 Microchip Required (Replacing City License in existing ordinance)**
 - Allows us to more quickly identify the owner of an animal and is a one-time registration.
 - Increase animals being returned to their owners

- ✓ **6-29 Previous Owner Responsible for Updating Microchip (new ordinance)**
 - Owner is responsible for updating chip information with microchip company and CCACS if animal is rehomed; must occur within 30 days of transfer

- ✓ **6-103 (f)(1) Mandatory Spay and Neuter Animals Free of Restraint within 30 days of First Offense (modification to existing ordinance)**
 - Any animal found at large must be spayed/neutered within 30 days regardless of whether the animal is registered or not; also helps reduce stray population



RESOLVING NEGLECT

Current

- **Permits:** No enforceable action can be taken to stop businesses from operating unethically or illegally unless all animals in poor enough condition justify a cruelty warrant
- **No definition for shelter,** unenforceable
- **Abandonment:** animals left behind in residences must be removed by cruelty search and seizure warrant, even when cruelty charges will not be filed. Animals must then be held for an extended period, sometimes up to 60 days
- **Dumped animals:** It is not illegal to leave an animal at an animal shelter, even if the animal is left unrestrained without notifying staff, or fail to reclaim an animal that was impounded

Proposed

- 6-51 – 6-58; Evacuation plan, medical records, guarantee of good health for animals sold. **Permit can be revoked if animals are neglected,** operating without permit results in animals being deemed prohibited and will allow for seizure.
- **“Shelter” defined:** a structure that has three sides, a roof and a floor... *reference 6-161*
- **“Abandoned” defined:** an animal left without care by owner/keeper without making reasonable arrangements... *6-164 allows for impound of abandoned animal*
- **“Reclaim” defined:** retrieve or recover an animal from CCACS after quarantine or impound... *reference 6-162*



RESOLVING NUISANCES

Current

- No repercussions for owners of bite dogs other than quarantine fees, no ordinances to address issue
- No resolution for Animal vs. Animal attack
 - current “vicious animal” ordinance is unenforceable, no due process of law as currently written
- Mass Feeding of animals (wildlife or domestic) creating public nuisance unenforceable, no ordinances to address issue

Proposed

- Bite incidents added under definition of “public nuisance” Citation can be issued for bite offense (officer discretion)
- Stricter Dangerous Dog (attack on a human) regulations... *reference 6-32*
- “Aggressive Dog” replacing “vicious dog” for Animal vs. Animal attacks. Owner must comply with restrictions to keep animal... *reference 6-39*
- Mass Feeding of Animals creating public nuisance or encouraging destruction of private or public property through feeding of animals. Citation can be issued for offense... *reference 6-163*





A new perspective on animal welfare; address the needs of our community, improve the quality of life for our animals, and promote a culture of compassion.