



Animal Care Services Division Small trap Pickup Presentation



Council Presentation
March 25, 2014



Small trap Pickup



- Practice of small trap pick-up changed Jan 1, 2014
 - To focus on vital core mission elements
 - To better comply with current city ordinance
 - To conform with best practices

 - ACS continues to service small traps
 - City owned
 - \$10.00 fee per trap
 - Privately owned
 - No fee
 - Must be delivered to ACS
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Murine typhus



- Minor illness

- Endemic to South Texas
- Symptoms similar to influenza
- 80% of the cases are “asymptomatic”
- Easily and effectively treated with antibiotics
- Transmitted by **fleas**, not opossums
- **Fleas** carried primarily by rats, feral cats and other animals including opossums
- Can only be contracted once
- Reported cases in Nueces County avg. 40 to 65 cases per year



ACS Calls for Service



- Maximum Field Staff: 12.5 ACOs
 - Standard schedule: 18 hours per day, 7 days per week

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Calls	28,927	26,751	27,256	21, 201
Strays	8,698	8,560	9,554	8,132
Bite Report	814	624	608	913
Abuse	1,116	1,164	1,099	1,193
Trap Opossums	4,490	3,309	3,903	3,434
Reported Typhus cases	40	66	63	41



Hours expended



- If opossum is euthanized: Approximately 3 hours
 $3 \text{ hours} \times 3784 \text{ (avg per year)} = 11,352 \text{ hours} = 5.5 \text{ FTEs}$
Only certified ACOs or Shelter Vet can euthanize animals.
 - If opossum is relocated: Approximately 2 hours
 $2 \text{ hours} \times 3784 \text{ (avg per year)} = 7,568 \text{ hours} = 3.5 \text{ FTEs}$
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Effectiveness of Trapping Possums to Combat Murine Typhus



“To eliminate murine typhus from Corpus Christi, the City would need to destroy all rats, opossums, dogs, feral dogs, cats, feral cats, and fleas. Basically any animal that might have fleas. This is an unrealistic approach.”

*Source Ron Cornelison, TDSHS, Public Health Region 2 / 3
Zoonosis Control Specialist.*



What is effective?



- Best protection is prevention
 - Remove any brush or trash
 - Eliminate hiding places
 - Do not leave pet food out
 - Prevent rodents from living under your house
 - Create barriers for nuisance animals
 - Do not entice stray animals into your yard
 - Treat your yard, pets, and house for fleas.
 - The flea is the typhus carrier: kill the flea, you stop typhus
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