



# ANNUAL REPORT OCTOBER 2011 – SEPTEMBER 2012



Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter  
1855 SE Inner Loop Georgetown, TX 78626  
512-943-3322 [www.wilcopets.org](http://www.wilcopets.org)

## A Word from the Director

This section is always the last to be completed because I am so proud of our accomplishments and there are only so many ways of saying that without sounding redundant. Our shelter is one of only 50 open admission shelters in the country to be technically a “no-kill” shelter. Every year we take in more animals and the staff has more to clean, more animals to take care of and more responsibilities to take on. This has to be one of the toughest jobs there is, that is, if you care. So this year, I decided to ask the staff to tell me what they liked about WCRAS in one sentence.

Louise, Robyn and Erin who work up front greeting the customers and taking in animals as well as completing adoptions told me they like “Being around animals, helping reunite lost pets with their owners, and the dedication and compassion of the people who work here.” The animal care specialists also weighed in. Lori told me she liked this job because of “how everyone works as a team and that we go above and beyond for the animals. She also observed that everyone genuinely cared, that it is not just a job to the employees.” “You get to save animals and make a difference every single day” was what Dee Ann had to say. Yahel told me that it was the “contact with the animals and that she gets to spend time with them.” She went on to say that “here it is like a mission to save animals and doings something to save them, to give them a second chance.” Candi says she likes “the way the shelter is run, we try to save the animals instead of euthanizing.” Renee and Grim echoes some of what has already been said. They like “our save rate and that we do such a good job of saving them. Dogs that are considered vicious and mean are given a chance to turn around and not just condemned.” And Christine, our new Kennel Manger who was a former Veterinarian Technician said that she like working here because “we try and save every animal that comes into the shelter regardless of their breed, age, or issues.”

You might think that this is what a shelter should do and I agree, it is what a shelter should do. After all, it is not the animal’s fault they landed here. It is ours, us humans. But this is not the way for many shelters. Even in the central Texas area there are shelters who don’t offer adoption specials to re-home more animals. There are shelters that kill every dog that looks like it has “pit” in them, or any dog or cat that comes in injured, sick or becomes ill in their facility. If a family comes in to reclaim an animal, they are turned away because they can’t afford the fees. The save rate in many of these shelters reflect the practices of the old way of sheltering. Even within our own community there are people who don’t agree with decisions we make in order to get animals out of the shelter alive.

Every year, the number of animals entering the shelter increases. This year we took in 313 more cats and kittens and 327 more dogs and puppies. Even though animal control brings in less and tries to get animals home before they make it to the shelter, more and more animals are being surrendered by their owners. This past year 22% of the animals that came into the shelter were surrendered. The shelter is continuously bursting at the seams. But despite the increased intake and decreased amount of animals going into rescue we still saved 91%. Dogs fared better but only because the kitten population was tremendous this year and despite every effort, many died in foster care or in the shelter. The overall save rate in dogs was 94% and in cats was 85%.

When life brings  
big winds of change  
that almost blow you over...  
close your eyes,  
hang on tight,  
and **BELIEVE.**



There are so many ways to become discouraged. Seeing the sally port full of dogs and no place to put them, having others in your field work against you, the animals who get sick under your watch and even just the sheer number of animals that enter the shelter daily are just a few of the struggles that we face. But at the end of the day it still comes down to this, I have to answer to a higher power, I have to answer to the employees who come to work everyday to save lives and to make a difference and I have to answer to me.

*Cheryl Schneider, Shelter Director*

## Goals

### These were the goals set forth in 2007. Where are we?

- ❖ Reduce euthanasia to only behaviorally aggressive animals or sick/injured animals with a poor prognosis for recovery by increasing adoptions, transferring more animals to rescue groups and humane organizations, and utilizing foster homes.  
*The euthanasia rate for the shelter is very low. This goal has been reached. However, the transfer of animals has decreased with our high save rate. Some rescue groups that typically pulled a high number of animals in the past, have stated that because of the high save rate that we have achieved, they choose to help other shelters. This is a part of this goal we will continue to work on as space has become such an issue, it is more imperative than ever that rescue groups pull animals so WCRAS has room to house the incoming animals.*
- ❖ Offer free spay/neuter clinics once a month for feral cats or animals of low income families.  
*WCRAS offers a free spay/neuter clinic monthly for free-roaming cats. In addition, the shelter hosts EmanciPet once a month. Due to space and personnel restraints it is not practical at this time to offer low cost spay/neuter services for dogs.*
- ❖ Continue to increase volunteer participation in shelter and off-site activities.  
*Volunteer participation continues to increase every year. Just this summer, there has been more participation in off-site events. That is still a goal that needs some improvement.*
- ❖ Increase the hours open to the public to facilitate adoptions and customer service.  
*The shelter board agreed with this goal and beginning October 1, the shelter is now open to the public 7 days a week. This will remain a goal as the hours should still be extended so that the shelter remains open longer in the evenings and weekends.*
- ❖ Partner with obedience trainers and animal behaviorists to sponsor classes at the shelter.  
*This goal has been partly met. We have a float position for a behaviorist to evaluate the shelter animals placed for adoption. There are also two groups that do training at the shelter for people who have adopted a dog.*
- ❖ Offer assistance by phone to families with animal issues to decrease the number of pet surrenders to the shelter.  
*Currently this goal cannot be managed. This would be a full time position for future consideration. We do have a cat behaviorist consultant that works with people who are having issues with cats they adopted.*
- ❖ Develop a disaster response team that is highly trained and response ready.  
*This goal has not been met.*
- ❖ Recruit a volunteer to coordinate the volunteers, marketing efforts and community outreach.  
*The shelter board approved a Community Programs Coordinator position in the current budget. This person will revamp the volunteer program as well as be responsible for the foster program, oversee the rescue transfer program as well as fundraising projects.*
- ❖ Develop a Strategic Plan on lowering euthanasia community-wide.  
*While the euthanasia rate has decreased, it may not be sustainable without some community programs put into place and eventually a shelter addition. Stay intake and owner surrenders*

are at an all time high. Counseling people who are having issues with their animals so that they can keep them in the household instead of surrendering them to a shelter and offering low cost spay/neuter for the public are just two areas that need funding and consideration to begin to decrease the intake into the shelter.

- ❁ Securing grants for the low cost spay/ neuter clinics and adoption trailer.  
*To date, grants for free spay/neuter of free-roaming cats have been achieved. This will be an area that will be pursued in the up coming year.*

## Accomplishments/Activities

- ❁ A Volunteer Orientation class is held the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month followed by a Dog and Cat Handling Class for the new volunteers.
- ❁ WCRAS supports the Trap-Neuter-Return programs in the community and utilizes every opportunity to educate the public about feral cats and the benefits of TNR. A 2 year targeted spay/ neuter grant for \$24,000 was secured though PetSmart Charities for the regions of Cedar Park, Leander and Liberty Hill. 444 cats and kittens were surgically sterilized though the grant during this fiscal year. A free-roaming clinic is also held once a week for anyone residing in Williamson County and through that clinic 298 cats and kittens were neutered.
- ❁ Hosts a low cost vaccination and mircochipping clinic the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 11-2. .
- ❁ A shelter animal that is available for adoption is featured on Fox 7 News as “Pet of the Week” the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month.
- ❁ Monthly promotions with decreased adoption fees are held to increase the number of adoptions and attract visitors to the shelter.
- ❁ Dogs and puppies that are available for adoption are taken to the PetSmart in Wolf Ranch and University PetSmart Thursdays-Saturdays and to the Round Rock PetSmart on weekends which increases our adoption rates.
- ❁ Our cats and kittens fill the adoption center at the Petsmart on University Blvd behind the IKEA and Georgetown Animal Outreach regularly pulls cats and kittens from the shelter for adoption at the Wolf Ranch PetSmart.
- ❁ Hosts an 8 week behavior class taught by “The Family Dog,” with special rates for adopted shelter animals.
- ❁ Continue the Kids-N-K9 program in cooperation with the Juvenile Center.
- ❁ Offer classes for volunteers that want to assist in the Red Cross shelters in disasters.
- ❁ Started a Facebook page and provide updates daily.



## Special Events and Fundraisers

# Annual Denim and Diamonds Fur Ball



The Denim and Diamond Fur Ball is held at the Marriott in La Fontera in Round Rock and is our major fundraiser every year. The food is fabulous and there is a silent auction with awesome items. The money raised is going to fund a play yard and walking path in the back of the shelter. Enough has been raised to build Phase One of the project which should be completed by the end of 2012.

- Numerous Girl and Boy Scout projects
- Bark and Purr Fest
- Pet Blessing at the Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown
- Santa Claws and Paws at the Shelter
- Pet Photo's at PetSmart
- Christmas Stroll
- Market Days in Georgetown
- Holiday Parties at the Shelter
- National Pit Bull Appreciation Day

### Annual Woof, Walk, and Wrun



This is our second largest fundraiser. This event raises money specifically for Jane's Fund. This fund pays for all of the medical expenses the shelter incurs at outside Veterinarians for animals that come into the shelter with injuries or illnesses beyond our scope such as broken bones and trauma. Without these donations, we would be euthanizing hundreds of animals every year for injuries or illnesses that are treatable.

# Annual Comparison - Dog and Cat Statistics

## Cat

	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
Stray	1229	973	1514	1291	1573
Owner Surrender	340	331	350	461	576
Transfer In	0	2	7	10	7
Born in Shelter	19	34	73	43	71
ACO Agency	1171	696	663	912	793
<b>Total Incoming</b>	<b>2759</b>	<b>2036</b>	<b>2607</b>	<b>2707</b>	<b>3020</b>
Adopted	633	803	1159	1417	1637
Reclaimed	65	32	45	71	34
Transferred	364	274	420	568	750
Died	53	126	282	278	246
Admin Missing	124	47	41	77	47
Euthanized	1523	681	504	363	193
<b>Total Outgoing</b>	<b>2762</b>	<b>1963</b>	<b>2431</b>	<b>2774</b>	<b>2907</b>

## Dogs

	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
Stray	662	649	755	811	1064
Owner Surrender	717	599	579	734	1048
Transfer In	0	21	30	36	73
Born in Shelter	2	45	43	49	26
ACO Agency	2523	2591	2355	2497	2243
<b>Total Incoming</b>	<b>3904</b>	<b>3905</b>	<b>3762</b>	<b>4127</b>	<b>4454</b>
Adopted	1294	1391	1329	1710	2543
Reclaimed	937	1047	943	1138	1093
Transferred	696	710	774	955	561
Died	21	33	44	25	34
Admin Missing	71	3	6	7	15
Euthanized	969	690	672	227	203
<b>Total Outgoing</b>	<b>3917</b>	<b>3874</b>	<b>3768</b>	<b>3835</b>	<b>4449</b>

### Total Intake of all Animals

<b>Intake</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>
Cats and Kittens	2759	2036	2607	2707	3020
Dogs and Puppies	3904	3907	3762	4127	4454
Domestic Rabbits	8	0	8	18	30
Wildlife (Raccoons, Skunks, Opossums, Squirrels, Rabbits, Rat, Fox, Deer)	53	36	25	106	106
Bats	57	16	55	133	114
Exotic Animals (Lizard, Slider, Turtles, etc)	2	0	5	2	1
Livestock (sheep and goats, chickens)	4	1	9	9	6
Wild Birds (buzzard, hawk, owlet, other)	9	0	9	10	9
Domestic Birds (parakeets, parrots)	2	0	2	11	10
Other Domestic Pets (guinea pigs, degus, hedgehog, hamsters, ferret, pot belly pig)	19	7	10	7	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>6817</b>	<b>6003</b>	<b>6493</b>	<b>7130</b>	<b>7733</b>



### Cat and Dog Intake by Jurisdiction

	2007 2008	2008 2009	2009 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012
Cedar Park	688	613	742	679	777
Leander	680	624	643	647	671
Round Rock	1401	1280	1423	1873	2035
Hutto	310	343	312	398	442
Williamson Co	3464	2940	3095	3095	3326
Other	131	141	154	142	223

## Animal Outgoing Percentages

### Cats

	2007 2008	2008 2009	2009 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012
Adopted	23%	43%	50%	58%	59%
Reclaim	3%	2%	2%	3%	1%
Transfer	18%	14%	20%	22%	27%
Died	2%	6%	8%	10%	10%
Euthanasia	53.95%	34.12%	18.86%	12.68%	6.27%

### Dogs

	2007 2008	2008 2009	2009 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012
Adopted	33%	36%	35%	41%	57%
Reclaim	24%	27%	25%	28%	25%
Transfer	18%	18%	20%	22%	13%
Died	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Euthanasia	24.97%	17.66%	17.85%	5.53%	4.57%

### Rescue Groups Taking More Than 50 Animals from the Shelter

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Austin Dog Alliance			52
Austin Pets Alive		240	339
Honorina's Cat Rescue	208	277	303
Humane Society of Wilco	563	537	231
Austin Humane Society	154	151	99
Good Dog Rescue		162	
CNC	59		

### Other Interesting Numbers/Facts

- 🐾 1764 animals went into a foster home, 220 animals more than once, into 335 foster homes.
- 🐾 Returned adoptions doubled again from the previous year. 327 dogs and/or puppies and 89 cats and/or kittens were returned.
- 🐾 742 cats/kittens were sterilized through our free-roaming spay/neuter clinics.
- 🐾 1118 dogs and 177 cats were licensed in Williamson County this year. This generated \$6,715 in revenue.
- 🐾 Average length of stay in dogs was 11 days and in cats, 15.3 days

# BUDGET EXPENDITURES FY 2010-2011

Personnel	\$780,962.60	Salaries and Benefits
Shelter Improvement	\$4,748.60	Small Equip and Tools, Facility Maint and Repair
Direct Animal Care	\$206,563.27	Janitorial Supplies, Professional Services, Animal Care, Medical Care, Disposal
Utilities	\$66,520.41	Telephone, Electric and Water
Office, bldg, and yard	\$31,298.47	Office Equip and Furniture, Computer, Office and Paper supplies, Extermination, Janitorial Contract, Lawn Service, Bond, Property Ins., Courier, etc
Vehicle	\$2,823.42	Gasoline, Repairs and Maintenance, Insurance
Personnel Costs	\$3,960.88	Uniforms, Membership Dues, Publications, Travel and Training
Donations	\$69,059.34	HW and Medical Treatment, other misc.
Purchases for Resale	382.19	Retail items for sale in Lobby

## Annual Budget Comparisons

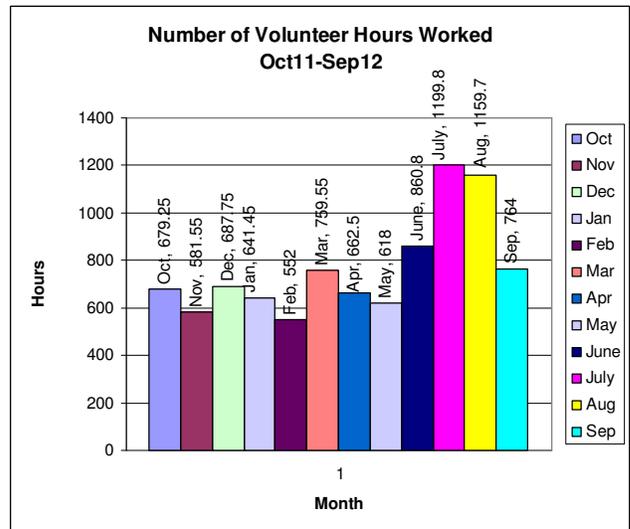
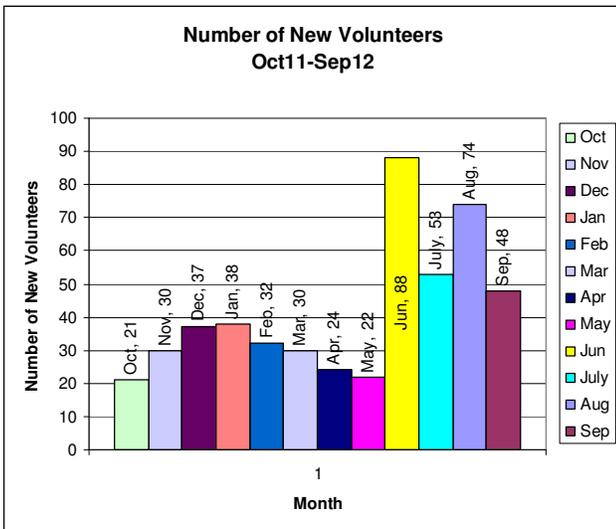
	Budgeted Amount	Revenue	Expenditures	Donations	Donation Expended
<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>\$1,001,845.00</b>	<b>\$187,350.77</b>	<b>\$974,865.66</b>	<b>\$17,980.67</b>	<b>\$578.00</b>
<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>\$1,007,859.32</b>	<b>\$178,714.58</b>	<b>\$977,718.41</b>	<b>\$27,673.96</b>	<b>\$10,655.31</b>
<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>\$1,035,782.00</b>	<b>\$173,877.64</b>	<b>\$1,010,835.19</b>	<b>\$51,037.72</b>	<b>\$24,542.31</b>
<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>\$1,042,808.61</b>	<b>\$188,153.42</b>	<b>\$1,049,004.95</b>	<b>\$92,801.25</b>	<b>\$50,548.50</b>
<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>\$1,121,905.94</b>	<b>\$205,064.37</b>	<b>\$1,166,319.18</b>	<b>\$94,556.61</b>	<b>69,059.34</b>

## Jurisdiction Budget Percentage

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
<b>Cedar Park</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
<b>Leander</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
<b>Round Rock</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Hutto</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>Williamson Co</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>53.4%</b>	<b>51.9%</b>	<b>51.3%</b>	<b>48.8%</b>	<b>46.2%</b>

# VOLUNTEERS

How many times can we say this, “The vounteers are the backbone of our shelter.” The answer is that you can never say it enough. They literally help save more lives and save us. There are so many things here and away from the shelter a volunteer can do and each and every task they do is important. From walking dogs for exercise and potty breaks, cleaning kennels, maintaining the dogs in the sally port to make them comfortable in a crate, socializing cats, assisting with the team of cat volunteers who run the cat adoption program at PetSmart, keeping up with the massive amounts of laundry and dishes, to entering data and updating Petfinder from home and helping with off site events and fundraisers. And that is just a few of the many responsabilites that volunteers take on. There are too many names to mention but a huge THANK YOU from the staff and the animals here at the shelter. This past year 497 new volunteers went through the orientation process. Volunteers spent 9,166.35 hours at the shelter and there are some that do not sign in and out. Volunteers take pictures and post them, they write descriptions about the animals for potential adopters, they spend hours at the shelter with animals that may be on the danger list trying to find that one home that would be best for the animal. Volunteers and fosters are faced with the same challenges, happiness and disappointments as any employee of the shelter but they continue to come back every week because the animals need them. Despite the foster’s best efforts, kittens die. It can be heartbreaking and nerve wracking. But year after year, they continue to come back to the shelter to help, to continue to foster kittens and other special needs animals.





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***Mission:***

The Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter is a collaborative effort between Williamson County and the cities of Round Rock, Cedar Park, Leander, and Hutto. It provides a safe environment for the lost, abandoned, and homeless animals of these jurisdictions and places them in a good home whenever possible.

***Vision:***

- To save every healthy and behaviorally sound companion animal
- To save all dogs and cats that can be medically treated and behaviorally rehabilitated and do not pose a public health and safety risk

***Governing Board***

Bryan Williams, Round Rock Assistant City Manager  
 Josh Selleck, Cedar Park Assistant City Manager Finance Director  
 Jim Bechtol, Leander Development Services Director  
 Micah Grau, Hutto Assistant City Manager  
 Valerie Covey, Williamson County Commissioner

***Advisory Board***

Holly Putman, DVM	Veterinarian
Rebekah Montie, ACO	County/Municipal Official
Madelen Powell, Chairperson	Person Involved in Operation of Shelter
Mary Erlandson	Member of a Welfare Organization
Georganne Duron, Secretary	Resident of Participation Jurisdiction

***Management Staff***

Cheryl Schneider	Director of Animal Services
Linda Gunter	Administrative Supervisor
Christine Mixon	Kennel Manager