



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council **Date:** October 23, 2012
From: Gina Schwin-Whiteside **Item No:** 11
Animal Services Department
Subject: MUNICIPAL SHELTER SATURDAY OPENING UPDATE

T.M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item:** Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide direction to staff regarding continued hours and days of operation.

SUMMARY:

On May 1, 2012, the Apple Valley Animal Services Department expanded the days and hours of operation of the Municipal Shelter to provide services to the public on Saturdays. Opening on Saturdays was requested by various animal welfare groups and individuals seeking availability of services on Saturday. The primary areas of concern voiced by the various individuals, included opportunity for Saturday adoptions, access to the shelter for owners to claim their impounded pets, opening on Saturday consistent with a local non-profit animal shelter in Apple Valley, and reduction in euthanasia rates. The decision to offer a sixth day of service included direction from the Town Council that staff provide an update after at least three-months of Saturday service.

The purpose of this staff report is to provide statistical data related to the areas of concern during a three-month period prior to and after the opening of the Municipal Shelter on Saturdays. Data related to adoption rates, return-to-owners, and euthanasia rates, will provide an overview for the Town Council to evaluate the success of the additional day of service.

BACKGROUND:

A series of events, including an economic downturn, reductions in department budgets by 10% for Fiscal Year 2010/2011, and a court ruling declaring that Saturdays could not be counted as “business days” even though the shelter was open to the public, provided

a foundation for Council direction to operate the Town’s Municipal Animal Shelter, Monday through Friday with a late night Wednesday and without increases to staffing levels. Along with anticipated reductions in utility costs, departments providing support services to the shelter such as the Information System Department were also able to reduce overtime budgets in the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year Budget.

The decision to operate five-days a week allowed the Animal Services Department to maintain an excellent level of customer service while ensuring the well-being of the animals and the and the safety of staff and visitors.

OVERVIEW:

May, June, and July were selected for evaluation of data related to the areas raised as a concern during Council discussions. These areas are not representative of all of the services provided to the community through Animal Services, however focusing in on these areas allows us to quickly review changes to adoptions, return-to-owners, and euthanasia rates.

Various events, such as the Cruisin’ Fur Critters fundraiser and Annual Paws-n-Claws Pet Fair organized and staffed by Animal Services were still offered on the scheduled Saturdays. Other events, such as Shelter on the Stray, Night at the Shelter, PetSmart offsite adoption events, were cancelled or reduced due to lack of Animal Services’ employees to staff the events and still provide coverage on Saturdays without incurring overtime.

Municipal Shelter Saturday Opening Data

	May-12 (Saturday)		May-11		Jun-12 (Saturday)		Jun-11		Jul-12 (Saturday)		Jul-11	
	26	4	20		26	5	21		25	4	20	
Days open to the public												
Impounded Animals (All)	591	67	655		538	77	681		577	54	563	
Stray Dogs/Cats	372	49	465		348	46	444		392	34	431	
Owner-turn-in Dogs/Cats	185	17	131		148	28	177		137	13	89	
Largest Number of Impounds in a Single Day	87	24	57		39	24	52		68	19	45	
Adopted (Rescued) Dogs/Cats	120	14	122		142	20	211		110	10	179	
Return-to-Owners	43	3	40		33	1	47		57	12	52	
LIVE RELEASE ALL	163	17	162		175	21	258		167	22	231	
EUTHANASIAS Performed (Includes Owner Requests)	345	27	295		355	73	370		272	15	290	
Visitors to the Shelter	2954	315	1186		3274	370	890		3066	330	774	
Unaltered Dog Licenses Issued	177	15	198		173	24	153		142	26	137	
Altered Dog Licenses Issued	643	33	724		548	57	588		537	70	613	
Monthly Revenue	\$43,332	\$3,460	\$49,219		\$42,827	\$4,971	\$43,223		\$40,788	\$5,010	\$41,440	

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON DATA

SCE	May	June	July	August	September
2012	\$3,259.65	\$4,579.45	\$6,331.99	\$6,589.79	\$6,627.14
2011	\$3,108.97	\$3,838.70	\$6,475.98	\$6,066.98	\$6,398.09
	\$150.68	\$740.75	(\$143.99)	\$522.81	\$229.05