

News Release

Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center implements new programming

June 28, 2021, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – An assessment of the Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center has come to a close, and several recommendations are being considered and implemented.

“The shelter assessment, conducted by Team Shelter USA, has proven to be a great resource for the animal shelter as it continues to provide superb services to the residents and pets of Oakland County,” said Oakland County Board of Commissioners Vice Chairwoman **Marcia Gershenson** (D-Bloomfield Township). “We have been working for several years to ensure Oakland County’s pets are well-cared for, and I look forward to seeing how the shelter builds upon its success.”

In June 2020, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution authorizing a shelter assessment of the Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center to provide an outside, independent review of the facilities and operations, offer recommendations for improvement and make policy recommendations to align with animal welfare/sheltering best practices. The resolution was adopted based on the recommendation of the bipartisan Oakland County Animal Welfare Study Group. Assessments of animal shelters often result in helping more pets and people in the community.

The assessment resulted in several recommendations, which are being considered or implemented at the shelter. Animal control practices are being updated to be more efficient. The shelter is in the process of instituting a community cat program, which ensures community cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and ear tipped. Intake priorities at the shelter have changed to provide additional options to owners who are considering surrendering their pet. The shelter has joined Adopt-a-Pet.com to help promote animals available for adoption and will increase collaboration with other shelters in the area. The staff will participate in a “fear free” training to reduce anxiety for animals when they are brought into a shelter.

“We are very thankful that the Board of Commissioners hired an outside consulting company to study our shelter operations and to make recommendations so that we can become even better,” said Bob Gatt, Oakland Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center manager. “The entire staff at the Oakland County

Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center pledges to continue providing the most professional and compassionate service for the approximately 4,000 animals per year that we care for.”

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