



City of Dallas

Dallas Animal Services Suspected Animal Cruelty Operations Overview

Public Safety Committee

June 3, 2025

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City of Dallas

Overview



- Organizational Roles In the Suspected Animal Cruelty (SAC) Process
- Dallas Animal Services (DAS) Regulations & Authority
- DAS Cruelty Support
- DAS/DPD SAC Data Review
- Multi-year Budget Analysis
- Discuss Next Steps



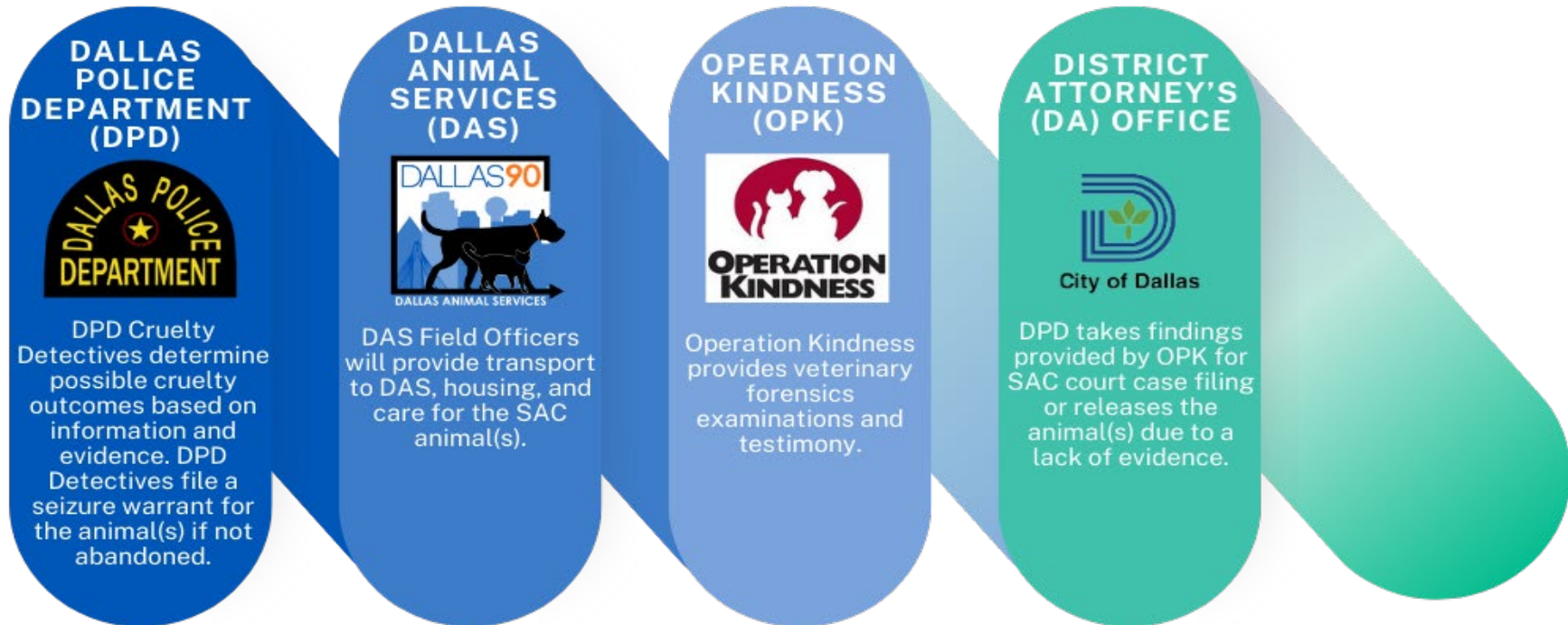
Organizational Roles In the SAC Process



Dallas Animal Services plays a role in support however, determinations of cruelty are made by DPD Cruelty Detectives based on the information and evidence provided.

Support for DPD Cruelty Unit:

- DAS provides the following:
 - Transport
 - Housing
 - Care/Feeding
 - Security
 - Veterinary Services (Follow Up)
- **Operation Kindness (OPK) provides**
 - Forensics, Examinations, and testimony.
 - **OPK absorbs approximately 600K expense for these services**
- **DAS provides OPK:**
 - Space
 - Tools
 - Equipment



DAS Regulations & Authority



- DAS is responsible for all reactive and proactive service calls associated with Chapter 7A Animals
 - Based on the findings during service calls and the animal's condition and care may warrant a referral to DPD Cruelty Detectives.
 - DAS field officers are not certified cruelty investigators.
 - Impoundment of suspected cruelty animals is based on the section provided below and at the direction of DPD:

Sec. 7-2.5. Impoundment of Animals

- (a) The director or the chief of police is authorized to seize and impound any animal:
 - (1) in the city that is loose;
 - (2) for protective custody;
 - (3) required to be quarantined under Section 7-2.4;
 - (4) seized pursuant to a warrant or court order;**
 - (5) that is a prohibited animal and kept in the city in violation of Section 7-6.1;
 - (6) posing a threat to the public health or safety; and
 - (7) displaying signs and symptoms of extreme health concerns.**



Dallas Animal Services (DAS) Cruelty Support



- **DAS began providing full support to the Dallas Police Departments Cruelty Unit in FY23**
- **DAS does not have an internal team solely dedicated to SAC**
 - Support is provided through the following units within DAS:
 - Field Operations Unit
 - Veterinarians and Support Staff
 - Shelter management (DAS FTE's/Temp Labor)
 - Adoption/Foster/Rescue Services



Field Services



- **DAS Field Operations Unit provides transport, intake documentation, evidence, and humane disposition if necessary.**
- **Field Operations officers may refer a suspected case of cruelty-based observations during daily operations and response.**
- **Examples:**
 - Response to 311 call for service or proactive inspections
 - Officers respond to 311 calls based on findings a referral for suspected cruelty may be placed based on discussion with Cruelty Detectives
 - Warrant execution by Law Enforcement Officers
 - DPD Cruelty investigation and warrant execution
 - Evictions executed by the Constables office
 - Warrants based on other illegal activities that may involve an aspect of cruelty



- **DAS Medical staff provide follow up care and treatment post forensic examination from Operation Kindness.**
- **Medical team may refer a suspected case of cruelty-based observations during daily admissions operations.**
- **Examples:**
 - Veterinarians and Support Staff
 - May refer suspected cruelty based on physical examination of either an owner surrender or stray brought to the shelter
 - ❑ Findings can include:
 - Physical or sexual abuse through old or new injuries
 - Medical conditions related to untreated illness or injury
 - Lack of basic care (food/resources)

Shelter Management & Placement



- **DAS Shelter staff provide housing, care, feeding and observation during length of stay**
- **DAS foster, rescue, and adoption services may be provided based on disposition provided by DPD**
 - Dispositions include:
 - ☐ (No) Return to owner
 - ☐ Rescue Only
 - ☐ Adoption/Foster/Rescue
 - ☐ Humane disposition



DAS SAC Data Review



- Based on the data below, DAS takes in approximately 2,500 animals per fiscal year through suspected animal cruelty.
- The average Length of Stay for a victim of suspected animal cruelty can vary. This is based on the initial intake and any hold requirements, holds for possible appeal, and any notification of final disposition.
- **SAC Intake FY22/23**
 - **3,477** Total SAC Intake
 - **3,183** Fowl
 - **32** Cats
 - **242** Dogs
 - **9** Livestock (Horses)
 - **11** Other
- **SAC Intake FY23/24**
 - **1,999** Total SAC Intake
 - **1,651** Fowl
 - **61** Cats
 - **269** Dogs
 - **2** Livestock (Horses)
 - **16** Other
- **SAC Intake FY24/25 (Oct-Mar)**
 - **1,007** Total SAC Intake
 - **798** Fowl
 - **30** Cats
 - **176** Dogs
 - **1** Livestock (Horses)
 - **2** Other



DPD Statistics



YTD	911 Calls	Offenses	Cases filed to DA's Office	Grand Jury Referrals	Seized or Surrendered	Investigations	Arrest	Search Warrants	Civil Seizures Executed
2025 (4/30/25)	327	38	50	1	661	115	38	11	9
2024	916	126	78	2	1606	285	86	20	15
2023	1073	102	105	1	3893	272	76	60	25
2022	1240	140	62	2	351	392	36	29	8
2021	1093	123	35	1	273	307	30	4	4
2020	685	126	45	2	696	305	30	1	5



DPD/DAS Collaborative Efforts



YTD	Dogs	Cats	Horses	Poultry	Other Non-Livestock	Other Livestock
2025 (4/30/25)	92	24	5	536	4	0
2024	236	74	1	1278	17	0
2023	119	14	7	3750	3	0
2022	107	44	3	181	14	0
2021	112	129	2	0	29	1
2020	168	67	8	399	47	7



Budget Analysis



• DAS Year over Year Budgets vs Forecast

- FY 23, DAS stepped in to fill the support role in the Suspected Animal Cruelty (SAC) process.
- In an analysis of DAS budgets vs. actual expenditures for the last several years, budget overages coincide with the addition of SAC and capacity overages.



Budgets								
Budget Category	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25
Personnel Services	\$ 9,543,370	\$ 10,650,442	\$ 11,008,044	\$ 10,802,451	\$ 11,296,624	\$ 13,016,531	\$ 13,615,358	\$ 14,017,698
Supplies-Materials	\$ 1,625,730	\$ 1,480,278	\$ 2,006,799	\$ 1,892,923	\$ 1,859,520	\$ 1,855,215	\$ 1,857,276	\$ 1,917,266
Contractual - Other Services	\$ 2,838,059	\$ 2,655,947	\$ 2,879,166	\$ 2,884,951	\$ 3,283,041	\$ 3,040,879	\$ 3,972,773	\$ 4,063,407
Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ 92,000	\$ -			\$ 164,856	\$ -	\$ -
Expense Total	\$ 14,007,159	\$ 14,878,667	\$ 15,894,009	\$ 15,580,325	\$ 16,439,185	\$ 18,077,481	\$ 19,445,407	\$ 19,998,371
Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 258,517	\$ 265,356	\$ 265,356	\$ 256,356	\$ 265,356	\$ 301,143
Department Total	\$ 14,007,159	\$ 14,878,667	\$ 15,635,492	\$ 15,314,969	\$ 16,173,829	\$ 17,821,125	\$ 19,180,051	\$ 19,697,228

Forecast								
Budget Category	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25
Personnel Services	\$ 8,680,683	\$ 9,651,166	\$ 10,220,307	\$ 10,806,330	\$ 11,112,679	\$ 12,524,988	\$ 13,271,337	\$ 14,815,881
Supplies-Materials	\$ 1,686,957	\$ 1,789,028	\$ 1,989,952	\$ 1,882,154	\$ 2,036,811	\$ 2,279,373	\$ 2,157,487	\$ 2,045,642
Contractual - Other Services	\$ 3,495,717	\$ 3,284,443	\$ 2,924,595	\$ 2,889,396	\$ 3,102,667	\$ 4,213,827	\$ 5,107,170	\$ 5,520,607
Capital Outlay	\$ 484,545	\$ 98,523	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Expense Total	\$ 14,347,902	\$ 14,823,160	\$ 15,134,854	\$ 15,577,880	\$ 16,252,157	\$ 19,018,188	\$ 20,535,994	\$ 22,382,130
Reimbursements	\$ 350,000	\$ -	\$ 1,054,219	\$ 265,356	\$ 265,356	\$ 1,003,678	\$ 530,482	\$ 301,143
Department Total	\$ 13,997,902	\$ 14,823,160	\$ 14,080,635	\$ 15,312,524	\$ 15,986,801	\$ 18,014,510	\$ 20,005,512	\$ 22,080,987



Next Steps



- **Strategic Partnerships & Program Development**

- DAS is collaborating with DPD to develop a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify a reputable partner to assume the responsibilities currently managed by DAS.
- Look for additional opportunities to add external support for SAC victims
 - ❑ Provide specialized care and positive outcome placement/rehabilitation once disposition has been rendered
- Look to develop an engagement initiative to boost community awareness, and education.

- **Operational Improvements & Service Enhancements**

- Continued training for internal DAS staff for various aspects and support for suspected animal cruelty.
- Continued cross-communication meetings with DAS, DPD, and Operation Kindness.

- **Budget Management & Staffing Optimization**

- Exploring cost-saving measures to minimize budget impact.





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