

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 3, 2023

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update on State of Southern Dallas Loose Dog Population**

Dallas Animal Services (DAS) has received an overview of a new report by the privately funded Southern Dallas Spay Neuter Surge outlining reductions in the Southern Dallas loose dog population. The Spay Neuter Surge ended in October 2022 after offering sustained outreach, marketing, free spay neuter surgeries and community events in conjunction with SPCA of Texas and Spay Neuter Network for nearly six years.

Measuring progress since the seminal 2016 Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report on the state of loose dogs in Southern Dallas, the Jan Rees-Jones Foundation funded a follow up report in 2022 with JBJ Management. The report determined that the Spay Neuter Surge and improved Field operations by DAS resulted in a 58% decrease in loose dogs in Southern Dallas in 2022 than in 2016.

The Spay Neuter Surge, a public-private collaboration, ended in October 2022 after providing free spay neuter services to City of Dallas animals in 23 zip codes in conjunction with SPCA of Texas and Spay Neuter Network for nearly six years. Over its duration, 68,000 dogs were altered and provided core vaccinations and microchips.

Since becoming its own department in 2017, DAS has transformed operations by restructuring the Field unit, emphasizing on lost pet return to owner, and launching innovative programs like the Fix It Ticket Program. This program allows Southern Dallas residents to have non-compliance citation fees waived if they come into compliance promptly. DAS is internally funding free spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, and microchipping services from SNN in the wake of the Surge to ensure that cost would not be a barrier to participation.

DAS is proud to report that fiscal year-to-date, loose and loose owned dog bites have dropped 20% compared to last year. Based on this trend, and the revelations of this report, DAS is optimistic that its efforts over the last six years have increased the safety of Southern Dallas residents.

DAS realizes there is still work to be done and we remain committed to addressing loose dogs and public safety in Southern Dallas, as well as the need to identify funding for spay/neuter services. DAS' upcoming RFP for the Southern Dallas Village Fair property is designed to provide Southern Dallas residents with an expanded scope of high-quality, reduced-cost veterinary offerings that addresses the evolving needs of the community.

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**MeLissa Webber**  
Director, Dallas Animal Services

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager  
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager  
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Directors and Assistant Directors