



BARC
ANIMAL SHELTER
& ADOPTIONS



BARC Shelter Update: Presentation for Regulatory & Neighborhood Affairs Committee

June 27, 2023





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Discussion

- 2023 BARC Data and Statistics
- Chapter 6 Update
- Operations Updates
- Staffing Levels



Fiscal Year 2023 Highlights

- **Save Release:** 81.3% live release rate for FY23 YTD
- **Animals Adopted:** 3,978 animals adopted as of June 21, 2023.
- **Animals Fostered:** 2,664 animals transferred to fosters as of June 21, 2023.
- **Rescue/Transfer Program:** 8,863 animals transferred to rescue partners as of June 21, 2023.
- **Spay/neuter surgeries:** 6,999 surgeries estimated as of May 2023, 4,075 of which were completed in-house at BARC.
- **Animal Enforcement:**
 - 56,930 calls for service as of June 21, 2023. This is already an increase over 49,910 total calls in FY22. 58.09% of all calls investigated by enforcement officers based on priority matrix.
 - 2,202 bite cases investigated through June 21, 2023.

BARC Enforcement Response Priority Matrix



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City of Houston BARC Animal Shelter Priority Matrix



Priority Level Chameleon Activity Color	Call Type	Response Time Goal
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bite case, victim has been bitten Dangerous animal on school grounds Non-dangerous, roaming elementary school grounds 	Within 2 Hours
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law enforcement agency assistance Aggressive animals where citizen is in imminent danger Injured/sick animal unable to move on their own Cruelty - cockfighting, dog fighting, etc. where the animal is in imminent danger; will immediately report to HPD and will assist HPD with confiscation of the animal as directed by HPD Dangerous wild animals, lion, tiger, non- indigenous venomous 	Within 3 Hours
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trapped, "high-risk" wildlife (Raccoons, skunks, coyotes, bat, fox), visible wildlife inside someone's immediate living area (wildlife calls whereby animal is in natural habitat will not be responded to – refer to Texas Parks & Wildlife) Calls for assistance from Post Office, City Council Offices, governmental agencies Neglect/abandonment cases, dog, cat, livestock Confined animals at places of business including apartment complex Non-dangerous, roaming middle/ high school and college grounds 	Within 48 Hours
4	<p>Unable to respond due to limited resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injured animals able to move on their own Citizen confined animals 	N/A
5	<p>Unable to respond due to limited resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owner turn-ins Stray/barking/nuisance dogs Stray dogs running loose not causing issue Loose and trapped cats 	N/A



Fiscal Year 2023 Highlights

- **Bond election:**

- In November 2022, Houston voters approved a \$47 million bond for “the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, and equipment of buildings and facilities” for the BARC animal shelter.
- BARC’s proposal for the bond was based on replacing the existing dome evaluation building, warehouse, and outreach trailer.

- **CIP Update:**

- On June 21, 2023, City Council approved the City’s Capital Improvement Plan, which includes funding for BARC improvements in FY24 and the bulk in FY25.
- These improvements have not been finalized but are anticipated to include:
 - A new warehouse.
 - Replacement of the following buildings at BARC: Administration, Dome Building and the Outreach Trailer.
- The project lead will be the General Services Department. BARC will be working closely with the department on this project.



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Additional BARC Data

- **FY23 Impounds:** 10,003. This is an increase of 48% over FY22 (6,774 impounds).
- **Intake**
 - In FY23, BARC’s overall intake is 18,413. Of this, 61% was stray intake from the field.
 - While intake numbers continue to rise, they are still behind pre-pandemic numbers. However, after shifting to managed intake, most of the animals on our property are brought in by our enforcement team, and at an increasing rate.

- **Capacity**

$$\text{Staff Capacity for Daily Care} = \frac{\text{Minutes of daily staff time for care}}{\text{Minutes required per animal per day}}$$

* National Average = 15 minutes required per animal per day

- **Recommended capacity with 12 staff members:**

$$\frac{2880 \text{ minutes of daily staff time for care}}{15 \text{ minutes required per animal per day}} = 192 \text{ animals is recommended for a staff of 12 to provide quality care}$$



Chapter 6 Ordinance Updates

Mandatory Microchipping went into effect February 1

- Return to owner outcomes are already on the rise, with a 16% increase reported between 2022 and 2023.
- BARC has offered multiple free microchipping events both at BARC and within the community, ensuring that hundreds of community pets are now within compliance of the new ordinance.

Humane pet store ordinance

- Requires pet stores to sell **only** dogs and cats sourced from a humane organization or a municipal or county animal shelter.
- BARC is aware of only one store within City of Houston limits that continues to operation in violation of this change.
- BARC continues to cite the store in violation regularly. Adjudication is scheduled for 08/03/23.



FY23 BARC Outreach

- **Mega Adoption Event:** The Mega Adoption event returned to the GRB in September 2022. Over the two-day event, 99 animals found their forever homes.
- **Empty the Shelters Campaigns:** BARC has partnered with BISSELL Pet Foundation to host four Empty the Shelter campaigns in FY23. A total of 1,003 pets have been adopted through these free adoption events in FY23. The next campaign launches July 6.
- **ABC13 Pick Your Pet Event** was held again at BARC for 2023. It was expanded to cover 2 days, where 111 animals found their forever homes.
- **Best Friends Animal Society MOU:** Staff with BFAS are currently embedded with BARC staff to develop a new Tiered Volunteer Program and streamline the foster program.



FY23 BARC Shelter/Medical

- **Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS) National Conference:** BARC's Shelter & Medical Manager gave a presentation on our innovative training program that's focused on improving an animal's stay while at the shelter at the July 2022 conference.
- **BFAS New E-Learning Module:** Since that time, Best Friends has reached out seeking assistance in developing their new e-learning modules on best practices for enrichment and dog handling.
- **Assisting Partner Shelters:** The BFAS conference provided a national platform for BARC. After that conference, several shelters have reached out asking questions to establish similar training programs for their animal care teams.
- **Association of Professional Dog Trainers:** The Shelter & Medical Manager has been invited to present BARC's training program at their national conference in October 2023.



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BARC Staffing Levels

- **BARC continues to operate with an average 11% overall vacancy rate**
- **Currently BARC has open positions within each section:**
 - **Customer Service & Registration - 3**
 - **Outreach – 3 (Foster, Adoptions, and Offsite Transport Coordinators)**
 - **Shelter – 1 Sr. Animal Care Technician, 1 Animal Care Technician**
 - **Medical – 2 Staff Veterinarian Positions, 1 Sr. Animal Care Technician (vet tech)**
 - **Enforcement – 3 Animal Enforcement Officer Trainee**



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Questions?