

Waller County Animal Control Survey Results

This was an anonymous survey. To respect that, every attempt has been made to remove any personal information from the general comments when added by a respondent.

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

Animal Control in Waller County		
How long have you lived in Waller County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 3 years.	11.8%	65
Between 3 and 5 years.	10.9%	60
Between 5 and 10 years.	22.8%	125
Over 10 years.	54.5%	299
<i>answered question</i>		549
<i>skipped question</i>		7

Animal Control in Waller County		
Which precinct or general area do you live in? (Answer required)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Pct 1 – Hempstead area, Pine Island, northwest Waller County	24.0%	134
Pct 2 – Field Store/Waller and north eastern Waller County	33.3%	186
PCT 3 – Prairie View, Monaville, and central Waller County	17.4%	97
Pct 4 – Brookshire, Pattison, west Katy and southern Waller County	25.3%	141
<i>answered question</i>		558
<i>skipped question</i>		-2

Animal Control in Waller County		
Have you or anyone you know ever had a stray animal on personal property?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	96.6%	519
No	3.4%	18
<i>answered question</i>		537
<i>skipped question</i>		19

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Animal Control in Waller County		
Have you or anyone you know ever felt threatened by a stray animal?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	65.0%	347
No	35.0%	187
<i>answered question</i>		534
<i>skipped question</i>		22

Animal Control in Waller County		
Have you or anyone you know ever had personal injury, property damage or livestock hurt or killed by stray animals?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	52.0%	278
No	48.0%	257
<i>answered question</i>		535
<i>skipped question</i>		21

Animal Control in Waller County		
Right now, the county sheriff 's office responds to personal injury calls involving stray animals. Do you feel it's more important to have trained animal control officers respond if it keeps more law enforcement officers available for other calls?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	87.5%	461
No	12.5%	66
<i>answered question</i>		527
<i>skipped question</i>		29

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Animal Control in Waller County		
How do you see an animal control program in Waller County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
It is an issue that we need to look at	88.0%	463
Not even an issue, we don't need it	12.0%	63
<i>answered question</i>		526
<i>skipped question</i>		30

Animal Control in Waller County		
Registering animals applies only to domestic animals, like dogs, not livestock. Registration would not be associated with any national livestock animal registration program.		
Given that, would you have a problem registering your domestic animals if it meant helping to finance an animal control program?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	41.1%	212
No	58.9%	304
<i>answered question</i>		516
<i>skipped question</i>		40

Animal Control in Waller County		
If registration included rabies vaccination and an electronic identification tag, what do you feel is a fair price to pay?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No more than \$15.00	40.5%	202
\$15.00-20.00	28.5%	142
No more than \$25.00	31.1%	155
<i>answered question</i>		499
<i>skipped question</i>		57

Comments

Problem with Others dropping off unwanted animals near residents

A majority of the problem with strays is not the result of the majority of responsible animal owners in Waller county but the result of irresponsible people from Waller and surrounding counties dropping off unwanted animals. We live off 359 near Monaville and have unwanted animals dropped off on our road almost every week. We need strick, enforcable laws with harsh fines of \$10,000 for a first offense to anyone who drops off an animal in Waller county, and we should let everyone know it with billboards and signs along our roads if we are ever going to stop this activity. We run a boarding kennel, train hunting dogs, and have 7 personal dogs. It is appalling to see so many irresponsible animal owners! Thanks for letting me respond.

I feel we have a bad problem at Sky Lakes Airport and Country Club. Animals are dropped off consistently. Please help us.

I have lived just over a year and have had 2 dogs dumped in our yard already.

I live on Adams Flat Rd, in Pattison Texas. We get dogs dumped off on our street on a regular basis. It is OUT OF CONTROL. In fact we have two large dogs right now that was dumped on our road two weeks ago that no one can catch. They are hungry and roaming around looking for food & water. This can turn in to a big problem. Something needs to be done about this situation.

It breaks my heart to see animals dumped on the side of the road. I wish we could prosecute the "dumpers".

People dump animals off at 362 and Howell Rd. It is so sad. I had to put many to sleep!

Stray dogs are dropped off on a regular basis around Howell Rd and FM 362. Strays are an issue! It is very sad that people will drop off a scared hungry animal rather than put it down or find it a real home.

The biggest problem we have is people driving through the country and dropping off unwanted pets. Once 2 Grown Pit Bulls were dropped off in our neighborhood near the Field Store Elem. School and they were on the playground with the children, left there and killed several of our pets and neighbor pets in their path. Registration is fine, but there should be penalties for people who drop off animals more than for us who keep our pets under control.

The problem we face regularly is dogs being dumped on our country road. We need an animal shelter to take them to.

We have a huge problem with drop-offs in our area. Also, they live in the woods and breed and have babies that then become another problem.

We have a lot of stray animals dropped off in the Sky Lakes Subdivision. I feel like we should be able to call if one is dropped off and we have a lady who has a lot of feral cats and I think something should be done with her as well.

While I feel that is is a good idea to register and vacinate animals I don't think that will really address a more specific problem. The people that will register and pay would not normally be the ones who will let their animals run free although it will help when a pet accidentally gets away. The real problem in my opinion is the animals that are dumped in our county who have

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

no tags and whose owners are too cowardly to give them away so that they can receive proper care.

Desire for a Specific Place to call for help with unwanted animals (like SPCA)

A Shelter or animal SPCA type organization is needed in Waller County. There needs to be someone to call for the loose, unwanted and mistreated animals. There needs to be strict laws for dumping animals of any kind. PVU needs to institute a university driven program for students at PVU to be held accountable for their dogs, as well.

Addressing this issue is long overdue. The response of the Sheriff's department, already stretched to the limits themselves on other issues, is minimal; only occurring if there is injury, it seems. With increased growth and the current economic stresses, we are going to see more and more animals being abandoned and this needs to be addressed.

Animal Control Officers would be wonderful. We at least need someplace to drop off stray animals.

Dorothy, I hate to tell you, in Hempstead, at least, there is no such thing. I have had stray dogs roaming around my home for months, I have had litter after litter birthed and left to die because the mother is malnourished. I have called the city hall, I have called animal control, I have even saved 4 puppies and delivered them myself to the city barn so they HAD to do something about the situation. The county has NO animal control, and Hempstead has none past the hour of 5PM.

Drop-outs are the huge problem throughout county, towns and country. Responsible owners are already vaccinating and identifying their animals. The true challenge is what to do about all the irresponsible owners and their unwanted animals --- affordable neutering and spaying programs, presentations in schools to educate, etc..?...? Simply registering does little.... Presently, we are home for six drop-outs dogs; they receive all their shots, have name tags, and live in large fenced yards. I'm concerned about the next ten dogs and untold number of cats who will be abandoned in my immediate area over the next year.

I am against registering animals but do feel there is a need to have a control officer available to apprehend with stray or aggressive animals.

I am married to a Harris County Sheriff deputy who is assigned to the Livestock Division. From my point of view Waller County desperately needs an Animal Control Division. Because there are so few deputies covering Waller County and they have to respond to all calls that come into their office animal control calls are low on their priority list. The county has seen such growth and it will only continue to grow therefore Waller County has got to meet the needs of the community and one step in the right direction would be to establish an Animal Control Division.

I am not in favor of mandatory electronic identification. If Waller Co had a place for people to drop off unwanted animals, I think it would take care of a lot of the stray dog & cat problems. If the animals have owners who just let them run, those animals need to be picked up & high fines levied on the owners to get the animals back.

I cannot believe this county does not have animal control or a shelter for these animals. As much as our taxes are this is outrageous. It is unspeakable that there is NO ANIMAL CONTROL. I just had another stray/ part pit mix / pregnant female dropped at my door in a starving and scarred condition. This needs to be addressed in a serious way.

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I do believe we need to encourage responsible ownership so that we do not have the problems that we face today with so many abandoned baby animals, clinics to spay and neuter would be helpful.

i dont really want to put an electronic tag on my animals. i have no problem with rabies or registering. I dont know enough about the electronic tags or risks that may be associated. i live on 1488 and there are so many dogs dumped, at least one a week and then they are killed or starved. we need a pound that will pick these animals up and find homes or put them down. it is really sad to watch these dogs and it is a problem because they come to your house and my animals are threatened.

I feel alot of people from The Houston Area bring unwanted pets to Waller County and dump them. I have personally taken in 3 strays as pets. It is really a sad situation for these poor animals. If Waller county had more Law Officials on our Roads they may be able to catch these Houstonians dumping their unwanted pets.

I have had repeated stay animals that have killed on numerous occations. The Sherriff Department was unhelpful and useless. We need animal control.

I live in Sky Lakes Section 1. The real issue is the number of unwanted animals. There are no shelters that will take them. Animals are dumped daily here. We also have a ferral cat colony of 30+ on Kitty Hawk.

I think any responsible area should have an animal control system that will help get strays back into responsible homes.

I think that the Brookshire Animal Control is in serious need of help. The place is horrible and the City needs a better place to house animals that come in while waiting to find a new home or place to stay. I am sure hundreds of animals are brought in but that is what happens in the country - people do not take care of their pets.

I would be in favor of fee based registration only if it includes a "no kill" shelter and spay and neutering for abandoned animals. Programs in other towns have included animal foster families for stray animals waiting to find new homes. I will not support the typical "pickem up, holdem for 3 days and they're dead" approach!!

I would hope that "trained" animal control officer would be true, and not just any willing person off the street!!!!

I've never understood WHY there isn't an A.C. Office/Officer. Public education should be one of the main requirements for the office--not just picking up strays to be taken to a high-kill shelter.

Law enforcement is always problematic, all too often because too many of the enforcers see no gray in the world. If funding is found for trained animal control personnel, the personnel will, undoubtedly, be driven by policies easily recognized as performance quotas, which will assuredly fail to ensure that animals who are not troublesome strays but who either do not have or who have lost registration/identification end up being collected and disposed of, their owners, many of whom would have lived lifetimes of little or no regulation regarding their domesticated animals, suddenly and, no doubt, without recourse. Having a few law enforcement officers who are also trained in animal control who will respond to complaints might be the simpler approach for the unincorporated areas of the county. The person making the complaint would have to offer compelling evidence that the animal in question is a nuisance. It is rarely a problem finding a neighbor who can verify the level of concern. Additionally, the creation of a Web site that would have posted photos of the offending animal---before and after apprehension---and to which the

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local community's residents could be directed (localized and direct mailing is not a cost-intensive operation) can serve to handle many of the bureaucratic aspects of the officers' expanded responsibilities. Certainly, there are enough digital cameras and camera-phones to make identification of both nuisance animals and misidentified animals easy enough, thus foregoing the registration of animals and the blacklisting, as it were, of any animal not carrying identification papers.

Let the Sherrifs Dept. do it. Give them something to do. They wouldnt respond anyway! Bad idea ?

People need to stop dropping off their unwanted dogs and cats in Waller County. Our county desperately needs an animal shelter. Too many times have I had to drive into Houston's SPCA in order to drop off a stray. We need a police officer dedicated solely to the poor stray animals that are dumped in our county. I don't want any sort of registration of our animals, domestic or otherwise. Raise our taxes, but forget the registration. I don't like you guys keeping track of our animals. I don't want you to have that kind of control. Soon or later you'll start telling us how many dogs we can have, etc. Please respect our freedoms. Please do something about those idiots who put their dogs in the beds of their pick-up trucks when there's plenty of room in their cabs. Too many dogs get killed that way. It's cruel and dangerous. People who do that should be fined.

Professional animal control needed, plus community education on spay-neuter, responsible ownership

So many have left animals in our neighborhood and at our church I feel we are an animal permanent drop off. I would love to see this come to pass!

The biggest problem i have encountered is neighbors who don't keep their dogs on their property and those dogs have killed my livestock. When i called the county to complain they told me they could do nothing because we have no animal control program. This is something that is badly needed in this county.

The County is in desperate need of a full-time Animal Control Agency. The number of stray animal are growing at a rate that is far beyond a single persons or a part-time outside agencies capability.

The sheriff's department does NOT do anything about stray animals except tell us to shoot them. We need animal control for taking care of strays - not to take care of victims of strays- that's EMS responsibility or a physician. And there is money already set aside for this and has been for at least five years, maybe more. The person would not even have to be full time. Any help would be beneficial.

The Spay and Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) has made a significant impact in Houston, Liberty, and low income areas focusing on spaying and neutering at low cost which has cut down on strays. Hempstead should contact the program about coordinating with them to facilitate a trip to Hempstead on a semi-annual basis. We need an animal shelter. I've taken in multiple strays over the years which I've spayed and vaccinated. Lately, the Pit Bull craze that seems to have hit our city and the lack of breeding control has presented a bigger problem. I suggest required registration for all dogs with a significantly higher rate for non neutered dogs than for neutered dogs. In Houston, animal control does SWEEPS picking up unregistered dogs. The SNAP bus coordinates with the SWEEP to be in the area. If one gets the low cost neuter, the rabies vaccination is free from SNAP. Cats are also a problem.

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There is a definite need for some type of animal control, even if we do something with Harris or Montgomery County. I have 8 stray dogs that I have adopted and several other strays that I have either found home for or taken to the SPCA. I would even consider paying the Sheriff's department a fee for picking up a stray and taking it to the SPCA in Houston. There has to be more options for the people of Waller county regarding stray animals.

This is a perfect time for me to answer these questions. Friday, 6/27, on my way home from work I found six - 6 - abandoned puppies on the side of Bell Road just east of 359. They were hot and thirsty and hungry. I took them home with me and then spent most of Saturday morning trying to find a place for them. Several of the shelters I called were full to capacity but Waller County HAD NO RESOURCES FOR STRAY OR ABANDONED ANIMALS AT ALL. This is not the first time I have found stray/abandoned animals on the road and I know it will not be the last. After spending a lot of time looking for a place for these animals, I finally got an answer at Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP) in Houston on I-10 between Kirkwood and Dairy Ashford. This facility takes in approx 1200 ANIMALS PER MONTH and places maybe half of them. I know that means they will be "humanly killed" and I guess that is better than starving or being run over. Waller county as well as the state of Texas needs a serious education program about spay and neuter. We have so many unwanted animals it is heartbreaking. I know this is long but I really feel the need to do something about this situation. People that throw away puppies and kittens on the side of the road and left to fend for themselves should have the same treatment.

This is an important issue. Right now I have three dogs - all of them strays. A fourth just showed up and I will probably wind up keeping him. Even though I have "found dog" notices with the sheriff, 3 vets, the paper, 3 web sites and the local store, no one has bothered to come forward to claim him. A "semi no-kill" shelter would be the best thing. By that I mean, euthanize only the severely wounded, sick or those that would never make a good pet. I am willing to pay a one time license fee for my dogs and cats for up to \$20. And then have a very minimal annual renewal fee. I also believe spaying and neutering for all cats and dogs should be mandatory unless you pay a breeder's registration fee annually. And I think that should be a pretty hefty amount so people will think twice about breeding. Thank you.

Waller County needs a rescue pet facility, now that Country Paws is closed/closing. County funds could help maintain, and supervise care of animals at the shelter.

We have had many, many animals "dumped" on our property. We live off of 2979 on acreage. We would love to see Waller County have an animal control agency. We need a place to bring all the strays the city people dump!

We live in a rural part of the county & have taken in several strays, but there is a limit to how many one can take in. There is no one to call when more animals show up on your property and won't leave. I know firsthand, because we have had this problem before. I called the sheriff's department & was given a phone # to Country Paws, which at that time they had a recording that they were full & could not take anymore animals.

We need a no-kill animal shelter in Waller County. There are too many strays who would be great pets if someone would just take them in and find them a good home! We need a free spay and neutering services clinic too.

You should have more no-kill shelters for stray animals. I believe a lot of people from the city come out to the country to dump their innocent unsuspecting animals. Something should be done to help these animals.

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Need for better Control

After seeing abused horses next to us. Waller County is in need of animal control. Mr. Nichols was very helpful along with the HSPCA, but with strays and people who shoot animals for no reason there needs to be animal control in Waller County.

Animal control is vital to the safety of the communities and the growth of the Waller communities. If we allow the stray animals, rather they roam to rummage trash or those that have injured or killed other pets or citizens, those who live in Waller and those looking to move here may "stray" away not feeling that we are adequate as a county. Less people walk the neighborhoods and ride bikes due to this issue. There is a lifestyle most people would like to have when they live with and around animals. The free-roaming destructive and dangerous animals do not fit this lifestyle. Please help our county to be viewed as the greatest place in southeast Texas for our newcomers and future generations to live, play and be safe. Thank you.

Animal control should be taken seriously before we have serious incidents in which children are killed by stray animals.... especially some of the pit bulls that roam freely in this area.... It is long overdue.

Animal control, particularly in a rural county such as ours, is an essential part of a functioning local government. Also, because we are rural, a Waller Animal Control unit should deal with more than just stray dogs. Unit personnel should be prepared to deal with any sort of wild life/human situations. By "deal with," i want to make it clear that i mean reasonably and humanely deal with animals of all kinds. Termination should not be a normal practice of this unit. I think the idea of registering domestic pets is ludicrous. But i believe rules about tags and keeping a pet confined to one's own property are reasonable and necessary. I would support a mandatory spay/neuter law for all domestic dogs and cats. I am a home owner and a pet owner. Thank you.

Animals that are dumped in our rural areas are a real problem. Also, walkers in our area face problems dealing with animals that are never penned up, and threaten them at times.

As the county develops, this will become a critical problem. It is already a major problem. On my farm, I have at least 4 stray cats or dogs per year that stop, have a litter, and then move on. And that is just one farm.

At the rate this county is growing we definitely need animal control.

Dogs have injured children in our area. All animals should be restrained by fence or other method to keep citizens safe.

Domestic animals, particularly dogs, should not be allowed to run loose. They should either be fenced or leashed.

Good animal control will be excellent

Good Job. Need it.

Great Idea! Too many strays and animals not taken care of properly.

Having an Animal Control function would be a progressive step for the County. Let's do it!

I actually compete with my dogs in various venues and think that the Dallas ordinance is something we should consider--to keep non-neutered/spayed domestic pets should incur an

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annual fee, I think the fee in Dallas is 200/year. That would go along way in reducing dogs/cats bred solely for profit, thereby reducing shelter overcrowding and hopefully reducing genetic flaws as only the best and the most carefully scrutinized would be allowed to be bred. Thank you

I am most concerned about animals that are left unattended and abused by owners. Also, the dogs that are allowed to roam and kill baby calves and baby deer for a sport. They are not given care or shots and breed within the group. This is a big problem in my area.

I don't believe the need is there at this time

I feel that strays are more a problem in the City of Hempstead and the City of Waller and not so much a problem in the county. The only strays I see (more of hearing them) are the coyotes running the woods at night and the occasional group of hogs that come through our property.

I feel we are in DESPERATE need of animal control. I understand that Waller County has \$100,000 designated for this (and it has been available for several years). If this is so, I don't understand why we don't already have animal control.

I feel we pay enough tax to cover the cost of animal control. We really need this service; dogs and cats are dumped into our area on a regular basis as well as neighbors having way too many pets that they let roam the area. I've had to shoot dogs that pack up to chase my horse and cattle.

I have been a part of The Zeke Fund and know they have tried to help with the animals in the area. I hope that animals are not just being put down now that they are not as involved. I feel there is a great need in the outer areas for some aid when dogs are dumped. I was personally involved with 3 dumped dogs on Adams Flat that were left to get wild and be hungry and covered in mange and spent 3 nights with someone from CAPS trapping them. I have also taken 2 dogs personally to them that were dumped and found homes for 9 6-week old lab pups I found dumped in the ditch. I would love to have more help out in the surrounding areas when I run across this problem. There are presently 2 large dogs that are roaming but they are very scared and we are unable to get anywhere near them. I don't know what will happen when they get so hungry that they have to kill something to eat.

I have had a dog nip at my ankle and I have had 2 cats killed this past year from stray dogs. I'm hesitant about an electronic ID tag. My husband and I are christian people and don't believe in tracking anyone or anything.

I have had livestock killed by stray animals.

I have had to pay hundreds in vet bills because my neighbor has cats running wild and breeding out of control, coming into my yard and attacking my animals. Dogs running loose killing my chickens and ducks. It is unbelievable how many irresponsible pet owners there are just in the city limits of Pattison.

I have had to take SEVERAL strays to differing pounds in Houston because we don't have animal control in this county. My neighbors just let their dogs run loose in the streets, and I'm constantly having to swerve to avoid stray dogs. I am very tired of seeing canine carcasses in the streets of Brookshire and Pattison! I am VERY interested in an effective animal control being established. As a pet owner, I believe in vaccinations, spay/neuter laws, and leash laws.

I have strays come on to my property 3 or 4 times a month and have to run them into Conroe or Houston to the SPCA. I have 7 cats and 3 dogs that were strays.

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I live at We have a lady who live our street who works at a pet office and brings dogs and cats home so that there not put to sleep. She has about 20 ??? cat and we can not count the dogs. If there was some type of animal control then maybe this would not happen.

I live at Sport Flyers Airport, an aviation air park on FM362, 3 miles north of Brookshire. There are loose dogs here that pose a continual danger to aircraft operations. I have had to abort a take off, and know of others who have diverted their operations because of dogs on the runway. Some of the dogs are strays, others are owned by residents here. One of the dog owners is a Houston police officer who still refuses to contain his animals. He also feeds another dog, which he said is not his, saying it belongs to a neighbor, but that dog continues to run with his dog and remains a hazard to aircraft operations. I have spoken to him in person about these matters, but the dogs still roam freely. Thank you for your survey and interest in animal control.

I live in a mobile home subdivision and there are so many stray animals here. I have been bitten by a dog and I did have an officer come to my house. It would mean so much to this community to have a animal protection law.

I see it as an immediate need.

I think fines should be issued to those who prefer Not to keep their animals on there own property even if they are destructive to other's property and livestock. Maybe that would help pay for animal control!

I think it is wonderful that this issue is being addressed. My family and I live with neighbors who let their animals (dogs) run free. I can not even go down my drive way to get the mail without the dogs chasing, barking, etc. at us. We use to enjoy taking walks through the neighborhood and that has not been possible for several years now.

I think Waller County needs an animal control desperately!

I thought this was already in the works. I would like to know who is holding things up, so we will be able to vote them out of office. YES, it really is that important!

If people are unwilling we can just set traps/poison to get rid of them so we don't have to wait for something to be done about it.

If we don't take action soon, people and small children will get killed by some of the stray animals that are allowed to roam freely in Waller County.

if you can't control your animals you need to have your animals spaed or nutered.

In the time we have lived here we have adopted 3 stray dogs. I have had 2 different dogs dropped off when they were pregnant, so we had to deal with the dogs and the puppies. When have had to find a way to get rid of close to 25 dogs. I feel strongly that Waller County needs to do something about this problem because I am not a personal SPCA. It would be great if the people who dump these animal could be caught and put away. Also we found a litter of kitten in the road by our house when they were a week old. Please Waller County help with animal control.....

It is time to have Animal Control in Waller County. I have watched this counties leader dance around this topic long enough.

It is very important for Waller County to take responsibility for stray animals. Unfortunately people think that if they drop their unwanted animals in the country, someone will automatically

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rescue them. This is dangerous for the animal and others who may come in contact with them whether on the roadway, in their yard or barn.

It should be the responsibility of dog owners to fence in their dogs and not the responsibility of neighbors to fence them out. In our area there are several dogs (with collars) which present a terrible problem.

It's about time!!!

Its about time.

Loose and stray animals is a BIG issue in our area. We have numerous neighbors who have and think they have to right to have multiple (over 10 or more) dogs and cats the run loose. We have livestock that their dogs chase and tear up our trash, chickens that make a mess on our property, cats that bring unwanted kittens, and they leave their gates open for their cows, goats, etc to run loose. We have attempted to speak with them, if they understand English, and we have tried to kill them if they are on our property. WE HAVE A PROBLEM IN THIS COUNTY, and need a department with trained personnel to address these issues and make residents be responsible for THEIR animals. Please take our remarks in consideration, we are the reason that elected officials are in their office. Thank you,

My horse that I had for 22 years was attacked and killed by loose pit bull dogs - these type of dangerous dogs run loose all the time! It needs to stop - people need to be responsible for their animals!

My neighbor's 3 dogs run free. They have dug holes in my yard, destroyed some of my garden, approached me & stood barking for several hours while I am doing yard work. I moved to Pattison for the country life of peace & quiet, not a neighbor's dog barking for hours. I have also felt threaten by other dogs while walking in the street. A leash law would certainly help curtail these problems, especially since we are suppose to be growing over the next several years.

Non profit organizations can only do so much to help with the problem of animals that are dumped on personal property. Since animal owners will not be responsible pet owner it is time for local government to step in and help make them accountable for proper care for their animals if they are going to own them.

Not having animal ordinances, puts the community at great risk in regards to public health and safety. Even more so, as Waller County continues to grow. Also, people need to be held responsible for the animals in their care. As well as, an entity that is trained, specialized, and responsible to enforce the all federal, state and local laws pertaining to animals. Along with a shelter, to ensure those animals that are "stray" (abandoned, homeless, unwanted, roaming, lost, etc) are dispositioned legally.

People that allow their dogs to use the road-ways at their leisure cause undue concern, and possible harm, to the public that desires to bike or jog as a meaningful use of time. They should be under the statutory threat if they persist in irresponsible behavior and be subject to fees associated w/the apprehension of the menace.

Pet owners permitting their dog(s) to run at large is a problem in my area of Waller County. I must keep a visual on my child while she is outside playing. I have had a few encounters with stray aggressive dogs. I feel that new animal control laws will prevent me from having to use deadly force to protect my family from an aggressive stray dog that is an immediate threat to our lives.

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Pit Bulls and other known aggressive dogs are a problem. Please do something about making the owners more safe and responsible with these animals

Please do something about the Pit Bulls in Pine Island. They are not chained or anything and I have kids who can't go outside.

please, please set up some system to deal with all of the stray animals that we encounter on almost a daily basis. It is a dangerous situation, and I feel that euthanasia of these animals is better than what is going on now.

Please, we need a way to deal with the loose animal problem in our county. They are a threat not only to livestock but folks (like myself) that would like to walk down the street without feeling the need to arm myself. Neglect is another huge problem as well.

someone needs to control the wild dogs. also strays

Something must also be done about the increasing numbers of domestic cats that have taken over our neighborhoods. Some of these cats are owned by irresponsible people who never vaccinate, declaw, or treat their pets for fleas. Many are left to become feral therefore increasing the problem.

stray animals are a definite problem regarding infectious diseases. pets should not only have rabies shots, but a full range of vaccinations also. it can be very costly for pet owners emotionally when their pet contracts a deadly virus. it is inhumane not to protect your pet completely.

Stray animals are an issue in our community. We have had several incidents and have received no help from the county as no animal control unit is Waller County. As more and more people move this direction, more animals are going to be roaming. Animal control would be a MUCH APPRECIATED program!!

stray dog and cats in pattison are a very real problem. my senior citizen mother can not go in her own front yard for fear of large dogs running loose. there should be an ordinance to keep all animals fenced or on a leash.

Stray dogs are a serious problem in Waller County. They endanger children and livestock.

Stray dogs keep people from walking in the neighborhood.

Strays or free running dogs/animals can be a big safety issue...this must be addressed and enforced in a user friendly way for the complaintant. Thanks for addressing this issue.

Strict enforcement of animal control in not only need, but necessary as the county population explodes. A more serious education campaign along with strict enforcement concerning pit bulls.

Thank you commissioner for taking a lead with this growing problem within our county.

thank you for asking. I have had lots of problems.

Thank you for your work on this committee to provide a much needed program.

The problem of neighborhood pets threatening pedestrians and cyclists need to be addressed also.

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

there are too many stray dogs and cats running around the city and outside the city limits of Hempstead, I have had several goats torn apart by stray dogs---I also believe that dogs and cats should be spayed and neutered. Should have some sort of law.

This is a great need and should be maintain by city to city and supervised by Waller County

This is a program that is very badly needed. While riding my bike, I have been chased and almost caught by any number of dogs running loose in this area (NE Waller Co), some are pit bulls without collars. Many nearby residents do not control their dogs and it is not safe even to walk the public roads. Another solution might be to allow people to borrow handguns or shotguns (if they don't already have their own) and offer a \$10 bounty for loose dead dogs. I am only half way kidding about that. This is a very serious problem. If you don't believe me, try riding a bike around here. Thank you for your time and attention.

This is a very serious issue and it needs to be address. I have heard MANY stories of stray animals in Waller County. Something needs to be done for the safety of our community and for the animals as well.

This is extremely important. I have had to take in several MISTREATED and ABANDONED dogs that if not taken in would have died miserable deaths or taken other livestock to sustain their lives. This is vital to our community. It is horrible that a county of this size and high taxes that we do not have this service. A MUST FOR WALLER COUNTY.

This needs to be in effect RIGHT NOW!

To combat the overpopulation of unwanted and abandoned dogs in this county an aggressive neuter/spay program must be offered. Contracting with SNAP to bring their mobile clinic to our area would be a start. Fundraisers and grant money for lower cost/free castrations. I am tired of spending my money on housing abandoned animals from neighborhood. I vet them and give them away, but funds are getting low.

To many loose animals, no one is being held responsible for the fear and terror that is caused by these animals attacking people riding horses or walking on the roads by their homes. Something needs to be done to hold the owners , the persons who's houses and property they live at liable for these animals.

To police this policy in rural areas could be fruitless and dangerous... In our case, we have a problem with strays entering our fences - killing chickens, chasing cattle & horses and harassing our own dogs. Often the dogs belong to our next pasture neighbors. This is a tough issue that might have to be narrowed to city limits enforcement. Thanks for working to make Waller Co. a better place to live!

URGENT ISSUE! Personally rescuing/ networking with others for rescue and low cost spay/ neuter. We need animal control for Waller County- Long overdue. Please feel free to contact me for information.

Waller Co. definitely has a stray animal control issue. I have problems with strays being dropped off all the time. I have actually seen someone stop in front of my house during the day and dump a dog on my driveway and drive away. I have taken several animals to the HSPCA because their is not a facility near that will take strays. I use my time and fuel to do this. I have problem with stray dogs running through my pasture disturbing my livestock. I also have a problem with my neighbors dogs (9 dogs at this time) running after my livestock. I have 3 dogs of my own who I keep in a fence or on my property when I'm outside with them. I have had problems with other dogs coming over and fighting my dogs on my property. I have children, so

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

stray dogs can be dangerous. Waller Co definitely has a problem with animal control and it needs to be addressed.

Waller County is behind the times with animal control needs. When someone has a lawsuit in Waller County that originates from a stray animal killing or hurting an individual I will join in the fight to make sure everyone knows our county judge does not promote an animal control.

Waller county is rural and should remain rural. However, people that own, raise or breed animals should be held accountable if they allow their animals to roam, harm or threaten others safety and/or property, Period. If they do not follow those simple guidelines, then the Sheriff's Office should issue a citation and/or take away the animal for adoption. Imposing a tax, or making any registration mandatory is outrageous and costly. Hold the offenders accountable and leave the rest of us responsible rural people alone.

We have a horrible wild dog problem where we live. Our neighbors have dogs like pit bulls and rottweilers, which roam the neighborhood. On top of that, people from the city drop their dogs off out here and we often rescue smaller animals to prevent them from being killed by the larger predatory packs. Our livestock (goats and chickens) have been killed by both the wild dogs and our neighbor's dogs. We called the sheriff's department, which stated that the only way to control animals now is to shoot them if they are on our property. I don't think that is an acceptable answer.

we have dogs that belong to a neighbor that are allowed to run free all day and they have been known to bite people. what happens to them

WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHERE WE COULD HAVE USED THIS SERVICE.

We have had several stray dogs around the Dewey and Pine Street area and the "owners" have been advised about having them in fences, but every time the city comes and has the animals removed, they just go out and get more - both cats and dogs. It would be really nice being able to walk around my own yard and not have to worry about stepping in dog poop.

We need an animal control effort in this county, now.

we need an animal control program

We need animal control

We need help with Packs of dogs.

we need it really bad

we out here in Oak Hollow would welcome animal control for peace of mind. And what a great idea of the rabies vaccinations etc.

we really need it.

We see stray animals all the time and many of our neighbors do not get their pets "fixed". I had to take a litter of small to the rescue shelter and there have been several litters of kittens born on our property under the shed. there are too many and they kill the birds.

We should also have a plan for the dangerous dogs who are fenced, but could get out. I walk on my road, and have 1 place with about 5 rot reilers (not spelled correctly) who run up to the

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

fence...so, I can't even walk on my own road without fearing for my life. There should be a ban on these types of dogs

Where I live we have a very serious problem not only with strays but registered dog owners who let their dogs run free and bark continuously. We need someone who can also respond to out of control animals and their owners!!

we've had more problems with neighbors pets than with strays

what about a leash law?

what about cats

What took you so long? We need it.

Where I live we have a real problem with strays or people dumping puppies/dogs. We have taken in many to keep and had to find homes for at least 10 dogs or more. Since January of this year we have had to take 5 dogs that were dumped or roaming. You know they are strays because they are just skin and bone. It is not easy to find a no kill shelter to take dogs because they are always at full capacity. I don't want to see them put down if it is possible. I think a big problem is people not taking responsibility for the dogs and then decide to dump them.

Yes we need animal control, a registration program would not work, 10% would register and everyone else would just let you pick up their animals, you would never have enough room to house the unregistered animals. Heck within a few hundred feet of my house there are 3 people that just let their dogs breed and let the puppies run free. WE HAVE QUITE A PROBLEM. Low cost spay and neutering is needed.

You guys need to get off your duff on this. You have procrastinated for decades, and tried to pawn the county's responsibility on private shelters, dumping county animals on them with no financial help, them wondering why they go belly-up. You and Hempstead HAVE THE MONEY already. If you need more TAX EVERYONE, because this is everyone's' problem. Forget trying to register county dogs, because NO ONE WILL COMPLY. Just use the money you are sitting on, build a shelter, get animal control officers and join the 20th century (and maybe the 21st as well). The animal protection status in Waller county makes us look like a third world country, not the county next door to Houston! You guys do not need a survey. You need to follow Texas State law and common sense and JUST DO IT! Many of us would be willing to fundraise and donate funds. I have gone as far as to bring back pictures/plans that were used for the award winning animal shelter in Laurinburg, Scotland County, NC. They place almost half their adult mutts/cats; charge \$35 for a neutered/spayed animal with rabies shot. They are fantantastic. I personally send them thousands of dollars each year because they are so efficient and productive. And did I mention that area is very, very poor, has no big city close by, very few rich people live in the county, and is much smaller so there's a smaller base of people to adopt animals. They place thousands of animals. Waller county, rich and ideally located, should be ashamed not to have a state-of-the-art animal protection system.

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

Financial Concerns

Animal control is a great idea, however, I do not want higher property taxes.

Fees should be per household not per animal, because the homeowner should be responsible for their animals. I would pay \$25.00 for this.

How much will this program raise taxes? I'm afraid we'd open up a can of worms by opening another County office. How many would be employed? What would their salaries be? I know for a fact how some county employees get by without doing a good days work; would this office stay busy? Would there be discounts for the elderly to register their domestic pets? Would they offer an adoption program? How long before the animals would be "put down"?

I definitely don't want to pay to register every animal I own.

I don't feel it is healthy to vaccinate pets annually for rabies. I have multiple dogs and cats and I can't afford to register every animal annually.

I DON'T WANT MY TAXES RAISED.

I liked the idea of using Montgomery County's facilities such as it was presented at the commissioner's meeting in Feb. 2008. Using this in the interim, relieve the current animal problem, while making money for Waller County to put towards building our own facility.

I live in the northeastern corner, right on the county line. we generally not only have dogs and cats running lose, we also have the occasional farm animal. we also do not have any police noticeable in the area also. animal control is a good idea, if we do not overburden the population with fees or taxes.

If animals are required to be registered, then it should correspond with the same systems that the SPCA and like shelters already use and animals that are already registered should not have to pay the same fees.

In response to the last question concerning "paying for rabies and electronic tagging", Although some of us would pay more, if there is a charge the program will not address the pet owners who are the greatest offenders--at least in our neighborhood. These people do not spay or neuter, give shots or provide regular care for their animals. They run free and most are killed on the road. If we are going to have an animal control unit in Waller County...which we need, it should be broad enough to address all of the issues. Please keep us informed on this issue. Thanks

Is the registration limited to dogs or does it include cats also? Will this be for pet owners with city limits only or a county wide requirement? If county wide, how will this be enforced? Please have in mind the residents that are on fixed or limited incomes, when deciding on the registration fee. The registration seems to be a great idea to also limit the amount of pets within city limits. Once residents see that there is a cost to be responsible for your pet, some will limit the total pets they own. It may also be a good idea to look into a free/discounted spay/neuter program for qualifying low income households, since this is where most of the strays will originate from. By placing a spay/neuter program into affect, this will mitigate future work for the animal control dept. and reduce future expenses. It may not end the cycle of strays, but it will reduce the amount of unwanted strays.

Property taxes are killing us now. Get control of that before adding to the bureaucracy.

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

Registration only works for law abiding citizens. Most of the problems with stray or wild dogs is because people dump them. These people will not register their dogs anyway so once again the law abiding citizens would be paying the tab for law breakers. If an animal control office were established, they need to focus on enforcing existing laws for rabies vacc., nuisance dogs, dogs not restrained or contained, etc. That would defer much of the cost alone. We don't ride bicycles or walk in our area due to stray/wild dogs, and neighbors who leave their dogs loose. We have "adopted" 2 dogs that were dumped, took them to the vet for shots, etc. but we can't take them all in.

Since my animals are already vaccinated and have ID chips I think there should be different fees according to each individual.

Something does need to be done. However, taxing responsible dog owners to pay for control of irresponsible dog owners? This is an issue that affects everyone, not just pet owners.

Spay/neuter assistance programs for cats and dogs might help the situation. I believe that cost is a prohibitive factor for a lot of lower income citizens to having their pet fixed.

Stray animals has been a problem for many years. This survey regards the identification of current domestic animals NOT hiring someone to pick up stray dogs and cats. You don't need to subsidize the issue with a charge or new tax. Maybe if you stopped giving abatements to every new business that comes to WC you'd have the money to afford some of the things we need in WC. This survey is a total waste of time.

The animals are suffering slow death on the roads--due to the lack of animal control services. You seem them all around, and they show up on the doorsteps of businesses in horrible condition. This is not a "selling point" for people or businesses looking to relocate to the area--not to mention inhumane. The brookshire pound is also an eyesore with suffering animals. An acceptable, humane shelter focused on rehoming is critical--along with spay/neuter assistance to lower income individuals. Humanely cleaning up the city of stray animals--and helping find them homes--along with a spay/neuter program, will make the city more attractive to new businesses and residents--and is the humane thing to do.

The last dog that was dropped off in our neighborhood cost me 25 dollars to take him to Montgomery County.

The less government is involved, the better. Adding a tax to add another program helps no one

There needs to be a discount for people with several animals, because many of us in the Country have 3 or more.

Unfortunately, most of the people who allow their animals to stray probably wouldn't pay for the other.

We already pay too high of taxes in Waller county. If you place much more burdens on the people, you won't have people, just animals left behind. You are wanting to hire people to control animals, Waller Co. does not have funds to hire and keep everything going for a animal control unit. All of my neighbors use the vets in the area to vaccinate their animals. You will always have people dumping animals out on our Waller co. Roads. At this time, I am not for this due to the fact we are already burdened with too many "extra" taxes

What are we paying for now?

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

Other Concerns

Apparently whoever developed this survey has not seen the real needs for animal control in Waller County. Is this a personal or political agenda that is being taken to ensure the good ole boys keep or get a job? Has the person doing this survey spoke with the local law enforcement and found their concerns about animal control?

Are you going to come get stray hogs?

Arf!

Be careful how you handle this issue. People are protective of their country lifestyle. I moved here because the rules imposed on me in my Houston subdivision gave too much power to people who had nothing better to do but complain. It seemed like one thing lead to another. As far as animal control goes, I would love to see a way for people to get their pets spayed and neutered at a low cost. Maybe a preventative measure would be a more effective solution to this problem.

By far the most ill effective survey ever. Waller County commissioners have been talking about this issue for 20 years. Why are you still talking about it. Just DO IT.

Control for dogs and NOT cats.

Definitely no registration outside the city limits

does this mean cats also??

Dogs inside the city limits and dogs outside the city limits are too different issues, I think having an animal control department is fine for inside the city limits, However dogs outside the city limits should be controlled by the owner. As for as regrestation and required shots this should be for anyone owning a dog.

Get a life...fix the roads that's why we put you there. Not to get cats out of trees.

I am a pet owner who firmly believes in responsibility. I have 5 cats that are all spayed/neutered. Some have FIV, so I do NOT ever let them outside. It is my responsibility not only to protect my pets, but to not expose other animals. Too bad others don't feel the same way. I have a neighbor who keeps getting pets, don't really care for them, doesn't properly feed them, and the burden falls on the responsible people to make sure they are not neglected and semi-cared for. Some people should not only be required to get licensed to have pets, but to reproduce themselves!!!

I am more concerned with stray people stealing from my property, including food from my freezer- over \$500 to date and about \$300 on Christmas Eve.

I don't feel it is a problem in the Pattison area. It may be a problem in some of the subdivisions. As more subdivisions come to Waller County, we will need this type of service.

I enjoy living in the country, but I do not feel I need to accommodate my neighbor's dogs on my property. I personally chose not to own a dog due to the number of dogs already residing in the neighborhood.

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

I feel that everyone in the county needs to keep their dogs on their own property by any means. Some people that move out of the city feel that now that they are in the country that they can let their dogs run free. I can understand that if you live on large property that is fenced in and not in a subdivision where there are other people close by you.

I feel that it is our responsibility to care for stray animals as a community. God gave us that responsibility.

I feel that pet owners should be held accountable for their pets: pets should have annual physicals/shots by their own vet. Irresponsible pet owners should be given a hefty fine. Using the fee method you propose, we would all be treated as irresponsible pet owners. Pet owners not caring for their dogs should be given a hefty fine.

I feel that animal control is trying to make money by picking up dogs that have owners and have just gotten out mistakenly, are not harmful, and the owners have just not been able to find them right away. Animal control then fines you, even if your dog is in the neighbor's front yard. To me, this is extreme. Yet, cats are free to roam all over and they NEVER even pick them up.

I feel the city of Katy should allow licensed dogs from Harris County and Waller County into the dog park. If dogs have shots they should be allowed in.

I have 5 stray dogs on my property now, and a large number of cats, the dogs are starving and sick. Help anybody, some children are in danger from them as they try to play with them.

I have personally rescued dozens of cats and dogs and found homes for most and kept some. We need to educate the public on how to spay and neuter, care for and even choose their pets.

I think the bigger problem is getting the dead dogs and cows picked up and disposed of in a timely manner. We don't need any more government involvement in our lives, especially registering our dogs.

I wish that Waller County would look into an ordinance that would not allow people to chain their dogs up. There are at least 5 dogs running free in Pattison with collars and part of a chain/rope hanging from it.

I wish you good speed, if you can get the judge and Frank on board will help.

I would like to see a dog and cat spaying/neutering program and then given a life-time dog license for the dog. I would not mind paying up to 50.00 for a life-time dog license.

If there was an animal control program, would it be able to look into people being cruel to animals like horses?

If this is a setup to give Bill Bright a job....forget it!

It is a good idea. As long as everyone had to do it. The animals that are picked up need to have proper care. It is not the animal's fault who their owner is and choose not to take care of them. I think the owner should be looked at on what kind of care they can give. So many people get animals with no idea what it takes to care for one. People need to be educated on caring for a pet.

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

Many of these questions are designed to solicit the answers desired by the questioners. Some of the questions do not provide enough information, e.g. registration including rabies, etc. Many people prefer to use their own veterinarian.

Need to teach animal "issues"/responsibilities to jr. & sr. high school students

Safety is important - bureaucracy is not. Keep it simple.

SPAY AND NEUTER LAWS SHOULD BE REQUIRED ALSO. TO MANY UNRESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS

Thanks for allowing us to have this survey. I appreciate this.

Thanks for sending out the survey. This type of contact with and input from the citizens who are directly affected by county policies is a welcome breath of fresh air. In Harris County, something like this survey would be unheard of, thought of as a waste of time/\$\$. Thanks again for your concern with citizens' "two cents worth"!

THANKS!

The animals suffer more than the people when they are left to run loose and fend for themselves. When they've become hungry and scared they become a danger to people through aggression.

We do need something in place to discourage people from dumping their pets. Some believe that these pets are being dumped by the Prairie View students. We need to have a spay program in our county. Need to help people with limited income to spay their pets.

We have experienced a beautiful dog coming up to our home which now stays around, eats, and sleeps here. He also visits around other homes and plays with their dogs. He is so well behaved, but we do not have his tags on him as he leaps and runs so much that we worry about his possibility of being choked by the tag's collar. Your suggestion of an electronic identification tag would really be good. We would be happy to pay for this service.

We need to look wild hogs control more than dogs and cats.

We never had any problems with animals within the 30 plus years living in Waller County. Having a animal control person would be helpful to keep more police out in the streets. It should be the owner's responsibility to register their animal not the county's. People will have to register their animals or risk their pet being pick-up by animal control. Also, if we are looking at animals we need to look into why does other counties have recycle areas & Waller County does not. If Waller has one why is it not advertised in the local papers. Lets make Waller County the best it can!

we took in 2 stray dogs 5 years ago and they are great pets.

Would animal control also work as a police agency so to speak for abused and reflected animals?? Could this be handled in part with the constables in the areas?

Your last comment about money does not apply. I live in the country and have several dogs. Not dangerous animals, but they stay at home. I am gone alot and they protect my property. I see no need to restrict my ownership of these animals and then ask me to pay for someone to harass me.

Animal Control Survey Summary with Comments

Not an Issue

I don't see animal control as an issue in this county. I think it is time that we concentrate on more important issues and let issues involving animal ownership left to citizens to handle and not government.

I don't think we have that big of an issue with strays to have to register our animals

I really haven't had a problem of any kind.

I would not pay to register my dogs. They have vet records.

In all these years there has been only one canine which the neighbors took in as their elderly canines had died - there are no dog packs, there are no feral colonies of felines. There is a problem occasionally with stray livestock. I've not seen an animal control problem in my travels around the county in all the years I've been here. So no I don't approve at any cost.

Keep animal control and other "urban-fascist ideas" out of Waller County.

Keep Houston's BS out of Waller!

Leave things alone!

No animal control. I moved to Waller county to get the local government out of my home and pocket.

Our dogs and cats are hunters... they find all of monaville as there yards.... our neighbors know our dogs ... as well as we know our neighbors dogs.... any stray we find we ask the neighbors if it is theirs... most dogs that run around are tagged with their name and phone.... we live in the country...

Waller County needs to focus on real problems - drug use, corrupt politicians, poor school districts - not animal control.

We do not need animal control in Waller County

We do not need this program, but we do need programs on road maintenance & new business.

We don't need any more involvement of the government in our lives. We don't want any registration of any livestock!!!!