



Adoption Initiative

In September 2013, the City Council authorized Minneapolis Animal Care and Control (MACC) to make all adoptable animals available to the general public. Requested funding was approved in the 2014 City Budget and MACC subsequently initiated a project team.

Staffing

The project team is composed of MACC staff, who are divided into four teams – Intake, Behavioral/Health Evaluations, Adoption/Transfer, and Leadership/Implementation. The project is managed by Jeanette Wiedemeier Bower. In addition, Jodi Molenaar-Hanson (with the City Coordinator's Office) is providing business process improvement support for the project.

Expectations for this project

- Ensure all adoptable animals are available to the general public
- Improve the health and well-being of animals in MACC care
- Evaluate and facilitate timely and successful placements of sheltered animals
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness in handling animals

Our goal through this process is to take a fresh look at all of our policies and practices relating to the handling of animals sheltered at MACC. The initiative will look at the entire process - from the time an animal is picked up by an officer or brought to the MACC to the time the animal leaves the shelter.

Community Engagement

We have scheduled 14 of 15 focus groups involving different stakeholders and interested parties to help us think through the reality of making all adoptable animals available to the public.

At our focus groups, we are engaging rescue groups that place pit bulls, dog owners of power breeds, volunteers with MACC, and members of the MN Herpetological society and Chicken Run Rescue to gather input and ideas on adoption policies and practices. In addition, MACC has engaged the community from a wide variety of perspectives and is drawing upon animal shelters in Minnesota and Wisconsin for best practices.

Timeline

March

MACC's software provider will be at MACC to ensure effective computerization of the new process.

April

MACC will hire a new Lead Animal Control Officer. In addition to normal Animal Control Officer functions, this position will oversee the new animal adoption screening process.

MACC will report back to the Health, Environment, and Community Engagement Committee. The report will layout the new policies and practices.

May

MACC's targeted launch of the new Animal Adoption Process.