



ANIMAL SERVICES

Joint Animal Services Commission Regular Meeting Agenda

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for meeting information.

Monday, August 10, 2026

5:30 PM

Lacey City Hall and Online

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

A. Approval of Agenda

B. June 8, 2026, Retreat Meeting Minutes

4. Public Comment

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for instructions on how to provide public comment.

5. Business Items

A. Shelter Statistics and Field Data June-July 2026

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

B. Pasado's Safe Haven Low Cost Neuter Clinic Update

Jayne Woodman, Manager, Regional Spay and Neuter Clinic

C. Best Friends Animal Society Embed Program

Destiny Haney, Senior Manager, National Embed Programming

Elle Greer, Manager, Embed Project Operations

D. Budget Amendment

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

6. Director Report

A. Sarah Hock, Executive Director

7. Adjourn

Attendance and Public Comment

Attend Remotely or in Person

The public may attend the meeting in person, or you may view or listen to the meeting using one of the following platforms:

In Person

Council Chambers at Lacey City Hall
420 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xTrkgcG1TDa6TNyyv1Incw
Website: <https://cityoflacey.org/government/public-meetings/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cityoflacey>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsG3-o55-Hg>
Cable: Channel 77 with your local cable provider
Phone: (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247 (Webinar ID 890 8951 2333)

Verbal Public Comment

Each speaker is limited to three minutes. Comments are welcome on matters connected to City business or specific agenda items.

Prior to starting your comments, please provide your:

- a. Name
- b. City of residence or connection to the Commission
- c. Topic or subject matter of your comments

Those wishing to provide verbal public comment may do so in person or by Zoom.

In Person: Use the sign-up sheet located in the meeting room.
Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xTrkgcG1TDa6TNyyv1Incw

Written Public Comment

Public comments may also be submitted by email to Public.Comment@jointanimalservices.org. The commenting period will close two hours before the meeting time. Written comments will be provided to the Commission electronically prior to the meeting. Comments will not be addressed during the meeting; however, comments received will be added to the official record.



Joint Animal Services Commission Retreat Minutes

Monday, June 8, 2026

Joint Animal Services Conference
Room

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Malcolm Miller (present until 4:29 p.m.), City of Lacey; Vice Chair Kelly Green, City of Olympia; and Commissioner(s) Emily Clouse, Thurston County (present after 12:19 p.m.); Brandon Weedon, City of Tumwater; Jo MacGugan, Feline Friends of Olympia; Vicky Smith, DVM, Deschutes Animal Clinic; and Barbara Benson, Thurston County Humane Society.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Lacey Assistant City Manager; Sarah Hock, Joint Animal Services Executive Director; Andrew Toledo, Joint Animal Services Operations Manager; Sierra Teas, Animal Welfare & Field Services Manager.

OTHER: José Ocaño and Angel Guzmán from Hatching Consulting.

3. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. April 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Green moved to approve the agenda and amended April 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes to correct Barbara Benson's information (removing DVM). Commissioner Benson seconded. The motion carried.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

5. Business Items

A. Shelter Stats and Field Data April/May

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock presented April/May 2026 Shelter Statistics and Field Calls. This presentation detailed monthly intake data by species and jurisdiction, positive outcomes (adoption, transfer, and return to owner), and field call data trends through May 2026.

B. Director's Report

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock provided updates on: 1) the Mason County Field Services contract not moving forward due to budget constraints; 2) an update on the Best Friends Animal Society National Embed Program tentatively starting in July 2026; 3) an update on volunteer activities and community outreach; 4) an update on the Best Friends National Conference where Teas and Bekka Krai, Animal Welfare and Positive Outcomes Coordinator, presented; and 5) closed out the report with a Happy Tail on a senior dog adoption.

C. Strategic Planning Retreat

The Strategic Planning Retreat began with icebreaker activities and the establishment of work agreements to guide the retreat.

Participants reviewed the organization's previous strategic plan and discussed accomplishments, successes, and lessons learned. Participants also discussed the current environment, including service trends, emerging needs, opportunities, and challenges within both the organization, animal services generally, and the broader community.

Participants toured the building. Commissioner Weeden left the meeting at 2:52 pm and returned at 2:58 pm.

Participants discussed the condition and capacity of the current facility. The participants discussed the importance of moving forward with a new facility based on the existing facility condition and to meet current and future organizational needs. Participants discussed that facility planning should be the organization's highest strategic priority and a focus for the next five years. Through this discussion, participants identified three primary goal areas to explore for the next JAS Strategic Plan: 1) Facility Planning, 2) Sustainability, and 3) Communication and Awareness.

Chair Miller left the meeting at 4:29 pm.

Participants closed the day by reviewing key themes, reflecting on the discussions, and going over next steps.

7. Adjourn

Vice Chair Green adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

DRAFT

Animal Services Shelter Statistics 2026

26-Jun 25-Jun

Intake

Total Animals Received (live and doa)

Dogs	97	90
Cats	230	223
Other	6	4
Wild	13	9
TOTAL	346	326

Custody-Misc Reasons

Dogs	30	1
Cats	8	24
Other	1	0
TOTAL	39	25

Strays Received

Dogs	49	58
Cats	107	160
Other	5	3
TOTAL	161	221

Owner Surrendered

Dogs	17	23
Cats	59	36
Other	0	1
TOTAL	76	60

Owner Status Refused

Dogs	0	0
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL	0	0

WILDLIFE HANDLED

Incoming

Live	7	6
Doa	7	3
TOTAL	14	9

Outgoing

Doa	7	3
Euthanized (sick/inj)	7	6
Died	0	0
Bat-Rabies check	0	0
Released/Transferred	0	0
TOTAL	14	9

Outgoing Animals

Total Animals Out, incl all categories below

Dogs	94	83
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Cats	217	180
Other	3	4
Wild	14	9
Died, esc, stolen	6	1
TOTAL	334	277

Animals Adopted

Dogs	38	30
Cats	86	89
Other	1	2
TOTAL	125	121

Animals Transferred

Dogs	20	3
Cats	49	22
Other	1	1
Total	70	26

Animals Reclaimed

Dogs	26	25
Cats	3	6
Other	0	1
TOTAL	29	32

Animals DOA

Dogs	4	3
Cats	13	13
Other	7	3
TOTAL	24	19

All Euthanasia, Died, Escaped, Stolen (from pg 2)

Dogs	5	21
Cats	20	12
Other	8	6
Died, esc, stolen	6	1
Total	39	40

EUTHANASIA, DIED, ESCAPED, STOLEN

Shelter Animals Euthanized Unhealthy/Untreatable

Dogs	4	20
Cats	14	11
Other	7	5

Treatable - Rehabilitatable

Dogs	0	0
Cats	5	1
Other	0	0

Treatable - Manageable

Dogs	1	1
Cats	1	0
Other	1	1

Healthy

Dogs	0	0
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0

Total Shelter Euthanasia	33	39
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Owner Request Euthanasia

Dogs	13	9
Cats	4	1
Other	0	0
Total	17	10

Died At Shelter	6	0
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Escaped/Stolen	0	1
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FIELD AND OTHER SERVICES**Animals Currently**

Court Involved		
Dogs	19	0
Cats	7	0
Other	1	0

Field Response

Olympia	57	62
Lacey	71	91
Tumwater	27	33
Thurston County	103	111
JBLM	0	1
Other	5	7
Yelm	8	9
SUB TOTAL	271	314

PDD/DD Appeals	0	0
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Animal Services Shelter Statistics 2026

26-Jul 25-Jul

Intake

Total Animals Received (live and doa)

Dogs	92	132
Cats	279	181
Other	7	6
Wild	10	28
TOTAL	388	347

Custody-Misc Reasons

Dogs	3	17
Cats	15	2
Other	0	4
TOTAL	18	23

Strays Received

Dogs	61	85
Cats	127	126
Other	4	1
TOTAL	192	212

Owner Surrendered

Dogs	26	25
Cats	61	26
Other	3	0
TOTAL	90	51

Owner Status Refused

Dogs	0	0
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL	0	0

WILDLIFE HANDLED

Incoming

Live	5	11
Doa	5	17
TOTAL	10	28

Outgoing

Doa	5	11
Euthanized (sick/inj)	5	11
Died	0	0
Bat-Rabies check	0	0
Released/Transferred	0	0
TOTAL	10	22

Outgoing Animals

Total Animals Out, incl all categories below

Dogs	102	129
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Cats	245	241
Other	4	7
Wild	10	28
Died, esc, stolen	4	1
TOTAL	365	406

Animals Adopted

Dogs	53	53
Cats	118	151
Other	2	6
TOTAL	173	210

Animals Transferred

Dogs	15	6
Cats	29	22
Other	1	0
Total	45	28

Animals Reclaimed

Dogs	24	28
Cats	4	5
Other	0	1
TOTAL	28	34

Animals DOA

Dogs	4	6
Cats	8	13
Other	5	17
TOTAL	17	36

All Euthanasia, Died, Escaped, Stolen (from pg 2)

Dogs	6	35
Cats	16	27
Other	6	11
Died, esc, stolen	4	1
Total	32	74

EUTHANASIA, DIED, ESCAPED, STOLEN

Shelter Animals Euthanized

Unhealthy/Untreatable

Dogs	5	28
Cats	13	19
Other	6	0

Treatable - Rehabilitatable

Dogs	1	3
Cats	1	6
Other	0	0

Treatable - Manageable

Dogs	0	4
Cats	2	2
Other	0	0

Healthy

Dogs	0	0
Cats	0	0
Other	0	0

Total Shelter Euthanasia	28	62
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Owner Request Euthanasia

Dogs	13	10
Cats	8	8
Other	0	0
Total	21	18

Died At Shelter	4	1
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Escaped/Stolen	0	0
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FIELD AND OTHER SERVICES**Animals Currently**

Court Involved		
Dogs	8	0
Cats	1	0
Other	0	0

Field Response

Olympia	94	108
Lacey	69	71
Tumwater	34	28
Thurston County	132	143
JBLM	4	4
Other	5	6
Yelm	13	7
SUB TOTAL	351	367

PDD/DD Appeals	2	1
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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 26	YTD 25	
INCOMING ANIMALS															
Total Animals Received (live and doa)															
Dogs	120	89	98	113	87	97	92	0	0	0	0	0	696	883	-21.18%
Cats	110	123	114	157	190	230	279	0	0	0	0	0	1,203	1,035	16.23%
Other	2	5	3	1	2	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	26	545	-95.23%
Wild	3	14	8	13	18	13	10	0	0	0	0	0	79	77	2.60%
TOTAL	235	231	223	284	297	346	388	0	0	0	0	0	2,004	2,540	-21.10%
Custody-Misc Reasons															
Dogs	10	5	5	17	10	30	3	0	0	0	0	0	80	43	86.05%
Cats	0	1	2	25	3	8	15	0	0	0	0	0	54	66	-18.18%
Other	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	71	-97.18%
TOTAL	11	6	7	42	13	39	18	0	0	0	0	0	136	180	-24.44%
Strays Received															
Dogs	83	68	68	57	56	49	61	0	0	0	0	0	442	583	-24.19%
Cats	45	63	55	57	106	107	127	0	0	0	0	0	560	654	-14.37%
Other	2	0	3	1	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	15	17	-11.76%
TOTAL	130	131	126	115	162	161	192	0	0	0	0	0	1,017	1,254	-18.90%
Owner Surrendered															
Dogs	22	16	24	39	19	17	26	0	0	0	0	0	163	232	-29.74%
Cats	44	21	17	42	22	59	61	0	0	0	0	0	266	237	12.24%
Other	0	5	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	10	456	-97.81%
TOTAL	66	42	41	81	43	76	90	0	0	0	0	0	439	925	-52.54%
Owner Status Refused															
Unsocialized pets that have lived on the person's property 14 days or more, but the person denies ownership.															
Dogs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
WILDLIFE HANDLED															
Incoming															
Live	0	3	2	6	12	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	35	34	
Doa	3	11	6	6	7	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	45	43	
TOTAL	3	14	8	12	19	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	80	77	
Outgoing															
Doa	3	11	6	6	7	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	45	37	
Euthanized (sick/inj)	0	3	2	6	11	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	
Died	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bat-Rabies check	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Released/Transferred	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
TOTAL	3	14	8	12	19	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	80	71	12.68%
OUTGOING ANIMALS															
Total Animals Out, incl all categories below															
Dogs	130	93	90	103	101	94	102	0	0	0	0	0	713	962	
Cats	92	130	131	130	146	217	245	0	0	0	0	0	1,091	1,027	
Other	2	8	2	1	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	22	542	
Wild	3	14	8	12	19	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	80	77	
Died, esc, stolen	1	1	2	2	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	16	7	
TOTAL	228	246	231	246	268	328	361	0	0	0	0	0	1,922	2,615	-26.50%
Animals Adopted															
Dogs	59	46	37	53	42	38	53	0	0	0	0	0	328	394	-16.75%
Cats	39	37	41	40	40	86	118	0	0	0	0	0	401	524	-23.47%
Other	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	18	-61.11%
TOTAL	99	83	80	94	82	125	173	0	0	0	0	0	736	936	-21.37%
Animals Transferred															
Dogs	7	7	10	17	14	20	15	0	0	0	0	0	90	57	57.89%
Cats	20	38	16	37	22	49	29	0	0	0	0	0	211	138	52.90%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	110	-98.18%
Total	27	45	26	54	36	70	45	0	0	0	0	0	303	305	-0.66%
Animals Reclaimed															
Dogs	40	29	33	25	30	26	24	0	0	0	0	0	207	199	4.02%
Cats	6	1	5	6	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	27	26	3.85%
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
TOTAL	47	30	38	31	32	29	28	0	0	0	0	0	235	227	3.52%
Animals DOA															
Dogs	12	5	5	3	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	38	58	
Cats	9	9	10	14	16	13	8	0	0	0	0	0	79	93	
Other	3	14	6	6	9	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	50	60	
TOTAL	24	28	21	23	30	24	17	0	0	0	0	0	167	211	-20.85%
All Euthanasia, Died, Escaped, Stolen (from pg 2)															
Dogs	11	6	5	5	10	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	48	165	
Cats	7	6	17	12	19	20	16	0	0	0	0	0	97	136	
Other	0	6	2	6	11	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	39	437	
Died, esc, stolen	1	1	2	2	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	16	7	
Total	19	19	26	25	40	39	32	0	0	0	0	0	200	745	-73.15%
EUTHANASIA, DIED, ESCAPED, STOLEN															
Shelter Animals Euthanized															
Unhealthy/Untreatable															

	Dogs	10	4	4	4	8	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	39	138	
	Cats	4	5	17	9	11	14	13	0	0	0	0	0	73	112	
	Other	0	3	2	6	11	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	35	44	
Treatable - Rehabilitatable																
	Dogs	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	13	
	Cats	2	0	0	0	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Treatable - Manageable																
	Dogs	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	16	
	Cats	1	0	0	3	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	9	8	
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	310	
Healthy																
	Dogs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Cats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Other	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	
	TOTAL Euthanasia	18	18	24	23	40	33	28	0	0	0	0	0	184	656	
Owner Request Euthanasia																
	Dogs	20	14	16	14	14	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	104	80	
	Cats	10	4	6	13	10	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	55	32	
	Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	
	TOTAL	31	18	22	27	24	17	21	0	0	0	0	0	160	122	31.15%
Died At Shelter																
		1	1	2	2	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	16	6	
Escaped/Stolen																
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
FIELD AND OTHER SERVICES																
Animals Currently Court Involved																
	Dogs	0	1	0	1	0	19	8	0	0	0	0	0	29	3	
	Cats	0	0	0	18	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	497	
Field Response																
	Olympia	46	42	63	77	79	57	94	0	0	0	0	0	458	496	-7.66%
	Lacey	44	46	62	63	80	71	69	0	0	0	0	0	435	426	2.11%
	Tumwater	22	29	21	24	25	27	34	0	0	0	0	0	182	185	-1.62%
	Thurston County	111	93	111	108	128	103	132	0	0	0	0	0	786	861	-8.71%
	JBLM	1	3	2	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	13	20	-35.00%
	Other	4	10	4	2	2	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	32	36	-11.11%
	Yelm	9	2	6	8	13	8	13	0	0	0	0	0	59	73	-19.18%
	SUB TOTAL	237	225	269	283	329	271	351	0	0	0	0	0	1,965	2,097	-6.29%
PDD/DD Appeals																
		0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	



STAFF REPORT August 10, 2026

SUBJECT: Budget Amendment and 2027 Budget Timeline

RECOMMENDATION: Motion to “Approve a 2026 Budget Amendment of \$57,350 consisting of: (1) an increase of \$24,000 to the Medical Equipment budget funded through restricted donations; and (2) an increase of \$33,350 to the Utilities budget to cover projected year-end expenditures for increased utilities costs.”

TO: Joint Animal Services Commission

STAFF CONTACT: Sarah Hock, Animal Services Executive Director

ORIGINATED BY: Joint Animal Services

ATTACHMENTS: None

FISCAL NOTE: Use of \$57,350 of general reserves and restricted grant funds

PRIOR REVIEW: None

BACKGROUND: Joint Animal Services (JAS) operates under an interlocal agreement among the four partner jurisdictions—Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County. The Joint Animal Services Commissioner (JASCOM) provides oversight and ultimately adopts the JAS budget. During the year, changes to the JAS budget may be required due to actions by JASCOM, unexpected levels of activity during budget year, and the award of grants or other external funds. Historically, the budget has been amended when necessary.

JAS is requesting two budget amendments due to:

- The award of grants or other external funds: **Medical Equipment**
- Unexpected levels of activity during budget year: **Utility Budget Increase**

Medical Equipment: Friends of Joint Animal Services raised funds to buy two pieces of medical equipment to improve veterinary care for shelter animals. This funding was not included in the 2026 budget. As a result, a budget amendment is needed for the expenses and revenue. The electrocautery unit will improve surgical precision, reduce bleeding, and support safer, quicker surgeries. The dental X-ray machine will help diagnose dental disease below the gumline, leading to better treatments, fewer outside referrals, and more in-house dental care. These investments will boost JAS's medical capacity and enhance animal health and welfare.

Table A provides an overview of the requested equipment.

Table A	
Requested Medical Equipment	
Equipment	Cost
<i>Electrocautery Unit</i>	\$10,000
<i>Dental X-ray Machine</i>	\$14,000
Total	\$24,000

These purchases will be funded **100% through restricted donations from Friends of Joint Animal Services** and will not require the use of general operating funds.

Utility Budget Increase: Utility costs have exceeded original budget projections due to increased service rates and higher overall operating costs. Based on year-to-date expenditures and projected year-end expenses, staff is requesting additional appropriations in the following utility accounts.

Table B			
UTILITY BUDGET PROJECTED INCREASES			
ACCOUNT	2026 Budget	Projected Year-End	Increase Requested
UTILITY – ELECTRIC	\$22,000	\$41,509	\$19,510
UTILITY – NATURAL GAS	\$6,200	\$8,343	\$2,143
UTILITY – CITY OF OLYMPIA	\$15,200	\$26,897	\$11,697
UTILITY – RECYCLED WASTE	\$2,600	\$2,567	\$0
TOTAL	\$46,000	\$79,316	\$33,350

Electricity and water/sewer costs have experienced the largest increases and account for the majority of the requested amendment. Although recycled waste costs are expected to remain within budget, the remaining utility accounts require additional appropriations to ensure adequate funding through year-end.

Fiscal Impact

Medical Equipment

- **Budget Amendment:** \$24,000
- **Funding Source:** Restricted Friends of Joint Animal Services donations
- **Impact on General Fund:** None

Utilities

- **Budget Amendment:** \$33,350
- **Funding Source:** General operating reserves

Total Budget Amendment Requested: \$57,350

Approval of these amendments will allow Joint Animal Services to continue providing high-quality veterinary care while ensuring sufficient funding for essential facility operations through the remainder of the fiscal year.

2027 Budget Timeline

On an annual basis, JASCOM approves the JAS budget.

The proposed 2027 budget will be presented to JASCOM on October 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

The formal Budget Hearing is scheduled for November 9, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., providing an opportunity for public comment and discussion.

Final adoption of the 2027 budget is scheduled for December 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., at which time JASCOM will vote on the proposed budget and jurisdictional assessments.

As a reminder, each jurisdiction's representatives on JASCOM are responsible for presenting the proposed budget and their estimated annual assessments to their respective elected bodies and administrative staff for review and feedback throughout the budget development process.



Joint Animal Services Commission Director's report

Field and Animal Care Updates

JAS continues to strengthen its field services and animal care operations through staff development, specialized training, and successful case outcomes.

- **June 1:** Taegan transitioned from Animal Care Technician into the role of Field Services Officer, increasing the department's field response capacity.
- **June 6:** Sierra, Meagan, and Bekka conducted the annual Animal Cruelty Response Team (ACRT) Seminar. The seminar provided new volunteers with the training needed to support animal cruelty investigations and large-scale response efforts.
- **July 27:** A significant animal cruelty case reached resolution when Beth Evans pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree animal cruelty in connection with a 2024 Mason County case.
- **August 11:** JAS will welcome John as its newest Animal Care Technician, supporting continued efforts to maintain appropriate shelter staffing and high-quality animal care.

Volunteer and Outreach Updates

JAS continues to build community connections through youth education, volunteer recognition, and participation in local events.

The Animal Allies Club meets monthly in Lacey, Tumwater, and Yelm, providing young people with opportunities to learn about animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. June's program featured Animal Bingo, while July's activities focused on the importance of microchipping and included making enrichment toys for shelter cats.

Additional volunteer and community engagement activities included:

- **May 30:** JAS hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch to recognize the invaluable contributions of its volunteers and foster families.



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- **June 13:** Staff participated in Tumwater Dog Days, connecting with community members and sharing information about JAS programs and services.
- **July 25:** JAS participated in Cops, Cars & Kids, strengthening community partnerships and increasing awareness of the agency's services.

Medical Updates

The medical team continues to expand its capacity and services while improving patient care and supporting positive outcomes for shelter animals.

- **July 1:** JAS welcomed Megan, our new Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT). She has quickly become a valuable member of the team, completing more than **140 medical exams** while also training in surgery.
- On **August 4**, the medical team successfully performed JAS's first **guinea pig neuter surgeries**, with all three patients recovering well.
- To date in 2026, the team has completed **1,008 surgeries** and **2,501 medical exams and exam notes**, including **64 specialty surgeries and dental procedures**, putting JAS on pace to exceed last year's specialty surgery totals.
- The medical program has also significantly expanded its volunteer support and implemented new volunteer training opportunities to increase capacity.
- Last week, the team began using a new **multi-parameter patient monitor**, generously donated by the Friends of JAS. The equipment is already enhancing patient monitoring during surgery and will be utilized during upcoming advanced surgical procedures.





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Happy Tails

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Sable (now Lava) Update

Lava is a service cat at heart. In fact, the biggest-hearted cat I've ever shared my house with. As a kitten, he was an excellent service cat to my terminally ill husband. He cuddled with him daily for hours. My husband passed, and he was literally with him an hour after his death. He was just full of love. Now he gives and receives love from me, 2 dogs, and 2 grandkids. (The survey asked one thing that makes you smile? Answer: He assumes the best in everyone at all times. He soothes crying toddlers.)



Edith (now Couscous) Update

Three and a half months ago we got Edith- now named Couscous. She was terrified of people and obviously wasn't familiar with car rides, leashes, or being indoors. The first weeks she didn't eat, hid in her den, and wouldn't allow us near her. We reset our expectations to be very low. We didn't know if she'd ever be comfortable indoors, or if we could ever let her free in the backyard without her finding a way to escape. But now, 3.5 months later, she's flourished. She loves car rides and the dog park; she can now be trusted off leash in the backyard, and she even plays chase with my husband and sleeps in bed with us sometimes! Every week we see a new side of her. This week she barked for the very first time! So be encouraged- if you also adopted a terrified dog who won't let you near them, don't give up hope. Just keep sticking to a routine and give lots of love, and they will flourish as much as they can.

