

## **“Regional Animal Services of King County”**

### **Benefits of a Regional Animal Services System**

#### ***Public Health and Safety***

- Provides the ability to identify and track rabies and other public health issues related to animals on a regional basis. Reduces public health threats through routine vaccination of animals.
- Provides capacity to handle unusual and multi-jurisdictional events involving animals that often require specialized staff such as: horse cruelty, animal hoarding, loose livestock, dog-fighting and cock-fighting groups, puppy mills, illegal reptile vendor operations, animal necropsies and quarantine, holding of animals as evidence in criminal cases, and retrieval of dead animals.

#### ***Animal Welfare***

- Reduces pressure on non-profit shelters by maintaining capacity at regional public shelters. Non-profit animal welfare organizations contribute significantly through their own capacity and by accepting transfer of public-sheltered animals for care and adoption, thereby reducing costs at public shelters.
- Provides for participation of a large corps of volunteers and foster homes.
- Provides capacity for regional response to animal cruelty cases.
- Provides regional preparedness planning and coordination during emergencies and disasters.
- Provides additional regional capacity for seasonal events such as “kitten season”.
- Avoids competition across jurisdictions for sheltering space and comparisons across jurisdictions on outcome statistics.

#### ***Customer Service***

- Provides a single access point for residents searching for a lost pet or seeking help from animal control. Provides one single point of contact for citizen complaints.
- Maintains a uniform pet licensing program that is simpler for the public to access and understand, with a broad range of services to encourage licensing: marketing, partnering with third parties on points of sale for licenses, canvassing, database management, and the ability to return animals to owners in the field.

### ***Effective and Efficient Provision of Services***

- Provides a low-cost spay and neuter program that serves the entire region, and is the key to reducing the population of homeless animals and reducing the costs of the system over time.
- Reduces the demand on individual jurisdictions to respond to communications from the media, advocacy groups and other interested parties.
- Builds economies of scale to provide a full range of services, making it less expensive to develop operations, training, licensing, and care programs than it would be for cities to duplicate services at the local level.
- Use of volunteers and partnerships with private animal welfare organizations provide our region with the ability to promote the most humane treatment with limited public resource.
- Provides a consistent level of service, humane animal care, and regulatory approach countywide.
- Allows local police agencies to focus on traditional law enforcement.