

ASAP TALKING POINTS FOR PUBLIC FORUM

- THE CITY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ITS CITIZENS AND THEIR COMPANION ANIMALS AS IT RELATES TO **BOTH** ANIMAL WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY.
- THE WEST RICHLAND ANIMAL SHELTERS (SEPARATE CAT AND DOG SHELTERS) **ARE IN-ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**. WE PAY TAX DOLLARS FOR THEM BUT CANNOT ACCESS THIS SERVICE.
- **UN-MANNED SHELTERS** - IT IS NOT GENERALLY THE ANIMALS FAULT IT IS IMPOUNDED. IMPOUNDED ANIMALS DESERVE TO HAVE **TRAINED STAFF** CARING FOR THEM WHO CAN ASSESS ANY EMERGENCY VETERINARY CARE REQUIRED. CURRENTLY, "SEASONAL" PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES ARE CARING FOR THE ANIMALS.
(Documented evidence of animals with open wounds, in distress, etc)
- **NO CARE FOR THE ANIMALS OVER THE WEEKEND**. ANIMALS ARE FORCED TO DEFICATE AND URINATE IN THEIR KENNELS. THIS FORCES THE ANIMAL (OVER TIME) TO STOP DRINKING AND EATING) AS THEY WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID SOILING THEMSELVES.
- **NO CLIMATE CONTROL** – 2013 IN WEST RICHLAND SAW TEMPERATURES RANGING FROM **12DEGREES TO 112 DEGREES**. ANIMALS SUFFER IN THESE EXTREME CONDITIONS. IN FREEZING WEATHER, WATER IS INACCESSIBLE TO ANIMALS AS IT IS FROZEN.
- **CURRENT SHELTERS CANNOT CARE FOR PREGNANT ANIMALS**. (Pregnant cat this past winter – had to be surrendered to Benton Franklin Humane Society. Another case of cat found during extreme cold was that Animal Control would not accept it, knowing it would not survive.) This forces citizens who find these animals to consider **dumping**, etc.)
- A NON PROFIT 501C3 (SUCH AS ASAP) HAS THE ABILITY TO **RAISE MONEY** FOR SHELTER CONTRUCTION, & OPERATIONS, WHEREAS THE CITY DOES NOT. NON PROFIT CAN APPLY FOR GRANTS, ETC... AND IS A **TAX DEDUCTION** FOR THE DONOR. A NON PROFIT CAN ALSO UTILIZE DONATIONS OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, AND WOULD NOT NEED TO ABIDE BY UNION CONTRACTS, ETC. – DOCUMENTED SAVINGS OF A MINIMUM OF 35%.
- **COMMUNICATION RE: IMPOUNDED ANIMALS IS MINIMAL**. DOCUMENTED CASES OF CONFUSION OF WHETHER AN OWNERS ANIMAL WAS IMPOUNDED (Family told no, when in fact it was); AGE, BREED, AND GENDER OF ANIMAL IMPOUNDED OFTEN REPORTED INCORRECTLY.