

**NUMBER\$
DON'T LIE ...BUT
POLITICIAN\$
DO!**



Multnomah County Commissioners want taxpayers to believe that chronic failures to protect people and pets at Multnomah County Animal Services (MCAS) are due to their worn out mantra, "lack of staff and funding."

THE FACT IS THAT MCAS IS BY FAR THE BEST PUBLICLY FUNDED ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY IN THE NATION

Consider MCAS numbers from 2008 to 2018:

Animal intake down 59% *

Budget up 70%

FT employees up 93%

Per-animal cost up from \$671 to \$1,815 **

Commissioners:

Stop throwing good money after bad, hoping to solve MCAS's chronic failures. Have the courage to reform MCAS from the ground up, beginning with the replacement of the MCAS Director and her boss, the Director of Community Services.

Commissioners have blindly approved hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to fund failure at MCAS including:

- Taskforces, facilitators and consultants hired to solve ongoing problems
- A 2013 program which cost taxpayers \$349 to spay/neuter each feral/community cat costing taxpayers over \$500,000 dollars until it was cancelled in 2018
- An offsite adoption center, opened in the summer of 2015 at an indeterminable cost, closed in six months due to poor management and planning
- A homeless services specialist hired in 2017 to manage a program that did not exist, costing taxpayers \$30,821
- A 2015 program costing taxpayers \$700,000 to plan and design building modifications which disappeared with little to show for it
- \$250,000 approved in 2018 to begin a Facility Master Plan to research building a new shelter insuring that millions more will be spent, not to improve MCAS's chronic failures, but to hide them.

* MCAS states that intake is "the measure that most impacts staffing and expenditures".

** All numbers provided by MCAS

www.gimmeshelterportland.org

**Gimme Shelter
Portland**
Fighting for Change
at Multnomah County
Animal Services

Kim Peoples, Multnomah County Department of Community Services defends MCAS performance. Published in Willamette Week in response to criticisms published by www.gimmeshelterportland

Pet Shelter's Doors Are Open

As the Multnomah County Community Services Department director overseeing Animal Services, I welcome scrutiny of the county's work protecting the health, safety and welfare of people and pets.

As the only public shelter in Multnomah County open to all, we're working to correct the challenges identified in two county audits. We've met—or are completing—79 percent of the auditor's 2016 recommendations. We know we have more work to do and are committed to doing so quickly and transparently.

So, I take strong exception to the paid advertisement Sept. 5 disparaging the 42 employees and more than 470 volunteers at Animal Services. Every day, these animal lovers strive to provide shelter, health care, socialization assessments, owner reunification, and abuse investigations for pets. We acknowledge some animals have not always received the ideal level of daily exercise or enrichment (an area we continually seek to improve). But all animals are well-fed and provided with veterinary services and clean, comfortable housing.

Volunteers devoted over 88,000 hours to the shelter last year alone—an investment equal to that of 42 full-time staffers. With the support of such volunteers, employees have reached a more than 92 percent live release rate for all dogs and cats. No healthy, adoptable pet is ever euthanized.

Our shelter is truly a community shelter, and I invite *Willamette Week* readers to visit us in Troutdale and see for themselves how we care for our most vulnerable pets.

-Kim Peoples