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News Release

"We work together to build and maintain a community of the highest quality for present and future generations."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Abilene Adopts More Animals in 2017 Than Ever Before

ABILENE, Texas - In 2017, the City of Abilene Animal Services adopted out more animals than ever before. The 3,019 adoptions represents an almost 14% increase over the 2,653 adopted in 2016. In addition, Animal Services achieved gains in total positive outcomes with a figure of 4,552 which represents a 10% improvement over the 4,138 in 2016. Positive outcomes include adoptions, return to owners, rescues, and wildlife releases.

These gains were achieved even with a high shelter intake of 9,403 which is only a slight decline of 1.5% from the 9,546 that were housed in 2016. Almost 30% of the intake comes from pets owner surrendered to the shelter.

PetSmart Charities Center for Excellence Adoptions Manager, Steve Kaufman, wrote to recognize the record year by stating, "In 2017, you went above and beyond and helped place **more pets into new homes than ever before**. For the pets already in your shelter, you gave them a second chance."

"Any improvements in positive outcomes are the result of the collective efforts of the staff in Animal Services, our rescue organization partners, our dedicated volunteers and most importantly the support of the Abilene community," said Mirenda Walden, Animal Services Director. **Walden also credits 2017's positive outcomes to ease of adoptions and the continuously growing relationships with rescue partners.** "A focus on advertising our adoption sales and utilizing social media to promote the great animals we have at the shelter have also played a part."

Right now the Abilene Animal Shelter is having a Sweetheart Sale through the end of February. **All dog adoption fees are reduced to \$60 from \$80 with** and cat adoption fees are reduced from \$70 to \$50 (both with a \$20 rebate after spay/neuter from Rescue the Animals, SPCA).

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