

Information provided by King County

Regional Animal Services of King County – 2018-2002 ILA
Benefits of a Regional Animal Services System

Effective and Efficient Service

- Provide **equity of service**, consistent level of service, common regulatory approach, and support humane animal care across the region.
- **Centralization efficiency and effectiveness** in:
 - Serving as a **single access point for residents** for animal related issues
 - Providing a **centralized database** of historical and current information, regarding residents, location and animal data related to pet licensing and animal control activities
 - An economy of scale to provide a full range of services and the ability to respond to large scale issues, efficiency in operations, database administration, staff training, etc.
- **Reducing demands on individual jurisdictions:**
 - **Communications** from the media, advocacy groups and other interested parties on animal issues (e.g. public disclosure requests)
 - **Local police agencies to focus on traditional law enforcement** instead of civil animal nuisances and offenses
 - **Local court systems do not deal with animal related civil appeal processes**
 - **Local jurisdictions are not involved in court proceedings** for Superior Court appeals of actions or lawsuit response
- 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 similar levels of services at the local level.
- Supports **low-cost spay and neuter programs** which are key to reducing the population of homeless animals and thus reducing the costs of the system over time.
- Use of **volunteers and partnerships** with private animal welfare groups increases humane animal treatment with minimal public cost. In 2015, volunteers contributed over 90,000 hours of support to the County animal services system as foster parents or providing direct adoptable animal care, equivalent to 45 FTEs.

Customer Service

- Provides a **single access point for residents** seeking animal control help.
- A regional, **uniform pet licensing program** that is easier for the public to access and understand, with a broad range of accompanying services to encourage licensing; marketing, partnering with third parties to encourage license sales, and database management.
- **Online licensing sales increase the ease of compliance** for pet owners.
- **Pet Adoption Center is open and provides lost pet and adoption services 7 days a week.**