

# County commissioners join B-CS to fund animal shelter

By CATHY SAATHOFF  
Battalion Staff

Brazos County Commissioners surprised the local Humane Society when they agreed to join with Bryan and College Station to help fund an animal shelter.

"Everybody was kind of stunned," said Patti Mercer of the Humane Society.

Society president Jean Duffey took an informal survey of the commissioners just before the meeting Monday, Mercer said, and they were against financing the shelter 3-2.

It came as a surprise, Mercer said, when the commissioners voted 4-1 in favor of contributing \$5,000 towards the shelter.

Bryan has already pledged \$30,000 and College Station \$25,000. The Humane Society, which has been pushing for a shelter for several years, has \$15,000 earmarked for the project.

"Now our work is just beginning," Mercer said.

Commissioner W.A. Stasny voted against contributing to the shelter, and Bill Cooley, Walter Wilcox, Bud Cargill and County Judge Dick Holmgreen voted for Wilcox and Cargill, who told Duffey before the meeting they were against funding, were unavailable for comment.

Holmgreen said, "I think it'll be very beneficial." County Sheriff Bobby Yeager spoke out in favor of the shelter at the meeting.

"I stressed to them (the commissioners) that it would be a help for us," Yeager said. "This way, county residents will have a humane way to dispose of unwanted animals."

The shelter will provide rabies control facilities, pet adoption, vaccinations and a spay/neuter clinic.

All pets put up for adoption will be spayed. Animal control officers for the cities will still pick up strays and take them to the shelter. Anyone in the county outside city limits will have to take strays in themselves, because the county has no animal control officer or vehicle.

A still-to-be-formed corporation will own the shelter. It will consist of a representative from each city and from the county.

The Humane Society will manage the shelter for the corporation, Mercer said.

The shelter architect is working on a cost estimate for the facility, Mercer said, and the corporation will then take construction bids. A site for the shelter has not been selected yet.

The money contributed by the cities and the county will go toward building the shelter, and when it begins operation, each will pay on a percentage basis depending on how much it is used.

For example, Mercer said, if the county only sends three dogs to the shelter in a month, it will only pay for three dogs.

"We haven't developed any pricing yet," she said. Prices charged for services such as neutering and vaccinations will be minimal, she said, and will be decided after the cost of building the shelter is assessed.

The floor plans call for a facility of about 3,000 square feet, with 12 cat cages, 20 dog runs and three puppy runs. Each run holds several dogs or puppies, Mercer said.

The Humane Society of the United States puts out recommendations for shelter sizes, and the size of this facility is based on those guidelines.

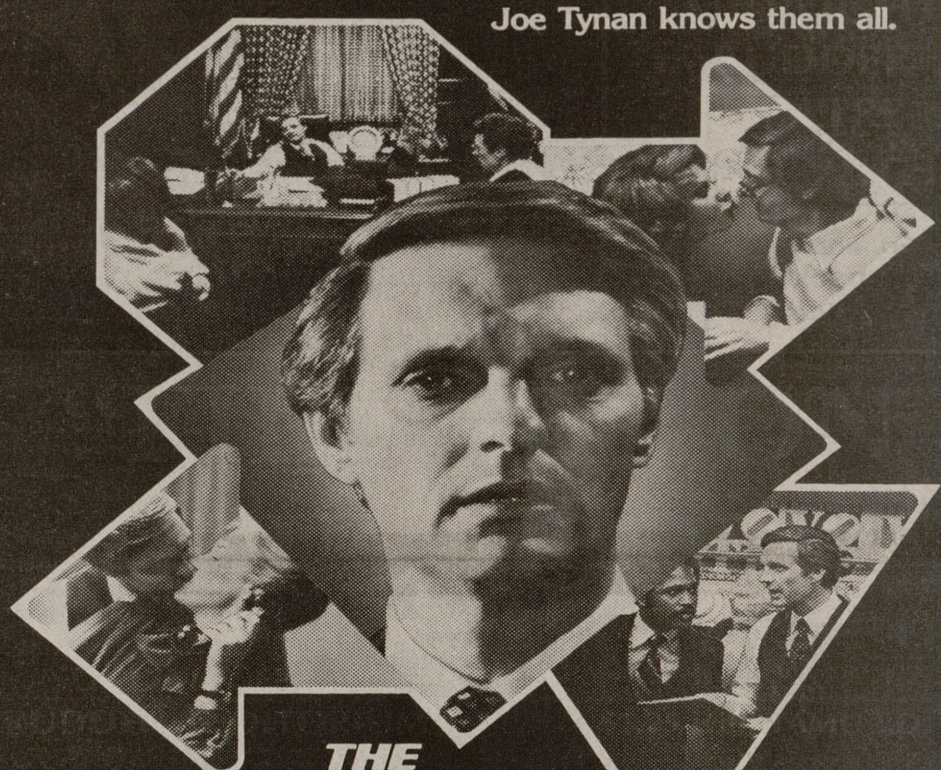


These cages represent temporary homes for any stray dogs picked up by the College Station dog catcher. The cages are

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## 40 executives named to business council

Forty top business executives and administrators from major corporations in Texas and the nation have been named to the Texas A&M College of Business Administration's first Development Council.

The group was formed to improve and assure the relevancy of business administration education at Texas A&M, William Muse, dean of Business Administration, said.

Among those serving on the council are the chairman of the board of the Diamond Shamrock Corp., the former dean of the Harvard Business School and the president of the El Paso Natural Gas Co.

"The Development Council will serve as industry's direct link to the college," Muse said, adding that a good business school should have a strong and continuing relationship with its constituency, the business community.

The council should provide guidance that Texas A&M business graduates are meeting market needs, shaping and defining the direction of future programs, he said.

The Development Council is chaired by T.J. Barlow, chairman and chief executive officer of the Clayton & Co. Inc. The first meeting is scheduled to be held early in November.

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