

FRIENDS OF BALDWIN COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

Proposal: Rescue and Adoption Services

Response to Baldwin County RFP

Lauren Ashton Branch

Friday, April 22, 2022

*Received 3 pm
C. W.*

This proposal follows the Rescue and Adoption Services RFP Guidelines for submission, as presented by the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners. Included sections: Proposal Summary, Referrals, Qualifications of the Firm, Work Plan and Staffing.

Proposal Summary

Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services was initially formed as an informal volunteer-group, that worked to save the homeless animals of the Baldwin County Animal Shelter, by way of providing rescue and adoption services. The volunteer group came together in early 2014 and was officially incorporated as a licensed non-profit in March of 2020. At the time of the group's inception, there were no rescue or adoption programs operating on behalf of the animals of the Baldwin County Animal Shelter. As a result, more than 90% of the shelter's dogs and cats were euthanized annually, prior to the creation of Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services.

Over the years, not only has our rescue network grown to include much needed opportunities for Baldwin County animals far outside of our local community, but we have also worked to establish multiple local programs and partnerships that provide assistance to the homeless animals and existing pet owners in our community. A few examples of these local, external programs/partnerships include: the Riverbend Jail Dog Program, GC Shelter Buddies, usage of the Petsmart Adoption Center as a Charity Partner and low cost spay and neuter offerings via local DVM. Our organization partners with multiple local veterinary clinics in order to facilitate the evolving and unique medical needs of the animals of BCAS. These clinics include our primary DVM, Dr. Saralyn Smith at Old Capital Pet Care, as well as Animal Hospital of Milledgeville, Gordon Animal Clinic and Heart of Georgia Animal Care.

In order to provide Rescue and Adoption services at the level required by Baldwin County Animal Shelter, our organization maintains positive working relationships with licensed rescue organizations all over the state of Georgia and across the country, solely for the betterment of Baldwin County's homeless animals. In addition to our positive working relationship with a multitude of rescue partners and local vet clinics, Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services has specifically nurtured and developed a close working relationship with Animal Rescue Foundation, Baldwin County's only licensed 501c3 Animal Rescue organization. This extremely positive working relationship allows both organizations to better service the community's animal rescue needs as a united whole.

Through Friends of Baldwin County's hard work and consistent dedication to the homeless animals in this community, the Baldwin County Animal Shelter has officially been operating at No-Kill status since January of 2020. Additionally, Friends of BCAS has generated near \$50,000 of direct revenue for local vet partners in the last 2 years alone. If selected, Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services will continue to provide the necessary Rescue and Adoption Services as required by Baldwin County Animal Shelter and the community that it services.

Referrals

Allene Veazey (letter included)
President, Animal Rescue Foundation
(478) 454-1273

Johnna Webb (letter included)
Shelter Administrator, Baldwin County Animal Services
(478) 443-0008

Dr. Saralyn Smith DVM
Owner/Operator Old Capitol Pet Care
(478) 453-9288

Hayley Hartley
Office Manager, Heart of Georgia Animal Care
(478) 452-0200

Debra Campbell
Coordinator, Riverbend Jail dog Program
(951) 333-9159

Dee Allison
Director of Operations, Humane Society of Houston County
(478) 599-0211

Deborah Reddish
Director, Kitty City Cat Rescue
(478) 305-7799

Lily Apollony
Canine Intake Coordinator, Oconee Regional Humane Society
(706) 817-7361

Misty Turner
Director, Star Bright Animal Rescue
(478) 397-1050

Miranda Johnson
Director of Operations, Humane Society of Morgan County
(470) 725-4055



To whom it may concern:

It has been my pleasure to work with Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services in my capacity as President of the Board of Directors of Animal Rescue Foundation. I took over as President of ARF in 2018 and in the last four years, the working relationship between the President of Friends of BCAS and me has been extremely productive.

Ms. Ashton Branch has been wonderful to work with for the betterment of Baldwin County animals. We speak at least weekly about what pets ARF can pull into our rescue, but it has been reciprocal. When there were times that I could not place a dog or cat, she helped me find a rescue that could take them on.

One of the positive things that has come out of the ARF/ Friends of BCAS relationship has been the joint efforts that we have been able to make. For example, we have worked together to send two separate groups of dogs to a Vermont rescue that was able to place them in loving homes much more quickly than we ever could. We had our first joint fundraiser/adoption event last year and it was very successful. We were even able to partner on an event a couple of years ago on a free spay and neuter event that was able to target some of our economically disadvantaged pet owners to help to stem the flow of puppies and kittens at the source.

I highly recommend that Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services continue coordinating adoptions and rescue for Baldwin County Animal Services. Ms. Branch is clearly very passionate about the good of our dogs and cats in Baldwin County. She doesn't give up and her rescue adoption rate speaks for itself. I am proud to partner with Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services and Baldwin County Animal Services. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Allene Veazey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allene Veazey
President of the Board of Directors
Animal Rescue Foundation, Inc.

Johnna Webb

johnnawebb13@gmail.com

478-251-3230

Baldwin County Animal Shelter Administrator

To whom it may concern,

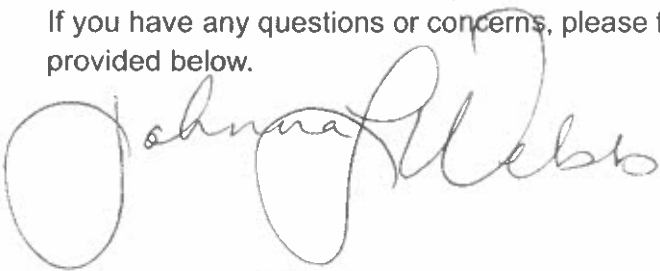
As Administrator of Baldwin County Animal services, I am writing to you in support of Ashton Branch with Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services, in her interest of becoming our Rescue and Adoption Contractor.

In the time that I have known Ashton she has always centered her focus on the animal shelter. She has dedicated many years and thousands of hours into helping shelter animals and the county's department. In her years as the coordinator of Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services, she has re-homed and sent upwards of 5,000 animals to their new life's. She has also donated to and coordinated several fundraisers to assist the shelter in vet care and spay/neuter costs. Ashton also has good, strong working relationships with local vet offices and rescues. She has always been hardworking and dedicated to the Animals and the shelter. Her consistent hard work and determination to help the animals won Baldwin County Animal Shelter a national award in 2020. She has also helped to achieve and maintain the no-kill status that the shelter currently holds.

Ashton Branch, despite recent controversies, has gone above and beyond her call of duty to help save the animals in the care of the county.

I highly recommend her for the position of Adoption and Rescue Contractor and feel as though it would not be a mistake in doing so.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me with the information provided below.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnna Webb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Johnna" and last name "Webb" clearly distinguishable.

Johnna Webb 
Shelter Administrator

Qualifications of the Firm

Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services was initially formed in early 2014, as an informal volunteer-group that worked to save the homeless animals of the Baldwin County Animal Shelter, by way of rescue or adoption. At the time of its inception, there were no rescue or adoption programs operating on behalf of the animals of the Baldwin County Animal Shelter. As a result, more than 90% of the shelter's dogs and cats were euthanized annually, prior to 2014. Through Friends of Baldwin County's dedication to the homeless animals in this community, the Baldwin County Animal Shelter has officially been operating at No-Kill status since January of 2020. (This means that an annual Save Rate of 90% or greater is maintained.) Additionally, Baldwin County Animal Shelter's Rescue and Adoption Program, under the direction of Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services, was recognized as #1 in the nation by the National Association of Counties in 2020.

Since its formation, Friends of Baldwin County has worked diligently not only to continually decrease the shelter's euthanasia rates, but also to improve the quality of life and care of the shelter's residents, as well as to educate individuals regarding the importance of responsible pet-ownership. Since Baldwin County Animal Shelter began maintaining a computer records system in 2017, Friends of Baldwin County has saved an average of 725 animals per calendar year. This adds up to more than FIFTY-EIGHT HUNDRED CATS AND DOGS SAVED by Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services since 2014. Additionally, there have already been 281 Baldwin County animals moved to the safety of licensed rescues or adoptive homes since January 1st, 2022.

In 2020, Friends of Baldwin County created over \$25,000 in direct revenue for local veterinary clinics and over \$22,000 in 2021. This includes veterinary care for a combination of animals: those being adopted, those participating in transfer programs and animals belonging to individuals in Baldwin County who cannot afford their pet's basic veterinary needs. (i.e.: spay/neuter, vaccinations, etc.) Revenue generated from Friends of Baldwin County's licensed Rescue Partners and the accounts they maintain directly with vet clinics are in addition to the above totals.

In order to provide Rescue and Adoption services, our organization maintains positive working relationships with licensed rescue organizations all over the state of Georgia and across the country, for the betterment of Baldwin County's homeless animals. Some of our regular, in-state rescue partners include; Humane Society of Houston County, Star Bright Animal Rescue, Kitty City Cat Rescue, Go Dogs Go, Pawsome Southern Rescue, Oconee Regional Humane Society, Humane Society of Morgan County

and The DAWG Squad of GA. A few examples of our out of state partner organizations include; The Humane Society of Chittenden County(Vermont), Maine Lab Rescue(Maine), Hearts of the North(Canada) and Halfway Home Rescue(CT).

Examples of services currently maintained by Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services on behalf of the Rescue and Adoption Program of Baldwin County Animal Services (in no particular order):

- Social Media Posting (Facebook, 11,775 followers; Instagram, 693 followers, Petfinder) Includes, but not limited to: photos/videos of adoptable or urgent cats and dogs, fundraising, education/community awareness, promotion of local animal rescue events, sharing of Baldwin County Animal Shelter's stray animal posts.
- Networking with licensed rescue partners on behalf of animals in need. Includes, but not limited to: temperament testing, photos and videos, scheduling and coordination of veterinary care, transport and fundraising.
- Processing of Adoption Applications. Includes but not limited to: responding to inquiries (via Facebook, Instagram, Petfinder, Email and Voicemail) personal/professional/landlord reference checks, veterinary history checks, phone interviews, social media checks, scheduling and conducting meet and greets.
- Physical donation collection. Includes maintaining an Amazon Wishlist for ongoing shelter needs.
- Maintain Business PayPal and Business Checking accounts in order to collect donations and adoption fees on the shelter's behalf, as well as maintain all necessary veterinary accounts and payment of associated costs.
- Scheduling and coordinating necessary vet care for animals being adopted and maintaining the associated vet accounts. Accepting adoption fees on behalf of the animals of Baldwin County Animal Services to pay the associated vet costs.
- Organizing animal rescue related events within the community (i.e.: adoption events, raffles or other fundraisers, festivals, etc.)
- Coordinating with the Riverbend Jail Dog Program to select and provide veterinary care for the dogs that enter their program.
- Work directly with Baldwin County Animal Shelter staff to select cats for placement into the Petsmart Adoption Center. Friends of Baldwin County assumes responsibility for the vet care provided to the selected kitties in order for them to be eligible for placement into Petsmart and the Shelter's Adoptable Cat Room.
- Seeking out and/or building transfer programs with licensed rescue partners who are not local to our area, in order to expand the network of available assistance for the residents of the Baldwin County Animal Shelter.
- From 2014 until recently, Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services has maintained a Foster Program on behalf of the animals of the shelter. This included all inspections, associated paperwork, scheduling/coordinating, veterinary costs and items provided to the fosterer.

Work Plan or Proposal

If selected, Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services will continue to provide the same exceptional level of commitment to providing Rescue and Adoption Services to the county's homeless animals that it has since its inception. Thanks to the existing, well-established relationships with current Baldwin County Animal Shelter staff and the local veterinary community, Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services has the local resources and infrastructure in place to continue to service the ongoing Rescue and Adoption needs of Baldwin County and its taxpayers.

Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services has worked with local DVMs to provide a discounted rate for necessary vet care of any animal being adopted. The Schedule of adoption fees to be collected is indicated in the following chart. (Additional services can be provided at a discounted rate when requested or necessary. i.e.: heartworm tests, heartworm treatment, dental cleanings, etc.)

Adoption Fee Schedule		
Type of Pet	Fee	Includes
Dog	\$150	Spay/neuter, physical exam, rabies and DHPP vaccines, deworming, flea treatment.
Cat	\$100	Spay/neuter, physical exam, rabies and FVCRP vaccines, deworming, flea treatment. (Also, includes combo test for PetSmart and Adoptable Cats)

The Rescue and Adoption services to be provided by Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services are as follows:

- Social Media Posting (Facebook, 11,775 followers; Instagram, 693 followers, Petfinder) Includes, but not limited to: photos/videos of adoptable or urgent cats and dogs, fundraising, education/community awareness, promotion of local animal rescue events, sharing of Baldwin County Animal Shelter's stray animal posts.
- Networking with licensed rescue partners on behalf of animals in need. Includes, but not limited to: temperament testing, photos and videos, scheduling and coordination of veterinary care, transport and fundraising.
- Processing of Adoption Applications. Includes but not limited to: responding to inquiries (via Facebook, Instagram, Petfinder, Email and Voicemail) personal/professional/landlord reference checks, veterinary history checks, phone interviews, social media checks, scheduling and conducting meet and greets.
- Physical donation collection. Includes maintaining an Amazon Wishlist for ongoing shelter needs.

- Maintain Business PayPal and Business Checking accounts in order to collect donations and adoption fees on the shelter's behalf, as well as maintain all necessary veterinary accounts and payment of associated costs.
- Scheduling and coordinating necessary vet care for animals being adopted and maintaining the associated vet accounts. Accepting adoption fees on behalf of the animals of Baldwin County Animal Services to pay the associated vet costs.
- Organizing animal rescue related events within the community (i.e.: adoption events, raffles or other fundraisers, festivals, etc.)
- Coordinating with the Riverbend Jail Dog Program to select and provide veterinary care for the dogs that enter their program.
- Work directly with Baldwin County Animal Shelter staff to select cats for placement into the Petsmart Adoption Center. Friends of Baldwin County assumes responsibility for the vet care provided to the selected kitties in order for them to be eligible for placement into Petsmart.
- Seeking out and/or building transfer programs with licensed rescue partners who are not local to our area, in order to expand the network of available assistance for the residents of the shelter.

In addition to the services listed above, from 2014 until very recently, Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services maintained a Foster Program on behalf of Baldwin County Animal Shelter. This included all selection, inspections, coordination/scheduling, associated paperwork, veterinary costs and items provided to the fosterer. Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services would be willing to provide this service to the county again in the future.

As made evident by the continual decreases in euthanasia rates and increases in supplemental programs and volunteer rates over the last eight years, Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services will continue to provide quality Rescue and Adoption services in the best interest of the animals in need. Additionally we will continue to improve, grow and develop these supplemental or educational programs as dictated by the needs of the Baldwin County Animal Shelter and our local community.

Staffing

The efforts of Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services are greatly supported and supplemented by the extraordinary group of rescuers, donors, fosters, transporters, etc. who donate their time and money towards our charitable efforts. Without them, Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services would not be able to accomplish what we have, nor what we continue to do for the homeless animals of Baldwin County.

In continuation of its current and past model, Rescue and Adoption Program Coordinator will be the only necessary, full-time position within the Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services organization. This position will be held by Friends of Baldwin County CEO/President, Lauren Ashton Branch.

Attachment B

Proposer's Information Form (Type All Answers)

PROPOSER: Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services

Address: 411 West Hancock Street; Milledgeville, GA 31061

Telephone: 706-833-8201

Email: FBCAS.DONATE@GMAIL.COM

Contact person, title, email, and telephone:

Lauren Ashton Branch, President/CEO

Email: FBCAS.DONATE@GMAIL.COM

Telephone: 706-833-8201

Proposer, if selected, intends to carry on the business as (check one):

☐ Individual

☐ Joint Venture

☐ Partnership

☒ Corporation

When incorporated? March 2020

In what state? Georgia

When authorized to do business in Georgia? March 2020

☐ Other (explain):

ADDENDA

To assure that all Proposers have received each addendum, check the appropriate box(es) below. Failure to acknowledge receipt of an addendum/addenda may be considered an irregularity in the Proposal:

Addendum number(s) received: 1 LAB (check and initial).

Or, no Addendum/Addenda Were Received (check and initial).

PROPOSER'S SIGNATURE

No proposal shall be accepted which has not been signed in ink in the appropriate space below:

Attachment B – Proposer Information continued...

1. If Proposer is INDIVIDUAL, sign here _____

Date:

Proposer's Signature

Proposer's typed name and title

2. If Proposer is PARTNERSHIP or JOINT VENTURE: at least two (2) Partners shall sign here:

Partnership or Joint Venture Name (type or print)

Date:

Member of the Partnership or Joint Venture signature

Date:

Member of the Partnership or Joint Venture signature

3. If Proposer is a CORPORATION, the duly authorized officer shall sign as follows: The undersigned certify that he/she is respectively: Lauren Ashton Branch

and Signature  Title: CEO/President

Of the corporation named below; that they are designated to sign the Proposal Cost Form by resolution (attach a certified copy, with corporate seal, if applicable, notarized as to its authenticity or Secretary's certificate of authorization) for and on behalf of the below named CORPORATION, and that they are authorized to execute same for and on behalf of said CORPORATION.

Corporation Name (type or print) Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services

By: Lauren Ashton Branch

Date: April 18th, 2022

Title: CEO/President

Attachment D
COST PROPOSAL

\$ 40,000 Annual Administrative Fee

1. If Proposer is INDIVIDUAL, sign here _____

Date:

Proposer's Signature

Proposer's typed name and title

2. If Proposer is PARTNERSHIP or JOINT VENTURE; at least two (2) Partners shall sign here:

Partnership or Joint Venture Name (type or print)

Date:

Member of the Partnership or Joint Venture signature

Date:

Member of the Partnership or Joint Venture signature

3. If Proposer is a CORPORATION, the duly authorized officer shall sign as follows: The undersigned certify that he/she is, respectively: Lauren Ashton Branch

and Signature  Title CEO/President

Of the corporation named below; that they are designated to sign the Proposal Cost Form by resolution (attach a certified copy, with corporate seal, if applicable, notarized as to its authenticity or Secretary's certificate of authorization) for and on behalf of the below named CORPORATION, and that they are authorized to execute same for and on behalf of said CORPORATION.

Corporation Name (type or print) Friends of Baldwin County Animal Services

By: Lauren Ashton Branch

Date: April 18th, 2022

Title: CEO/President