



## OFFICIAL MONTHLY REPORT

# Benji's Animal Adoption Barn

*Monthly Report to the City of Sweeny*

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**Reporting Period:** May 2026

**To:** David Jordan, City of Sweeny Manager

**From:** Leigh Ann Thornton, CEO & Founder, Benji's Animal Adoption Barn

**Date:** May 29, 2026

**Subject:** Monthly Update – Citizen Call Activity, TNR Program, Shelter Status, and Veterinary Coordination

This report summarizes citizen call activity, ongoing program items, and veterinary coordination handled by Benji's Animal Adoption Barn (BAAB) during the May 2026 reporting period. All matters are documented in accordance with the MOU between the City of Sweeny and BAAB.

### CITIZEN CALL ACTIVITY

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During the May reporting period, BAAB received a total of ten (10) citizen calls regarding animals within the City of Sweeny. The calls are categorized as follows:

- Four (4) calls regarding dogs: two (2) owner-requested surrenders and two (2) reports of puppies dumped.
- Six (6) calls regarding kittens reported as strays or found.

For the two (2) owner-requested surrenders, BAAB explained to each caller that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in place between BAAB and the City of Sweeny, and that BAAB does not accept animals directly from members of the public. For the two (2) reports of puppies dumped and the six (6) reports of kittens, BAAB advised each caller that the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the City of Sweeny Animal Control Officer and instructed each caller to contact the City directly to report the incident. BAAB did not contact the City on behalf of any caller. In all ten (10) instances, BAAB did not assume custody, transport, or financial responsibility for the animals associated with these calls. BAAB continues to receive ongoing calls from residents reporting feral cats, kittens, and unmanaged colonies within the City of Sweeny; public demand for a structured response remains steady and consistent with prior reporting periods.

## SUMMARY OF MAY 2026 CALLS

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| TYPE    | COUNT | NATURE OF CALL                    | DISPOSITION                                                              | MOU  |
|---------|-------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Dogs    | 2     | Owner-requested surrenders        | Declined per MOU. BAAB does not accept animals directly from the public. | Yes  |
| Dogs    | 2     | Puppies reported dumped           | Caller instructed to contact City of Sweeny Animal Control Officer       | Yes  |
| Kittens | 6     | Kittens reported (strays / found) | Caller instructed to contact City of Sweeny Animal Control Officer       | Yes  |
| Total   | 10    | 4 dog calls; 6 kitten calls       | All handled in accordance with MOU                                       | 100% |

## DISPOSITION AND MOU COMPLIANCE

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All ten (10) calls received during the reporting period were handled in accordance with the terms of the MOU. Owner-surrender requests were respectfully declined with an explanation of the MOU. For all stray, dumped, or community-animal reports, BAAB advised each caller that the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the City of Sweeny Animal Control Officer and instructed each caller to contact the City directly. BAAB Board Members and volunteers follow the established protocol of directing citizens to the City for handling by the Animal Control Officer; BAAB does not contact the City on behalf of callers.

This protocol ensures that response responsibility remains with the party that holds jurisdictional authority, supports clear operational boundaries between BAAB and Animal Control, and creates a documented record of how each citizen inquiry was handled by BAAB.

## TRAP-NEUTER-RELEASE (TNR) PROGRAM & ORDINANCE ALIGNMENT

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For the past eighteen (18) months, BAAB has consistently reported to the City the steady volume of citizen calls regarding stray cats, kittens, feral cats, and colony management. This issue has been raised in successive monthly reports, including January, February, and March 2026, and continues to be raised here. As previously documented, BAAB initiated limited TNR efforts within nonprofit budget capacity but was asked to pause until the City updated its ordinance.

BAAB respectfully renews its request that the City formally address the Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program and bring the existing ordinance up to date in alignment with current Texas state law and best practices for community cat management. Formal ordinance alignment would reduce future kitten intake, stabilize colony populations, lower long-term municipal costs, improve enforcement clarity, and support humane population control consistent with current state statute. Continued delay in ordinance review limits these outcomes, perpetuates citizen complaints, and creates ongoing operational ambiguity between BAAB, Animal Control, and the public.

## **SHELTER CONSTRUCTION STATUS**

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BAAB respectfully notes that, as of the date of this report, no update has been received regarding the progress of the new municipal animal shelter. Per BAAB's records, the shelter project is now more than two (2) years past its original projected completion date and was last documented as approximately 80% complete in the January 2026 report. The incomplete facility has previously created direct animal welfare concerns, including during the January 2026 winter weather emergency.

BAAB respectfully requests a written status update from the City regarding the current stage of construction, the projected completion timeline, and any outstanding items required to bring the facility into full operational service. A completed, functional shelter is essential to sustainable animal services operations within the City of Sweeny.

## **TRANSPORT COORDINATION REQUEST**

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BAAB respectfully renews its prior request that the City identify a date on which it is available to work with the Best Friends Animal Society network to transport adoptable dogs out of the municipal shelter. This request has been raised in previous monthly reports and remains pending.

In addition, BAAB has been contacted by several rescue organizations located in northern states that are willing to coordinate transport of adoptable dogs to their facilities, as those regions do not experience the same companion-animal overpopulation challenges currently observed in Texas. These partner organizations are prepared to assist at no cost to the City, contingent on coordinated transport scheduling.

BAAB respectfully requests that the City provide several date options on which it is available to facilitate transport coordination. BAAB will relay the confirmed date options to the Best Friends network and to the partnering rescue organizations so that transport may be scheduled in an orderly manner consistent with the MOU.

## **VETERINARY COORDINATION**

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During the May reporting period, BAAB transported one dog ("Old Man") to Marsh Veterinary Clinic for evaluation of a mass and for ongoing skin-condition treatment. Following examination by Dr. Lauren Quast, DVM, BAAB was advised that the mass is not a cause for concern at this time and no further intervention is required. Old Man was treated for mange and received an allergy injection and Nexgard. Total veterinary charges for this visit were \$79.25, paid in full by BAAB from nonprofit funds. No City funds were used.

## YEAR-TO-DATE FUNDS PAID BY BAAB

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The table below summarizes all funds paid by BAAB during the January through May 2026 reporting period in connection with City of Sweeny animal welfare matters. All expenses were paid in full from BAAB nonprofit funds. No City funds were used.

| PERIOD        | DESCRIPTION                                                       | VENDOR                  | AMOUNT     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| January 2026  | Lacey – emergency surgery, medications, vaccinations              | Marsh Veterinary Clinic | \$484.40   |
| February 2026 | No BAAB expenditures during reporting period                      | —                       | \$0.00     |
| March 2026    | Foster care supplies                                              | BAAB direct purchases   | \$379.12   |
| April 2026    | Foster puppy supplies (formula, bottles, pads, neonatal care)     | BAAB direct purchases   | \$289.57   |
| April 2026    | Foster puppy veterinary care                                      | Marsh Veterinary Clinic | \$268.15   |
| May 2026      | Old Man – mass evaluation, mange treatment, Nexgard               | Marsh Veterinary Clinic | \$79.25    |
| YTD Total     | All expenses paid from BAAB nonprofit funds — no City funds used. |                         | \$1,500.49 |

## CONTINUED COMMITMENT

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BAAB remains committed to humane treatment, governance compliance, fiscal stewardship, and strong municipal collaboration. We appreciate the City’s continued partnership and will continue to provide monthly updates documenting call activity, referrals, program status, and any other matters relevant to the MOU.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Leigh Ann Thornton**

CEO & Founder

Benji's Animal Adoption Barn

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