



OFFICIAL MONTHLY REPORT

Benji's Animal Adoption Barn

Monthly Report to the City of Sweeny

Reporting Period: July 2026

To: David Jordan, City of Sweeny Manager

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

Date: August 3, 2026

Subject: Monthly Update – Citizen Call Activity, TNR Program, Shelter Construction Progress, and BAAB Programs

This report summarizes citizen call activity, ongoing program items, shelter construction progress, and BAAB program updates for Benji's Animal Adoption Barn (BAAB) during the July 2026 reporting period. All matters are documented in accordance with the MOU between the City of Sweeny and BAAB.

CITIZEN CALL ACTIVITY

During the July reporting period, BAAB received a total of two (2) citizen calls regarding animals within the City of Sweeny. Both calls were reports of dogs dumped within City limits.

For both (2) reports of dumped dogs, 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 both (2) 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 stray, dumped, and unmanaged animals within the City of Sweeny; public demand for a structured response remains steady and consistent with prior reporting periods.

SUMMARY OF JULY 2026 CALLS

TYPE	COUNT	NATURE OF CALL	DISPOSITION	MOU
Dogs	2	Dogs reported dumped	Caller instructed to contact City of Sweeny Animal Control Officer	Yes
Total	2	2 dog calls	All handled in accordance with MOU	100%

DISPOSITION AND MOU COMPLIANCE

Both (2) calls received during the reporting period were handled in accordance with the terms of the MOU. For each dumped-dog report, BAAB advised the caller that the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the City of Sweeny Animal Control Officer and instructed the 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

For more than twenty (20) 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, March, April, May, and June 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 PROGRESS

During the July reporting period, meaningful progress has been made on the new municipal animal shelter. Work is being led on-site by STP Nuclear Operating Company craft and projects staff, with additional volunteer support from Sweeny ISD Interact Club students, in coordination with donor partners. BAAB previously submitted a monthly project report to the City on July 5, 2026, detailing scope, progress, and remaining work.

On July 24, 2026, Council Member Brian Brooks drove out to the facility to observe progress in person. BAAB followed up with a written status update on July 25, 2026, summarizing the current state of construction directly from STP's Director of Projects:

- HVAC – The HVAC unit (heat and air) was purchased by STP and has been delivered to STP for staging; installation at the shelter is in progress.
- Plumbing – The hot water heater was purchased by STP and will be set and tied in this reporting window. Exterior plumbing and closing in of the office is scheduled for the week of August 3, 2026.

- Well – BAAB is first on Finch Water Well Service’s list once his transmission is repaired. In the meantime, the facility will tie into the existing well so it is operational.
- Electrical – Lights are being installed. Bob Kotrla (electrical contractor) is coordinating with the well contractor to ensure electrical is in place ahead of the well work.
- Kennels – STP craft is flipping and reinstalling the kennels.
- Concrete Sealing – STP is donating SealGreen concrete sealant and sprayer equipment, and will apply the sealant to the shelter surfaces once construction items above are completed.
- Site Work – Colten Myers with On Track Construction has donated dirt work and grading services to level the back of the property and eliminate gaps beneath the perimeter fencing, with On Track scheduled to be on-site the week of August 10, 2026.
- Target – Everything tied in and operational as work continues through August, with a real completion window in sight.

On August 2, 2026, the STP Director of Maintenance provided a status update to BAAB advising that STP crews will be on-site this coming Wednesday to install exterior plumbing and close in the office, and that STP is coordinating with the electrical contractor ahead of the well contractor’s arrival.

In addition to construction items, STP has also committed to donate office furnishings and equipment for the new shelter facility, including a printer, laptop, desk, filing cabinet, office chair, and a metal storage cabinet.

BAAB will continue to work on the outdoor enrichment areas for the shelter animals, including the planned purchase of agility and enrichment equipment (such as A-frames, ramps, and platforms) and benches to support volunteer and visitor use of those spaces. Representative examples of the planned outdoor equipment are shown below.



Planned outdoor enrichment and seating for the new shelter facility

BAAB is deeply grateful to STP for their continued leadership — including STP’s direct purchase of the HVAC unit and hot water heater, STP’s donation of the forthcoming SealGreen sealant and sprayer, STP’s donation of shelter office furnishings and equipment, and to Colten Myers of On Track Construction for the donated dirt work and grading that will level the back of the property and eliminate gaps beneath the perimeter fencing — as well as to the STP volunteers and the Sweeny ISD Interact Club students whose commitment throughout this build is directly reflected in the quality of the work. BAAB will continue to provide the City with progress updates as milestones are reached.

TRANSPORT COORDINATION REQUEST

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

During the July reporting period, BAAB incurred no veterinary or animal-care expenditures from nonprofit funds. Ongoing wellness and preventative care of shelter animals continues to be coordinated through Marsh Veterinary Clinic on an as-needed basis. No City funds were used.

BAAB PROGRAMS - PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

In preparation for the opening of the new facility and to strengthen adoption outcomes, BAAB has entered into a partnership with CJ's Dog Training. Under this partnership, CJ works with shelter dogs and alongside BAAB's existing trainer to help each dog decompress, build confidence, and begin structured training so they are ready for adoption in a stable frame of mind. The transition into the new, quieter shelter environment will support this work.

The first proof of concept occurred in July with a young pit-mix named Socks, who had been struggling in the kennel. Within minutes, CJ had Socks sitting, staying, and walking calmly on leash. Socks has since been placed into a full board-and-train program at a pet resort near CJ in Alvin, Texas. Total costs of \$3,200.00 for training and boarding under this program have been paid personally by BAAB's CEO and Founder, Leigh Ann Thornton. No BAAB nonprofit funds and no City funds have been used for this initiative.



Socks — the first BAAB / CJ's Dog Training proof of concept

On the recommendation of CJ's Dog Training, BAAB purchased a small set of training-specific leashes to support consistent handling of shelter dogs during the training program. Total cost for the leashes was \$50.00, paid personally by BAAB's CEO and Founder, Leigh Ann Thornton. No BAAB nonprofit funds and no City funds were used.

BAAB is also planning to purchase a professional exam and grooming table for the new shelter facility. This table will support routine health checks, grooming, and safe handling of shelter animals in the new facility. A representative image of the intended equipment is included below.



Planned exam and grooming table for the new shelter facility

BAAB is officially partnering with CJ's Dog Training so that shelter dogs receive every fair opportunity for a successful adoption. Combined with the new facility, this partnership is intended to elevate adoption outcomes and reduce return rates within the City of Sweeny.

YEAR-TO-DATE FUNDS PAID BY BAAB

The table below summarizes all funds paid by BAAB during the January through July 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
June 2026	No BAAB expenditures during reporting period	—	\$0.00
July 2026	No BAAB expenditures during reporting period	—	\$0.00
YTD Total	All expenses paid from BAAB nonprofit funds — no City funds used.		\$1,500.49

OUTSTANDING REQUEST FOR ITEMIZED ACCOUNTING OF BAAB'S \$50,000 DONATION

In March 2024, following a community fundraising effort, Benji's Animal Adoption Barn donated \$50,000.00 to the City of Sweeny to fund construction of the new animal shelter facility. Per the City's written communication dated November 6, 2025, the exterior shell of the building was completed by Stewart's Building at a cost of \$34,500.00, with an additional \$659.43 in materials to frame out the required processing room. Beyond that disclosure, BAAB has not received any itemized financial statement or accounting from the City reflecting how the remaining balance of the \$50,000.00 donation has been allocated, expended, or otherwise applied to the project.

For more than two (2) years, BAAB has requested, on a recurring basis, an itemized statement of expenditures associated with the \$50,000 donation. Despite these repeated requests, no such itemized statement has been provided to BAAB.

BAAB has separately been advised that the project is "over budget." BAAB is unable to verify or evaluate that representation without an itemized accounting of the funds that have been spent. As the donor of the \$50,000, and as the nonprofit that fundraised those dollars from the community in reliance on the represented purpose of the donation, BAAB has a fiduciary and stewardship obligation to its donors to understand how those funds were used.

BAAB therefore respectfully renews its request that the City of Sweeny provide a complete itemized accounting of all expenditures made from, or attributable to, the \$50,000 donation, including vendor names, dates, amounts, and the specific line-item purpose of each disbursement. BAAB requests that this itemized accounting be provided in writing at the City's earliest convenience so that BAAB may fulfill its own reporting and stewardship obligations to its donors and to the public.

CONTINUED COMMITMENT

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,



Leigh Ann Thornton

CEO & Founder

Benji's Animal Adoption Barn

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