

OFFICIAL MONTHLY REPORT

Benji's Animal Adoption Barn

Monthly Report to the City of Sweeny

Reporting Period: August 2026

To: David Jordan, City of Sweeny Manager

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

Date: September 1, 2026

Subject: Monthly Update — Citizen Call Activity, Sweeny Municipal Shelter Rescue Group, Policies & Procedures, TNR Program, Shelter Construction Progress, and BAAB Programs

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

CITIZEN CALL ACTIVITY

During the August reporting period, BAAB received a total of eight (8) citizen calls regarding animals within the City of Sweeny. Five (5) calls related to kittens and feral cats and three (3) calls related to dogs.

For each of the three (3) dog-related calls, 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. For each of the five (5) cat-related calls, BAAB provided community resource referrals (regional rescue organizations, neonatal kitten foster networks, and Trap-Neuter-Release guidance where applicable) and, consistent with the MOU and the City's current TNR posture, did not assume custody 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. Volume in August rose above prior months, driven principally by the community-cat and kitten calls; public demand for a structured municipal response remains steady and, in the case of community cats, growing.

Summary of August 2026 Calls

Type	Count	Nature of Call	Disposition	MOU
Dogs	3	Dogs reported dumped / at-large	Caller instructed to contact City of Sweeny Animal Control Officer	Yes
Cats / Kittens	5	Stray cats, neonatal kittens, feral colony	Referred to regional rescue and neonatal	Yes

		reports	foster resources; TNR guidance provided	
Total	8	8 citizen calls	All handled in accordance with MOU	100%

SWEENEY MUNICIPAL SHELTER RESCUE GROUP — AUGUST ACTIVITY

During the August reporting period, BAAB accepted a group of eight (8) dogs from the Sweeny Municipal Shelter into BAAB's rescue placement pipeline for photographing, medical assessment, adoption marketing, and outreach to regional partner rescues. The eight (8) dogs were Achy, Bear, Big Boy, Crazy, Lacey, Midnight, Smalls, and Stitch.

In addition to marketing each animal individually, BAAB contacted twenty (20) regional rescue organizations and separately engaged Best Friends Animal Society (Sophia Proler, South Central Regional Director) to solicit transport, foster, and adoption support for the group.

Placement Results — Sweeny Rescue Group

Metric	Count	Notes
Dogs accepted into BAAB rescue pipeline	8	Achy, Bear, Big Boy, Crazy, Lacey, Midnight, Smalls, Stitch
Dogs adopted in August	2	Smalls (adopted 8/16); Lacey (adopted 8/25)
Dogs still available for placement (end of month)	5	Achy, Bear, Big Boy, Midnight, Stitch
Dogs no longer in placement pipeline	1	Crazy — City Animal Control has advised BAAB that this dog will be euthanized (see Policies & Procedures section)
Regional rescues contacted for placement support	20	Plus Best Friends Animal Society (S. Central regional)

POLICIES & PROCEDURES — FORMAL REQUEST

BAAB is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with written policies and procedures that BAAB is required to follow. During the August reporting period, several matters arose in connection with animals in the custody of the City of Sweeny Animal Control that highlight the absence of corresponding written policies and procedures on the City's side. BAAB respectfully requests that the City adopt, in writing, formal policies and procedures governing intake, foster placement, chain of custody, cost-sharing with BAAB, and euthanasia authority.

1. Euthanasia decision — Crazy

On the morning of September 1, 2026, the City of Sweeny Animal Control Officer, Rodger Larsen, advised BAAB by telephone that the dog known as Crazy had attacked the dog known as Stitch, and that this was the third such incident between these two animals. Officer Larsen advised BAAB that he intended to euthanize Crazy.

BAAB respectfully raises the following concerns for the record:

- Both animals were part of the Sweeny municipal shelter rescue group actively being marketed for adoption by BAAB, and BAAB was funding vet care for animals in this group.
- If prior altercations occurred between Crazy and Stitch, standard shelter husbandry practice requires that the two animals be separated during turnout, feeding, and handling to prevent recurrence. BAAB respectfully asks why the two dogs were placed together after the first documented incident, and again after the second.
- Stitch sustained injuries in the August 2026 altercation that required veterinary care, which BAAB paid for from nonprofit funds (see Veterinary Coordination table below).
- A decision to euthanize an animal in municipal custody that BAAB has been actively marketing for adoption, and for which BAAB has funded veterinary care, was communicated to BAAB unilaterally and without written policy support. BAAB was not offered an opportunity to pull the animal into the BAAB rescue pipeline, place the animal with a behaviorist, or seek a sanctuary placement prior to a lethal outcome.

2. Foster placement — Aussie in Officer's personal residence

On August 28, 2026, Officer Larsen advised BAAB by email that an Australian Shepherd dog held at the municipal shelter for approximately one week had been placed with his personal parents to foster, that the animal may be kept by his family, and that BAAB was being asked to fund spay surgery and vaccinations for the animal. Officer Larsen's email is quoted verbatim below:

"I HAD THE AUSSIE IN THE SHELTER FOR ABOUT A WEEK NO ONE CAME BY ARE CALLED ABOUT THE DOG. I ASKED MY PARENTS IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO FOSTER HER THEY HAVE HER AT THEIR HOUSE RIGHT NOW. I CHECK ON THE DOG AND ALSO SEE HOW MY PARENTS ARE DOING WITH THE DOG, EVERYTHING IS GOING GOOD WITH I. THEY MIGHT BE KEEPING THE DOG LOL MY MOM WILL LET ME KNOW IF THEY WILL KEEP IT. I WAS CHECKING TO SEE IF BAABS COULD GET THE DOG FIXED AND ALL SHOTS FOR THE DOG. JUST LET ME KNOW AND THE OWNERS ON MIDNIGHT HAVE NEVER CALLED ARE GOT IN CONTACT WITH ME SO SHE IS READY TO GET ALL HER SHOTS AND FIXED TO. CRAZY NEEDS HIS DAY AT THE VET ALSO."

— Rodger Larsen, City of Sweeny Animal Control Officer, email to Leigh Ann Thornton, 8/28/2026

This arrangement raises several policy concerns:

- There is no documented foster application, home check, chain of custody, or written foster agreement covering the animal's placement in the Animal Control Officer's own family home.
- There is no written policy specifying whether a City employee may place an animal in the employee's own family residence, whether spay/neuter and vaccination costs incurred while the animal remains in that residence are the City's or BAAB's responsibility, and how a subsequent adoption to that same family would be authorized and recorded.
- BAAB is being asked to fund vet care for an animal that BAAB does not have in its rescue pipeline, that BAAB has not photographed or marketed, and that may ultimately be kept by the foster family without a formal adoption transaction.

3. Formal request to the City

BAAB respectfully requests that the City of Sweeny adopt written policies and procedures, and provide those written policies and procedures to BAAB, covering at minimum the following areas:

- Intake documentation and chain of custody for animals received into City custody.
- Foster placement — application, screening, home check, written foster agreement, and eligibility of City employees and their family members to serve as foster placements.

- Cost-sharing — a written protocol identifying which entity is financially responsible for spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchipping, heartworm prevention, and emergency veterinary care while an animal is in City custody, in foster, or in the BAAB rescue pipeline.
- Euthanasia authority — written criteria, required consultations (including BAAB when an animal is in BAAB's rescue pipeline or is receiving BAAB-funded veterinary care), and a documented review before any lethal decision is executed.
- Behavioral separation — written husbandry standard requiring that animals with documented altercations be separated during turnout, feeding, and handling.
- Adoption authorization — written process for adopting an animal out of City custody, including situations in which the foster is a City employee or a City employee's family member.

BAAB is prepared to share its own written policies and procedures with the City and to participate in a joint working session at the City's convenience.

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

For more than twenty-one (21) 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 through July 2026, and continues to be raised here. August 2026 activity — five (5) of eight (8) citizen calls related to cats and kittens — reinforces the trend. 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 August reporting period, construction on the new municipal animal shelter continued under STP Nuclear Operating Company craft and projects leadership, with volunteer support from the Sweeny ISD Interact Club and donor partners. Milestones achieved during the August window are as follows:

Trade	August Milestone	Status
Plumbing	All piping has been installed	Complete
HVAC	Two split units installed	Complete
Well	Well has been dug	Complete
Electrical	Coordination with well contractor continues; final trim in progress	In Progress
Site Work	On Track Construction dirt work and grading (donated) scheduled	In Progress

Concrete Sealing	STP SealGreen application to follow interior completion	Pending
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BAAB is deeply grateful to STP Nuclear Operating Company for its continued leadership on this build, and to the volunteer crews and donor partners whose work is directly reflected in the quality and pace of the August milestones. BAAB will continue to provide the City with progress updates as remaining 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 prior monthly reports and remains pending.

In addition, BAAB has been in contact with rescue organizations 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 the partnering rescue organizations so that transport may be scheduled in an orderly manner consistent with the MOU.

VETERINARY COORDINATION

During the August reporting period, BAAB incurred veterinary and training expenditures from nonprofit and CEO-personal funds as summarized below. No City funds were used.

Description	Vendor	Funding Source	Amount
Stitch — emergency veterinary care following altercation with Crazy while in City custody	Marsh Veterinary Clinic	BAAB nonprofit funds	\$140.40
Socks — continuation of professional board-and-train program (BAAB / CJ's Dog Training partnership)	CJ's Dog Training / boarding partner	Paid personally by Leigh Ann Thornton, CEO & Founder	\$2,000.00

Ongoing wellness and preventative care of BAAB-pipeline animals continues to be coordinated through Marsh Veterinary Clinic on an as-needed basis.

BAAB PROGRAMS — PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

The BAAB / CJ's Dog Training partnership continued during the August reporting period. Socks — the young pit-mix who served as the first proof of concept in July — remains in the full board-and-train program at the CJ's-affiliated pet resort in Alvin, Texas. Costs of \$2,000.00 for continued training and boarding during the August window were paid personally by BAAB's CEO and Founder, Leigh Ann Thornton. A potential adopter has been

identified and will be matched with Socks upon completion of the training program. No BAAB nonprofit funds and no City funds were used for this initiative.

BAAB continues to plan for the purchase of a professional exam and grooming table, agility and enrichment equipment, and benches for the outdoor enrichment areas of the new shelter facility, consistent with the July 2026 report.

YEAR-TO-DATE FUNDS PAID BY BAAB

The table below summarizes all funds paid by BAAB during the January through August 2026 reporting period in connection with City of Sweeny animal welfare matters. All BAAB expenses were paid in full from BAAB nonprofit funds. Personal expenditures made by BAAB's CEO and Founder in support of BAAB programs are identified separately. 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
August 2026	Stitch — emergency veterinary care following altercation in City custody	Marsh Veterinary Clinic	\$140.40
YTD Total (BAAB nonprofit funds)	All expenses paid from BAAB nonprofit funds — no City funds used.	—	\$1,640.89

Separately, BAAB's CEO and Founder has personally funded the following amounts in support of BAAB programs during 2026: \$3,200.00 (July — Socks board-and-train), \$50.00 (July — training leashes on CJ's recommendation), and \$2,000.00 (August — Socks continued board-and-train). These personal expenditures are outside BAAB nonprofit funds and outside City funds.

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.

Since the \$50,000.00 donation was delivered to the City in March 2024, and for nearly two (2) years running, BAAB has requested — on a recurring and repeated basis — an itemized statement of expenditures associated with that donation. These requests have been raised in successive monthly reports to the City, in direct written correspondence with the City Manager, and in discussions with City Council members. Despite this sustained record of requests over nearly two (2) years, no itemized statement, no vendor list, no dated disbursement schedule, and no line-item accounting has been provided to BAAB by the City. The only financial figures ever disclosed to BAAB regarding this donation are the two figures referenced above — \$34,500.00 (Stewart's Building, exterior shell) and \$659.43 (processing room framing materials) — from the City's written communication of November 6, 2025.

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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