

MONTHLY REPORT — JUNE 2026

Benji's Animal Adoption Barn

Monthly Project Report

June progress, the completion plan now underway, site items to address, and supplies inbound — a BAAB and City of Sweeny partnership update

Prepared by **Leigh Ann Thornton — Founder & CEO, Benji's Animal Adoption Barn**

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June 2026 in brief

June brought real momentum. The Interact Club spent the last two Fridays building out the shelter's outdoor enrichment in extreme heat, and — most importantly — the completion plan is now moving: STP is coordinating a discounted HVAC unit, a sheet-metal fabricator, and the kennel fix, with crews on site this week. Several site items still need attention, and supplies are inbound from STP.

This report includes both the good news and the open items, in the spirit of full transparency and partnership.

2 Fridays

Interact Club enrichment build days

This week

HVAC, vent system & kennel fix begin (Tue+)

~80%

Overall project completion

3 days/wk

Interact Club wants to volunteer once dogs arrive

Outdoor enrichment built by student volunteers

Over the last two Fridays, the Interact Club worked incredibly hard in extreme heat to build the shelter's outdoor enrichment area. The kids were absolute troopers in the heat — it was incredibly hot, and they never let up. They also visited and walked the seven dogs currently at the shelter, and put together all of the raised dog beds provided by STP.

Sensory garden

Planted with dog-friendly, scented plants for safe canine enrichment.

Shade structure

Provides critical relief from the Texas heat for the animals.

Tire obstacle course

Built for exercise, play, and physical enrichment.

Kiddie pools

Added for the dogs to cool off and play on hot days.



The Interact Club at the finished sensory garden



The completed sensory garden



Students planting on a Friday build day



Working the tire obstacle course area

THE STUDENTS WANT TO KEEP COMING BACK

Every one of the students loved it.

The children who volunteered had a wonderful experience — and they have asked to come back and volunteer at the shelter at least three days a week once the dogs move in. That is exactly the kind of community ownership this shelter was meant to create.

A lasting volunteer pipeline for the shelter's day-to-day care.

Seven dogs — already being cared for

Seven dogs are currently at the shelter, and the Interact Club students visited and walked each of them. BAAB provided ACO Rodger Larsen with the monthly heartworm prevention medicine, so all seven dogs are now up to date; two still need to be spayed/neutered. Care is already underway even as the building is finished.

BAAB supplied the heartworm prevention medicine to ACO Rodger Larsen, City of Sweeny — another example of BAAB directly supporting the animals' care.

7 dogs

Currently at the shelter — all walked by student volunteers

All 7

Up to date on heartworm meds — provided by BAAB

2 remaining

Still need to be spayed / neutered

The interior is taking shape

A look inside the completed building. The kennel runs are set along the interior wall, the raised dog beds — assembled by the Interact Club students — are in place, and the open bay doors let air and daylight into the space. This is the interior the completion work (HVAC, ventilation, and the kennel reinstall) is being finished around.



Kennel runs and raised beds inside the finished building



Kennel runs, raised beds, and the entry door — another view inside

Kennel fix, HVAC & ventilation moving this week

Good news: after I spoke with STP's project manager, he coordinated directly with Steve Linder, and a clear plan is now in motion. Crews will be at the shelter Tuesday and several other days this week to knock this out.

01

Discounted Packer (packaged) HVAC unit

A discounted Packer unit for both AC and heat with a 30-year warranty (STP + Steve Linder). Estimated at roughly \$8,000–\$10,000 — and STP will cover the cost.

02

Sheet-metal fabricator for the vent system

A sheet-metal fabricator is coming in to install the ventilation/vent system for the building.

03

Kennels turned right-side up

The kennels were installed upside-down (sharp edges at the bottom). They will be flipped and reinstalled correctly so the dogs' paws will not get hurt.

04

On site this week

Crews will be out at the shelter on Tuesday and several other days this week to get this work completed.

Kennels were installed upside-down

For full documentation: the kennel panels were installed upside-down — a condition BAAB found and is reporting, not the result of any BAAB work. Chain-link is made with a smooth, rounded (“knuckled”) edge and a sharp, cut (“twisted”) edge. The rounded edge belongs at the bottom, at floor level — instead, the sharp edge was left at the bottom, right where the dogs' paws and legs are, and the rounded edge sits at the top. Every kennel run is affected, so STP will take down all of the kennels and reinstall them correctly as part of the completion plan.

Why it matters

As installed, the sharp cut ends sit where the animals stand — a paw-entrapment and injury hazard. STP will flip and reinstall the panels so the finished, smooth edge is at the bottom and no animal can be hurt.



Rounded “knuckled” edge left at the TOP — the reverse of a safe install



Sharp cut wire ends at the BOTTOM, at paw level; panel also separating

Three items to address

01

Dirt work — low spots in the backyard

There are some low-lying places in the backyard that hold water and need dirt work. I already shared with David the name of the contractor who does this dirt work.

02

Fence struck and bent — needs repair

Someone hit the fence — it looks like it was struck by a tractor, as there were red paint marks on it. The top of the fence is bent and has come out of position. This section will need to be repaired.

03

Concrete beginning to chip — no equipment in the kennel

I spoke with Rodger and kindly asked that equipment not be parked in the kennel, as it is already starting to chip the concrete. We must take care of this finished slab.

Photos of the fence damage and the chipped concrete are available upon request.

What's being delivered to outfit the shelter

The interior is coming together. STP will deliver the following office and operational supplies, and BAAB will secure the exam table.

Delivered by STP

- Desk & full office setup
- Office printer
- Computer
- Chair
- Storage cabinet (metal)

All of these items are being provided by STP at no cost to the shelter's operating budget. In addition, the water well donated by Finch Water Well Service should be underway soon — I understand he is backed up from all the rain last week.

Secured by BAAB

- Fold-up exam table

This satisfies the State's stainless exam-table requirement for the processing area. BAAB is covering this item directly, so it does not add to the City's project cost — one more example of BAAB stepping in to help the shelter reach the finish line.

Items carried from prior months

01

Fence panel separating at a seam

A previously installed fence section is coming apart at a seam. I do not know who installed this fence — the in-kind donor I had lined up let his offer expire after a year of standing by, due to the shelter delays — so it was not installed by the donor trade I arranged, leaving BAAB exposed to labor costs that could have been avoided.

02

No itemized accounting received

BAAB has requested an itemized accounting every month since Nov 2025 and still has no actual number — no statement, no invoice. BAAB deals in exact numbers and needs a precise, itemized accounting of every dollar spent.

03

Over-budget amount — still unknown

BAAB has been told the project went over budget but has never been given a dollar figure. BAAB stands ready to reimburse any documented overage — but cannot act on a number no one will provide.

04

BAAB will hold another fundraiser — no taxpayer funds needed

To make certain no taxpayer dollars are used, BAAB will hold another fundraiser to cover any documented overage. None of this would have been necessary had BAAB been contacted before the project went over budget — BAAB would have stepped in first, just as it always has.

05

Communication timeline

After no contact from Nov 6, 2025, BAAB first learned of the overage by phone on June 1, 2026, and reported to Council at the EDC meeting on June 2 that STP would fund completion — within ~24 hours.

IN PARTNERSHIP

We are close — and moving.

With the HVAC, ventilation, and kennel work starting this week, and the enrichment area already taking shape, the shelter is genuinely close to welcoming animals. BAAB remains fully committed — resources, relationships, and volunteers — to finishing this the right way, for the animals who have already waited far too long.

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