

From: [Brandi Scheffer](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Ordinance 250188. Please attach
Date: Monday, March 3, 2025 11:36:39 PM

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Dear Council,

As a volunteer with KCPP, and a victim of their animal services neglect as a resident of District 5, I urge you to bring Animal Control back to the city. I have experienced firsthand in my neighborhood, the drastic difference between Animal Control run by the city and animal services run by KCPP. We are drowning in pitbull puppies, ordinances are not being upheld, calls are not being answered, strays are not being picked up and dangerous dogs are not being addressed. It's a disgrace.

This has not been a failure of leadership, which, as you know, was replaced after Chris Culbertson was killed, but this is actually a failure of approach. Kansas City pet project is one of the organizations under HASS (Human Animal Services Support Project) that is approaching Animal Control with a non-enforcement ideology.

Their website defines their mission as "a widespread effort to redefine animal services facilitated by American Pets Alive." We have seen the effects of their redefinition and it has failed. Someone died. This approach has also been failing in many of the other cities that it is being experimented in as well.

As for the the current leadership has been meeting with you and making all kinds of promises, KCPP is still a proud member of the HAAS umbrella and these two people are merely placeholders. They will be leaving in a few months and leaving KCPP with the same type of leadership, under the same banner as we had before. Nothing is going to change. KCPP has been proud of the work that they have been doing with animal services. If you look back through their social media posts, every month they were bragging about what a wonderful job they've been doing. They have seen nothing wrong, this entire time, with the amount of strays still left on the streets, with the lack of citations issued, etc. Even the new leadership has posted about what a wonderful job Animal Services has been doing. Meanwhile, complaints have been flooding in from all over the city, as I am sure you are all well aware. Volunteers and fosters who have dared to speak out publicly about Animal Services failures or issues have been fired.

I was charged an aggressive Pitbull on my own property and my dog fought him off. Later, he wouldn't let me out of my house and I had to call a manager at KCPP to physically go into the Animal Services office and make them send someone out to my house (the only way to get someone to respond based on my experiences in district 5). No report was ever written. The dog has charged multiple neighbors and is not neutered. No follow up was ever done. No citation was written.

Furthermore, it is a clear conflict of interest. They deliberately don't pick up strays or allow people to surrender dogs when the shelter is full. This is unacceptable. Also, they have publicly come out against the ordinance which requires all Pitbulls to be spayed and neutered.

As someone who knows many of the previous cruelty investigators and animal services staff, on behalf of them, as well as myself, we implore you to take the contract away from a private organization who is completely ill-equipped to serve the city in this way. No private organization can tackle the dog fighting rings that have been flourishing under KCPP's policy of intentionally ignoring them. Staff have been forbidden to investigate. There are lists of houses that they don't respond to calls about. This is unacceptable.

I could fill pages and pages with all of the failures to people and to the pets of KC but I know that several of you have your own firsthand accounts.

Please take the contract back. Every month KCPP has the contract is another month of neglect.

Sincerely,
Brandi Scheffer