Dr. Fred L. McGHEE
for Austin City Council District 3

AUSTIN NO KILL COALITION
<u>2014 City Council Candidate Questionnaire</u>

1. Since February 2011, Austin's open-admission municipal animal shelter has saved 90% or more of all impounded animals, making Austin the largest "No Kill" City in the United States. But success in the past does not guarantee success in the future, and there is always room for improvement. How important is the City's "No Kill" status to you? If the issue were to come before the Council again, will you commit to maintaining the City's resolve to be a "No Kill" community? Why or why not?

   I support Austin maintaining its no kill status. Going further, I also support life-cycle documenting of what happens to the animals brought into the system and making that data publicly available.

2. In 2007, the City Council voted to build a new animal shelter in East Austin but only upon the condition that an adoption center remain on the old Town Lake Animal Center site. The Council has repeatedly voted that it wishes the current tenant of the site, Austin Pets Alive, to remain on the site, but the building is old and deteriorating. Given that APA saves three to four thousand animals from Austin Animal Center each year (15-20% of AAC intake), and given that APA is willing to build a new, state-of-the-art shelter on the site at no cost to city taxpayers, will you commit to supporting APA signing a long-term agreement with the city to build and operate a new, streamlined shelter as its headquarters on the site with a two-acre footprint (cutting in half its current footprint of four acres)? Why or why not?

   While I strongly support the good work that APA performs in our community, I cannot commit to this at the present time. This conversation will be heavily influenced by the political realities of our new 10-1 political structure, and I will have to caucus with leaders in my district as well as with the other councilmembers before adopting a firmer and more final position. I have an open mind and currently do not have a position.

3. In 2010, the City Council passed a "No Kill" plan for the City of Austin that has produced dramatic, measurable, and positive outcomes for Austin's shelter pets. The "No Kill" plan took a balanced approach aimed at both increasing "live outcomes" and decreasing shelter intake through proven and cost-effective policies and programs. However, some persons in town who oppose Austin's "No Kill" efforts want the City to instead pass a mandatory pet alteration law or a costly tax on owners of unaltered pets---even though such laws have proven ineffective across the country, are nearly uniformly opposed by national animal-welfare groups, and have frequently led to increases in shelter intake, killing, and animal-control costs. Do you support the current balanced "No Kill" approach embraced by the Council and "No Kill" advocates? Or, are you willing to risk the progress Austin has made by imposing a mandatory alteration law?

   I do not support mandatory spay/neuter laws and favor our current no kill approach.

4. The largest category of "savable" animals still not making it out of Austin Animal Center alive are high-energy large dogs in need of behavior training. These dogs often take the longest time to be adopted, and they are also often surrendered to the city shelter due to apartment or

neighborhood housing restrictions that discriminate based on breed or size. Would you be willing to explore ways to change housing restrictions so that they are based on an individual animal's behavior rather than on its size and apparent breed? At the least, would you be willing to condition city contributions (such as money or land) to residential developers on an agreement that they not discriminate based on an animal's breed or size? Why or why not?

As a city council member I am *always* prepared to engage in conversations such as this. But I would need more information about how something like this would actually work in practice.

5. What pets, if any, do you have? Where did you get them from?

Two rescue dogs, one a Greyhound/Saluki mix, the other a Saluki adopted from Saluki Rescue. Here are photos and their Dogster profile:

Gramercy:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/970761868/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/970761184/in/photostream/lightbox/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/969904019/in/photostream/lightbox/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/970773616/in/photostream/lightbox/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/969917303/in/photostream/lightbox/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/969920575/in/photostream/lightbox/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/970857088/
Gramercy's Dogster Profile:
http://www.dogster.com/dogs/23487

Chelsea
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/970824854/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/969965567/in/photostream/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/969956029/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/969956187/in/photostream/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisa_goddard/970812540/in/photostream/
Chelsea's Dogster Profile:
http://www.dogster.com/dogs/72129

Gramercy was aggressive and was rehabilitated through 2 years of personalized day and overnight work with Lee Mannix. My wife Lisa Goddard has been a longtime supporter of STOLA. (www.stola.org).

Lastly, meet my Jack Russell Terrier mix Bean (2005-2008). I still miss her. Adopted in Corpus Christi from a friend.