

GALVESTON COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

John Zendt
Chair, United Board of Health

Harlan "Mark" Guidry, MD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer



Warren J. Holland III
Chief Operating Officer

Kathy Barroso
Chief Financial Officer

GCHD Animal Services DATA LIMITATIONS December 2012

1. Data prior to June 6, 2011 was manually kept and subject to human error.
2. Data in Shelter Pro began to be maintained on June 7, 2011. An internal audit of the software data was conducted by business staff in December 2012 when it was found to have 260 animals that were not properly accounted for in our Shelter Management system, and not in the ARC. The statuses of these animals are unknown. They could have been released to rescue groups, fostered, transferred to another shelter or euthanized. However, when animals are euthanized, other required state records would reflect such.
3. Without entering every animal into the software that enters ARC, any calculated euthanasia rate would be falsely higher than actual.
4. For animals euthanized, the reasons why are not currently documented. Currently according to policy, animals subject to euthanasia are injured, diseased, unwanted unadoptable, dangerous, vicious and threatening the safety of public/staff, or submitted by an owner for euthanasia, etc.
5. When comparing euthanasia rates with other entities, it is important to note that ARC is not able to refuse animals coming into ARC. In addition, the outside drop-off area is used frequently by citizens who may or may not reside in areas covered by the inter-local agreement.
6. Detailed reports for some cities may be inaccurate due to shared city and zip code mailing addresses. One example is citizens in San Leon and Bacliff have a Dickinson zip code, so staff will have to go address by address through CAD to verify which city the animal is from.

As a result of the internal audit and data quality problems, GCHD will retrain staff on the importance of complete and accurate data entry for all animals that enter or leave the ARC and will perform periodic audits to assure improvements.