

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL


GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division

Lori Sowle, Assistant Director
General Services Department - Animal Care & Control

THRU: Council President Mary Sheffield

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: January 16, 2025

RE: Strategies for Managing Stray Animals

During the Public Health and Safety Standing committee on Monday, November 25, 2025, Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero raised several questions regarding the influx of stray animals in the City of Detroit. This issue has had a significant impact on the safety and well-being of families, residents, and local businesses.

As a result, it's important to get a comprehensive understanding of the City's current animal care and control ecosystem to develop effective solutions that protect both residents and animals.

Please provide a detailed response to the following questions:

1. What is the City's current strategy for managing the stray animal population, and what actions are being taken to reduce their numbers?
 - a. Does the City have an established spay and neuter program? If not, what plans are in place to implement such a program?
 - b. Please provide a breakdown of the estimated costs to include staffing and equipment needs for the program.
2. Is there an ongoing educational campaign aimed at raising awareness among residents about responsible pet care and the importance of spaying and neutering?
3. What is the broader network of animal care providers operating outside of the City's department, including local rescue organizations, state agencies, and other community partners?

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

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Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council
Louise Jones, City Clerk's Office
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison