



**General Services
Department**

General Services Department
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To: Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council
From: Crystal Perkins, Director, General Services Department
Date: March 25, 2025
Re: Responses to 2025-2026 GSD Budget Analysis

Please find below responses to your questions sent on 3/19/2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the General Services Department.

1. What is the status of the stray animal management program? How many stray animals were managed by the department last year? What is the process of receiving and treating stray animals?

The Animal Care & Control Division actively patrols neighborhoods to remove stray dogs from city streets and responds promptly to resident calls regarding loose animals. In 2024, the department impounded 3,868 dogs, including both stray dogs and owned dogs that were found loose and could not be reunited with their owners prior to impoundment.

Once retrieved, stray animals are transported to the shelter for intake and assessment. The intake process begins with a basic evaluation by our animal care staff, followed by a comprehensive examination by our veterinary team. This includes vaccinations, deworming, and flea & tick treatment to ensure the health and well-being of the animals in our care.

2. The City of Detroit is seeing an increase in coyotes, possums, and other wildlife? Are any studies or plans being considered for animal management as we attempt to increase the population in the City?

Wildlife management in the City of Detroit is primarily overseen by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). MDNR is responsible for wildlife conservation, management, enforcement, and responding to significant wildlife concerns, including cases involving protected species, hunting regulations, and human-wildlife conflicts.

The Detroit Animal Care and Control (DACC) primarily focuses on domestic animals but assists with nuisance wildlife by referring residents to the appropriate agency. Additionally, our Parks & Public Spaces team collaborates with MDNR to manage and preserve wildlife within city parks and green spaces, ensuring a balanced coexistence between nature and the community.



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3. What services are provided for emergency animal care? How many people are on staff for animal control? Are additional hours needed for animal care services? What happens if there is an animal emergency after 4pm?

Our in-house team provides comprehensive emergency animal care services to ensure the well-being of animals in our shelter. These services include:

- Immediate First Aid & Stabilization – Administering prompt medical attention to injured or distressed animals.
- Emergency Medical Treatment – Addressing critical health concerns with necessary interventions.
- Triage & Veterinary Coordination – Assessing the severity of medical cases and coordinating with veterinarians as needed.
- Quarantine & Disease Control – Implementing protocols to prevent the spread of illness and ensure the health of all shelter animals.
- Humane Euthanasia – Providing compassionate and ethical end-of-life care when necessary.

Our Animal Care & Control Division operates with a dedicated staff of 80 professionals, ensuring the shelter is staffed 24/7. If an animal emergency arises after 4 PM, on-site staff are available to respond immediately and provide the necessary care.