

## **Rio Grande Valley Humane Society Announces Urgent Actions to Address Shelter Overcapacity and Animal Welfare Concerns**

Mission Texas January 29<sup>th</sup> – The Rio Grande Valley Humane Society (RGVHS) is addressing a critical situation at its shelter, as recent evaluations have revealed that the facility has reached overcapacity, resulting in overcrowding and a strain on resources. In response to this urgent concern, the organization has implemented immediate measures to reduce intake, improve conditions, and expedite the adoption, foster, and rescue processes.

To assist with this critical situation, RGVHS has partnered with a national non-profit animal welfare organization Best Friends Animal Society, who have staff on the ground to evaluate the shelter's conditions, provide necessary medical care for the animals, and offer guidance on how to best resolve and prevent this from happening again. In the past two weeks that Best Friends has been with us, all animals have received the care they needed and many have already been transported to outside rescue groups for permanent placement.

Once the board members of RGVHS were made aware of the concerns at the shelter a decision was made to remove the current leadership and bring in Best Friends because of their well-established expertise in the area of shelter operations. This step, though difficult, was necessary to ensure the welfare of the animals and to restore public trust in the organization's ability to manage its resources effectively. We take the welfare of every animal under our care very seriously, and we are committed to making the difficult decisions necessary to improve the shelter's operations.

Overcrowding in shelters is an unfortunate reality that many organizations face, but we are committed to making the changes necessary to ensure that we are providing the best possible care for the animals in our charge. We are grateful for the expertise that Best Friends is providing during this time of transition and are confident that with their help, we will restore the shelter to appropriate capacity levels and ensure more animals are placed in loving homes.

The City of Mission has exercised their right to end the shelter contract with RGVHS. RGVHS will work closely with the City of Mission for the next 60 days during this transitional period, focusing on returning the shelter our high standard level of care. We thank the city for their support and partnership.

In order not to jeopardize the integrity of any ongoing investigation, we would refer any questions to the Mission Police Department.