

As of Thursday, January 9, 2025, Franklin County Humane Society (FCHS) will no longer be able to accept stray animals brought to its shelter by citizens and police officers of the city of Union. FCHS regrets having to take this step, but has determined it necessary due to the following:

FCHS provides the essential service of animal control under contract with the city of Union. For over 15 years, FCHS and the city have had a productive and positive partnership caring for the area's orphaned and lost pets. FCHS faces a financial shortfall almost every year. In 2024, its deficit was especially severe. Union has been paying FCHS rates established prior to 2009. FCHS cannot afford to care for animals from the city without the increased compensation under the new contract. FCHS proposed a new contract to Union in May 2024. The fee increase in the new contract is the first FCHS has requested in the 15 year relationship it has had with Union. Unfortunately, after six months of discussions, a revised agreement could not be reached with the city. In November 2024, the FCHS board of directors submitted to Union its 60-day notice of termination of the existing contract. To continue operating as the animal control provider for the city under the current compensation would be fiscally irresponsible for the long-term operation of FCHS and the animals it serves. FCHS's three other municipal partners have approved the new contract. Citizens desiring to bring stray animals to the shelter from within Union city limits will be referred to the Union police department which is responsible for animal control. Citizens surrendering their owned animals to the shelter will be charged a set surrender fee.

This is a decision that FCHS does not take lightly, and the organization will continue to work with the city of Union to reach agreement under the terms of the new contract. The organization encourages citizens of Union to contact Union city officials with any questions or concerns regarding animal control. The phone number for Union City Hall is (636) 583-3600.

Franklin County Humane Society is a nonprofit independent animal shelter, funded through donations, fundraisers, adoption fees, and grants. It is not supported by federal, state, or county governments, the United Way, the Humane Society of Missouri or any other animal welfare organizations.

