

**JOINT ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 12TH, 2024 AT 5:30PM
IN-PERSON AND REMOTE MEETING
CITY OF LACEY – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
420 COLLEGE STREET SE, LACEY, WA 98503**

In-person attendance: Lacey City Council Chambers, 420 College St SE, Lacey WA 98503

Remote attendance: You may register in advance to view and/or provide public comment at the JASCOM meeting by watching live on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86989578902>

The public may also listen to the meeting by dialing toll-free:
(888) 788-0099 - **Webinar ID: 869 8957 8902**

Watch live or as a recording on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhNeOmQoZkQ>

CALL TO ORDER:

1 ROLL CALL:

Board Members:

- ☐ Lisa Parshley, City of Olympia – Chair
- ☐ Peter Agabi, City of Tumwater – Vice Chair
- ☐ Malcolm Miller, City of Lacey
- ☐ Emily Clouse, Thurston County
- ☐ Jo MacGugan, Feline Friends of Olympia
- ☐ Vicky Smith, DVM, Deschutes Animal Clinic
- ☐ Mike Murphy, DVM, Thurston County Humane Society

Animal Services Staff:

- ☐ Sarah Hock, Executive Director

City of Lacey Staff:

- ☐ Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA, Previous Meeting Minutes, and Consent Items:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. December 4th, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- C. 2023 Shelter Statistics
- D. January 2024 Shelter Statistics

3 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4 PUBLIC COMMENT:

To provide public comment by Zoom, please use the “raise your hand” function.
To provide public comment by phone, please press *9.

5 BUSINESS ITEMS:

- A. Positive Outcomes Programming Presentation
Bekka Kraai, Positive Outcomes Coordinator
- B. 2023 in review for Joint Animal Services
Sarah Hock, Executive Director

6 DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- A. Director’s Report

7 ADJOURN

VISION:

Our vision is to build a safe and humane community for humans and animals.

MISSION:

To foster an environment of respect, responsibility, and compassion for all animals through learning, legislation and leadership.

GOALS:

- Ensure and advocate for animal welfare.
- Promote public safety.
- Support responsible animal ownership.

MINUTES OF THE JASCOM MEETING
December 4, 2024
In-Person and Remote JASCOM Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Parshley, City of Olympia; Peter Agabi, City of Tumwater; Ed Kunkel, City of Lacey; Jo MacGugan, Feline Friends of Olympia; Vicky Smith, Deschutes Animal Clinic

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Hock, Executive Director of Joint Animal Services

STAFF LIAISON: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

MEETING BEGAN: 5:32 PM meeting called to order by Chair Parshley

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA, PREVIOUS
MINUTES, AND
CONSENT
ITEMS:**

COUNCIL MEMBER KUNKEL MOVED THAT THE AGENDA, PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES, AND CONSENT ITEMS BE ACCEPTED. MEMBER MCGUGAN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING: Public hearing on the 2024 AS Budget began at 5:35 PM
Public hearing adjourned at 5:36 PM

BUSINESS ITEMS: JOINT ANIMAL SERVICES 2024 BUDGET

Hock put forth the 2024 Proposed Joint Animal Services Budget of \$3,829,540 for approval by JASCOM. Discussion ensued.

COUNCIL MEMBER KUNKEL MOVED THAT THE 2024 JOINT ANIMAL SERVICES BUDGET BE ACCEPTED. COUNCIL MEMBER AGABI SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2024 JASCOM MEETING SCHEDULE

Hock presented the updated meeting schedule for JASCOM in 2024. Moving the meetings to the 2nd Monday of the month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Sarah Hock presented the Director's report highlighting Santa Paws and piloting the new Day Foster Program.

STAFF

PRESENTATIONS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 5:53 PM

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:30 PM, In-Person and Virtual Meeting

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD23	YTD22
INCOMING ANIMALS														
Total Animals Received (live and doa)														
Dogs	73	93	80	86	92	89	97	86	83	110	90	90	1,069	991
Cats	88	89	66	249	196	172	175	171	155	156	110	112	1,739	1,259
Other	7	6	3	6	9	18	11	69	5	1	2	1	138	248
Wild	5	40	20	15	15	22	12	14	9	17	8	5	182	126
TOTAL	173	228	169	356	312	301	295	340	252	284	210	208	3,128	2,624
														19.2%
Custody-Misc Reasons														
Dogs	3	1	0	2	6	5	5	3	1	1	7	8	42	44
Cats	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	3	0	2	0		12	10
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	0	0	1		63	11
TOTAL	4	1	0	2	11	6	5	68	1	3	8	8	117	65
														80.0%
Strays Received														
Dogs	48	63	57	62	66	62	79	63	66	23	64	65	718	653
Cats	47	48	51	79	106	100	130	156	130	121	94		1,062	960
Other	6	15	3	2	2	6	5	1	1	1	0		42	150
TOTAL	101	126	111	143	174	168	214	220	197	145	158	65	1,822	1,763
														3.3%
Owner Surrendered														
Dogs	22	27	22	22	20	22	13	18	16	11	19	16	228	289
Cats	40	24	14	167	73	71	45	12	25	21	13		505	281
Other	1	5	0	2	4	5	1	4	3	0	1		26	85
TOTAL	63	56	36	191	97	98	59	34	44	32	33	16	759	655
														15.9%
Owner Status Refused														
Unsocialized pets that have lived on the person's property 14 days or more, but the person denies ownership.														
Dogs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WILDLIFE HANDLED														
Incoming														
Live	1	2	12	11	7	16	7	6	3	5	4	3	77	56
Doa	4	4	8	4	8	6	5	4	0	12	4		59	70
TOTAL	5	6	20	15	15	22	12	10	3	17	8	3	136	126
														7.9%
Outgoing														
Doa	4	4	8	4	8	6	5	4	0	12	4	2	61	101
Euthanized (sick/inj)	1	2	11	4	4	14	5	6	3	4	3		57	46
Died	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		2	0
Bat-Rabies check	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1	0
Released/Transferred	0	0	0	6	3	1	1	1	0	1	1		14	6
TOTAL	5	6	19	15	15	22	12	11	3	17	8	2	135	153
OUTGOING ANIMALS														
Total Animals Out, incl all categories below														
Dogs	73	90	75	84	93	83	95	90	92	114	114	102	1,105	981
Cats	86	90	67	107	213	185	183	163	205	163	126	149	1,737	1,263
Other	13	24	11	12	7	8	9	8	14	49	2	0	157	217
Wild	5	6	19	14	15	22	11	14	3	17	8	5	139	154
Died, esc, stolen	2	1	1	7	3	5	2	5	0	1	0	1	28	29
TOTAL	179	211	172	217	328	298	298	275	314	344	250	257	3,166	2,644
														19.7%
Animals Adopted														
Dogs	20	30	20	29	34	35	40	32	34	45	38	36	393	285
Cats	41	56	29	26	96	104	125	87	135	91	81	82	953	810
Other	12	13	9	11	10	6	8	13	1	7	0	0	90	161
TOTAL	73	99	58	66	140	145	173	132	170	143	119	118	1,436	1,256
														14.3%
Animals Transferred														
Dogs	6	4	11	7	6	1	2	2	2	6	6	9	62	105
Cats	18	10	14	41	83	24	28	21	22	31	9	32	333	132
Other	0	0	1	6	0	2	1	0	1	39	1	0	51	15
Total	24	14	26	54	89	27	31	23	25	76	16	41	446	252
														77.0%
Animals Reclaimed														
Dogs	25	30	24	24	34	23	34	28	27	31	26	25	331	312
Cats	2	0	3	3	2	1	3	11	9	6	5	4	49	47
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
TOTAL	27	30	27	27	36	24	37	39	36	37	31	29	380	366
														3.8%
Animals DOA														
Dogs	4	11	4	5	3	7	0	6	6	11	5	5	67	45
Cats	12	16	11	22	10	22	13	23	14	5	8	10	166	105
Other	4	14	8	5	8	6	5	6	1	13	5	2	77	105
TOTAL	20	41	23	32	21	35	18	35	21	29	18	17	310	255
														21.6%
All Euthanasia, Died, Escaped, Stolen (from pg 2)														
Dogs	18	15	16	19	15	17	19	20	23	21	24	18	225	233
Cats	11	8	10	12	15	33	27	22	21	16	12	11	198	153
Other	2	3	12	4	7	16	12	8	5	8	4	3	84	73
Died, esc, stolen	2	1	1	7	3	5	2	5	3	1	0	1	31	32
Total	33	27	39	42	40	71	60	55	52	46	40	33	538	491
														9.6%
EUTHANASIA, DIED, ESCAPED, STOLEN														
Animals Euthanized														
Unhealthy/Untreatable														
Dogs	13	13	12	12	7	10	15	20	15	15	16	13	161	214
Cats	11	7	10	8	5	27	12	12	12	12	9	9	134	112
Other	2	3	11	4	7	16	7	6	5	8	4	3	76	74

	Dogs	2	0	3	3	1	1	2	6	2	4	4	4	32	12
	Cats	0	0	1	4	6	5	0	1	7	1	2	1	28	34
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Treatable - Manageable															
	Dogs	3	2	1	4	7	1	2	1	6	2	4	1	34	8
	Cats	0	1	0	0	4	3	2	3	2	3	1	1	20	6
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Healthy															
	Dogs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SUB-TOTAL	31	26	38	35	37	63	40	50	49	45	40	32	486	462 5.2%
Owner Request (E5)															
	Dogs	13	13	13	14	8	12	10	11	7	5	8	10	124	180
	Cats	11	5	10	6	5	9	5	3	5	9	5	7	80	95
	Other	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	9	12
	SUB-TOTAL	25	19	23	20	14	21	16	16	14	14	14	17	213	287 -25.8%
TOTAL EUTHANASIA		31	26	38	35	37	63	40	50	49	45	40	32	486	462 5.2%
Died At Shelter		2	1	0	7	2	0	2	5	3	0	0	1	23	23
Escaped/Stolen		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
FIELD AND OTHER SERVICES															
Animals Currently															
Court Involved	Dogs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Cats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	0	0	0	0	62	0
Field Response															
	Olympia	25	33	46	34	60	46	77	76	52	66	39	42	596	485 22.9%
	Lacey	33	26	36	50	63	47	52	55	38	51	31	37	519	495 4.8%
	Tumwater	15	7	14	16	20	23	24	44	15	20	16	12	226	166 36.1%
	Thurston County	72	66	73	86	90	104	96	103	91	85	62	76	1,004	977 2.8%
	JBLM	1	0	2	1	4	2	2	4	4	0	5	2	27	27 0.0%
	Other	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	5	1	5	4	0	23	15 53.3%
	Yelm	6	8	3	7	5	16	11	8	8	11	3	6	92	71 29.6%
	SUB TOTAL	153	141	174	195	242	239	266	295	209	238	160	175	2,487	2,236 11.2%
PDD/DD Appeals		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4

Animal Services Shelter Statistics 2022

			24-Jan	23-Jan				
Intake								
Total Animals Received (live and doa)								
		Dogs	78	73				
		Cats	74	88				
		Other	2	7				
		Wild	7	5				
		TOTAL	161	173				
Custody-Misc Reasons								
		Dogs	2	3				
		Cats	1	1				
		Other	0	0				
		TOTAL	3	4				
Strays Received								
		Dogs	51	48				
		Cats	57	47				
		Other	2	6				
		TOTAL	110	101				
Owner Surrendered								
		Dogs	25	22				
		Cats	12	40				
		Other	0	1				
		TOTAL	37	63				
Owner Status Refused								
		Dogs	0	0				
		Cats	0	0				
		Other	0	0				
		TOTAL	0	0				
WILDLIFE HANDLED								
Incoming								
		Live	2	1				
		Doa	5	4				
		TOTAL	7	5				
Outgoing								
		Doa	5	4				
		Euthanized (sick/inj)	2	1				
		Died	0	0				
		Bat-Rabies check	0	0				
		Released/Transferred	0	0				
		TOTAL	7	5				
Outgoing Animals								
Total Animals Out, incl all categories below								
			24-Jan	23-Jan				
		Dogs	108	73				
		Cats	105	86				
		Other	2	13				
		Wild	7	5				
		Died, esc, stolen	6	2				
		TOTAL	228	179				
Animals Adopted								
		Dogs	29	20				
		Cats	1 of 3 60	41				

Animal Services Shelter Statistics 2022

		Other	1	12				
		TOTAL	90	73				
		Animals Transferred						
		Dogs	11	6				
		Cats	9	18				
		Other	0	0				
		Total	20	24				
		Animals Reclaimed						
		Dogs	21	25				
		Cats	4	2				
		Other	0	0				
		TOTAL	25	27				
		Animals DOA						
		Dogs	6	4				
		Cats	13	12				
		Other	0	4				
		TOTAL	24	20				
		All Euthanasia, Died, Escaped, Stolen (from pg 2)						
		Dogs	21	18				
		Cats	6	11				
		Other	3	2				
		Died, esc, stolen	6	2				

Animal Services Shelter Statistics 2022

		Total	36	33				
			24-Jan	23-Jan				
EUTHANASIA, DIED, ESCAPED, STOLEN								
Animals Euthanized								
Unhealthy/Untreatable								
		Dogs	17	13				
		Cats	4	11				
		Other	3	2				
Treatable - Rehabilitatable								
		Dogs	1	2				
		Cats	1	0				
		Other	0	0				
Treatable - Manageable								
		Dogs	3	3				
		Cats	1	0				
		Other	0	0				
Healthy								
		Dogs	0	0				
		Cats	0	0				
		Other	0	0				
		SUB-TOTAL	30	31				
Owner Request (E5)								
		Dogs	14	13				
		Cats	3	11				
		Other	0	1				
		SUB-TOTAL	17	25				
TOTAL EUTHANASIA								
			30	31				
Died At Shelter								
			6	2				
Escaped/Stolen								
			0	0				
FIELD AND OTHER SERVICES								
Animals Currently								
			24-Jan	23-Jan				
Court Involved								
		Dogs	0	0				
		Cats	0	0				
		Other	0	0				
Field Response								
		Olympia	41	25				
		Lacey	39	33				
		Tumwater	14	15				
		Thurston County	93	72				
		JBLM	2	1				
		Other	5	1				
		Yelm	10	6				
		SUB TOTAL	204	153				



Joint Animal Services Commission Director's report

February 12th, 2024

Operations

Staffing Update

We are making steady progress in filling up the vacancies at JAS. Our Customer Service Specialist team is fully staffed, and we recently welcomed a new member in January. Our Animal Care team is also fully staffed, and a new team member joined in late December. We have made two contingent job offers for FSOs on our Field Team, and we are currently in the final stages of making contingent offers for both the Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator and Veterinary Assistant positions.

Animal Arts

Animal Arts, along with Team Shelter USA, hosted a Needs Assessment Workshop and visited the existing facility Joint Animal Services from December 13 to 15, 2023. The team discussed the needs and vision for an expanded, updated facility that could serve the organization and community. The attendees included the Capital Projects Engineer for the City of Lacey, shelter staff, and essential volunteers. The workshop aimed to gather critical data to identify space needs and additional information for programming and adjacencies to be completed in Task 2 of this project. This plan would serve as the foundation for future infrastructure planning and development.

Regional Meetings: Thurston County Commissioner Meeting 1/11/2024

The Board of County Commissioners has asked for updates on field services data in unincorporated Thurston County every quarter. In 2022, the BoCC voted to return to full services after being on modified services for 20 years. During that period, JAS reduced the number of call types that would be serviced in the county, resulting in a reduction of the amount paid specifically towards our field department.

At the meeting, it was requested that JAS look into the following:

1. **What are other counties in Washington are doing for livestock animal control?**
JAS has reached out to Municipal Research and Services (MRSC) to see if they can provide any information on this topic.
2. **What are some possibilities if Thurston County were to consider receiving less than full service?**



ANIMAL SERVICES

Joint Animal Services Commission Director's report

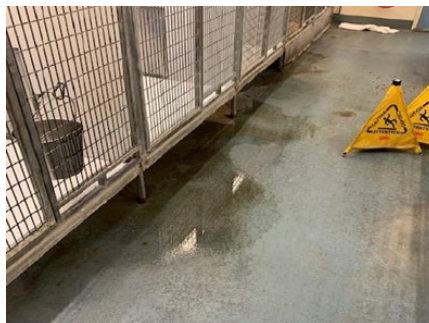
Answering this question will require additional diligence on the long-term impacts of changes on the organization (e.g., staffing, facilities, ILA, etc.) and what services are priorities for Thurston County.

Dog Adoption Kennel Renovation

In September of 2022, JASCOM approved the inclusion of renovation costs for the dog adoption kennels in the budget. The kennels were severely rusted from underneath, leading to animal waste-contaminated water leaking out onto the floor. This created a slip hazard and direct contact with waste for staff and visitors. Slow leaks from the drain terminations had allowed water to drip onto the floor for hours after rinsing, making repairs to the drain system difficult as there was no material in some areas for new caulking to adhere to. These kennels were installed in the building 28 years ago during its original renovation to house a shelter.

After major plumbing repairs in Q1 of 2023, JAS and the City of Lacey proceeded with the request for proposal (RFP) to renovate. In January 2024, the adoption kennels were demolished, and new kennels meeting *Standards of Care* were installed. The total cost to purchase the kennels and the renovation was \$290,000.

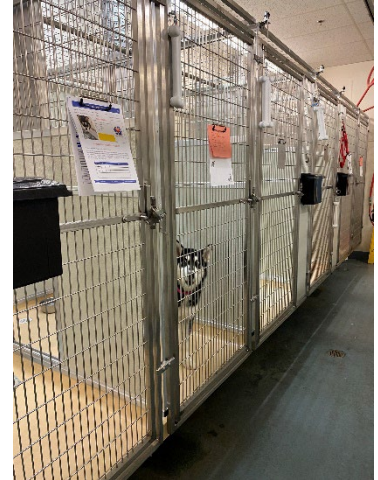
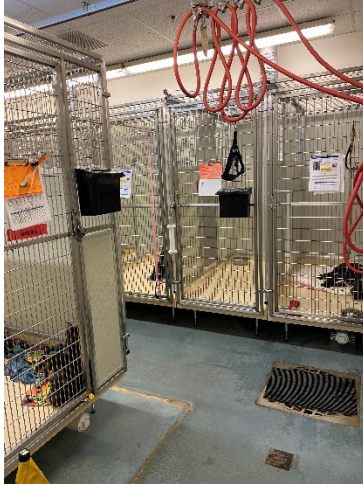
Before:





Joint Animal Services Commission Director's report

After:



TCSO / JAS Quarterly Communications Meeting

Our quarterly communications meeting has been scheduled for February 28th. These meetings are part of our regular check-ins with the chiefs and sergeants of Thurston County Sheriff's Office, to ensure that the lines of communication are always open and to address any issues that arise. We established these meetings back in 2022 when JAS began offering full services in Thurston County, to ensure that any issues are addressed directly and promptly.

Vandalism

On December 10th, our shelter experienced an unfortunate incident of vandalism. An unknown person or persons vandalized two of our outside water spigots, causing flooding on the street in the middle of the night. As a result, our water supply was disrupted until emergency repairs could be carried out the following morning.

Accountability Audit

Joint Animal Services recently underwent its scheduled three-year accountability audit with the State Auditor's Office. We are pleased to report that we were found to be in compliance with all policies and procedures outlined by both the City of Lacey and Joint Animal Services. Our next audit is scheduled for 2026.



ANIMAL SERVICES
Happy Tails

Joint Animal Services Commission Director's report

"I wanted to send an update on Walnut. He's been doing an awesome job adapting and learning every day. He has a little furry buddy who has helped show him the ropes, and he's learned how to get in and out of the car. He loves going outside, where he runs around, checks on the chickens, and goes potty. We only had a few accidents indoors on the first day, and we're still working on walking with a leash. Today, he's going on his first road trip to practice going to the vet for an appointment on Wednesday. Yesterday, we introduced him to some visitors, and he was a happy, friendly pup who welcomed them. I hope this update puts to rest any concerns about Walnut. He is a happy, goofy dog who loves to be snuggled and give kisses. His kennel cough has improved, and we're looking forward to seeing the changes in him as he becomes more secure in knowing we are his forever humans."





Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Joint Animal Services

For the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022

Published February 1, 2024

Report No. 1034056



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**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

February 1, 2024

Board of Commissioners
Joint Animal Services
Lacey, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Agency operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

Attached is our independent audit report on the Agency's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor
Olympia, WA

Americans with Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will make this document available in alternative formats. For more information, please contact our Office at (564) 999-0950, TDD Relay at (800) 833-6388, or email our webmaster at webmaster@sao.wa.gov.

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AUDIT RESULTS

Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Agency operations complied, in all material respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity, policy, internal control, or area. As a result, no information is provided on the areas that were not examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Joint Animal Services from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the Washington State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Agency's use of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters. The procedures performed were based on our assessment of risks in the areas we examined.

Based on our risk assessment for the years ended December 31, 2022, 2021 and 2020, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Payroll – gross wages and leave cash outs
- Cash receipting – timeliness and completeness of deposits
- Accounts payable – general disbursements
- Self-insurance for unemployment
- Open public meetings – compliance with minutes, meetings and executive session requirements
- Financial condition – reviewing for indications of financial distress

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Joint Animal Services was created through an inter-governmental agreement between Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater to provide their residents animal control, sheltering, and related services. The city of Lacey is the lead agency and provides administrative support and financial management.

A seven-member Board of Commissioners governs the Agency. The Board comprises one Commissioner from each participating government, one licensed veterinarian practicing in Thurston County, one optional member selected by a nonprofit organization based in Thurston County with shared animal welfare priorities, and one at-large member representing the Thurston County Humane Society. The Agency has approximately 22 employees and 150 volunteers. The Agency operated on a budget of \$2.5 million in 2022, \$2.4 million in 2021 and \$1.7 million in 2020.

Contact information related to this report

Address:	Joint Animal Services 420 College Street S.E. Lacey, WA 98503-3400
Contact:	Chelsea Yarwood, Accounting Manager
Telephone:	(360) 412-3198
Website:	www.jointanimalservices.org

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Joint Animal Services at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the Washington State Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the people of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with federal, state and local laws for all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits and cybersecurity audits of state agencies and local governments, as well as state whistleblower, fraud and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, www.sao.wa.gov. Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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