

Survey for Mayor and Council Member Candidates

Please return by Monday, February 26, 2024

Information About You:

Name: Greg Burke

1. Do you have personal pet(s)? Yes No Were they adopted? Yes No
2. If you have personal pet(s), are they spayed and/or neutered? Yes No
3. If your pet is not spayed or neutered, what is the reason they are not?
4. How do you contain your pets so they are not allowed to roam? *Fence around backyard*
5. Have you visited and/or volunteered at the local city shelter or either of the rescue sites any time in the last two years? Yes No . If your site visit was not to volunteer, what was the purpose of your visit?

Information Regarding Mayor/Council Member's Role in Animal Welfare:

1. In your opinion, what is the role of the Mayor and City Council members regarding animal welfare Natchitoches? *To support the efforts and mission of FAUNA to provide what is hoped to be temporary housing for abandoned animals and to continue to support FAUNA's efforts to identify homes which will provide a nurturing and safe environment for pets.*
2. In your opinion, what policies should be implemented regarding handling abandoned animals? *First of all, identify the home from which the pet came to be sure that it has indeed been abandoned. If such is the case, provide shelter for the pet while promoting it as a potential pet for another home.*
3. In your opinion, how should owners be addressed who have dogs chained without proper shelter, food, and water? *A written warning should be issued and the owner should sign the warning indicating they will make improvements in the conditions which have been identified. A "welfare check" - which should be communicated that it will take place over a certain period of time but without notification - should reevaluate the dog's welfare and if improvements have not been made, the owner should be fined and the pet should be removed from that home.*

4. In your opinion, what constitutes "proper" shelter for a dog? *During normal conditions, at the very least an outdoor "home" should provide overhead cover and preferably an inside "flooring" which is better than dirt/mud. Ideally, dogs should have inside access with doggie doors which while closed at night, provide accessibility as needed or desired during the day.*

5. Would you be willing to pass and support a spay and neuter law requiring all pet owners, not licensed to breed, to have their pets spayed or neutered? If not, please explain.

Yes No

6. Would you be willing to pass and support an ordinance requiring licensing and permitting for breeding dogs, and what action should be taken if breeders do not adhere to the ordinance?

Yes No Please Explain.

7. In your opinion, should animal abusers be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, and what action would you take or what policies would you implement and/or directly support to hold animal abusers accountable?

Yes No Please Explain. *At a minimum, pet abusers should face a fine and the potential loss of the pet. Stiffer fines and even jail time should be an option for more serious, and repeat (see my answer to #3) offenders.*

8. Would you support a change to the current animal cruelty ordinance (Chapter 6, Article 1, Sec 6-9 [a] [15]) that reads "Does not provide horses used for carriage rides, etc., with adequate water, works them for long hours, without rest, or during the hottest part of the day, or without being shod" to read "Does not provide horses used for carriage rides, etc., with adequate water, works them for long hours, without rest, or in temperatures above 90 degrees or below 32 degrees, or without being shod"? *Yes, more specificity is better. I am not informed enough to accurately address this but also wonder about a humidity factor (especially in LA) and how that could also affect the horse.*

9. What is your opinion of a trap, neuter, and release (TNR) program where stray and feral cats are trapped, spayed or neutered, and released back into the community where they currently reside, which reduces an increase in the community that will ultimately decrease the population through attrition because of spaying/neutering? Will you endorse and support such a program by instituting protection for cats that have been sterilized and returned as evidenced by a cropped ear tip or a tattoo, and help educate your community? *Yes*

10. What do you see that could be done to better educate citizens about proper animal ownership? *FAUNA has nearly 2,000 Facebook followers so use that medium as one source for educating the public. By the same token, the FAUNA IG account only has 226 followers and that is a better way to reach a younger audience, which will help them establish a positive pet approach which can be a part of who they are as they grow into adulthood. Also develop an email list and distribute monthly tips about pet care.*

11. Currently, there is one animal control deputy for the entire parish and three animal control officers for the city. As we move toward a new shelter that will ideally be a cooperative endeavor between FAUNA, the parish, the sheriff's department, the city, and the police department, will you support allocating dedicated staffing and/or implement training of all police officers on enforcement of animal related laws? *Yes*

12. Please share any ideas you have on ways the police department and animal control can help our city support the well-being of pets and livestock. *I am not sure about the relationship/connection between FAUNA and the NPD but there should be a line of communication to especially focus on stray dogs (and hopefully they have ID collars and can be returned to their owners) which are often in danger by roaming free, as well as sometimes also being a concern to others.*