

Survey for Mayor and Council Member Candidates

Please return by Monday, February 26, 2024

Information About You:

Name: Dale A. Nielsen

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?

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 in Natchitoches?

Our role is to manage the animal population and provide a healthy enviroment for the stray animals that are brought to the animal shelter.

2. In your opinion, what policies should be implemented regarding handling abandoned animals?

Our City ordinances should be followed. i am always open to amending our ordinances if needed.

3. In your opinion, how should owners be addressed who have dogs chained without proper shelter, food, and water?

The animals should be confiscated if the owners do not comply and fines issued if appropriate.

4. In your opinion, what constitutes "proper" shelter for a dog?

A covered area that provides comfortable shelter from the weather.

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.

Enforce current ordinances.

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.

Enforce current judicial orders for animal cruelty.

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"?

This is a reasonable change.

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?

I would support a feral cat (TNR) program!

10. What do you see that could be done to better educate citizens about proper animal ownership?

FAUNA and CON Animal Control need to continue to educate citizens that are adopting a new pet or have had their animal picked up by Animal control.

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?

I look forward to a cooperative endeavor agreement between the above mentioned parties. This would be beneficial to all parties and our animal population.

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.

Continue to work with owners on providing adequate shelter and healthy care to their animals. Continue to work with FAUNA to provide adoption for our animals and to continue the spay and neuter program.