

Survey for Mayor and Council Member Candidates

Please return by Monday, February 26, 2024

Information About You:

Name: Lee E. Posey

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? *Although we do not presently own any personal pets, in the past we have owned 4 dogs and 2 cats. All were professionally spayed or neutered.*

4. How do you contain your pets so they are not allowed to roam? *Periodically, we do keep our "grand dogs" for our children. We erect a temporary fence in our back yard to keep them safely contained.*

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? *When my wife first retired, she walked dogs at the Hope for Paws shelter. She also assisted with their daily care. However, she was "pulled down" several times and advised by her physician to cease walking the dogs.*

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 follow the laws already instated by the city to provide for the safety and security of all animals. Work closely with other enforcing agencies to ensure a co-ordinated approach for animal welfare. I would welcome input and suggestions from FAUNA and other interested parties on effective strategies to improve animal services.*

2. In your opinion, what policies should be implemented regarding handling abandoned animals? *The city has established a leash law which doesn't allow for animals to roam freely. Protocol requires for abandoned animals to be secured by animal control officers. Social media has shown to be a valuable resource in locating missing or lost personal pets that sometimes appear to be abandoned. FAUNA and independent animal welfare supporters have proven to be instrumental in the adoption of abandoned animals.*

3. In your opinion, how should owners be addressed who have dogs chained without proper shelter, food, and water? *Have animal control officers investigate the situation. If an animal is being abused, sometimes the officers have issued a citation and try to work with the owner to correct the abuse. Should the citation be ignored, then the animal should be removed to a safe, secure site. The ticket should be enforced.*

4. In your opinion, what constitutes "proper" shelter for a dog? *There are two types of shelters for dogs: inside and outside shelters. Specifications for an outside dog shelter are listed in the Natchitoches Code of Ordinances in Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 6-9, (a), #3a. Indoor housing facilities for dogs should be sufficiently heated or cooled to provide for their health and comfort. They should have some type of bed for sleeping and adequate food and water for nourishment.*

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 *As Mayor, I would form a Task Force to investigate and research other cities and their resources, like the Caddo Animal Shelter, to review their spay and neuter laws. Spaying and neutering animals is the central focus to the over population and abuse of some animals. Through collaboration with FAUNA and other animal rights supporters, the Task Force could review and gather the verbage and data on existing spay and neuter ordinances/laws. The Task Force could also recommend methods on "how" the law could be enforced to the City Council and Mayor.*

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. *I would be willing to form a committee consisting of three city council members. We would meet with FAUNA members and discuss the proper language and requirements of consequences of such an ordinance. Methods for enforcing the ordinance would also be addressed. The committee would report their summary to the City Council and the Mayor for further action.*

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. *If the animal control officers have investigated and issued a citation to the abuser, then the abuser still continues the abuse, their animal should be removed from the abused situation. The abuser will pay the ticket and not be allowed to keep his pet.*

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"? *I would certainly support the proposed change. Retrospectively, I remember quite vividly when the daily temperatures in July and August 2023 were over 100 degrees. The horses would definitely need to be sheltered appropriately in accordance to the wording in the proposed ordinance.*

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 favor the TNR program. As Mayor, I would support FAUNA events where participants could receive training about the TNR program and its benefits for both the cats and our community. When I was mayor,*

I secured funding to build a "cat den" at the Natchitoches Animal Shelter. Hopefully, this project has served to improve facilities for the care and security of cats in our town.

10. What do you see that could be done to better educate citizens about proper animal ownership? *After researching possible programs to help educate citizens about proper animal ownership, I would consider using some of the following suggestions: 1) workshops and seminars; 2) pet licensing and registration; 3) public awareness campaigns; 4) dog- friendly spaces; 5) community involvement; 6) school programs; 7) promote the leash law, and 8) encourage a reporting system for aggressive dogs or abusive pet conditions. Of course, these projects would need to be supported and presented by groups like FAUNA, local veterinarians and animal shelters, educators social media and city officials.*

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? *As Mayor, I would conduct a survey with the city police officers to identify those officers interested in the enforcement of animal related ordinances/laws. Those officers would voluntarily attend training about animal laws presented by FAUNA or other recognized personnel during a seminar or workshop. They would then be available to assist the other animal control officers if need arose regarding animal safety and security.*

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. *As mentioned in #10, I would establish a reporting system between the public and the animal control officers that would allow the public to report aggressive or abused animals or irresponsible owners. As previously mentioned, social media has helped to identify situations which need to be investigated for animal security and safety. Police officers, who have been trained about animal laws, could assist animal control officers in these specialized areas. Police officers and the public would be encouraged to submit pictures or videos of questionable incidents.*