

# Implementing Regional Dog Control

The Franklin County Sheriff's Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center, a CIC Grant Funded Program



FRANKLIN COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
Pride... Integrity... Commitment



Franklin Regional  
Council of Governments

## Participating Communities:

City of Greenfield and the Towns of  
Bernardston, Buckland, Colrain,

Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Heath,  
Montague, Warwick, and Whately

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## **INTRODUCTORY LETTER**

In November 2012, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter officially opened. The event was a great success with approximately 100 attendees. Honored guests included Jay Gonzalez, Secretary of Administration and Finance (ANF), and State Representatives Steve Kulik and Paul Mark. The opening was the culmination of a successful multi-year planning process and grant funding from the Community Innovation Challenge grant program at ANF.

Planning for the regional shelter began in 2011 when representatives from 13 Franklin County communities, including Select Board members, animal control officers, town administrators, and police chiefs, along with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) formed the Franklin County Animal Control Task Force. This initiative was in response to growing concern among local officials and police officers regarding the decreased ability of towns to properly house stray dogs, and growing reliance on local police forces to deal with dog-related issues. Planning was funded by District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funds. These state-budgeted funds are provided to all regional planning agencies in Massachusetts to support projects that help municipalities work together to achieve and/or enhance cost-effective service delivery.

Following the planning process, the FRCOG applied for startup and implementation funding for the program on behalf of 12 municipalities and the FCSO. The program received a \$19,900 state Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) to assist in implementation, focusing on purchasing equipment and materials needed for a safe and well-maintained shelter. Since opening, over 90 dogs have come into the shelter with over 30 adopted out. The shelter director has established a volunteer crew of over 20 people. The major significant obstacle to date has been a more dogs than was anticipated. In response, the director has begun to explore the possibility of expanding the shelter. The director is also exploring additional programs, including working with emergency preparedness officials to offer sheltering animals in an emergency.

An important goal of the program was to involve minimum security prisoners in rehabilitating the shelter and taking care of the dogs. The program has been very successful in meeting this goal. The shelter will continue exploring ways these prisoners can contribute to the program, including job training in the field of animal care and shelter maintenance.

This project is an excellent example of the type of service-improvement project that are possible when municipalities collaborate. The role of the Sheriff's Office and their ability to employ the shelter director has allowed this program to flourish. Support from CIC funding was extremely valuable and necessary for the final stages of getting this program up and running.

Sincerely,

Chris Donelan, Sheriff  
Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With assistance from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, eleven Franklin County towns and one city (Bernardston, Buckland, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Heath, Montague, Warwick, and Whately), and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, applied for startup and implementation funding for the Franklin County Sheriff's Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center program. The program was developed by the Franklin County Animal Control Task Force in response to a growing concern among local officials and police officers regarding decreasing ability of towns to properly house stray dogs, and growing reliance on local police forces to deal with dog-related issues.

The main goal of the program is to provide member towns with a professional, efficient, and much-needed regional shelter and adoption service. The program provides a number of benefits to member towns, including a regional shelter for stray dogs, backup service to towns with dog officers, a central location for anyone interested in adopting a dog, and a single location for owners missing dogs to know exactly who to contact. Finally, an innovative element of the program is its focus on working with minimum security inmates from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Prisoners provided maintenance and repairs service for the shelter and also work with the program manager in taking care of the dogs.

Major obstacles in implementing the program included determining payment method, how to work with towns currently employing animal control officers, and startup funding. An ongoing obstacle is the large number of dogs that the shelter has taken in. The program has begun to assess the possibility of expanding its space to accommodate the dogs.



## PARTNER COMMUNITIES

The Franklin County Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center is run by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) on behalf of participating towns. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is the fiduciary agent and provided staff support during the planning and implementation phases.

Franklin County is located in the upper Connecticut River valley area of western Massachusetts, and borders Vermont and New Hampshire to the north. The County is the most rural in the Commonwealth. There are twenty-six municipalities in Franklin County ranging in size from Greenfield with a population of 17,456, to Monroe with a population of 121. Approximately 46% of county residents live in communities with a population of less than 5,000. The County total population is 71,372.

The participating municipalities as of this writing are the City of Greenfield, and the Towns of Bernardston, Buckland, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Heath, Montague, Warwick, and Whately.

The initiative was in response to a growing concern among local officials and police officers regarding decreasing ability of towns to properly house stray dogs, and growing reliance on local police forces to deal with dog-related issues.

During the planning phase, partners played the following roles:

- The Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office convened a *Franklin County Animal Control Task Force* with representatives from thirteen communities in Franklin County (including Select Board members, animal control officers, town administrators, and police chiefs), the Sheriff's Department, and the FRCOG. The Task Force met to discuss town priorities, design program policies and review contracts and budgets.
- The FRCOG (Franklin County's Regional Planning Agency) played a program management role. The FRCOG staff conducted and wrote the initial needs assessment. Staff closely examined models of shared or regional kennels including the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments Regional Animal Control Program and the shared kennel between the towns of Hubbardston and Templeton. Funding for this work was through the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funds.
- The FRCOG staff convened and facilitated meetings, drafted various documents (including Memorandums of Understanding between the participating entities), and conducted research for the Task Force. Now that the kennel is up and running, the FRCOG plays a limited role as fiduciary for the dog fines that are paid to the kennel for housing the dogs.
- Town representatives served on the planning task force, reviewed documents developed by the FRCOG staff, and provided input on their communities' needs.
- The Sheriff's Office worked closely with the communities and the FRCOG to develop a regional program to be housed at the Sheriff's Office. They developed the job

description, hired the program director, and worked with their minimum security prisoners to refurbish the old shelter. They also provided 95% of the funding for the project once it was implemented, as well as most program supplies, including a truck, computer, uniforms and more.

- The FRCOG staff met with the State Department of Agricultural Resources to discuss the new regional shelter and its benefits to the member communities
- The FROCG staff presented at the 2012 Regionalization Conference on the planning and implementation process for the program



Oversight Committee Meeting

Following multiple drafts and input from all parties involved in the planning process, the Task Force approved three different Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs):

- One between the Sheriff's Office and the FRCOG for the FRCOG to act as fiduciary;
- One between the Sheriff's Office and the Town of Montague to use the town's old shelter as the new regional shelter; and
- One between the Sheriff's Office and any towns wishing to participate.

This final MOU, along with an invitation to participate in the program, was sent out to all 26 municipalities in Franklin County. Twelve communities (all of which had at some point been involved in the planning process), signed on to the agreement. The 12 municipalities, along with the Sheriff's Office and the FRCOG, applied for and received a state Community Innovation Challenge grant for \$19,900 to assist in implementation.

As part of the agreement between the participating municipalities and the Sheriff's Department, the shelter director is required to convene an Oversight Committee at a minimum of 2 times per year. The Select Board/Mayor of each participating municipality has designated one representative and one alternate from the municipality to the Committee. The Committee, in representing participating towns, will be tasked to address current issues in the program and make recommendations to the Program Manager, approve the budget set by the Sheriff's Office, and approve and review fee schedule and assessment formula set by the Sheriff's Office.

## GOALS

There were three major goals of the Regional Animal Control Program:

- Provide a regional shelter for participating communities
- Provide relief to towns regarding sheltering stray and lost dogs
- Provide minimum security prisoners with an opportunity to give back to their communities by working closely with the shelter and the dogs.

The main goal of the Regional Animal Control Shelter is to provide a professional, efficient, and much needed regional dog shelter to the towns of Franklin County, reducing the burden on towns while improving services for residents and dogs. The program aims to assist both towns with an animal control officer, and those without, by providing a regional shelter and the services of a program director. The director, among other duties, works with local animal control officers, collects and cares for the dogs at the regional shelter, recruits volunteers, coordinates adoptions, collects fees, seeks grants, and solicits food and other donations.

The program's goal was also to involve minimum security prisoners in rehabilitating the shelter and taking care of the shelter dogs. Prisoners helped fix and clean up the current shelter, and continue to provide on-going cleanup support. They assist in walking, feeding and generally taking care of the dogs. An important ongoing part of this goal is to assess future benefits of the shelter, and working with dogs, for prisoners. Some options that will be explored further include job training in the field of animal care and shelter maintenance, looking at the possibility of cell dog programs (see References and Resources below for more information), and potential benefits to prisoners such as vocational training.



Minimum security prisoners work to refurbish the shelter

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The program was developed by the Franklin County Animal Control Task Force and facilitated by FRCOG staff. Planning for the shelter was funded by District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funds. Implementation was funded by a CIC grant and the Sheriff's Office.

Below is a summary of the implementation process.

1. Conducted research on regional shelters
2. Researched demand – what the dog control needs were in Franklin County.
3. Researched fee structures in all potential member towns
4. Researched options for credit card payment at the kennel
5. Wrote and distributed a report on findings from the research.
6. Convened a task force of animal control officers, town officials, Sheriff's Office staff, and FRCOG staff to discuss and begin planning for improved dog control in the County.
7. Developed program documents including:
  - a. An inter-municipal agreement between towns and the Sheriff's Office. The agreement sets out the responsibilities of the towns and the kennel, the budget process and the operating procedures for an Oversight Committee of member towns. See Appendix A.
  - b. A memorandum of understanding between the Sheriff's Office and the Town of Montague for the new regional shelter to be housed in the old Turners Falls Shelter. See Appendix B.
  - c. A memorandum of understanding between the Sheriff's Office and the FRCOG to engage the FRCOG to provide fiscal agent support for the program. See Appendix C.
  - d. An animal transfer protocol. See Appendix E.
8. Applied for and received a \$19,900 Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant for implementation of the shelter program. Implementation extended from May 2012 to the official opening of the shelter in early November 2012. Program implementation began with hiring a professional director to run the shelter. The director was hired as an employee of the Sheriff's Office and was not funded with CIC funding.
9. Used grant funding for shelter renovations and purchasing materials. Grant funding was also used to invest in setting up an information management system to track dogs, donations, adoptions etc., and to produce reports for member towns.
10. Created and distributed outreach materials to promote the shelter.
11. Shelter director established a strong volunteer corps, and developed a method of soliciting and receiving donations.

12. Shelter director established a working relationship with a local veterinarian.
13. Convened Oversight Committee meetings.
14. Planned and hosted the official opening of the shelter. Honored guests included Jay Gonzalez, Secretary of Administration and Finance, Steve Kulik.



Grand Opening (pictured from left to right: FRCOG Executive Director Linda Dunlavy, Sheriff Chris Donelan, Jay Gonzalez, Secretary of Administration and Finance, Representative Steve Kulik, Representative Paul Mark)

## **BUDGET**

In the planning phase, FRCOG staff conducted analysis on materials and equipment needed for the shelter. Personnel expenses for any hired staff were covered by the Sheriff's Office budget. Therefore the budget request was developed based on the expenses of required renovations and equipment for the shelter. Member municipalities were assessed a minimal annual fee ranging from \$800 to over \$1500. The fee was based on population.

No changes were made to the budget during the implementation process. A copy of the budget is included below.

Other sources of revenue included donations, money from fundraising, and in-kind support.

### *Donations:*

- Over \$5,000 in cash donations
- Over \$800 in gift cards from companies like Greenfield Farmers Supply, Home Depot, and Staples

*Fundraising Events:* Three area groups have held events to raise money for the shelter.

- Yankee Candle held a "Decorate a Tree" contest. Employees picked an organization they wanted to decorate for. Patrons than were asked to vote for their favorite tree and the winning group received \$500. The Shelter won and received the funds.
- A Turners Falls High School class held a dodge ball tournament as a fundraiser. The class raised almost \$600 in donations.
- A grade school in Greenfield collected supplies the shelter listed on their "Shelter Wish List".

*In-Kind Support:* Countless other in-kind donations were made during the implementation process, and continue to be provided to the shelter.

- 15-20 community volunteers for transport of dogs, caring for dogs, computer help
- The "Orange Team," a group of minimum security inmates, worked on renovations
- Shelter materials, including: blankets, towels, leashes, collars, dog food, dog crates, dog coats, dog first aid supplies, Advandix (flee and tic meds.), dog toys, dog beds
- Office supplies and materials: camera, cleaning supplies
- Appliances, including: washing machine, clothes dryer
- Office furniture, including: desk, file cabinets, folding tables, carpentry time and supplies-built shelves, counter tops, coat rack, refrigerator
- Other supplies: wastebaskets, Thank You cards, printer, white boards, water hoses

	<b>Total</b>	<b>CIC Grant</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b><u>PERSONNEL:</u></b>			
\$1900		\$1900	FRCOG staff assisting with project launch in startup phase
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL:</b>	\$1900	\$1900	
<b><u>OPERATING:</u></b>			
Communications/IT	\$1,200	\$1,200	Phone and internet access
Heating (Oil)	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Miscellaneous Services	\$675	\$675	graphic designer, attorney, IT
Advertising/Outreach	\$500	\$500	Outreach to communities and local services
Electricity	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Vet/Medical	\$2,500	\$2,500	
Office & Shelter Supplies	\$1,125	\$1,125	Basic shelter and office supplies
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	\$10,000	\$10,000	
<b><u>EQUIPMENT</u></b>			
Shelter & Van Equipment	\$8,000	\$8,000	animal control equipment (see Appendix D)
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>	\$8,000	\$8,000	
<b><u>GRAND SUMMARY</u></b>			
<b>Salaries/Wages</b>	\$1,900	\$1,900	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$10,000	\$10,000	
<b>Equipment</b>	\$8,000	\$8,000	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	\$19,900	\$19,900	

## CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

There were a number of initial obstacles in planning and implementing the project. These included determining the payment method, determining what to do with towns currently employing a dog officer, and the need for startup funding. Other challenges include the shelter receiving more dogs than anticipated and some discrepancy over paying town fees/fines.

- *Determining payment method:* It was unclear at first how dog pickup and shelter fees would be paid. One problem was the potential for bounced checks, and another was that the Sheriff's Office did not have a mechanism that allowed them to receive payments. The Task Force determined the best solution was for the Sheriff's Office to engage the FRCOG to provide fiscal agent support, including the use of the civil processing account. All fine funds are housed within this FRCOG account, which reports monthly on the account balances to the kennel, and pays for expenses when authorized by the program director to do so.
- *Towns that currently employ animal control officers:* One major concern from towns and from current dog officers was whether this program would replace them. In response, the Task Force agreed the program was not meant to replace current dog officers, but largely to replace the current patchwork of dog pick up, kenneling, and adoption arrangements. The program act as support for towns with or without dog or animal control officers. The program provides dog pickup and sheltering during a set weekly schedule. The program does not deal with other domestic animals or wild animals. Towns are encouraged to employ an animal control officer to handle other animal control officer duties including handling barking dogs or dangerous dogs, and handling dog hearings.



Newly renovated outdoor shelter

- *Startup funding:* A major obstacle was startup funding. Although the Sheriff's Office hired the program manager, necessary startup funds for the shelter were not available. The CIC grant sufficiently addressed this funding concern.

- *More dogs than anticipated:* Over 90 dogs have come into the shelter. Already this is more than the initial yearly estimate of approximately 50 dogs. The director is continuing to explore the possibility of expanding the shelter area. To date the program has added overflow kennels, and the program director has been active in adopting out dogs needing homes. The program now has a dedicated group of volunteers willing to foster dogs while they wait to be adopted.
- *Fees and Pickup Protocol:* There was some discussion over certain town fines and fees. And pickup protocol. Three different scenarios were discussed and the Oversight Committee agreed on solutions for each situation: if the Sheriff's Office picks up and kennels the dog; if the local animal control officer picks up the dog and brings it to the kennel; and if local animal control officer picks up the dog and does not bring it to the kennel. See Appendix E for more information.

## OUTCOMES

In the CIC grant application, FRCOG staff developed criteria to measure outcomes of the program. Criteria included cost savings to towns, number of stray dogs sheltered, number of adoptions, donations received, volunteers, and grants received. The responsibility of collecting the data and composing a report regarding findings is the responsibility of the program director, with input from the Oversight Committee. Under the current inter-municipal agreement, the program manager is required to provide the municipalities with an annual report addressing, at a minimum, the following: number of dogs sheltered during the year, number of adoptions, number of individuals receiving Notices of Violation/abatement, specific dog control problem areas within the Municipality, and/or suggestions for changes to local bylaws, amount of revenue collected, including municipality assessments, fees, donations, and grants, spending levels.

- *Donations, Volunteers, and Grants:* The program has been very successful in raising money and bringing in volunteers. The Shelter has received over \$5,000 from donations and fees, and nearly \$800 in gift cards from local businesses. Due to multiple requests, there are now several donation boxes throughout the community. The program has a strong volunteer corps, with over twenty people helping out in many capacities such as dog care, dog training, transportation, fund raising and promotion. The shelter conducts orientation for volunteers and has dog training classes once a week. They are currently working to bring an ACO training class out to western Massachusetts. There is also a small group of volunteers who have been helping with fostering.
- *Cost Savings to Towns:* There is currently not enough data to provide accurate cost savings to towns. However, anecdotal evidence, particularly from police officers, suggests that the program is cutting down on the amount of time police officers are using their time on dog-related issues.
- *Stray Dogs and Adoptions:* Over 90 dogs have come into the shelter from 10 of the 12 member communities. The shelter has adopted out 31 dogs. They have had to euthanize two dogs.
- *Community Engagement:* The program has a strong connection with the community, and has had three area groups that held events for the shelter. Yankee Candle had a “Decorate a Tree,” providing a \$500 award to the winner. The Shelter won and received the donation. A Turners Falls high school class held a dodge ball tournament to raise money for the shelter. The class collected nearly \$600.00 for the shelter. Finally, a grade school in Greenfield collected supplies that were on the shelter’s holiday wish list.

- *Positive Press:* The Shelter has received excellent press, including a number of articles in the Greenfield Recorder. The Recorder also runs “Pet of the Week”, featuring one dog from the shelter each Saturday, to provide a sampling of the animals that are available.



Outdoor run now includes kennels and gravel



The outdoor kennels before and after refurbishment



The entrance to the offices of the shelter before and after refurbishment



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

[Program website](#)

[Program documents](#)

Copies of organizational documents are included in Appendix

### **Sheriff Dog Shelter Programs**

During the planning phase of the program, staff conducted research on Sheriff Department dog shelter programs throughout the United States. Examples are listed below.

- *Paws on Parole*  
Paws on Parole is located in Gainesville, FL, and is a partnership between Florida Department of Corrections' Gainesville Correctional Institution Work Camp and Alachua County Animal Services. In the program, professional dog trainers volunteer to teach inmates how to train dogs, and inmates learn to train to the standards of the American Shelter Club's Canine Good Citizens Program. For more information, see [Paws on Parole's website](#).
- *IMPACT Program (Inmates Providing Animal Control & Training)*  
The IMPACT Program, located in Florida, provides training for puppies to assist people with sight impairments. Inmates, under guidance of Southeaster volunteer, raise and train the puppies. Inmates earn Veterinary Asst. Certificate with courses designed at U. of Florida. For more information, see [IMPACT's website](#).
- *Pima Animal Care Center*  
The program is located in Tucson, AZ. Inmates trained on how to clip, bath, groom, and teach dogs basic commands. For more information, see [Pima Animal Care Center's website](#).
- *National Education for Assistance Dog Services (NEADS)*  
NEADS is located in Princeton, MA. The program enlists inmates to train assistance dogs for disabled citizens. A dog is paired with an inmate for up to 18 months, during which time the prisoners train the dogs. For more information, see the [NEADS website](#).
- *Safe Harbor Prison Dog Program*  
The Program is located in Lansing, MI. It brought animals that were to be euthanized to inmates at the Lansing Correctional Facility for training as pets. For more information, visit [the Safe Harbor Prison Dog Program's website](#).

## Regional Animal Control Programs

We also conducted research on regional or shared municipal animal control programs to use as examples of what we could develop in Franklin County. Two examples are included here.

- *Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) Animal Services Program*  
The NECCOG regional animal services program began in 2004. The program currently serves six of the region's member towns, and provides a 24/7 animal control officer. A presentation on developing the NECCOG regional animal control program is available on [FRCOG's website](#).
- *Templeton and Hubbardston Shared Animal Services*  
The Massachusetts towns of Templeton and Hubbardston developed a shared animal services program. For more information on the program and its development, see [this website](#).

## Other Resources

- *Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts (ACOAM)*  
ACOAM provides, among other things, training for Animal Control Officers. For more information, see [ACOAM's website](#).
- *Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society*  
Dakin provided valuable information regarding the needs of a dog shelter. For more information on their programs, see the [Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society's website](#).

## **APPENDDIX: ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS**

- A. Memorandum of Understanding between towns and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office
- B. Memorandum of Understanding between the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Montague
- C. Memorandum of Understanding between the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- D. Dog Kennel List Items for Purchase
- E. Dog Pickup and Fees Protocol
- F. News Articles

**Appendix A: Memorandum of Understanding between towns and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office**

Agreement by and between  
the  
Franklin County Sheriff's Office  
and the  
**Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_**  
Regarding  
**Regional Dog Control Services**

This agreement, by and between the **Franklin County Sheriff's Office** (hereafter the "Sheriff's Office") and the **Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_** (hereafter the "Municipality"), covers the provision of dog control services as detailed in the following agreement as of January 15, 2012 for the Municipality. Collectively, the Sheriff's Office and the Municipality are referred to as the "Parties".

**Section 1 Regional Dog Control Services – Responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office**

As part of its duties as a Dog Control Officer of the Municipality, the Sheriff's Office shall provide the following general administrative and support services:

- A. Obtain a kennel license based on Massachusetts General Law (MGL) chapter 140s, section 136A;
- B. Employ a dog kennel program manager. Said employee must be certified as an Animal Control Officer by the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts. The program manager will, among other duties, work with local dog and animal control officers, care for the dogs at the kennel, recruit volunteers and work with minimum security prisoners, conduct community outreach, place dogs needing adoption, seek grants, and solicit food and other material donations;
- C. Follow the provisions of applicable laws and regulations, as they may be amended from time to time, in the provision of such dog control services and in provision of all other services set forth herein;
- D. Employ, train, and supervise all necessary personnel to perform the services required by this Agreement;

- E. Maintain an office and provide a well-maintained kennel, food, water, and exercise for dogs in the kennel. Such office shall be open to the public. The Sheriff's Office shall maintain all field equipment necessary for its dog control functions in good repair and maintain all current licenses and registrations required by State law;
- F. Convene a Regional Dog Control Oversight Committee (hereafter the "Oversight Committee) at a minimum of 2 times per year. The Selectboard/Mayor of each participating municipality will designate one representative and one alternate from the municipality to the Oversight Committee (see below).
- G. Provide on-call stray dog pickup throughout the term of this Agreement for a set weekly schedule developed with approval from the Oversight Committee;
- H. Work with adoption services for dogs unclaimed after 10 days in the kennel to place in a good home. Adoption fees will be set by the Oversight Committee. Fees will include coverage of required neutering and rabies shot if necessary;
- I. Provide kennel space for quarantined dogs;
- J. Collect and track fees from dog owners, and number of dogs from each municipality;
- K. Collect an annual assessment from each municipality;
- L. Cooperate with other agencies in delivering animal control services to the Municipalities participating in the regional kennel. It is recognized that other agencies, including Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, local police departments, and local animal control officers also have animal control and welfare responsibilities and interests. Dog Control Services shall be cognizant of such overlapping jurisdiction, shall avoid duplication of services, and where appropriate, shall provide for coordination, referral and assistance to and among such agencies;
- M. Provide the Municipality with annual reports concerning the Sheriff's Office's performance under this Agreement; such reports, at minimum, will include the following information:
  - I. The number of dogs sheltered;
  - II. The number of adoptions;
  - III. The number of individuals receiving Notices of Violation/abatement;
  - IV. Specific dog control problem areas within the Municipality, and/or suggestions for changes to local bylaws
  - V. Amount of revenue collected, including municipality assessments, fees, donations, and grants.
  - VI. Spending levels
- N. M.G.L.C. 40, 4A further provides: "all agreements put into effect under this section shall provide sufficient financial safeguards for all participants, including, but not limited to:

accurate and comprehensive records of services performed, costs incurred, and reimbursements and contributions received the performance of regular audits of such records provisions for officers responsible for the agreement to give appropriate performance bonds periodic financial statements be issued to all participants”.

O. Other duties not provided by municipality, as necessary

## **Section 2 Regional Dog Control Services – Responsibilities of Each Municipality**

The Municipality shall provide dog-related services not provided by the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Handle dead dogs;
- B. Investigate and enforce any dog cruelty, abandonment, or protective custody cases in the Municipality;
- C. Handle neighborhood disputes involving dog complaints;
- D. Investigate all reported bites, order quarantine of biting dogs pursuant to State guidelines; and perform such duties as are necessary on a live biting dog or carcass, to prepare and deliver it for rabies testing;
- E. Cover costs for emergency veterinary care required at the kennel for stray dogs picked up within Municipality borders with the approval of the Board of Selectmen or Mayor;
- F. Appear in court in connection with any criminal enforcement or civil hearing, at the discretion of the Municipality;
- G. Appoint a representative and alternate to the Regional Dog Control Oversight Committee who reports back to the Select Board and local ACO if s/he is not the ACO;
- H. Provide and administer municipal dog licenses and collect related fees and fines;
- I. Other duties not provided by the Sheriff’s Office.

## **Section 3 Regional Dog Control Oversight Committee**

- A. Each municipality’s Selectboard or mayor will designate one representative and one alternate to the Oversight Committee.
- B. The Program Manager shall convene the Oversight Committee at least 2 times per year.
- C. The Committee will be tasked to address current issues in the program and make recommendations to the Program Manager.
- D. The Committee will be tasked to approve budget set by the Sheriff’s Office.
- E. The Committee will be tasked to approve and annually review fee schedule and assessment formula set by the Sheriff’s Office.
- F. The Committee will be tasked to provide input into the decision regarding level of compensation to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments as the fiscal agent and

hosting service for the Civil Processing Account.

#### **Section 4      Consideration**

- A. In consideration for the Sheriff's Office performance of the duties listed herein, the Sheriff's Office will retain all fees paid directly to the Regional Dog Kennel. Dog retrieval fees and dog kenneling fees will be set by the Sheriff's Office and approved by the Oversight Committee.
  
- B. An annual assessment based on the most recent US Census population figures will be paid by each Municipality to a capital and operating expense fund for future capital and operating needs. Pro-rated municipality assessment for the first year will be as follows:
  - I. Population under 2000 - \$100
  - II. Population between 2000 and 4,999 - \$150
  - III. Population between 5000 and 9,999 - \$250
  - IV. Population 10,000 and over - \$400

The proposed projected annual municipality assessment beginning the first full fiscal year, July 1, 2012, will be as follows (these fees are subject to review by the Oversight Committee):

- 1. Assessment for Operating Costs
  - I. Population under 2000 - \$450
  - II. Population between 2000 and 4,999 - \$650
  - III. Population between 5000 and 9,999 - \$800
  - IV. Population 10,000 and over - \$1000
  
- 2. Assessment for Capital Costs
  - I. Population under 2000 - \$250
  - II. Population between 2000 and 4,999 - \$250
  - III. Population between 5000 and 9,999 - \$250
  - IV. Population 10,000 and over - \$250

#### **Section 5      Agreement**

- A. This agreement may be amended in whole or in part by mutual agreement by the Sheriff's Office and the Oversight Committee by majority vote.
  
- B. It is the intention of the parties that the relationship of the Sheriff's Office to the Municipality in the course of the performance of its duties pursuant hereto is that of an independent

Contractor. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to constitute the Sheriff's Office as a partner, joint venture, agent or employee of the Municipality. The Sheriff's Office, as an independent Contractor, shall be solely responsible for the hiring, discipline and management of the Sheriff's Office employees, and all costs and expenses related thereto, including the payment (and withholding, if required) of all applicable federal, state and local taxes. The Sheriff's Office and the Municipality shall not be construed as joint ventures or partners of each other and neither shall have the powers to bind or obligate the other except as set forth in this Agreement.

- C. If, at any time during the term of the Agreement, the Sheriff's Office, in the reasonable discretion of the Municipality: (a) has failed materially to provide services required in accordance with this Agreement; (b) has become insolvent; (c) abandons the work; (d) subcontracts, assigns, transfers, conveys or otherwise disposes of its obligations under the Agreement other than as provided herein; or (e) repeatedly or materially fails to comply with any other term or condition contained in the Agreement, the Municipality shall have the right to terminate the Agreement upon written notice to the Sheriff's Office.
- D. The waiver by either party of a breach of any provision of this Agreement by the other party shall not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach. No waiver shall be valid unless in writing and signed by the Sheriff and by the Selectboard or mayor, as appropriate.
- E. No part of this Agreement nor any rights or obligations hereunder, shall be assigned or subcontracted without the prior written approval of the Parties. This is intended to be a restriction on both the right and the power to assign, and any purported assignment not consented to by the Parties as herein required shall be void, shall confer no rights on the purported assignee and need not be recognized. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective permitted successors and assigns.
- F. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision hereof shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision.
- G. This Agreement shall be governed, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles.

## **Section 6      Term**

This Agreement shall be in effect for a period of three (3) years subject to the termination rights of each party as provided herein. At the end of three years, any successor Agreement must receive the necessary statutory authorizations.

## **Section 7 Termination and Default**

- A. Any party may terminate its participation in this Agreement at the end of any fiscal year, as provided in M.G.L. c. 40, section 4A, so long as at least three months prior to its termination it gives written notice to all remaining participating municipalities.
- B. Any party may be declared in default of this Agreement by a majority of the designated representatives of the remaining parties if that party has materially breached this Agreement and will be deemed terminated as a party to the Agreement. The terminating party shall forfeit any balance remaining in the capital expense fund held by the Sheriff's Office. If the Sheriff's Office and/or all participating municipalities terminate this agreement, then the capital expense fund shall, after any current capital expenses are paid for, be reimbursed to the several Municipalities in proportion to the rate of contribution.

## **Section 8 Indemnification**

In agreeing to this indemnification paragraph, the Sheriff's Office does not waive statutory and other liability cap protections provided by MGL Chapter 258. To the extent permitted by law, the Sheriff's Office agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the others against any and all liabilities, claims, actions, suits, demands, damages, judgments, losses, costs or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising out of Dog Control Services provided under this Agreement and MGL Chapter 258.

## **Section 9 Dispute Settlement**

In the event any disputes or questions arise between the parties as to the interpretation of the terms of the Agreement or the satisfactory performance by any of the parties of the responsibilities provided for in the Agreement, a meeting shall be held promptly between the parties, attended by individuals with decision-making authority regarding the dispute, including members of the Oversight Committee, to attempt in good faith to negotiate a resolution of the dispute. If a resolution to the dispute cannot be reached, both parties shall work with mediation to resolve the conflict. If, following mediation, either party is not satisfied with the outcome, that party may choose to go to court.

## **Section 10 Notices**

Any notices, bills, invoices, or reports required by this Agreement shall be sufficient if sent by the parties via United States mail, postage paid, to:

Franklin County Sheriff  
160 Elm Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
Selectboard  
Municipality of  
Address

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the day and year first above written.

**Franklin County Sheriff's Office**  
**160 Elm St, Greenfield, MA 01301**

**Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Address \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Donelan, Sheriff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Select Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Witness:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment B: Memorandum of Understanding between the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Montague**

Memorandum of Understanding

by and between

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office/Regional Dog Control Program

and

the Town of Montague

\_\_\_\_\_

This Agreement is by and between the Franklin County Sheriff's Office/Regional Dog Control Program, hereinafter called FCSO/DCP and the Town of Montague, hereinafter called Montague.

Whereas this project shall be conducted in accordance with this Agreement, and

Whereas, this Agreement represents the entire understanding of the parties, and neither is relying upon any representation not contained herein

Now therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained the parties agree as follows:

### **ARTICLE 1 - USE OF THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE DOG KENNEL**

\* The regional kennel will consist of the current kennel facility, a single bay of the storage facility, and the outdoor section behind the current kennel and bays currently partially confined by a fence.

FCSO/DCP hereby engages the Town of Montague. Montague hereby accepts the engagement to provide the kennel in Turners Falls as the location for the new Franklin County Regional Dog Control Program.

The Town of Montague agrees to:

1. Provide the use of the Turners Kennel facility to the FCSO/DCP to be used by the FCSO/DCP as the regional kennel for member towns in the Program.
2. Work with the FCSO/DCP to approve all renovations to the site.
3. Invoice the FCSO/DCP for any heating or electric costs incurred by the Town on behalf of the kennel.

The FCSO/DCP agrees to:

1. Refurbish and maintain the current facility to accommodate regional dog services.
2. Pay for heating and other necessary facility expenses.
3. Inform the Town and obtain permission to make any necessary changes that would positively benefit the dogs at the kennel.

### **ARTICLE 2 – TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT:**

FCSO/DCP or Montague may, with ninety (90) days written notice, terminate this Agreement for non-performance of the services required under this Agreement. Montague shall be entitled to complete payment for any heating or electric costs incurred prior to such notice.

### **ARTICLE 3 – TIME OF PERFORMANCE**

The time period covered under this agreement is November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012. The terms of the agreement will be reviewed again at this date by both parties. This Agreement may be extended after that period by mutual consent of the parties.

**ARTICLE 4 - AMENDMENTS**

No amendment to this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing, signed by the duly authorized representatives of all parties, and complies with the provisions of this Agreement, and all other regulations and requirements of law.

**ARTICLE 5 – IDEMMIFICATION**

In agreeing to this indemnification paragraph, the parties do not waive statutory and other liability cap protections provided by MGL Chapter 258. To the extent permitted by law, each party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the others against any and all liabilities, claims, actions, suits, demands, damages, judgments, losses, costs or expenses, including attorney’s fees, arising out of Dog Control Services provided under this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 6 - ENTIRE UNDERSTANDING**

This Agreement, together with all documents included by reference herein, represents the entire understanding of the parties, and neither party is relying upon any representation not contained herein.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereby execute this Agreement as of the date above written:

For the TOWN OF MONTAGUE:

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair, Board of Selectmen

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

For the FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE:

\_\_\_\_\_

Chris Donelan, Franklin County Sheriff

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**Attachment C: Memorandum of Understanding between the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments**

Memorandum of Understanding

by and between

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments

and

This Agreement is by and between the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, hereinafter called FRCOG and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, hereinafter called FCSO.

Whereas this project shall be conducted in accordance with this Agreement, and

Whereas, this Agreement represents the entire understanding of the parties, and neither is relying upon any representation not contained herein

Now therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained the parties agree as follows:

### **ARTICLE 1 – SERVICES OF THE FRCOG and the FCSO**

FCSO hereby engages the FRCOG and the FRCOG hereby accepts the engagement to provide fiscal agent support for the FCSO's Regional Dog Kennel Program, including the use of a FRCOG UniBank account to process debit and credit card fee payments.

#### **Responsibilities of the FRCOG:**

1. Contract with UniBank to transact online payments.
2. Work with UniBank to set up a payment kiosk at the kennel for debit and credit card payments.
3. Make arrangements through UniBank to train FCSO staff on how to use the kiosk.
4. On a monthly basis, transfer funds received through debit and credit card payments in the FRCOG Unibank account, into the existing Civil Processing (C.P.) account.
5. Track the receipt of dog kennel fees, town assessment revenues and disbursements through a sub-account within the C.P. accounting system and provide annual report to towns.
6. Track receipt of any grants and/or donations through a sub-account within the C.P. accounting system.
7. Process warrants from the FCSO consistent with C.P. warrant procedures and through the C.P. checking account.
8. Provide reports to the FCSO along with its C.P. reports.
9. When and if the FRCOG applies for and receives grant funding on behalf of the kennel, those funds will be managed, reported, and expended under a FRCOG staff member's direction.

#### **Responsibilities of the FCSO:**

1. Assume all responsibility and liability for kennel operations.
2. Assume all responsibility and liability for making sure owners pay who come to the kennel to pick up their dogs.
3. Assume all responsibility and liability for fee payments by cash to the kennel.

4. Ensure kennel is staffed with a qualified manager.
5. Ensure kennel manager is trained with UniBank procedures.
6. Properly sign and mail all warrant checks.
7. Provide approval to FRCOG to make ACH transfers into the C.P. account for fees received.
8. Order necessary supplies.
9. Submit invoices for payments for kennel supplies on a warrant similar to the C.P. process.
10. Assess and invoice participating towns annually and track payments.
11. Track number of dogs that come in and out of the kennel per town and report to participating towns bi-annually.
12. Make sure FCSO staffs handling cash and the kennel manager are bonded.
13. Provide a lock box at the kennel to hold cash payments. Cash or check payments will be deposited by FCSO staff into the Civil Processing checking account. Deposits will be reported to FRCOG finance office in the same manner that C.P. deposits are reported.
14. Any equipment provided by the FRCOG, through a grant, will remain the property of the FRCOG unless otherwise specified in a separate MOU.

#### **ARTICLE 2 – TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT:**

FCSO may, with six (6) months written notice, terminate this Agreement for non-performance of the services required under this Agreement. FRCOG shall be entitled to complete payment for any costs incurred prior to such notice.

#### **ARTICLE 3 – TIME OF PERFORMANCE**

The time period covered under this agreement is November 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, and the terms of the agreement will automatically renew for an initial period of three years beginning July 1, 2012 (ending June 30, 2015) This Agreement may be extended after that period by mutual consent of the parties.

#### **ARTICLE 4 – COMPENSATION**

For grants (if received): To be negotiated on an individual basis, based on the requirements of the grant.

For fiscal agent and hosting services including the kennel fee, donation, and assessment accounting system: The first six months expense will be covered and tracked by the FRCOG in order to determine costs. Subsequent compensation will be determined through discussion between the FCSO, the Oversight Committee and the FRCOG.

#### **ARTICLE 5 - AMENDMENTS**

No amendment to this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing, signed by the duly authorized representatives of all parties, and complies with the provisions of this Agreement, and all other regulations and requirements of law.

**ARTICLE 6 - ENTIRE UNDERSTANDING**

This Agreement, together with all documents included by reference herein, represents the entire understanding of the parties, and neither party is relying upon any representation not contained herein.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereby execute this Agreement as of the date above written:

For the FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

Linda Dunlavy	Date
Executive Director	

For the FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE:

Chris Donelan	Date
Franklin County Sheriff	

**Appendix D: Dog Kennel List Items for Purchase**

*For kennel:*

- Bedding and towels
- Washer, dryer, detergent and bleach
- Food (both wet and dry)
- Food and water bowls
- Vaccinations/parasite control (in coordination with a veterinarian)
- Muzzles
- Crates (various sizes)

*For cleaning/disinfecting:*

- Disinfectants and applicators
- Hose/spray nozzle

- Squeegee (one that can be used on the floors)
- Mop and bucket
- Broom
- Paper towels, hand soap, garbage bags, etc.

*For safety:*

- Goggles (for use with the disinfectants)
- A control stick (aka rabies pole)
- Nylon slip leashes
- Fire extinguisher

*For the Van:*

- Stretchers with wheels
- Cargo box
- Guard/cage between driver and dogs
- Hose attachments

*Other:*

- Computer program
- Chip reader

## **Appendix E: Dog Pickup/Fees Protocol**

- If the Sheriff's Office alone picks up a dog and kennels the dog, any pickup and kenneling fees (to be determined by the Oversight Committee) paid by the owner of the dog will be collected and held by the Sheriff's Office. These can be paid either by cash (or travelers check) or credit or debit card.
- If a municipality's dog or animal control officer picks up a dog, and either brings it to the sheriff's regional kennel or the sheriff's office subsequently comes to pick up the dog to house in the regional kennel (in other words, the dog is eventually held at the regional kennel), the owner of the dog will pay a pickup fee to the municipality (based on the fee schedule of the particular municipality) and a kenneling fee to the sheriff's office. Any fee that will go to the town (i.e. the pickup fee) must be paid in cash to the sheriff's office when the owner retrieves the dog. Dogs will not be released without the town fees being

paid. The sheriff's office will provide the dog owner with a receipt indicating the fee paid to the town. That fee will be held at the regional kennel and turned over to the town.

- If a municipality's dog or animal control officer picks up a dog and the dog is not subsequently turned over to the sheriff's office, the municipality will collect any pickup and/or kenneling fee based on the municipality's bylaws and standard operating procedures. The sheriff's office will not collect any fees.

## **Appendix E: News Articles**

*Gazette*

## Regional dog kennel plan gets state grant

By **RICHEL DAVIS**  
Gazette Contributing Writer

**MONTAGUE** — A dozen Franklin County towns and their police departments are about to get a boost in their dog-keeping responsibilities from the regional Council of Governments and the county sheriff.

Sheriff Christopher Donelan has hired a regional dog control program manager, and the COG has received a \$19,000 state grant to help set up a regional kennel at the Montague Transfer Station beginning in May.

Leslie Colucci, Greenfield's former animal control officer, has been hired as a full-time program manager and regional dog officer to work with inmates and with participating towns to keep their loose dogs off the streets.

"Not only does she have all the certifications for animal control and as an inspector, but she's reserve trained, so she can be sworn in immediately as a (sheriff's) deputy to work directly with inmates" who will walk and care for the dogs and clean the area, said Donelan.

Inmates have already repaired the roof of what will become an office and veterinary examination facility, said Donelan, so that the building and fenced-in exercise yard is about halfway toward completion. It should handle about 10 dogs, he said.

Meanwhile, the COG has signed agreements with 12 towns, including Greenfield, Montague and Deerfield and extending from Heath to Warwick and Whately, to provide kennel space and make it less onerous for town animal con-

trol officers to come up with holding facilities, according to regional project planner Ted Harvey.

"When we talked to towns, we found that was the big thing — they didn't have a place to take the dogs," said Harvey.

Several towns have part-time officers available on weekends, but the new position will provide weekday coverage, he said. In other towns, the program will provide primary coverage to the participating towns.

"Regionalizing services is the wave of the future, out of financial necessity," said Donelan. "And we're the entity that's best equipped to take a leadership role in providing this regionalized service."

The sheriff predicted that the new program — to be funded with \$45,000 from his budget and

town assessments, offset by fees and fines paid for loose and stray dogs — will provide "tremendous relief" for local police.

"In many towns where these services are lacking," he said, "it's the cop on the beat that's getting tied up with (animal control) calls and throwing the dog in the back seat of the cruiser to do something with it. And now they're tied up and can't handle more serious calls."

The COG planned for the program using technical assistance funding from the state intended to develop regional programs, said Harvey. The \$19,000 provided to the town under a recently awarded state Community Innovation Challenge grant will be used to buy additional materials to get the program up and running May 1, he said.

# Regional dog kennel plan gets state grant

By RICHIE DAVIS  
Recorder Staff

4/3/12

There's dogs, the COG and cops.

Now a dozen Franklin County towns and their police departments are about to get a boost in their dog-keeping responsibilities, from the regional Council of Governments and the county sheriff.

Sheriff Christopher Donelan has hired a regional dog control program manager, and the COG has received a \$19,000 state grant, to help set up a regional kennel at the Montague Transfer Station beginning in May.

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See KENNEL Page C3

## ■ Kennel

From Page C1

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The COG planned for the program using technical assistance funding from the state intended to develop regional programs, said Harvey.

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11/15/12

## A Great Day for Dogs

RIBBON CUTTING AT FRANKLIN COUNTY DOG KENNEL



Nancy Spring, a volunteer at the regional kennel since June, with one of the dogs that got adopted last Wednesday

BY LEE WICKS

"This was a great day for the dogs," said Leslie Colucci, director of the newly renovated Franklin County dog kennel. On Wednesday, November 7th, nearly 100 people crowded into the reception area for a community open house and the official ribbon cutting.

Some simply could not resist the dogs. Five were adopted by the end of the day.

"The small ones get adopted most easily", Colucci said. "Big dogs are harder to place." Nevertheless, a huge tan shepherd mix found his forever home at the open house.

Though Coco, a boxer mix sporting an Adopt Me vest,

meandered peacefully among the crowd, showed no aggression at all, and even avoided the donuts, he is still looking for a forever home. While he waits, he could not be in a better place. The kennel is clean and well lit, there is ample access to the outdoor runs, and a cadre of two dozen volunteers dote on the dogs.

Lost or surrendered dogs in 12 towns now have a comfortable place to go while they await adoption or a reunion with their families. Since last spring, 80 dogs have come through the kennel, said kennel director Colucci. "Twenty-five (now thirty) were adopted

see DOGS page 6



KENNEL from page 1

Renee Esquivarria and Mario Zink, members of the all-important Orange Team that worked on the kennel project.

and the rest were either reunited with their families or held at the kennel."

This project is a poster child for regionalization of services and won a highly competitive state Community Innovation Challenge Grant (CICG) in 2012. The CICG program, established by the Patrick-Murray administration in November 2011, invests in innovation among local governments. The grant for the dog kennel, written by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, allows 12 communities, working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, in cooperation with Franklin County sheriff Christopher Donelan, to implement a shared animal control officer and dog kennel.

Inmates from the Franklin County jail (known as the Orange Team) did an incredible amount of work on the renovation, and will in the future also help train the dogs, said Donelan, citing research about the therapeutic effect of these relationships. Sandri Oil Company donated the kennel's furnace. Pioneer Stone and Gravel of Millers Falls gave 60 tons of stone. Pam Murphy is contributing her dog training services. Five local veterinarians are helping with health care, Terry Gagnon made dog bed covers, and Tom Bergeron and the DPW donated labor. Volunteers assist staff in running the daily operations of the kennel. In all, the \$20,000 grant leveraged \$75,000 of donated goods,

labor and in-kind services, Donelan said.

There will also be cooperation and collaboration between the Franklin County dog kennel and the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Leverett, said Dakin director Leslie Harris. "More can only be better," Harris said. "It is important to Dakin that the county has a good animal control program."

Massachusetts Secretary of Administration and Finance Jay Gonzalez, who traveled from Boston for the ribbon cutting, said, "We loved this project when we received the application. This is exactly what this grant program is looking for. Regionalization is the way of the future." Even with level funding, he explained there will not be enough money in the budget to fund all the needs of cities and towns. "Communities can do what they need to do in smarter, better ways," he said, adding, "This project proves it."

State representative Stephen Kulik thanked Gonzalez and said, "Franklin County is a special place. We're leading the way. Send us all the money you want. We will spend it wisely."

The Franklin County dog kennel is open daily, but it is best to call if you want to meet a homeless dog or volunteer some time. Call 413-676-9182.



# Regional dog shelter now open

By CHRIS CURTIS  
Recorder Staff 11/8/2012

TURNERS FALLS — The Franklin County sheriff's Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center officially opened Wednesday with state officials touting the benefits of such shared municipal services.

Jay Gonzalez, secretary of the state Executive Office for Administration and Finance, attended the grand opening of the shelter, established in part with state money through his office.

Gonzalez, Sheriff Christopher Donelan, state Reps. Stephen Kulik and Paul Mark and shelter Director Leslee Colucci addressed an audience of about 50 squeezed into the former Department of Public Works storage bay, freshly renovated into an office or reception area with attached dog shower by a prison work crew and volunteers.

Gonzalez told the crowd there is a new fiscal reality and even the cheeriest budget projections show local aid frozen at the current post-recession levels.

"The one thing we have within our control and that we have no choice anymore to do is to change the way government does business," Gonzalez said.

Towns need to find ways to offer services more cheaply and efficiently, Gonzalez said, and the Community Innovation Challenge grants given out this year to the tune of \$4 million are targeted at encouraging such efforts.

The Sheriff's Office, with the help of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, secured \$19,900 of that money to set up the 12-town regional shelter.

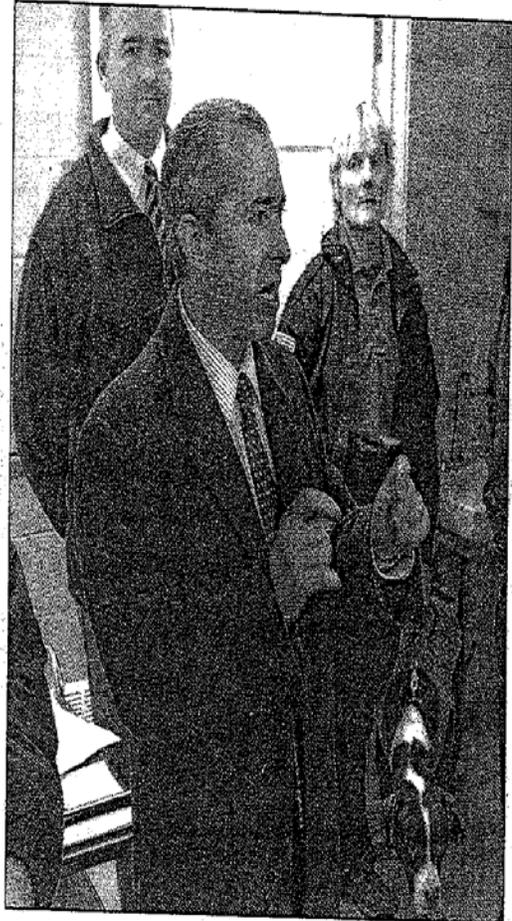
"I would say, Mr. Secretary, that we did at least \$75,000 worth of work to this building with the money you gave us," Donelan said.

Donelan said the kennel rose out of a persistent need he had seen, with police responding to dog calls and collecting the animals to then take up space in the back seat of the cruiser.

"The Sheriff's Office being one of the few regional entities left it seemed like a logical place to look for a solution," Donelan said earlier.

Citing the failure of a Franklin County hool regionalization effort while he is serving as a state representative, Donelan said there is stubborn resistance from towns to the idea of giving up modicum of control to regionalization a host of areas, but regionalization will move forward if projects like the kennel demonstrate that it works.

Donelan said he eventually plans to



Recorder/Paul Franz

Jay Gonzalez, the Massachusetts Secretary of Administration and Finance, talks at a reception held at the newly opened Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center in Montague. Behind him is Sheriff Chris Donelan and Leslee Colucci of the Sheriff's Dept., who will be running the shelter.

incorporate the kennel into the jail's vocational program, saying research has shown working with animals can have a calming effect on a person's personality.

The shelter has been in the midst of renovation but open since May, according to Colucci, a former Greenfield animal control officer hired by the sheriff to oversee the program.

Colucci said what was meant to be a quiet opening brought in 13 dogs in the first two weeks, and the kennel has since seen more than 80, with 25 adopted out.

The operation of the shelter is funded by relatively small assessments to the towns — with the cost of the sole paid position, Colucci's, borne by the Sheriff's Office — and fees charged owners col-

lecting their wayward pets.

Most of the dogs — the shelter is currently not equipped to handle other pets — are strays or runaways collected by police or animal control officers in the 12 towns and deposited at the shelter, according to Colucci.

Montague, Greenfield, Heath, Colrain, Bernardston, Warwick, Erving, Gill, Buckland, Conway, Deerfield and Whately signed on to the plan.

Colucci thanked the many volunteers and donors and presented a plaque thanking the "Orange Team" to the five orange-clad members of the jail inmate work crew present.

The shelter is located at the end of Sandy Lane off Turnpike Road and can be reached at 413-676-9182.

## Rise Up Community Service Project Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Animal Shelter



FAITH KAEMMERLIN PHOTO

*Leslee Colucci, Deputy Director of the Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center; Back row: Alicia Peters, Riley Smith, Mike Conant, Garrett Reipold and Stephen Palso. L-R Front row: Katelyn Dodge, Molly Hillman, Kelsey Yolish, Emilee Felton, and on the floor with Zen is Nick Fisher.*

The Rise Up students chose the animal shelter as their class community service project and they completed their project last week.

As a class the students identified the need for fun and community building, promotion and funding for the shelter as well as beds for the dogs. The kids created the

four part project that included a dodge ball fundraiser, a commercial broadcasted on MCTV, sewing dog beds and volunteering at the shelter.

The class raised approximately \$700 for the shelter, donated 8 beds and volunteered five times at the shelter where they cleaned the

kennels, and walked and played with the dogs.

"We loved working with the folks at the Sheriff's shelter. They were supportive of including youth and we greatly appreciated them," enthused Rise Up Coordinator Faith Kaemmerlin.

## Flu Report for Montague

By LEE WICKS

With cities such as Boston and New York declaring public health

United States annually from the flu and complications of the flu. These deaths usually occur in the elderly, the very young and individuals

Use a household cleaner to clean things that are touched often like door and refrigerator handles, computer keyboards and mouse, phones, kids' toys.

Wash your hands often with