

HUMANE SOCIETY OF SCOTT COUNTY STATEMENT ON DAVENPORT ANIMAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 02/05/2026

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Davenport, IA — February 5, 2026 — The Humane Society of Scott County learned of the City of Davenport’s announcement regarding the ending of contract services on December 31st, 2026 at the same time as many of the public. Although HSSC has been engaged in ongoing discussions with the City—including responding to their verbal request in January to extend services while Davenport planned its own animal control and sheltering operations—no formal agreement has been executed, and the City did not provide feedback to HSSC prior to issuing its public statement.

HSSC has been proud to provide contracted animal services to Davenport for many decades. During that time, the cost of providing these services has consistently exceeded the amount paid by the City of Davenport contract. As a result, HSSC has provided these services at an unsustainable level of subsidization, placing the burden of payment on HSSC and its donors. Under new leadership, HSSC entered ongoing negotiations beginning in 2022 with the goal of establishing a long-term agreement that is sustainable, transparent, and fair to both taxpayers and the nonprofit donors who support animal welfare in our community.

Throughout negotiations, HSSC provided our detailed annual budget and has shared our annual independent audits. HSSC also worked alongside specialized consultants with deep experience in animal welfare contracts and remains confident that HSSC’s costs to perform the services requested by Davenport reflect standard practice for these services.

“As a nonprofit, we have a responsibility to be good stewards of donor dollars,” said Erika Gunn, Executive Director. “We cannot continue to subsidize Davenport’s municipal services indefinitely. Our goal has always been a sustainable structure where the City of Davenport covers the cost of its contracted services, and HSSC continues to support the community through additional resources and programming that improve outcomes for animals.”

At this time, HSSC’s agreements with Scott County and other cities are not impacted by this transition. HSSC remains dedicated to providing responsive, high-quality services across Scott County and supporting residents with resources that protect both public safety and animal welfare.

As the Davenport agreement transitions, HSSC remains committed to collaborating with City leadership and staff to support an orderly transition process and is open to continuing to provide contracted animal services to Davenport residents through the end of 2026, though the City of Davenport has offered no formal response to extend the current contract beyond June 30th.

HSSC will remain a stable, mission-driven nonprofit organization for animals and residents throughout Scott County beyond the transition of services with Davenport. Our organization will continue to operate and continue meaningful work that improves animal welfare both today and long after Davenport's contract transition is complete. Those wishing to support the work of HSSC may donate at <https://hssc.us/ways-to-give>.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will animal control services stop in Davenport?

No. The current contract is in effect through June 30, 2026, but HSSC is willing to continue through December 31, 2026, while the City and HSSC work toward a responsible transition plan.

Why is the agreement ending?

HSSC cannot continue subsidizing the cost of animal control services to the extent it has in the past. The City of Davenport has not been willing to provide an appropriate level of payment for their requested services at this time. The City requested in January of 2026 that HSSC provide a new service offer that would give city staff time to plan their own animal shelter and animal control services performed by Davenport instead of HSSC. HSSC provided them with a response the morning of February 4th for that request.

Did HSSC provide detailed cost information to the City?

Yes. HSSC provided our annual budget, annual independent audits, animal intake data, and animal control call data throughout negotiations. The information provided was consistent with industry standards as benchmarked against other animal control providers and HSSC's professional consultant.

What is the cost to perform animal control and shelter services for the City of Davenport?

In 2025, the cost to perform animal control and shelter services for the City of Davenport was \$1,233,000.

Why did the cost to provide services drastically increase?

It hasn't. The Humane Society of Scott County has made it known to Davenport since negotiations began in late 2022 and into early 2023 that the cost to provide services was over \$1,200,000.

Is the cost of \$1,233,000 to perform animal control and shelter services comparable to other Iowa cities?

Yes, for example, Iowa City's proposed budget for animal control and animal shelter services is \$1,218,500. Iowa City has a population of approximately 76,000. Davenport has a population of approximately 100,900. The Humane Society of Scott County currently provides animal care and control services for all of Scott County at one of the lowest per capita rates of the most populated cities in the state.

What was the Humane Society of Scott County's payment request for the next contract that would have started on July 1, 2026?

On December 11, 2025, HSSC requested that the City of Davenport pay \$986,838 for the service year beginning on July 1, 2026 with a 5% increase in the following two fiscal years. Despite the actual cost of services being \$1,233,000, HSSC was committed to continuing to work with Davenport on a longer timeline to achieve full contract payment if significant progress was being shown.

What should residents do if they need animal control assistance right now?

There is no change to services at this time. Residents should continue using the current process for animal control calls within Scott County and all cities within.

What happens next?

HSSC is open to continue delivering services for Davenport through December 31, 2026 pending an official agreement with Davenport to work with their city leadership and staff to support a smooth and humane transition plan. Services for other cities and unincorporated areas of Scott County remain unaffected. The Humane Society of Scott County will continue to operate beyond the transition of services with Davenport and remain a mission-driven nonprofit here to help animals in need by providing shelter, adoption services, and support resources for our community with care and compassion.