Rider 32 Spay and Neuter Pilot Program 2026 Update

As Required by
2026-27 General Appropriations Act,
S.B. 1, 89th Legislature,
Regular Session, 2025
(Article II, DSHS, Rider 32)

September 2026

TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

Table of Contents

Introduction **2**

Fiscal Year 2026 Grant Program Update **3**

Strategies for Program Expansion and Improvement **8**

Conclusion **9**

Introduction

Senate Bill (S.B.) 1, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025 (Article II, Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Rider 32) designated $13 million in General Revenue for the 2026–27 biennium for DSHS to implement a pilot program focused on protecting human health by reducing the population of cats and dogs at risk for unplanned breeding that may carry infectious diseases. Rider 32 authorized DSHS to contract with qualified entities to ensure the use of effective and humane methods.

DSHS launched the Texas Spay and Neuter Pilot Program in January 2026 using an open enrollment application process. Eligible entities included municipal and county shelters, private animal shelters, 501(c) nonprofit organizations, animal rescue entities, and veterinary clinics.

DSHS reviewed applications on a first-come, first-served basis and considered geographic factors to ensure statewide coverage. Award amounts were based on each participating entity's sized and proposed activities, with awards ranging from $50,000 to $1,000,000 for the 2026-27 biennium.

Rider 32 requires DSHS to submit an annual report each fiscal year of the 2026-27 biennium beginning September 1, 2026, that includes:

- the number and location of animals treated;
- health outcomes related to disease prevention;
- program expenditures, and
- strategies for program expansion and improvement.

This report is based on one quarter of contractor reporting, which limits the amount of information available to meet the September 1, 2026, deadline. The FY 2027 report will include more complete data, including more details about outcomes, disease trends, and performance measures.

Fiscal Year 2026 Grant Program Update

DSHS awarded a total of $12,231,414 for the 2026-27 biennium to 38 applicants. Awards supported diverse statewide, regional, and local animal health care providers across urban, rural, and underserved geographical areas. The remainder of the funding supported four full-time employees responsible for contract oversight and invoice processing.

All contracts are effective March 2026 through August 31, 2027. Participating entities must submit monthly invoices and quarterly reports, which include the:

- Number and type of spay and neuter procedures that entities performed;
- Amount DSHS has reimbursed entities; and
- List of counties where entities provided spay and neuter services.

Table 1 below summarizes FY 2026 Spay and Neuter Pilot Program activities reported by participating contractors. The table includes each contractor's name, award amount, counties served, number of animals treated, and amount expended as of June 2026.

Table 1. Texas Spay and Neuter Pilot Program Metrics, March - June 2026

Contractor Name	Award Amount for 2026-27 Biennium	Counties Served	Number of Animals Treated	Amount Expended
Operation Kindness	$1,000,000	Anderson, Brewster, Cameron, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Grayson, Harris, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Nueces, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant	1,197	$278,825
PetSet	$1,000,000	Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Waller, Wharton	676	$133,675
Humane Heroes	$834,800	Angelina, Aransas, Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Brazos, Caldwell, Comal, Coryell, Dallas, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gillespie, Grayson, Gregg, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hood, Jefferson,	733	$141,075

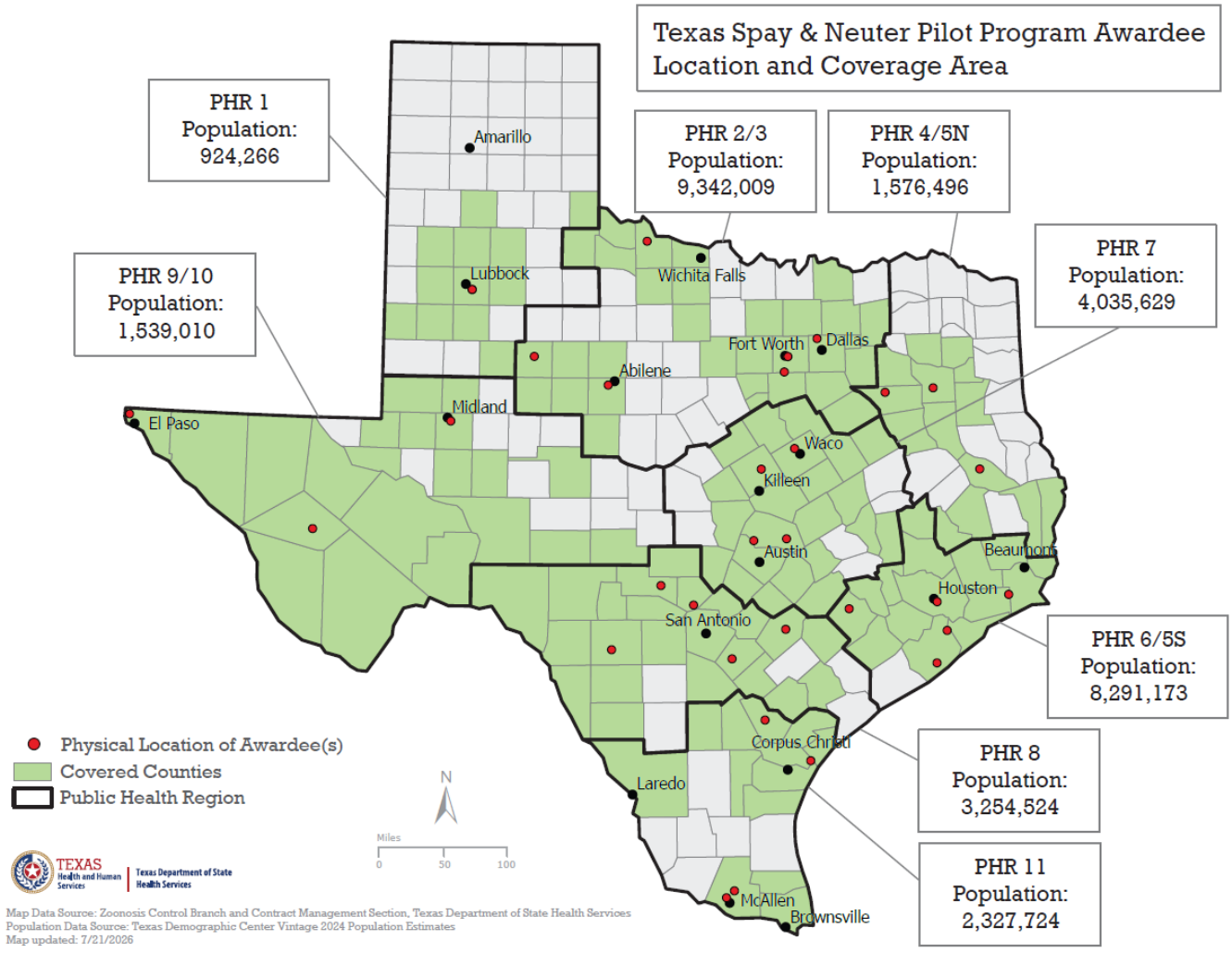
Contractor Name	Award Amount for 2026-27 Biennium	Counties Served	Number of Animals Treated	Amount Expended
		Lampasas, McLennan, Medina, Milam, Palo Pinto, Smith, Tarrant, Travis, Tyler, Victoria, Webb, Williamson, Young		
Operation Pets Alive!	$634,750	Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Travis, Walker, Waller	1,031	$253,075
Citizens for Animal Protection	$500,000	Fort Bend, Harris, Waller	651	$139,175
Humane Society of North Texas	$500,000	Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hill, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant	894	$180,550
Noah's Paws Animal Rescue	$500,000	Anderson, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Parker, Rockwall, Smith, Tarrant, Van Zandt, Wise	358	$65,525
People Assisting Animal Control	$500,000	Aransas, Bee, Hidalgo, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Willacy	307	$59,850
Animal Birth Control Clinic	$499,998	Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Dallas, Ellis, Falls, Fort Bend, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Navarro, Robertson, Travis	555	$130,925
Little Veterinary Services	$499,998	Bell, McLennan, Milam, Travis, Williamson	411	$87,450
Hill Country Animal League S.P.C.A. Inc.	$499,975	Bandera, Bexar, Blanco, Caldwell, Comal, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Medina, Real, Travis, Uvalde	566	$98,875
Feralife Guards	$360,325	Bastrop, Bell, Burnet, Coryell, Lee, Milam, Travis, Williamson	293	$48,025
Brazoria County Society for the	$300,000	Brazoria, Harris	510	$104,200

Contractor Name	Award Amount for 2026-27 Biennium	Counties Served	Number of Animals Treated	Amount Expended
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals				
Humane Society of El Paso	$300,000	El Paso	422	$96,500
Jenni's Rescue Ranch	$300,000	Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris	516	$132,500
All Kind Animal Initiative	$299,998	Taylor	628	$149,999
Fix West Texas Midland, Texas (Midland County)	$299,998	Andrews, Ector, Martin, Midland	397	$94,325
SPCA of East Texas, Inc.	$299,998	Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood	155	$37,750
Grand Companions Humane Society Fort Davis, TX	$285,400	Brewster, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jones, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Runnels, Sutton, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Ward, Winkler	142	$34,400
Palm Valley Animal Society	$250,000	Hidalgo	575	$136,325
Wilson County Area Alliance for Animal Well-Being	$250,000	Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Karnes, Wilson	299	$68,125
Wilson County No Kill Animal Shelter	$250,000	Atascosa, Bexar, Guadalupe, Karnes, Medina, Wilson	141	$32,175
Columbus Animal Clinic	$155,000	Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Wharton	100	$20,900
Beaumont Pets Alive	$150,000	Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Orange	190	$33,350
City of Midland-Animal Services	$150,000	Midland	316	$74,550
Kat's Alley Cats	$150,000	Crosby, Floyd, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry	474	$79,575
Lubbock Animal Services	$150,000	Lubbock	25	$7,000

Contractor Name	Award Amount for 2026-27 Biennium	Counties Served	Number of Animals Treated	Amount Expended
Raider Vets Inc.	$150,000	Crosby, Hockley, Terry, Floyd, Hale, Lamb, Lubbock, Swisher, Ector, Lynn, Yoakum	95	$24,650
Beeville Veterinary Hospital	$149,998	Bee, Goliad, Jim Wells, Karnes, Live Oak, McMullen, Refugio, San Patricio	206	$44,175
Southwest Texas Veterinary Medical Center	$149,998	Bandera, Dimmit, Edwards, Harris, Kinney, Maverick, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Zavala	170	$39,475
FWZGWC PLLC dba Guadalupe Valley Veterinary Clinic	$149,998	Caldwell, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Lavaca	215	$46,575
Friend's Veterinary Clinic PLLC	$149,998	Bandera, Edwards, Gillespie, Kerr, Kimble, Real	26	$5,125
City of Lufkin Animal Services	$149,998	Angelina	153	$38,450
Heavenly Purrsuits Rescue	$100,000	Bosque, Dallas, Ellis, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant	270	$46,825
Second Chance Dog Rescue	$100,000	Borden, Fisher, Lubbock, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry	89	$19,125
Wilbarger Humane Society	$100,000	Archer, Baylor, Childress, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Wichita, Wilbarger	152	$33,775
Paws Fur Help, Inc.	$61,184	Hidalgo	46	$12,025
Gatesville Animal Clinic	$50,000	Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, McLennan	50	$10,350
TOTAL	**$12,231,414**	**152**	**14,311**	**$3,102,899**

As of June 2026, the 38 contractors report treating over 14,000 animals in 152 counties. While the total expenditures in June were relatively low, DSHS largely attributes this to the ramp up time needed for these contractors to expand their activities. The FY 2027 report will contain updated figures for the complete contracting period and will also contain data about health outcomes.

The map below shows the physical locations of contract awardees, major cities, and counties covered by funded services within each Public Health Region (PHR).



Strategies for Program Expansion and Improvement

To help gauge the success of DSHS approaches to implementing Rider 32, DSHS recorded feedback from contractors and stakeholders on ways to improve the program if appropriations continue. Of note, this information is based on one quarter of contract activities and DSHS expects more details will emerge as entities complete their contract periods.

Contractors and stakeholders indicate ongoing demand for low-cost spay and neuter services. They indicate that this support for spay and neuter services achieves positive outcomes, including reduced overpopulation, fewer unplanned litters, increased adoption activity, and improved animal health. Some stakeholders recommend that any future iterations of the program prioritize underserved and rural regions with limited veterinary services.

DSHS will continue outreach efforts through the DSHS website and social media platforms to improve pet owner awareness of the program and ensure access to these low-cost spay and neuter services. DSHS will also actively collect feedback and more information as the program progresses and provide those details in the FY 2027 report.

Conclusion

DSHS implemented Rider 32 through an open enrollment contracting process and considered geographic factors and coverage in the awards process. DSHS continues to monitor contractor performance through required quarterly reporting.

While the data in this report is limited, DSHS expects the final report for the 2026-2027 biennium to contain more complete data and information on health outcomes and disease trends. Contractors have expressed an ongoing demand for low-cost spay and neuter services in their covered areas, and DSHS will continue to monitor contractor expenditures and offer technical assistance as warranted.