# HUMANE

FROM **PAGE A1**

blankets that they can cuddle up on. A lot of times it is a one-use blanket, so we go through a lot of blankets in the colder months."

The McCracken County Humane Society adopted out more than 100 dachshunds in September, after a year of holding them, and they are no longer over capacity.

"I do feel like because we've opened up all the kennels, we are seeing an increase of animals coming. We're able to do what our mission is: to kind of take in some of the stray animals in our community," Boggs said.



ZOE LEWIS | The Sun

**The McCracken County Humane Society says they are in need of blankets, towels and sheets to keep their animals warm during the cold temperatures.**

He also said the winter weather might cause more strays to come in.

"I think people are a little more cognizant of seeing the animals in the neighborhood and think, 'Oh, it's cold outside,' so we need to get them in. I think probably the general public is a little more keyed in to seeing those strays, and I do think we probably do see a little bit of an uptick in that," Boggs said.

As more animals come in, the humane society's needs will continue to grow.

"[We need] blankets, towels, dog chow, puppy chow [and] any cleaning supplies. We go through a lot of bleach. We go through a lot of Pine-Sol. We go through a lot of food," Boggs said.

As winter nears, Boggs also encourages outdoor pet owners to prep for the cold weather to protect their animals.

"Make sure they have an enclosed space that they could go in… You don't have to go out and buy a giant big dog house; you can just make sure it's got a covered shelter, a place they can get out of the elements. Make sure it has a blanket, straw, hay — all of that is really good to line those with," Boggs said. "[When] we start hitting freezing temperatures, make sure that you're checking their water on a daily basis to make sure it's not frozen."

If McCracken County residents see a stray, Boggs said they can call the humane society to see if it has space for the animal.

For more information about the McCracken County Humane Society, visit mccrackenhumane.org.

# FLOCK

FROM **PAGE A1**

is the problem. With a system this powerful and this fast and this efficient, the potential for misuse goes way up. Misuse in this case meaning that anyone's location for any reason, can be tracked at a moment's notice, which is scary. That's not to say that our police department would do that. I have no reason to believe that they would do anything but keep us safe. But the way that the Flock system is set up means that every other police department or organization with Flock cameras has access to the ones that we have. You're not just mitigating for potential bad actors here, you're mitigating for potential bad actors all over the country."

Two members of Young Americans for Liberty addressed the commission: Neil Benson of Calvert City, Kentucky, and Sarah Sloan of Richmond, Kentucky. Benson spoke about his concerns regarding Flock cameras at the previous city commission meeting. He also shared concerns about data from Paducah and McCracken's cameras being shared to other agencies and called for the city to remove them entirely.

"We are asking the commission to terminate the current agreement with Flock Safety to amend the Axon Agreement to remove ALPR technology and to enact an ordinance banning the use of ALPRs in the city of Paducah," Benson said. "The issue is not whether the city can create better policies or additional safeguards. The issue is the technology inherently collects and shares the information of innocent citizens, creating an ongoing surveillance system which cannot be fixed with regulation and oversight. There is no policy that changes what these cameras are designed to do. You cannot regulate this technology into acceptability. If you care about public safety, you should care about the safety of our information and get rid of this technology for good."

Laird began by addressing data storage, explaining that the data is not stored in-house, but by Flock through Amazon Web Services. He said data is currently stored for a 30 day period, but Flock is in the process of shortening it to a week.

"All the images and metadata that are collected are encrypted, and they're Criminal Justice Information System compliant," Laid said. "There is a 30-day retention of the data. Flock is in the process of changing that to a seven-day retention. If Flock mandates that, then we would obviously change our policy to seven days. I can tell you that I've been shown in the system where after that 30 day window, if you type in a date and a time, it's not accessible. Once you hit that rolling 30 days, we don't have access to it anymore."

Laird also discussed data sharing, saying the Flock system is designed as a data sharing network accessible strictly through participating criminal justice agencies.

"If you have access to the national databases and you are a customer of Flock, then you can access the Flock data," Laird said. "It has to be shared between agencies. You have to grant access to do that. We only use it for legitimate law enforcement purposes. That's what it's designed for, and for public safety purposes. Then we do quarterly audits. Those quarterly audits are done by an assistant chief right now. They look to make sure that the searches that are conducted and the way the system is being used meets our policy, and if it doesn't, then we address that. That's from making sure that there's a case number or a justification is put in there for each one of those. That's one of the things that we felt was important. We've had a policy from day one, from the time that we have implemented these systems, because you have to have something that's going to guide usage of it, just like you do any other tool that we have."



BEN OVERBY | The Sun

**Neil Benson of Calvert City delivers a public comment on Nov. 10.**

Laird also shared success stories Paducah Police have had since implementing Flock cameras, including leading to the capture of a prison escapee convicted of murder, locating a suspect accused of shooting a University of Missouri football player, and locating stolen vehicles and missing persons as recently as Monday.

Laird discussed a website dedicated to providing information about Paducah Police's use of Flock, part of the company's transparency portal. The website is available at transparency.flocksafety.com/paducah-ky-pd. It includes information such as camera alert activity, vehicle detections, number of searches by law enforcement, and a list of agencies Paducah police has shared data with and received data from over a 30-day period.

"Flock is getting feedback around the country," Mayor George Bray said. "We all know that; we've seen it. I think what's really positive is that Flock themselves is trying to make improvements. […] Let's be honest and candid here. This commission voted five to nothing last year to expand Flock cameras. I think we support the safety of this community. It's a top priority. Certainly, we want to recognize some of the concerns out there, and Flock is recognizing those. We're making sure that we're transparent with our website and what's going on. This commission has stood behind our police department 100%. We think you guys do a great job, and we appreciate the work that you do."

Laird added that he does not feel the department is at a point where they would request to expand the program beyond the current 32 cameras.

The commission also approved authorization for City Manager Daron Jordan to enter competitive negotiations with Architects Design Group of Winter Park, Florida, for architectural and engineering design services for a new Paducah Police Station to be located at 3047 Jackson Street. Laird explained that ADG was selected from six proposals and would work alongside Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects and BFW Marcum Engineering.

"This is a big step because we're going to enter into negotiations to design a new police station," Bray said. "That's going to cost money, and strongly implies that we're going to build a new police station, and that's going to cost a heck of a lot more money. As we go through the budgeting process over the next several months, we'll think about all the decisions we're making and how this stacks up with everything else. It's a big decision. It's important. I think it demonstrates that we're a growing community. New police stations cost money, and we all just need to keep that in mind as we go through the budgeting process, which is coming up here pretty quick now."




