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New Chief Named for City Animal Control Service

The Houston Department of Health and Human Services announced today the selection of a new Chief for the Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC). Kent Robertson, director of the City of Dallas Animal Services program, has accepted the BARC leadership position and is expected to begin work in June.

City of Houston Mayor Bill White stated, "Health Director Stephen Williams did an excellent job of finding the best person in the nation to turn around BARC, and help Houston treat animals more humanely."

Robertson has over 30 years of experience directing private, not-for-profit and government animal welfare agencies. He joined the Dallas program in 2003. The Dallas program won the 2004 National Public Agency of the Year. From 1999 through 2003, Robertson served as the Senior Vice-President of the SPCA of Texas. From 1989 through 1999, Robertson served as the Director of Operations ('89-'92) and Executive Director ('92-'99) of the Humane Society of Missouri in St. Louis.

Robertson described his goals for BARC is to "develop, implement and enforce the policies and programs that will make Houston a no-kill city, encourage compassionate and responsible behavior toward animals through public outreach and education and reposition BARC as a recognized state and national leader in the field."

Robertson will attend the *Be Kind to Animals Week* event to be held at BARC, 3200 Carr, Monday, May 8 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

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