

Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Public Meeting

January 9, 2013

Present at meeting: Dr. Stephen Tower, Chairman; John Cox, member, Jill Madajczyk, member; Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary; Robert Ratton, City Attorney's Office; James Rogers, Shelter Administrator

The Work Session was called to order by Dr. Tower.

The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and Jill Madajczyk made a motion the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by John Cox, and the motion was approved and the minutes accepted.

Mr. Rogers gave a Power Point presentation of the year to date statistics for the shelter. The total intake at the Shelter is significantly down from previous years. 2012 intake was 12,808. The intake for the previous years: 2011 intake of 15042, 2010 intake of 15401, and 2009 intake of 16256.

Positive outcomes of Shelter animals are also increasing. 2012 there were 3328 positive outcomes. The previous years: 2011 there were 3404 positive outcomes; 2010 positive outcomes 2776; and 2009 positive outcomes were 2616.

Mr. Rogers announced that Jennifer Pittman is the winner of the logo contest. The logo is being finalized and will be unveiled at the shelter later this month with Miss Pittman present.

Pets from the Shelter will be featured on CBS Memphis, Channel 3, on the second Monday of each month. Glenn Andrews has been doing the spot on TV for the shelter.

Off-site adoption events are being held at Petco several times a month as well as occasional special events that require off-site set up.

Through a grant from the SPCA 88 cats have been spayed/neutered at the Memphis Animal Shelter through a trap/neuter/release program. Nina Wingfield from the Collierville Animal Hospital has been coordinating the program. The surgeries are done on Sunday when the shelter is closed to the public. The cats are trapped on Saturday and brought to the shelter by the trappers on Sunday for the surgery. The surgeries are performed by 3 volunteer vets, and volunteers monitor the cats as they wake up.

Mr. Rogers shared the various special fee days held recently at the shelter. The Santa Paws Bag was very popular and successful. Adopters would draw a fee out of Santa's Bag. The fees were 10, 20 and 30 dollars with 5 fees completely paid by Friends of the Memphis Animal Shelter.

Animal Control Officer's calls were down some in December due to the holidays taken by employees in November and December around Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Memphis Animal Shelter will host euthanasia training at the shelter January 19th and 20th. This training is state required for employees doing euthanasia and is state supported. This conference serves West Tennessee not just the Memphis Animal Shelter. Attendees will come from all over West Tennessee. It is important that people performing euthanasia be well trained and licensed.

Dr. Tower brought up the monitoring and procedures in the euthanasia room. He reiterated the importance of the supervision during the euthanasia hours at the shelter. He stated that if supervisors have not signed off on clipboards in the room then it did not happen. Dr. Rogers stated that the two full time veterinarians and the new part time veterinarian check on the room regularly and make sure the euthanasia process is humane.

The sedation of animals in the euthanasia room was also discussed again. Dr. Tower stated that sedation will prevent over restraint on fractious dogs and cats before euthanasia. He asked Mr. Rogers how many out of 100 animals were sedated, and Mr. Rogers stated that about 15 were sedated. Dr. Tower asked about the possibility of all animals being sedated. Mr. Rogers said he would check on the cost of sedating all animals.

Officer logs were reviewed and it was noted that the logs have room for improvement; however there was some improvement over the last logs reviewed.

Jill Madajczyk is working on getting the Fire Department Dispatching and the Mas together so the shelter can learn some dispatching tips from the Fire Department .

Pet licensing was discussed again. Humane Enterprises out of Omaha, NB is the entity that has made a presentation. The projection for revenue from dog licensing was 1.3 million dollars. Their projection is the first year 20% of animals would be licensed, adding another 20% the second year up to a 70% licensing of the dogs in the city. Jeanne Chancellor thought that was ambitious at the least. Jill Madajczyk suggested that Myron Lowry, Chairman of the Committee over the shelter, be approached about the licensing and the fact that this might increase the animals being returned to their owners and also proved additional revenue for the City.

Robert Ratton reported that a letter had been drafted to the local Veterinarians explaining and reminding them that records must be kept on the owners who purchase rabies tags. It is a Class C Misdemeanor not to keep these records. He reported the letter was not threatening but a gentle reminder.

The spaying and neutering of heartworm positive dogs whose owners come to claim them was brought up by Jeanne Chancellor. The shelter currently refuses to spay/neuter a dog with heartworms when they test positive. There are owners who cannot afford to pay the \$200.00 fertile license on top of the impound fees, and their dogs are euthanized by the shelter due to their inability to pay. Jeanne

Chancellor said there must be an alternative since these owners have cared enough to come to the shelter and look for their pet. Alternatives must be found to this euthanasia Jeanne Chancellor stated.

The clinic at the shelter also needs to be brought up to speed suggested Jeanne Chancellor. The x-ray machine has never worked, there are 5 fully equipped spay/neuter tables with equipment that are not used. The shelter needs to get proactive in the community and provide spay/neuter to low income families as well as provide vaccinations on a regular basis. Dr. Tower said it appears the clinic area was overbuilt.

Mr. Rogers stated that he would request that Dr. Coleman attend the next meeting to answer questions and concerns about policies in the clinic.

The meeting was opened to the public for comments.

There was concern about the chipping coating on the dog beds which seems to be an ongoing problem. There was concern expressed about the dogs ingesting the coating. Mr. Rogers stated that the City is working with the manufacture on the matter. Some beds have been replaced, but it seems to be an ongoing issue.

The handling of unanswered calls by Animal Control Officers was brought up. Mr. Rogers stated that one Officer is dispatching during the day and one at night. While Officers are on dispatch during their time they are not on a call on the phone, they are calling through the old calls behind to see if the caller still needs help. This cancels the old calls which are no longer have need of an ACO which greatly reduces the calls that are behind.

A question was asked about the discipline to employees who witnessed cruelty by other employees and did not report the cruelty. Mr. Rogers stated that the employees had been talked to, but the incident did not come to light until after the time limit on disciplining employees. The access and monitoring of the euthanasia room by supervisors was offered as a preventative measure in the future. Dr. Tower asked that the monitoring be closely managed, and Mr. Rogers make sure the veterinarians and supervisors were checking in on euthanasia as stated it would be done.

There was concern about the Euthanasia Training Class being held in January. It has been passed around that many animals would be euthanized. Mr. Rogers stated that the only animals euthanized were animals that were on the list to be euthanized and had been signed off by the Veterinarian. There would not be a mass euthanasia for the class. If people attend the class, that would require the euthanasia of 15 animals. It was stressed that the people performing euthanasia need to be licensed, and need to be completely trained in humane euthanasia.

The question was brought up about the shelter having 50% of the cages empty. It was explained that the dogs have two sides to their cages which allows them to be moved for cleaning, and they are not getting wet during cleaning. It may appear that some cages are empty, but actually those cages are part of the cage system for the dog on the other side. A great criticism at the old shelter was the dogs

getting wet from the hose during cleaning, and this cage system allows the dog a clean cage on the other side thus eliminating the need to get dogs wet during hose cleaning.

There was concern about the clinic not having a microscope in usable condition. Mr. Rogers stated that he would check on the microscope in the clinic.

Dr. Tower thanked the public for coming to the meeting and their concerns about the Shelter.

A motion was made by John Cox to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Jill Madajzyk to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary