

Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Open Meeting

April 9, 2014

Present: Jim Adams, Board Member; Jill Madajczyk, Board Member; Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary; Robert Ratton, City Attorney's Office, James Rogers, Shelter Administrator

In Dr. Tower's absence, Jim Adams conducted the meeting. A quorum was not present so official business will be conducted at the May, 2014 meeting.

Jim Adams opened the meeting.

Mr. Rogers presented a power point of all the activities that the Shelter has participated in during the May, 2014. Euthanasia training was held at Memphis Animal Services for Shelter staff and others who requested certification. Mr. Rogers presented information that the spay/neuter grant the Shelter received through the Pets for Life Program at the Hsus would cover spay/neuters for zip codes 38114, 38116 and 38126. Pets available for adoption are taken on Channel 3 the first Monday of every month. Off-site adoption events have been held at Petco, Buffalo Wild Wings/Wolfchase, Mitchell Community Center, East Win Church, Northshore Adoptathon, and Hollywood Feed on Saturdays during the month. The Shelter has also participated in Volunteer Expo, Vesta Home Show.

The Shelter will have billboards and transit stop end panels up this month thanks to the donation from Clear Channel. In March a cattle truck overturned and 40 head of cattle were displaced. The Memphis Shelter participated in safely containing the cattle until a new truck could pick them up. Several cattle had to be euthanized at the site.

Mr. Rogers reported that The Pets For Life grant program held a vaccination event at Orange Mound Community Center on April 5. 150+ rabies vaccinations were given free to residents of zip code 38114. People could also sign up for free spay/neuter to be performed at Memphis Animal Services. Mr. Rogers reported that 38114 is an underserved community to no veterinary care available in the zip code. Mr. Rogers reported that Pet Hospital, Wolfchase Animal Hospital, and Germantown Animal Hospital veterinarians have signed up to help with the spay/neuter of grant animals.

Mr. Rogers reported that live releases were greater than euthanasia during December, January and February.

March intake of animals at Memphis Shelter was 879. 443 animals were euthanized, and 391 animals were released alive.

Intake to date in 2013 was 1013. Intake to date in 2014 is 808.

Robert Ratton, City Attorney's Office, introduced Judge Potter who attended the meeting. Judge Potter reported that he had heard seven cases on the meeting date, but he felt these were not enough. He likes to have a heavy docket with animal cases. Judge Potter said that he likes to solve problems in his court, and he will work with people for what is best for the animals.

Robert Ratton said that he would like cases that need extra help be assigned to Judge Potter in Division 14. Mr. Rogers said he would make officers aware of this request. Robert reported that he would ride along with officers in early May to better understand the work of an Animal Control Officer.

Mr. Rogers reported that Tracy Dunlap is looking to expand the Volunteer Program by partnering with Medtronics, AutoZone and Fedex.

Mr. Rogers reported that by the next meeting training would be held for the employees with Anne Marie Eason to learn behavior evaluation. The training would be held 6 employees at a time and would cover employees working in intake, adoption and healthy hold. Officers would receive separate training. The training will be intense, and it will enable Memphis Animal Services to better assess the animals in care of the Shelter. Mr. Rogers reported that videos produced by Sue Sternberg would be viewed by the staff.

Jim Adams asked about receiving statistics indicating the rescue/adoption ratio of live releases. Mr. Adams stated that he has asked for this multiple times. Mr. Rogers stated he would get these numbers for the Board. Mr. Adams also requested a breakdown of intake by zip code as has been done on previous occasions. Mr. Rogers stated he would make these numbers available.

There are currently three technicians and one animal control officer positions open. Filling vacancies has been slow due to city finances. It usually takes 60 – 90 days to fill a position. Jill Madajczyk reported that a registry of available applicants would be available in the future and would speed up the hiring process.

Mr. Rogers reported that inmates are still being used to clean the Shelter, and they are being monitored by staff.

The meeting was opened to comments by the public.

Jan Courtney asked about the policy concerning viewing the animals in the stray area. Mr. Rogers stated that what is in place now suffices. People looking for a lost pet are walked through the area, rescue partners are allowed to view the animals with an escort (no pictures taken). The public is not allowed in the area to view the animals due to safety issues. Mr. Rogers stated that the animals housed in this area are not desirable candidates for adoption.

Cindy Sanders asked about the State Report as it appeared in an article in the Memphis Flyer today, April 9, 2014. (Several copies of the article were available in the room). Mr. Rogers indicated that these events happened before he came. Ms. Sanders said that a fact finding hearing has been had for Mr. Andrews based on the report so Mr. Rogers should be familiar with the report. Mr. Andrews had been

demoted due to the report, but then was promoted. Ms. Sanders stated that Mr. Rogers “before I came” defense was wearing thin.

Jackie Johns questioned why violation summaries for several months indicate lower numbers of spay/neuter violations. During November 2013 through February 2014 there have been fewer officers in the field from information acquired through FOIA request. Mr. Rogers reported that Animal Control Officers have been used in the Shelter due to staffing shortages. Sylvia Cox noted that in 2013 there was a decrease of intake of 4100 animals with more Animal Control Officers than in previous years.

Shelter intake statistics:

2013 Jan, Feb March intake: 1233 over the counter

1637 field intake

2014 Jan, Feb March intake: 1130 over the counter

1360 field intake

Animal Control Officer calls completed in 2014:

January 1310

February 1214

March 2121

Calls are canceled if an animal is no longer on the property when a return call is made.

Sylvia Cox asked: At the October and January meetings, I submitted a question about the decrease in animal intake over the past 5 years, even though there are 25% more Animal control Officers now than there were in 2009. As of the end of 2013, the intake of animals has decreased from 2009 by just under 4100, while the backlog of calls from citizens is over 200. Mr. Rogers said that he would create a breakdown of intake statistics (over the counter vs. field) and of incoming calls by citizens. Is that breakdown available yet? It was also stated that ACOs are working in the shelter because the staff is down by 5 technicians. Ms. Madajczyk said she would talk to Janet Hooks about expediting the hiring process – what is the status of this? These questions were answered earlier in the meeting.

Terresa Briggs asked about the motion the Board passed in January asking that every animal be sedated before euthanasia. The recommendation was to be presented to Janet Hooks. What is the status of this? Mr. Rogers reported that the Shelter is working towards this goal.

Bryan Mauldin asked about the Flyer article which was answered earlier, and she expressed concern about the adoption rate at the Shelter. Mr. Rogers stated that new and innovative programs are being considered to increase adoptions. They will be announced in future meetings.

Lorriane Hall asked about the implementation of the Pet Placement Partners recommendations presented to Mr. Rogers. Mr. Rogers stated that he and Tracy Dunlap would review the document in the near future.

Paula Lutts asked about cameras in the euthanasia room. It was reported by Jill Madajczyk that there would be no cameras in the room per the direction of Janet Hooks.

Lori Beville asked why both sides of the cages could not be used so the Shelter could hold double the number of animals. Mr. Rogers explained that the dogs had two sides of the cage to facilitate the cleaning of the cages and help with disease control.

Due to the lack of a quorum for motion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary