

Memphis Animal Services Advisory Board Meeting
September 8, 2010

Meeting called to order: 10:15 am

Present:
Michelle Buckalew
Allen Iskiwitz
Cindy Sanders
Jackie Johns
Matthew Pepper

Statement by Ann Mitchell:

Ann Mitchell was the potential adopter of a MAS dog, Lil Bit. Ms. Mitchell phoned the shelter asking to adopt the dog. She stated she would be there on Saturday. She phoned Friday and was told the dog had nasal congestion. She stated there would be no problem and that she wanted to continue with adoption. Upon her arrival Saturday morning the dog was brought to her in the lobby. She was allowed to walk the dog, visit with the dog. She stated that her Vet was on alert to treat the dog and was told by the shelter staff that the dog was no longer available for adoption. She stated she would sign any form, any waiver. She was told they had begged the Shelter Vet who denied the request. The dog was then removed from her and she was told it was going to be immediately euthanized.

Meeting devoted to the death of a dog at MAS "Lil Bit"

Cindy Sanders: What protocol was used to determine the serious situation involved with the euthanization of this dog? Why was a potentially contagious dog brought through the stray area and into the front lobby? Why was this potentially infectious dog allowed to be walked by the potential adopter through the cat area and the entire front lobby and the public? Why did the shelter hold an adoption event that day, taking potentially infectious animals into the community? There were many areas of breakdown in this occurrence. What will be done to make sure this does not happen again?

Jackie Johns: Dr. Coleman's work in forensics is unsurpassed and leads to the many animal cruelty convictions we see in court. Why was this dog not given a chance?

Bobby White, representing the City: The City supports Mr. Pepper and wants us to work with the City. Mr. Pepper brought a policy manual from his previous job.

Michelle Buckalew: The policy manual is great but until the shelter has a decent staff that cares about animals, no change will be seen. This city needs the transparency the Mayor promised. This is unacceptable. Why did this happen and what will MAS do to make sure it does not happen to another animal?

Allen Iskiwitz: The shelter needs to be privatized. The shelter needs to be cleaned out. Did Dr. Coleman state the dog needed to be euthanized or did she state the dog was sick?

Matt Pepper: The Shelter Vet makes a recommendation. The final decision is made by the shelter supervisor, Terry Gibson. The staff made a mistake by bringing the dog to the lobby and allowing the potential infection of other animals. The buck stops with him. Disease control is a pro-active must for shelter. Pepper supports shelter Vet and the difficult decisions that need to be made. The Vet does not do the actual euthanization. It is performed by euthanasia techs. Systems will be put in place to help prevent this from happening again.

Members of the public expressed disgust and disappointment with the Vet, and the shelter in general for allowing this to happen.

Meeting adjourned: 12:30