

MEMPHIS ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY BOARD

WORK SESSION

May 9, 2012

In attendance: Dr. Stephen Tower, Chairman; Mr. John Cox Board Member; Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary; Mr. James Rogers, Shelter Administrator, Director Janet Hooks, Director of Parks and Neighborhoods; Mary Bright, City Attorney's Office

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tower.

The appointment of and need for more members of the Board to bring it up to being fully appointed was discussed. Janet Hooks announced that Jill Madajczyk with the City Attorney's Office was being considered and being presented to the City Council for approval.

The position of Field Supervisor has been posted for applications of employment. The Shelter Supervisor position is now open and will be posted for applications of employment. The Animal Control Officer positions. They are being processed now.

There are three positions open for Animal Care Technicians at the current time.

Eight additional positions are being asked for in the next year's budget. Realistically 3 will be added to the shelter staff.

Ideas for marketing the shelter were discussed. The shelter needs more visibility in the community. Exposure without cost to the city needs to be explored.

The need for more Certified Euthanasia Technicians was noted.

An aggressive return to owner push was discussed. The current use of PetHarbor.com with the strays posted on the internet through Chameleon will hopefully increase returns by making the stray dogs and cats' information available on the internet.

The purchase of a billboard advertising the shelter was discussed, but the cost of such would be prohibitive with the current budget.

Mr. Rogers announced that the year to date euthanasia rate is 57.8% which is a more than significant decrease. Intake of animals is down slightly from a year ago.

Mr. Rogers reported that the current shelter population is:

321 dogs

79 cats

2 chickens

The number of surgeries performed at the shelter in the last month is 134.

Animal Control Officers made 2398 calls in the past month. A focus is being made for the Animal Control Officers to make quality calls. The Officers issued 144summons in the past month. This is not where Mr. Rogers would like the shelter to be, but improvements to this number are being looked to in the future.

Offsite adoptions are being held on the weekends to provide a different venue for the adoptable animals and also the give the shelter positive exposure in the community. Events at different Community Centers are being held throughout the city.

Visitors are now being required to sign-in when visiting the shelter. During the month of April there were approximately 1374 visitors to Memphis Animal Services.

Mr. Rogers said we need to look at different outlets for the adoptable pets at the shelter. In the future we might look to having a storefront adoption center similar to the one that Collierville Animal Shelter supports in a large shopping center.

Mr. Rogers reported that monthly meetings are being held by volunteers with Megan Banat to brainstorm ideas to help the shelter grow in various directions, increase adoptions, and increase public awareness of Memphis Animal Shelter.

The reclaim fees for stray animals being held at the shelter were discussed. The fact that owners whose dogs test positive for heartworms are not spayed/neutered at the shelter thus requiring the owner/s to pay the \$200.00 fertile fee on top of impound fees was discussed. Some people are forced to sign their animals over to the shelter due to the fact that the city refuses to offer spay/neuter to these animals. Dr. Tower agreed to do some research on this and possible meet with Dr. Coleman at the shelter.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Cox and seconded by Jeanne Chancellor.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor

Secretary