

Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board Meeting
June 13, 2012

Present: Dr. Stephen Tower, Chairman; John Cox; Don Siemer; Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary; James Rogers, Administrator Memphis Animal Services; Mary Bright, City Attorney's Office

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tower.

The minutes from the April and May 2012 meetings were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes by John Cox and seconded by Jeanne Chancellor. The minutes presented were approved.

Mr. Rogers reported on his 90 day plan. There is still much work to be done, but much progress has been made. The focus thus far has been:

Training
GPS system in all vehicles
Volunteer recruitment
Temporary work force
Reasonable time for animals in adoption
Shelter operation
Chameleon being utilized to the fullest

Partnerships have been formed with:

Memphis Shelby County Humane Society
Collierville Animal Shelter
Bartlett Animal Shelter
Memphis Police Department – The department checks for possible dogs for their program.
Shelby County Sheriff's Department
Task Force One – The Task Force checks for possible dogs for search and rescue.

Pet Placement Partners, the MAS rescue program, now have over 100 participants

Humane Society of the United States has provided training on the humane handling of the animals that come into the care of MAS.

For Pet's Sake – Elaine Coupee – has provided training for the employees and some volunteers in the handling and training of the dogs at MAS. Classes were held three consecutive Wednesdays.

Dr. Mark Johnson held classes under contract with the HSUS on handling animals that come into the shelter. He especially helped with ways to handle fractious animals

without the use of the rabies control pole. The classes were classroom to kennels for first hand experience.

Mr. Rogers announced that there would be no control poles ever used within Memphis Animal Services' walls.

Surgeries have dipped due to the resignation of Dr. Hannon which leaves MAS with just the veterinary services of Dr. Rebecca Coleman.

ACO calls have been down partly due to the time spent by officers in the training classes. Officers are to make 15 calls a day.

Intake at MAS has increased due to the puppy and kitten season. The year to date intake number is 5309.

Euthanasia Rate was given at 41%, but Dr. Tower and several audience members questioned this figure, and it is being refigured and will be presented at the next meeting.

The euthanasia rate last year at this same time was 87%.

Mas is at capacity at 555 animals. If there were no euthanasia preformed, the Mas population today would be over 5,000 animals.

For optimum care there should be one technician for every 30 animals. The shelter is now 3 Animal Care Technician positions short, but they are expected to be filled shortly.

Mary Bright, the City Attorney's office explained how pet licensing might work, and how other communities have implemented the programs. Pet licensing would require that anyone living in the City have their pets licensed in addition to the traditional rabies tags. This would provide additional revenue for the City.

Don Siemer asked how the 15 calls the ACO make a day breakdown. How many are running at large? How many are unwanted by owners? Mr. Rogers said he would have that information at the next meeting.

Mr. Rogers stated that MAS now has about 50 volunteers who have put in more than 2,000 hours of service this year. The volunteers assist the public coming into the shelter to adopt, walk the dogs, clean the puppy room kennels, help at off-site events, assist with picture taking and posting to the web, and bathe and groom the animals.

The GPS system in the City vehicles is up and running. The system is monitored from MAS.

The subject of the euthanasia licensing of employees was discussed. There are lapsed licenses that need to be brought up to date so the job of euthanasia is shared by all the workers at MAS and not endured by a few workers. Mr. Rogers stated there were 4

lapsed licenses and they would be renewed by the end of the week. He stated that the job was now being split among all those who currently are licensed. Working one day a week in the euthanasia room would be ideal for the employees.

The availability of counseling for employees was discussed. A motion was made by John Cox and seconded by Jeanne Chancellor that the availability of counseling is a continued practice at MAS.

The meeting was opened to public comments.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Cox and seconded by Don Siemer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary