

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes April 11, 2011

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TARRANT

CITY OF BEDFORD

The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee of the City of Bedford met at 3:00 p.m. in the Training Room of the Bedford Police Department, 2121 L. Don Dodson Drive, on the 11th day of April, 2011 with the following members present:

Barbara Richardson

Board Members

Dr. Rebecca Epps

Dawn Schneider

Les Hawkins

Deputy Chief

Mark Bellinghausen

Animal Control Supervisor

Constituting a quorum.

(The following items were considered in accordance with the official agenda posted on the 11th day of April 2011.)

CALL TO ORDER

Mark Bellinghausen called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Connie Ziegler Stout of 1309 Autumn Chase Square spoke about feral and stray cats and implementing the "T.N.R." (Trap, Neuter, Return) method in Bedford. She brought pamphlets from Irving Animal Services current "Community Cat" program and a brochure from Alley Cats as well as a book from Kittico describing the T.N.R. process. Connie Ziegler Stout also mentioned that she is willing to help with research as well as implementation in the future.

Fred Sanderson of Irving Animal Services stated that with his 20 plus years in animal city services he believes this policy to (Trap, Neuter, Return) has positively benefitted the communities that he has implemented in. Fred Sanderson states that KittiCo is the service which he uses to spay/neuter the animals and together they have sterilized 3600 cats over the past 4 years. He states that he has several colonies that he is monitoring to see if the process will cause them to diminish. Fred Sanderson stated he is always willing to be available as a resource.

Dr. Rebecca Epps asked what could be done about the residents whom are opposed to the community cats and have complained. Fred Sanderson stated that this does not work in every

community and it is a case by case basis. He also stated that if the cats are nuisances they are trapped and the community cat colony manager is charged \$50.00 for each impoundment. Connie Ziegler Stout responded that given the proper education she feels that the community will respond positively. Dr. Rebecca Epps stated that a couple of citizens have proactively built structures in Bedford to confine the cats that they already have.

Deputy Chief Hawkins asked if there were any active communities that were successful in the single family home neighborhoods and if there is a process in place for community cats that are continually picked up. Fred Sanderson stated that he does have current successful colonies; however, if he has a cat that is trapped three times it will be relocated to another colony as a last resort.

Dr. Rebecca Epps asked if the cats are tested and vaccinated for FIV, Feline Leukemia, and Rabies. Fred Sanderson responded that they are vaccinated for rabies on the first time they are seen and that is all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mark Bellinghausen made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 25th 2010 board meeting as presented.

Barbara Richardson seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved. No opposition was recorded.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION CONCERNING SPAY AND NEUTER VOUCHERS

Mark Bellinghausen opened the discussion with three possible options.

1. Raise the value of the voucher to assist with the higher costs of spay and neuter.
2. Take the animal to the vet and have it spayed or neutered before adoption.
3. Start providing surgeries at the shelter.

Mark Bellinghausen mentioned that he spoke with local veterinarians in Bedford and the general consensus was that they are not willing to discount any procedures as an incentive to adopt from the local animal shelter.

Mark Bellinghausen stated that \$10.00 is sufficient for the rabies voucher according to the local veterinarians that he spoke with.

Barbara Richardson mentioned that the voucher is extremely discounted as compared to the price of local rescues because the cost of spay/neuter has greatly increased since the voucher was first implemented. She stated the more a person pays towards the spay/neuter voucher initially, the more likely they are to complete the process quickly. She also stated the reason the adoption fee

should be increased is because the shelter now provides snap tests for heart worms and FIV/Feline Leukemia. Her current rescue adoption rate is \$195.00. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated we need to research how much of a price increase would be appropriate and bring the request to the board and council.

LOW COST VET SERVICES FOR SHELTER ANIMALS

Mark Bellinghausen stated that approximately 200 animals per year are being adopted and will need to be seen if low cost vet services can be found. He also stated that he had spoken with several local veterinarians and he did not find one that can assist with lowering the cost of services for the shelter. Dr. Rebecca Epps mentioned that surgery of animals in a mobile spay/neuter clinic would be sufficient. Dr. Rebecca Epps also mentioned that when the animals are spayed/neutered they will need to be separated for a day from general shelter population and in this case the mobile clinic will be very beneficial. Dr. Rebecca Epps and Mark Bellinghausen stated that they will do more research on the matter and this will be revisited at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mark Bellinghausen announced that Dawn Schneider has filled the vacant board position for a Bedford Citizen.

ORDINANCE DISCUSSION REGARDING EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT OR PROGRAM

Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that two additions will be made to the prior ordinance that was in place:

1. Livestock will be allowed with a proper permit and adequate space
2. Insurance coverage must now be \$250,000 as in the past it was \$100,000.

He also stated this was formerly an ordinance; however, due to a clerical error it was excluded in 2009 and will be re-added with the aforementioned amendments and the city attorney will review. The quorum agreed that this is sufficient.

DISCUSSION REGARDING IMPROVEMENT OR CHANGE TO THE PET-FAIR/ADOPT-A-THON APRIL 30, 2011

Dr Rebecca Epps suggested that Bedford offer discounted micro-chips. She stated a doctor does not need to be present to administer the micro-chip, but a tech can also do this.

Dr Rebecca Epps also suggested that a DJ be present.

Dawn Schneider suggested that any music, even a boom box can infuse enthusiasm and excitement as long as it is family friendly and at a proper volume.

Dr Rebecca Epps also suggested that boarding facilities and mobile groomers are also contacted.

DISCUSSION ON CURRENT SHELTER STATISTICAL DATA

Mark Bellinghausen passed out the Bedford Animal Control Performance Measures for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.

Mark Bellinghausen stated that for the 2009-2010 year, a column has been added for field returns.

This year the shelter has impounded about 100 less animals than last year.

In total about 3,000 animals were handled and dispositioned in Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

DISCUSSION ON COMBINING THE ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD WITH THE ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mark Bellinghausen started the discussion with the mention that most cities only have one board which satisfies the requirement of the state.

Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that he will review combining the Animal Control Board with the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, due to not having a Dangerous dog hearing in several years and the City of Bedford no longer has any permit-eligible non-domestic permits.

ADJOURNMENT – ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr Rebecca Epps motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dawn Schneider seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.