

Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes December 15, 2011

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The Animal Shelter Advisory Board of the City of Bedford met at 4:00 p.m. in the Training Room of the Bedford Police Department, 2121 L. Don Dodson Drive, on the 15th day of December, 2011, with the following members present:

Les Hawkins	Deputy Police Chief
Mark Bellinghausen	Animal Control Supervisor
Dr. Rebecca Epps	Board Members
Barbara Richardson	
Dawn Schneider	

Constituting a quorum. Also present:

Jim Griffin	Council Member
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(The following items were considered in accordance with the official agenda posted on the 7th day of December, 2011.)

CALL TO ORDER

Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE November 21, 2011, BOARD MINUTES.

Dr. Rebecca Epps made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2011, board meeting with the correction of the spelling of the word Euthanasia on page three.

Mark Bellinghausen seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved. No opposition was recorded.

OLD BUSINESS

- DISCUSSION REGARDIN STAFF RESEARCH OF SPAY AND NEUTER VOUCHERS

Officer Horn presented the information that he collected from Hurst Animal Control. He also presented information collected from Euless Animal Control, stating that the animals that were taken into this shelter spend a short hold period and then are transferred to a Girls Awareness Program "GAP" program that places and cares for the animals. Board Member Dawn Schnieder stated that she spoke with someone involved with the program and they stated that they do not have the capacity to take on another shelter but they can assist in walking the city through making a new program at a different school. It was agreed that this should be further explored. Dawn Schnieder suggested that next board meeting we should invite the liaison for GAP to the meeting, Mark Bellinghausen agreed.

Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that due to the fact that there has been only two weeks between meetings there is still research pending and will be explored next meeting.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING LOW COST VETERINARY SERVICES FOR SHELTER ANIMALS

A letter was distributed that Deputy Chief Hawkins created to go to city vets to propose that they spay/neuter animals, if we do not receive a response within a month Deputy Chief Hawkins stated then we will look outside of the city. Dawn Schneider suggested that ~~we~~ add statistics to the letters as well as using the phrase "if you would like to be a part of the solution". Deputy Chief Hawkins states that it is something that will be considered. Dr. Rebecca Epps stated that "please submit a fee schedule" should be removed and we should state we are modeling our program after City of Hurst adoption program and give the prices that they receive. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that the issue with that may be that we do not want to publish what we were told in confidence. Dr. Rebecca Epps restated that we may want to show what has been advertised. Officer Ken Horn advised that Hurst Animal Control uses Intervet as a vaccine; Dr. Rebecca Epps stated that this is a good option as Fort Dodge has many vaccine reactions and Pfizer is top of the line, so Intervet is the best vaccine for a shelter. Dr. Rebecca Epps also stated that she believes it will be better for us to follow up with the Veterinarian staff rather than make the Veterinary staff respond as she believes that it will get lost in the shuffle. Dr. Rebecca Epps also suggested that we ask for smaller things such as donations and vaccinations or sick animal assistance. Dawn Schneider also suggested that we recognize the vets in some manner. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that he will find a channel that we can do this through.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING MERGE OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD WITH THE ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY BOARD

Deputy Chief Hawkins met with the city attorney and stated that it will not be before January that the merging of the boards can be put on the agenda.

- FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION REGARDING TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN RESEARCH

Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that he and Mark Bellinghausen met with Connie Ziegler-Stout and has continued to do research with the concept of Trap, Neuter, and Return. Deputy Chief Hawkins and Officer Horn attended meetings held by the City of Fort Worth to research the program that they are implementing. Deputy Chief Hawkins has networked with the people of Fort Worth Animal Control to get feedback on the program that they are working on. Texas Christian University has also implemented a program like this and the numbers were originally 84 trapped, 61 released, 12 remain. Connie Zeigler-Stout has volunteered to educate people and apartment complex managers and citizens. Dawn Schneider states that this should be made to sound official so that people will follow the rules. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated also that we may want to develop a brochure to educate residents like Fred Sanderson made but less costly. Dr. Rebecca Epps stated that certain neighborhoods will give great opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

- DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW A NO KILL SHELTER WOULD FUNCTION

Barbara Richardson stated that Dallas and Arlington are using a "no kill" model to try and become no kill; she stated that Seagoville is currently operating as a no kill shelter. Mark Bellinghausen stated that we need to standardize the definition of what a "non-

adoptable” animal is. Deputy Chief Hawkins asked if the shelters that do this have expansive foster programs, Barbara Richardson stated that they do. Barbara Richardson

stated that animals need to be put on pet finder immediately, and suggested that the password is given to a volunteer. Mark Bellinghausen stated that education is the key to reducing numbers in the shelter. Barbara Richardson will work on definitions for what is adoptable. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that reporting will be improved when animal control is brought into the police system. Mark Bellinghausen stated that several people would like to donate spay/neuters, however we have not received an answer on if we can accept.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING DOG ORDINANCE SEC. 18-113 REGARDING GUARD DOGS

Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that the ordinance was written many years ago and it is outdated. He stated that it is being considered that this be eliminated at the next city council meeting. Barbara Richardson asked if the vicious dog definition will stay and Deputy Chief Hawkins stated yes. Barbara Richardson suggested that guard dogs then be put under dangerous dogs. Mark Bellinghausen stated that this would fall under fierce or dangerous ordinance. A statement outlining any exhibited fierce or dangerous propensities of the animal in past conduct. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that most of the guard dog ordinance deals with “junk yard dogs” meaning dogs that were turned loose in the yards for protection and cannot be controlled.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING BOARD MEMBERS DOING VOLUNTEER WORK FOR THE SHELTER

Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that the staff must be present with volunteers at outside events. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that it would be beneficial to have a training program for the volunteers, implemented by the shelter staff. Barbara Richardson stated that North Richland Hills Animal Services has a great training program and the number is (817) 427-6570. Dawn Schneider has been approved to volunteer at the shelter.

ADJOURNMENT

Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Epps seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.