

Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes April 27, 2012

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 27th day of April, 2012, with the following members present:

Les Hawkins	Deputy Police Chief
Mark Bellinghausen	Animal Control Supervisor
Dr. Rebecca Epps	Board Members
Dawn Schneider	
Dawn Orr	Newly appointed Board Member

Constituting a quorum. Also present:

Jim Griffin	Council Member
Ken Horn	Animal Control Officer II

(The following items were considered in accordance with the official agenda posted on the 23rd day of April, 2012.)

CALL TO ORDER

Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE December 15, 2011, BOARD MINUTES.

Mark Bellinghausen made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2011, board meeting with a correction on page 2, paragraph 2: change "it will be before January" to "it will not be before January".

Dr. Rebecca Epps seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved. No opposition was recorded.

OLD BUSINESS

- DISCUSSION REGARDING MERGING THE ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD WITH THE ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY BOARD

Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that the ordinance change will take place between late May and early June and the anticipation is to add one veterinarian and one citizen to the existing panel.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING STAFF RESEARCH OF SPAY AND NEUTER VOUCHERS

Dr. Bradford from Advanced Animal Care Centre has submitted a letter of interest with prices that seem comparable to TCAP. The expected turnaround time will be around 24 hours as long as they are given sufficient notification and they are completely booked. The suggestion was made by Deputy Chief Hawkins that the cost of adoption will need to be increased and all board members agreed. Dr. Rebecca Epps suggested that the animals be spayed or neutered after adoption and sent directly to the home rather than back to the shelter, as recovering in a shelter can be stressful for the animal. She stated that this is also beneficial to the veterinarian as they will be able to sell services directly to the owner when the animal is picked up. The suggestion was also made that if the new owner would like to have a different veterinarian do the surgery or wait a certain amount of time before surgery that the new owner will need to leave a deposit that will be refunded when proof is received that the surgery has been completed.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING LOW COST VETERINARY SERVICES FOR SHELTER ANIMALS

The shelter currently uses Idexx brand snap tests for heartworm testing at a cost of \$6.90 per test. The company VetScan offers heartworm tests for \$375.00 a box for 100 tests. The shelter is considering having a representative come out to give a presentation on the products offered by VetScan. The Pfizer for shelter program is offering vaccines at 70% off of standard pricing, Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen has been working with Dr. Rebecca Epps to get the paperwork filled out and approved. Dr. Rebecca Epps stated that most vaccines currently are being purchased by the Team Bedford Medical Fund, however, to qualify for the discount the money may need to come from the shelter. Deputy Chief Hawkins suggested that payments be made from the shelter donation account and when the funds are low Team Bedford Medical Fund can make a donation into the account. ACO II Ken Horn spoke with Dr. Austin Neely from Advanced Animal Care Centre and offered to have them come out and do vaccinations at special events, or if they were not willing to come out, would they be opposed to allowing TCAP to come out. This is in addition to the offer letter that Advanced Animal Care Centre submitted. At the time of the meeting no one had responded to the offer for offsite/special events.

- FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION REGARDING TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN RESEARCH

Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that he and Chief Gibson have completed the research paper on TNR and submitted it to the City Manager and it will soon be distributed to the City Council for further review. The paper covered the pros and cons of a TNR program, as well as research of current programs and recommendations from veterinary associations.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW A NO KILL SHELTER WOULD FUNCTION

Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen stated that to run a shelter with no kill functionality requires many volunteers, as well as a volunteer coordinator. ACO II Ken Horn provided information from Plano Animal Services, which is currently running a successful volunteer program. Tarrant County College held an Earth Day event where several people signed up to volunteer at the shelter as well as a dance class is organizing and will try to volunteer together and possibly foster. Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen stated that he is currently awaiting response from the SPCA regarding the room that they have in the new renovated cat room. He does not currently feel comfortable transferring to the Humane Society because the volume of animals that they take in is extremely high and it would greatly add to the numbers that they receive. It was suggested that the current foster program should include a home study and a medical disclaimer before an animal is released to foster with a family. Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen stated that we currently do not have a specific foster packet or program and this is something that will be worked

on in the future. Dawn Schneider volunteered to compose a protocol for foster families and will submit this for approval. Dawn Orr asked if more off site adoption events could be done as 16 were done last year. It was advised that the city attorney will not allow the volunteers to take responsibility for the animals without an Animal control Officer present. Members of the board have expressed interest in getting this changed. Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen also advised that the live release rate is much higher since the volunteer Team Bedford Facebook joined in November. Dawn Schneider stated that marketing is very important to help move the animals. Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen stated that a program similar to Friends of the Bedford Public Library would be a beneficial program; however, the shelter cannot start the program. This would be to continue the no kill movement. Council member Jim Griffin stated that this program could garner and manage volunteers and raise awareness and funds for the shelter. This would be a 501(c) (3) organization. This program would need to be spearheaded by a citizen. Dr. Rebecca Epps stated that the shelter has been operating with numbers that qualify as "no kill status". Dawn Schneider asked if the shelter would be comfortable taking on the label "no kill" and it was decided that this would not be the right time because the steps have not been put in place to ensure that the shelter can keep the euthanasia rates low. Dawn Orr stated that she is willing to offer a free class for adopters in an attempt to get people to keep the animals that they have adopted. This would be offered to Bedford adopters only. Deputy Chief Hawkins, Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen, and ACO II Ken Horn will be reaching out to a few cities within the next few weeks to look over the volunteer programs that they have and build a program for Bedford.

NEW BUSINESS

- DISCUSSION OF PET FAIRS AND FUTURE ADOPTION EVENTS

Dr. Rebecca Epps stated that a kitten carnival should be planned because so many kittens are coming into the shelter. ACO II Ken Horn stated that he would check to see if we can run a special on kittens for this event. Dawn Schneider stated that she was pleased with the foot traffic at the pet fair this year and would like the shelter to duplicate this and increase it for next year. ACO II Ken Horn stated that advertisements were done on the BRAC sign and the Library sign as well as the Kwik Kar in Bedford. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that we are currently getting quotes for the sign that goes over Forest Ridge. Dr. Rebecca Epps recommended Jim from 91Design be contacted as he provided the Team Bedford pet fair sign at a fair price. Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen said that the complaints that he received were lines were too long at the food stand and adoption line. Carter Blood care was able to reach the goal that they set for the pet fair and the shelter has a contact with them now. Deputy Chief Hawkins also stated that he spoke with Stephanie Bala with HEB School District and obtained information on the GAP walkathon. ACO II Ken Horn has tentatively set the date for the next pet fair for October 20th, which currently has no conflicting events. This will be submitted to the Bedford connection if the date is approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Rebecca Epps motioned to adjourn the meeting and Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.