

Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes August 29, 2012

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The Animal Shelter Advisory Board of the City of Bedford met at 4:30 p.m. in the Training Room of the Bedford Police Department, 2121 L. Don Dodson Drive, on the 29th day of August, 2012, with the following members present:

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

Constituting a quorum. Also present:

Sherri Olson	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 August, 2012.)

CALL TO ORDER

Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE April 27th, 2012 BOARD MINUTES.**

Dr. Rebecca Epps made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 27th, 2012 board meeting.

Dawn Orr seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved. No opposition was recorded.

OLD BUSINESS

- **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE REVISION.**

Deputy Chief Les Hawkins advised that the revision has expanded from merging the boards and changing the adoption process to rewriting and editing the entire ordinance. Revisions have been submitted for review to Chief Gibson and There is no ETA on this as he must wait for a determination on the Dangerous Dog hearing from the city attorney and approval from Chief Gibson.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW THE FOSTER PROGRAM SHOULD FUNCTION. Currently the shelter has no set rules on the foster program. Dr. Rebecca Epps distributed a two page packet that was prepared by Team Bedford. She suggested that not all guidelines will need to be the same but expressed the importance of having rules in the foster program. Deputy Chief Les Hawkins requested that he be emailed these guidelines as well. Dawn Orr suggested that we also add behavior requests to the fosters such as "sit" and "stay" to make the animals that are in foster more desirable to adopters. Dr. Rebecca Epps added that it is important to ensure that the animals that the potential foster currently have are current on all vaccinations and have proper veterinary care before they are allowed to foster. Dr. Rebecca Epps and ACOII Ken Horn cited a recent incident that happened at the shelter where a family came in to foster but were turned away because of the poor health of the current dog in their home. Dr. Rebecca Epps and Dawn Orr suggested that home inspections be conducted. The suggestion was made that this can be conducted by volunteers; Deputy Chief Les Hawkins stated that this should most likely be conducted by shelter staff. For fosters that are out of the Bedford city limits, Dr. Rebecca Epps stated that she would be willing to speak with the potential fosters veterinarian for references. Dawn Orr advised that in this situation it may be appropriate to use volunteers for the home inspection. Deputy Chief Hawkins advised that consideration must be made to the amount of animals allowed in a home. He advised that the shelter will need to consider how this program affects the multi-pet permit. ACOII Ken Horn advised that the foster application should read like the multi-pet application. Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen advised that the foster program will move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

- DISCUSSION OF PET FAIRS AND FUTURE ADOPTION EVENTS

ACOII Ken Horn advised that the pet fair is scheduled for October 20, 2012 and the time has been placed on the lit signs for the BRAC and Public Library and also has been placed in the Bedford Connection magazine. He will be contacting Kwik Kar, Zims, Chicken Express and Harwood Oaks to place the information on their signs as well. He also advised that Carter Blood Care has confirmed that they will be attending this event. Council Representative Sherri Olson suggested that meal tickets be distributed this year to cut down on the amount of people that repeatedly get food. It was advised that this might be difficult as there is no real entry to the event. Council Representative Sherri Olson suggested that we put up barricades or use caution tape to mark a clear entrance. Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen advised that Tarrant County College Criminal Justice students will be volunteering to assist with the pet fair this year. Deputy Chief Hawkins advised that he has been gathering quotes for a new sign to hang over Forest Ridge Dr and currently waiting for a response back from two businesses. It was advised that the current sign that the shelter has is faded and has been repaired in the past. Currently many parts of the sign are worn and frayed. Deputy Chief Hawkins advised that there are sufficient funds in the donation account to cover the cost of a new sign. Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen advised that the Bedford Animal Control currently has one dog in the HSUS Extreme Mutt Makeover. He advised that his name is currently "Murphy" but while he was in shelter it was "Sinbad". He also advised that the shelter had two dogs in this last year. ACOII Ken Horn advised that because of the email address change, the shelter did not receive notification in time and the dog was pulled on the last day that entries were allowed. Council Representative Sherri Olson advised that the Bedford Connection website now features a cat and dog of the week. Dawn Orr suggested that we use "Adopt Me" leashes that have bright neon colors and reflective patches on them to bring attention to the adoptable animals. Deputy Chief Hawkins distributed a copy of the Seagoville Volunteer agreement that he has been working on editing to suit the needs of the City of Bedford Animal Control. He advised that he has been speaking with the

City Attorney and hopes that trusted volunteers may at some time be allowed to take animals chosen by the shelter staff off site.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FUTURE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD.

Council Representative Sherri Olson states that council is behind the changes at the animal shelter. Council would like to help with the direction of Animal Control. She suggested that the board adds another citizen as a chair person and elect a secretary. She suggested that the board consists of five voting members, a Veterinarian and four citizens and control be taken from the Animal Control Supervisor and placed in the hands of the board. Council Representative also stated that an alternate could be added to the board to ensure that all meetings are able to be kept. The suggestion was made to offer the position of Volunteer Coordinator as an unpaid internship to local college students. Dawn Orr stated that this is currently being used by other organizations that she works with and it has worked well. Sherri Olson also suggested that the board meet more often, possibly every other month. Deputy Chief Hawkins agreed at the increase in frequency of meetings as well as other members of the board. Council Representative Sherri Olson states that the intention of the Council is to assist Animal Control in moving forward and Animal Control is being given priority.

- DISCUSSION REGARDING ADOPTION CRITERIA.

Dr. Rebecca Epps distributed two packets on Temperament Testing to the board. She stated that when animals are labeled as “animal aggressive” or “fence jumpers” it makes it harder for them to be adopted. She stated that currently potential adopters are being dissuaded from adoption because of the tone that is being used and the information that is being furnished by the officers. ACOII Ken Horn advised that all behaviors observed in the shelter environment must be disclosed. Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen also advised that liability is an issue if the information is not given. Dr. Rebecca Epps stated that she is aware of this, but when providing information the tone should be observed. Dawn Orr advised that she would like to provide the Animal Control Officers with training that can help them identify and curb certain behaviors. She also offered to come to the shelter and evaluate dogs that have been identified with certain negative behaviors. Deputy Chief Hawkins asked how long this training would take. Dawn Orr advised that it would be two hours minimum for a thorough training. Deputy Chief Hawkins advised that he will look into a good time to do this. Dr. Rebecca Epps also stated that some of the adoption criteria currently in place are not fair to the animals such as the age restriction. She advised that she would like to create a program where senior citizens can adopt senior animals. The date for the next meeting was set for November 7, 2012 at 4:30pm and will be set for every other first Wednesday in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Rebecca Epps seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.