

Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes November 6, 2013

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The Animal Shelter Advisory Board of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. in the Training Room of the Bedford Police Department, 2121 L. Don Dodson Drive, on the 6th day of November, 2013, with the following members present:

Les Hawkins	Deputy Police Chief (Staff Liaison)
Mark Bellinghausen	Animal Control Supervisor
Dr. Becky Purchase	Chairman
Dawn Orr	Vice - Chairman
Sandy Osburn	Board Members
Connie Ziegler-Stout	

constituting a quorum.

Board Member Karen Killian was absent from the meeting.

(The following items were considered in accordance with the official agenda posted on the 30th day of October, 2013.)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dr. Becky Purchase called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Consider approval of the following Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes:**
 - a) September 4, 2013 regular meeting:**

Vice – Chairman Dawn Orr made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2013 Board meeting.

Chairman Dr. Purchase seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by consent.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2. Discussion on Shelter Statistics.**

The August and September 2012 and 2013, monthly statistic reports were distributed to Board Members for review.

Board Member Connie Ziegler-Stout stated that the number of cats euthanized in September 2013, had doubled from August 2013. Chairman Dr. Purchase explained that the number of cats taken in to the Shelter during that time had also doubled. Chairman Dr. Purchase also added that if Trap, Neuter and Return is implemented it would impact the number of cats euthanized as cats would never reach the Shelter.

3. Follow up discussion and possible action on Trap, Neuter and Return.

Chairman Dr. Purchase advised that during this portion of the meeting the Board would accept input from the audience. She explained that the Board can direct questions to the audience but could not necessarily answer questions directed from the audience.

Chairman Dr. Purchase recognized Mr. Ed Sharp, a Bedford resident, who had requested speak to the Board in support of Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR). Mr. Sharp stated that he has been taking care of a cat colony for the past 14 to 15 years. One business owner that is located near the cat colony told Mr. Sharp that he liked the cats being there because they controlled the rodents. Mr. Sharp stated that in his personal experience with a cat colony the cats are beneficial, social, friendly, and he sees absolutely no reason to trap them or kill them.

Chairman Dr. Purchase explained the proposal from the sub-committee that would be presented to City Council for TNR.

- a) When citizens call the Shelter with cat concerns or questions: Shelter staff will respond with educational material on TNR and steer them towards volunteer groups that will spay and neuter the cats as opposed to the citizen bringing the cat to the Shelter.

Chairman Dr. Purchase informed the Board that a recommendation had been made to the sub-committee that she should speak to the Council from a veterinary aspect regarding TNR.

- b) When a cat with a tipped ear is brought into the Shelter: Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP) has a cat colony registry and will help to locate the person responsible for the cat's colony. If the colony caretaker cannot be located then a volunteer would pick up the cat and return it in the general area where it was picked up.
- c) Nuisance cats: After three complaints TNR volunteers will work with Animal Control to determine if it is the same cat. If determined it is the same cat, volunteers will seek relocation for the cat.

A member of the audience advised that Fort Worth microchips the cats and after three complaints the cat is re-homed.

Board Member Ziegler-Stout asked Mr. Fred Sanderson, retired Animal Control Manager for the City of Lubbock, the City of Grand Prairie and the City of Irving, how nuisance complaints were handled in the City of Irving. Mr. Sanderson advised that repeat calls were very rare and he felt the discussion was putting too much emphasis on repeat calls. From his practical experience in working with the three cities with TNR, the bulk of cats that are handled are stray cats not feral cats. His vision as Manager of the facility was to sterilize the cats as soon as they come in and get them back out into the community. Mr. Sanderson advised that the goal is to sterilize the cats then statistically the population will die out.

A volunteer from Panther City, a 501c3 organization in Fort Worth, stated that they keep a large inventory of traps with instructions on hand. Panther City would be glad to loan the traps when they are available to other areas and would make that information available to the Shelter assuming that TNR is adopted by the City. She also offered that volunteers would be happy to go out with people and show them how to trap.

d) Grants can be acquired to help cities with funding for TNR.

Chairman Dr. Purchase stated that she and Board Member Ziegler-Stout felt TNR should be approached with a three step process. Phase #1 is to have ear tipped cats released. Phase #2 is an educational handout for Shelter staff and educating and increasing awareness of TNR to the community. Phase #3 is all feral cats will be spayed or neutered and released back into the community.

Staff was asked how they felt about TNR. Deputy Chief Les Hawkins stated that he knows with the way things are being handled now the problem still continues and he would like to think there is a better way. He still has questions on whether or not TNR is right for our community.

A member of the audience advised that Arlington has a street walker program comprised of volunteers from TNR groups. Volunteers go out into neighborhoods and find out where cats that are coming into the shelter are coming from. Volunteers try to identify the trapper, locate any caretakers in the neighborhood so they can be notified when cats are returned, and help to educate residents. She also stated that live release has increased from 32% to 72% since August 2013, as a result of pulling the strays, feral and unadoptable cats out of the shelter.

Deputy Chief Hawkins will check on the earliest opportunity to get the TNR presentation on the agenda for City Council.

4. Discussion on Fall Pet Fair.

Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen advised the Fall Pet Fair was held October 12, 2013. There were 16 vendors in attendance, six cats and three dogs were adopted and the Shelter received \$383.11 in donations. Police Chief Roger Gibson, Deputy Police Chiefs Les Hawkins and Eric Griffin, Mayor Jim Griffin, Council Member Michael Boyter (liaison to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board) and Ed Potter (Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association President) grilled and served 220 hamburgers and 140 hot dogs during the event.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dr. Purchase motioned to adjourn the meeting and Vice - Chairman Orr seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.