**DURHAM COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting of September 24, 2019**

**Present:***Committee Members:*Jenny Campbell, Jan Paul, Tim Deck, Joy Nolan, Joyce McKinney, Marianne Bond, Shannon McCabe, Shafonda Davis

*APS Board Members:*Susan Teer

*Attorney to the Board:* Willie Darby

*Community Members:*Anissa Litwin, Sarah Reichman

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. at APS Shelter

**Item I -  Approval of Minutes and Introductory Remarks**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jenny Campbell at 7:02 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of July 23, 2019, were approved as amended.

**Item II – Shelter Report**

Shafonda Davis provided a report on intake and outcome statistics and euthanasia reasons. The intake numbers for July increased for July, representing a 37% increase of animals and a 73% increase for strays.  Fifty-five feral cats were euthanized, compared to 10 during the same period last year, although many cats were adopted out. The numbers leveled off in August, but still represented a significant increase, particularly with stray adult dogs and feral cats. More animals were adopted out, sent to rescues, and returned to owners, which is a positive trend. Every animal entering the shelter gets microchipped. Spay-neuter services provided to the community include a free chip to those who redeem vouchers. The same-day adoption program is working well. Adopting individuals are being encouraged to return the animals to the shelter if the adoption is not working well. Many animals are being hit by cars; community education is needed on this issue, particularly with the need to have tags on and to keep animals contained. There have been multiple trap requests for 15-20 cats at a time. The shelter is very full; 25% of kennels were lost due to floor replacement. Many rats are available; they make good pets.

Volunteer hours for August 2019 totaled 2,623, up 50% from the same period in 2018. The community has been responsive in supplying the shelter with donations and volunteer support. The annual Gala plans are in full swing; donations and sponsorships are welcomed. Petco Foundation awarded the Durham shelter a $25,000 check for its behavior program. The shelter is seeking a foster coordinator.

**Item III – Animal Services Report**

Capt. Tim Deck, Durham County Sheriff’s Office, reported that there were 1029 service calls in August with an average response time of 34 minutes. 237 animals were impounded. The number of impounded animals increased significantly in FY 2019 (3659) over 2018 (2087). Animal Services has direct orders to scan every animal picked up unless the animal is extremely aggressive; one major problem is that owners are not updating their contact information.

The issue of Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) needs to be revisited in collaboration with the Health Department. Charlotte-Mecklenburg’s ordinance re: TNR for feral cats could prove instructive; Orange, Wake, and Alamance Counties also have programs; their data outcomes show that such programs are feasible.

DCSO has a new program, “Check the Chip.” Bark in the Park has been very successful. The 5th Annual Rabies Day will be October 12th at Eastway Elementary School. Volunteers are needed.

**Item IV – Old Business**

Attorney Darby stated that this body’s official name is what is in the ordinance, “Animal Welfare Advisory Committee,” not what is on the Oath or elsewhere. A review of the Committee Bylaws and the relevant Durham ordinances is indicated. The shelter tour for the Committee members is tabled until after the shelter renovations are complete, and a date will be set at the Committee’s November meeting.

**Item V – New Business**

Attorney Darby will send an electronic copy of the Committee Bylaws to Committee Secretary Jan Paul for grammatical and other suggested revisions.

The TNR portion of Durham’s ordinances will be studied. Citizens are expressing concerns about stray holds, and with the 5-day public view rule. It was noted that it is difficult to transfer ownership without an animal’s coming into the shelter, and that holding longer increases the chance of euthanasia instead of the chance for adoption. Shafonda Davis will ask Leah to provide data relating to 72-hour holds. Capt. Deck will check with Aimee Wall at the UNC School of Government as well as provide language from other counties relating to TNR ordinances.

Community education is needed relating to transfer of ownership. Language in the ordinance needs to be strengthened and refined.

Shannon McCabe and Marianne Bond will conduct research on language for exotic animal ordinances. Currently, Durham is the only county that has no appeals process. There have been multiple trap requests for 15-20 cats at a time. It would be beneficial to align Durham’s ordinances with those of other counties. Information will be provided at the November meeting.

Breed restriction policies: Private landlords and private owners may lawfully require tenants to give up certain breeds or sizes of dogs. There was discussion about listing known apartment complexes with restrictions on the website.

**Item VI – Public Comments**

None.

Following the close of discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Perrin Paul, Secretary