**DURHAM COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting of November 26, 2019**

**Present:***Committee Members:*Jenny Campbell, Joyce McKinney, Marianne Bond, Shannon McCabe, Kate Bremser, Heidi Carter, Jan Paul

*APS Board Members, Staff:*Tim Deck, Shafonda Davis

*Attorney to the Board:*

*Community Members:*Anissa Litwin, Sarah Reichman, Kristin Lang

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 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 7:05 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2019, were approved.

**Item II – Animal Services Report**

Capt. Tim Deck, Durham County Sheriff’s Office, reported that there were 979 service calls in October with an average response time of 30 minutes. 197 animals were impounded.

At the 2019 Rabies Day Event, 250 rabies vaccinations were administered; 188 microchips were implanted; 109 health exams were performed and 109 ID tags were issued. Dr. Farris with NCSU and vet students performed health exams on puppies only. NCSU provided the basic vaccinations. Five-year Rabies Day Event totals are as follows: 1,418 rabies vaccinations; 1,224 microchips; 961 health exams; 1,401 ID tags. The assistance of APS, the Health Department, NCSU, and volunteers is appreciated. Chip numbers are down overall, but rabies vaccinations are up because people are returning or new dogs are coming in. 3-year vaccines can’t be given because there is no vet on staff at Animal Services, and they cannot get the 3-year tags from the Department of Epidemiology.

**Item II – Shelter Report**

The annual gala was a great success - $210,000 was raised for APS. There was record attendance at the sold-out event. One anonymous donor contributed $50,000. At the shelter, adoption numbers were up and euthanasia numbers were down. The euthanasia rate was 33% for October, compared to 48% last year, representing a total of 107 fewer. Most animals (60%) were strays. Overall, for the fiscal year, adoption numbers were up, euthanasia numbers were down, and foster placements were up. Foster placement numbers were up 200 in October. The shelter has 555 active volunteers working 8 or more hours per month; 1930 hours were donated in October. There have been 52 community events thus far this year, not including the month of October. On-the-spot adoptions have been successful. Macy’s has chosen Durham APS as a charity. Many rats are available for adoption; they make good pets, but must go in pairs. All 9 ferrets were rescued. The county is starting a feasibility study starting in December. RND Architects are coming for an assessment, as well as the project manager of Engineering and Environmental Services, to determine options between a new building, renovation of the existing building, or both. David LaBarre of the Durham County Sheriff’s Office Planning Division discussed the possibilities of looking into a county building or obtaining space from a private entity. A tour of the Orange County shelter is coming up. The floors at the present building have been completed.

**Item IV – Old Business**

The TNR ordinance was examined as a follow up to a discussion at September’s meeting. Capt. Deck has reviewed municipal codes in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Orange Counties and found nothing relating to TNR. Sarah Reichman noted that the issue is contentious in Orange County, where there is a focus on farm cat programs that are handled by SNAP. Independent Animal Rescue handles TNR services for Durham and other counties. For future meetings, there will be discussion re: how to deal with feral cats v domestic cats v dogs. AWAC members will research TNR and provide the information with the committee members; among counties to be investigated are Greenville and Pitt, as well as ASPCA ordinances. Best Friends is sponsoring a law in the NC General Assembly relating to TNR. There are concerns that the Health Department is weakening the ordinance, as the rabies compendium has changed. There will be further discussion re: TNR at the January AWAC meeting. Committee members will be familiar with the Durham ordinance.

Shannon McCabe will look into more current language for an Exotic Animals Ordinance, and consider grandfathering or alternative systems. They become the shelter’s issue re: veterinary care and euthanasia. Durham, Orange, and Cumberland counties have strict regulations. Durham County might consider a mechanism for responsible owners for species such as Savannah cats, hybrid cats and dogs, ferrets,, and sugar gliders.

Euthanasia reasons have been as follows: 28% behavioral, 42% medical, 19% feral; 11% rabies suspicious. Total number of animals euthanized: 1,669 this year; 127 were feral.

In Durham, traps are set when individuals submit trap requests; the ordinance specifies that the requests have to be filled out at the shelter. Trapped animals generally are ultimately euthanized.

More discussion was had on the state hold law and the advantages to adoption possibilities of having a hold period of three business days.

**Item V – New Business**

The Committee discussed creating a public service announcement regarding how it is preferable to bring a stray to the shelter, as the shelter is primary contact for people seeking a lost pet. Shafonda Davis will refer this issue to the APS outreach and education committee.

**Item VI – Public Comments**

None.

Following the close of discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Perrin Paul, Secretary