

DURHAM COUNTY

MEETING AGENDA Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

7:00 PM

[Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams]

Present:

Committee Members: Dr. Jenny Campbell, Dr. Kate Bremser, Jan Paul, Shenell Little, Joy Nolan, Marianne Bond

Non-voting Members: Shafonda Allen, Commissioner Carter, Captain Manning, Lieutenant Pinner, Leah Santelli

Community Members: Sarah Reichman, Brian Mulligan, Anissa Litwin, Valerie Counsel, Kathy Hall, Robert Lucas

Committee Counsel: Nathan McKenny

Sheriff's Office Counsel: Keisha Lovelace

Item I – Introductory Remarks

Dr. Jenny Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. A roll call was conducted and there was a quorum. The second position from the Sheriff's Department has not been filled.

Item II - Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes were sent out to all members prior to the meeting and Dr. Bremser made a motion to approve the minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Jan Paul. The minutes were approved.

Item III – Animal Services Report

Captain Manning provided the following report. There were 1100 calls of service last month, which is up from prior years. Animal Services has vacancies and staffing is a concern. The average response time averaged 21 minutes, there were 211 incidents reports, 158 animals impounded, 12 of which were returned prior to going to the shelter. The 12 that were returned were from microchips. The largest call for service is for stray dogs and 49 were located. Animal Services responded to several animal bites.

There were 19 rabies investigations with one positive last month, raccoon, and already this month there have been two positive rabies cases, a bat and raccoon. The rabies vaccination clinic had some challenges. Vaccines were on backorder and what was in stock was destroyed

during the power outage from the recent storm. A new shipment arrived and the rabies clinics will continue.

Animal Services issued 63 warnings., 5 civil penalties were issued for a total of \$750. There were 32 unsubstantiated animal abuse reports. Two felony indictments for animal abuse were obtained in reference to an ongoing investigation.

Jan Paul asked if there was a reason for the increase in animal surrender. Lt. Pinner said that officers are attempting to educate the owners about the assistance that is in the community to include the pet food pantry.

Brian Mulligans requested a focus on more public education to intervene before pet owners surrender their animals. Director Allen said the shelter provides numerous resources to the community to include a helpline for behavior. The shelter has also moved to require appointments for surrendering.

Item IV – Shelter Report

Director Allen said intake has increased, there was almost 1,000 brought in over the last two months. Sixty percent are strays. In the past the number of animals brought in was about 4,000 a year. The shelter is reducing adoption fees and running specials. It has been hard to adopt animals and 75-100 animals are being sent to replacement partners each month. However, the shelter is euthanizing more this year than last.

All shelters across the country are struggling with placement of the larger dogs. Director Allen suggested a focus for AWAC to work to find a way to offer low cost spay and neuter clinics Spay and neuter clinics. They have recently lost their long term partner with SNAP because they sold their van. SNAP has provided low cost spay and neuters for the shelter through grant and donation funding. Now APS is having to send people to Mebane for those services and not everyone has the means to travel to Mebane.

Leah Santelli provided the following additional information. SNAP is no longer servicing Durham and they have sold the van to Peaceful Paws. Peaceful Paws will spay and neuter Durham animals, but it must be done in Mebane. The shelter has a new partner, Saint Francis, and they scheduled over 70 appointments in one month. It is unknown if this will be a long-term partnership, but APS is also dropping off microchips to Saint Francis so the animals being spayed/neutered can also be chipped. Durham APS has a goal to spay and neuter 900 animals in Durham this year.

Director Allen said APS is still waiting on their grant position and for the approval for the goal of 900 animals to be spayed/neutered in Durham County. They ask for a \$50 donation but have provided the services for less.

Dr. Bremser mentioned that her clinic receives vouchers for Animal Kind and they have multiple pets booked. She also mentioned that the hospital provides spay/neuter for a cat around \$175 and \$200 for a dog. This includes the pain medication to take home.

Director Allen said they need tags, microchips, and collars so owners can be located when difficult decisions need to be made, specifically, when animals are injured. Many animals have been hit by cars and the shelter has to make the decision for their care.

Item V – Old Business

The only old business is coming up with a new focus for AWAC.

Item VI – New Business

There was no new business.

Item VII – Public Comments

A community member, Madeleine Jones, asked for the status of the new shelter but there are no new updates. Commissioner Carter said the capital improvement plan was approved and she expects the shelter will continue to be a priority.

Sarah Reichman said it would be helpful to have a timeline for the shelter within the capital improvement plan. Commissioner Carter said the capital improvement plan is a living document where it is revised every other year, based on priorities.

Jan Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Marianne Bond.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2023 at 7:00.

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Recording has started.
Started by Manning, Mark L. By attending this meeting, you consent to being recorded.
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Meeting chat

- Marianne (Guest) was invited to the meeting.
- Brian Mulligan (Guest) was invited to the meeting.
- Kate Bremser (Guest) was invited to the meeting.
- Jones (she/her) (Guest) was invited to the meeting.
- Leah Santelli was invited to the meeting.
- Shafonda Allen was invited to the meeting.
- Little, Shenell was invited to the meeting.
- Robert (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

Participants: Brian Mulligan (Guest), Manning, Mark L., JLCAMPBE, Shafonda Allen, Leah Santelli, Little, Shen..., Robert (Gu...)

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