



COUNTY OF DURHAM

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

January 22, 2013

Members in attendance: Fran Foster, Joyce McKinney, Jenny Campbell, Evelyn Nicholson, Josephine Kerr, Wendy Jacobs, Marie Inserra, Lt. Brandon Hartigan

Guests: Susan Teer, Sarah Reichman, Phyllis Reidy, Barbara Elliott

Absent: Joyce Arcus, Martha Ann Traylor

Martha Ann Traylor has reached the end of her term of service. Members thanked her for her commitment to animal issues.

Minutes from the November meeting were read and approved.

Animal Services update...Lt. Hartigan. All Animal Service positions are filled. Two officers will begin the Academy in March.

Records from December 2012 revealed 4981 calls for service. There were 635 abuse/cruelty cases and 1522 stray issues. There were 1732 impound cases. Three cases of felony animal cruelty were charged in December.

Citizens are seeing coyotes in Durham and in Orange County. Meetings are being held giving advice on how to proceed when encountering these animals. Try to scare the animal off, waving your arms, loud noise, etc. If you quietly let the animal stay around, they will keep returning to that area. They usually turn and leave an area that is not receptive to them.

Shelter update..Shafonda Price. December was a great adoption month, probably due to prices lower and extended hours. Euthanasias are down, adoptions are up, returns to owner are up. Right now, fee for redeeming animals to their owners is \$25 and this fee goes up each time the same animal is picked up.

Old Business: Feral cat subcommittee: Sarah Reichman

Estimated feral cat population 30 – 45k. Trapping and euthanasia is only capturing a very small percentage (maybe 500-600 cats). Not an effective means of management. Discussion followed this subcommittee report. Many issues need to be met before the board votes. A Durham county code will need to be worked out for domestic vs. feral, who responsibility belongs to, who is willing to take on food, shelter and medical treatment. Specific guidelines are needed. Five key areas in the ordinance that will need to be defined, rewritten or changed are define owned vs. community cats.

- State Rabies law and local licensing
- Requirement of permit to allow trapping
- Abandonment to allow for caregivers to release cats that have been sterilized and vaccinated
- Requirement for Stray and abandoned animals to be turned over to Animal Services and not allowing feeding of these animal.

Members of the Advisory Committee thanked Ms. Reichman and the subcommittee for their efforts and asked that they draft these suggested changes and submit to AC in March for discussion and possible vote. A copy of the current findings and recommendations by the subcommittee are included with these minutes.

With no further business on the agenda the meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Next meeting will be March 26, 2013 at 7pm at the Durham County Animal Shelter.

Minutes submitted by Evelyn Nicholson.