**DURHAM COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**Present:** *Committee Members:*Marianne Bond, Kate Bremser, Jenny Campbell, Heidi Carter, Willie Darby, Shafonda Davis, Tim Deck, Shannon McCabe, Joyce McKinney, Joy Nolan, Jan Paul

*Community Members:*Anissa Litwin, Sarah Reichman, Beth Wyatt

**Next Meeting:** May 28, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at APS Shelter

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

The meeting was called to order. The minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2019, were approved. Attendees introduced themselves. Thanks were extended to Sue Darling and George Webb, whose terms on the Committee have expired.

**Item II – Animal Services Report**

Capt. Tim Deck, Durham County Sheriff’s Office, reported that there were 953 service calls during February, 2019, with an average response time of 36 minutes. Problems with the field-based reporting system resulted in showing zero animals impounded. DCSO has submitted 17 budget items to the county manager; priorities include 4 new positions for Animal Services. A veterinary-sponsored microchip giveaway was begun in February on Facebook. The next rabies vaccines events at the sheriff’s office will be on April 5th and May 10th from 11-2. The DCSO Animal Services Division’s Healthy Animal Initiative is focusing on microchipping, which can allow animals to be returned in the field. The SNAP van has chips. A new program, modelled after the “Check the Chip” program in Charlotte, will team up with the Durham Bulls for Bark in the Park, and will also have a presence at the APS Walk and Barktoberfest. Durham’s microchip pet registry service will be switched to PetLink, which offers a significant price reduction on microchips, as well as increased access to a worldwide databank and the ability to change information online with no charge. DCSO is awaiting approval for 300 chips. DCSO has universal chip readers. There is still an uptake in sick raccoons; one in SW Durham tested positive for rabies, and the Health Department issued a statement.

**Item III – Shelter Report**

Shafonda Davis, APS Executive Director, provided a report on intake and outcome statistics and euthanasia reasons (attached to minutes and incorporated herein by reference). Dog intakes are down.

There has been a recent issue with sick wildlife being brought to the shelter or to Triangle Emergency Veterinary. Staff is planning the April 14th Pints 4 Paws event. The APS Walk will be May 25th; people are urged to make or join a team. APS is preparing to celebrate 50 years as a nonprofit in 2020. Today, special guests (Heidi Carter, County Commissioner, and members of DCSO) were given an in-depth walk-through of the shelter, which generated discussion of the need for a new, healthy, up-to-date shelter facility. Volunteers are a great asset to the shelter and the community; 2,518 volunteer hours were logged in February, double the number for that month in 2018. Beneficial partnerships include Quail Roost Animal Hospital, which started doing echocardiograms, and Colony Park Animal Hospital, which has provided free x-rays for many years.

**Item IV – Old Business**

There was no old business.

**Item V – New Business**

Holding Period: There was discussion about the Durham County ordinance requiring the shelter’s 5-business-day stray holding period, which differs from the state’s 72-hour holding period. Some statistics show that live release and adoption outcomes may increase with a shorter holding period. Best practices include getting the animals in, administering vaccines, and facilitating adoptions or returns to owners in order to reduce the necessity for euthanasia. APS will examine Shelter Best Practices and report to the APS Board. This Committee can then examine whether changes to the ordinance are indicated. Other issues for possible exploration are electronic leashes and holding periods.

Educational Seminar: On Friday, May 3rd at 10 a.m., Blind Spot Animal Sanctuary in Rougemont is hosting an educational seminar for animal shelters focusing on care of pigs, small ruminants (e.g., goats, alpacas, llamas), and equines. Durham APS is sending staff to the seminar; HSUS will cover the registration fee for attending shelter staff.

Committee Name: Senior County Attorney Darby will speak with County Clerk Macio Carlton about the Committee’ name: the Bylaws name the “Animal Welfare Advisory Committee,” but the Oath for members cites the “Animal Services Advisory Committee.” Mr. Darby will also look into editing the Bylaws dated 5/26/15; Jan Paul offered to help.

Shelter Tour: This Committee is invited for a tour of the shelter starting at 6:30 p.m. on May 28th, prior to the start of the Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Perrin Paul, Secretary

Attachments