



ANIMAL CARE SERVICES CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 29, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Members

Marge Carpenter
Yvette Hernandez
Kris Liang
Becky Correia
Eugene Lukehart
Abbi Novotny

Excused Absence

Staff

Penny Cistaro
Rhea Serran
Joshua Randall
Kim Smythe
Jeanne Brennan

Public

Carrie Holler
Eileen Gillis
Paula Harrington
Dia Goode
Suzi Johnston

Note: MSP is used in the minutes as an abbreviation to indicate Moved, Seconded and Passed. MSF is used in the minutes as an abbreviation to indicate Moved, Seconded and Failed.

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at the Animal Shelter Cattery, 2127 Front Street, Multipurpose Room Sacramento, California at 6:03 p.m. by Committee Chair, Marge Carpenter.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2009

Motion to approve the minutes of 8/25/09 was made by Becky Correia and seconded by Yvette Hernandez. The motion was approved.

STAFF REPORTS

2. MANAGER'S REPORT – FACILITY AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Penny Cistaro reported she has met with an attorney and is working on the bylaws on the shelter's 501c3. She is also seeking clarification from the City Attorney's Office on donations. Ideas for donations included a clinic facility, treatment for animals, and humane education programs. Penny stated that the Board will include 3-5 member and the Animal Care Manager is a non-voting member. Penny explained that it is difficult for the City animal shelter to receive grant money since it is a municipal shelter not a non-profit.

Penny reported that on the September 12 Homeless Pets Licensing event at Loaves and Fishes, 40 animals were licensed.

Penny reported that the shelter volunteers had a group potluck and a meet and greet at a volunteer's home. About 30-40 volunteers attended. Penny also reported that she met with about 20 volunteers on an informal basis on Mission Orange and the UCD report.

Penny reported that the shelter has new cat feeding protocols. The Cat Stray room is now closed to the public. It will now be used for nursing moms, their kittens and sick cats.

Penny reported on the Belinda Way home. She thanked the volunteers (including Claudia Schlachter and Dia Goode) who took over the process in feeding, cleaning and finding homes for the cats. All the 120 cats have been altered, microchipped, vaccinated and tested. Some of the cats went to the WAG Hotel for adoption events.

Committee comments on the Manager's Report included an update on the agility project and request for committee members to be added to events email list.

Public comments on the Manager's Report included if microchipping is an option for the Homeless Pets Licensing Program and if there is a conflict of interest for the attorney that Penny has met with regarding the 501c3. Penny responded that microchipping at this time is too costly and the attorney is not a volunteer and not affiliated with the shelter.

3. SHELTER REPORT- SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS REPORT

Spay/Neuter Fund information was distributed. There was a discussion about the Spay and Neuter vouchers, and pitbull spay and neuter program, and the continuation of the 3rd Sunday vaccination clinic.

Penny reported that \$25,000 from the City Animal Shelter will go to the Spay/Neuter Pitbull program in 2010. Penny will speak with the shelter volunteer coordinator about the 3rd Sunday vaccination clinic.

Marge Carpenter, Committee Member, commented that there is a six-month wait period for the Pitbull Spay/Neuter program due to the demand.

Public comments included that the Auburn Spay/Neuter clinic will continue through December and why are animals sent to Discovery Pet Hospital for Spay/Neuter surgery. Joshua Randall, shelter staff, commented that if there is an overflow of adoptions, they are sent to and outside vet office for surgery.

4. ADOPTABILITY GUIDELINES

Penny reported that the Adoptability Guidelines are not a "hard and fast rule" and the term "adoptable vs. unadoptable" is too subjective. She explained that the animals should be considered to have "potential and non-potential". She reported that the animals will continue to be looked at on an individual basis based on age, health, temperament, and room at the shelter.

There was a discussion whether the Committee needs to approve the guidelines and how the stray population is controlled. Penny responded that population control is only for adoption areas. She reported that euthanasia decisions are now made on a daily basis, shelter staff is contacting rescue groups before the end of the stay period. The shelter will continue to focus on outreach, spay/neuter programs, animal retention, adoptions, increasing redemption and increase leave live process. She requested support from the public and staff.

Committee comments included that the public should be able to attend the Committee meetings and to ask questions.

Public comments included that the Adoptability Guidelines are for accountability and consistency, how shelter room capacity ties in with the UCD report, if the Euthanasia List can include the "PTS" date. Penny responded that shelter room capacity depends also on staffing levels – it needs to be taken into consideration and that staff is being empowered to make decisions.

Motion to accept the Adoptability Guidelines as informational purposes only and the Committee will remain in an advisory capacity was made by Kris Liang and seconded by Eugene Lukehart.

5. REPORT BACK ON TEMPLATE DEVELOPMENT FOR CITY COUNCIL REPORTING

Kris Liang asked the committee to provide comments on the template and memo to Mayor and City Council by the end of the week.

6. REPORT BACK ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marge Carpenter reported that she will email to the Committee a draft joint letter (from the Committee and the shelter) to the Mayor and Councilmembers about the Committee's involvement in City events.

Public comments included an idea to provide outreach to the Oak Park and Del Paso Heights communities regarding animal issues including fighting and biting, and to include outreaching to community association meetings.

7. REPORT BACK ON DONATION TREE MARKETING

Item #7 will be removed from the agenda until prices and advertising information is available.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Carrie Holler requested that the Committee volunteer summaries, agenda and minutes are updated. Carrie also requested that the shelter stats be posted. Penny reported that she is redesigning the stats and will report back.

Suzi Johnston requested information about the upcoming cat cruelty case. Penny reported that the Shelter is working with the District Attorney's Office to issue a warrant. The Shelter is also working HSUS, City Attorney's Office and City Police in this case.

Dia Goode asked about the City's stance on chickens in City limits. Penny responded that it can be problematic and depends on the area of the City.

9. COMMITTEE COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND IDEAS

It was discussed how the Committee should respond to emails from the public. A pending email in the inbox will be forwarded to Penny to respond to.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Abbi Novotny and seconded by Marge Carpenter. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.