

Durham County Animal Services Advisory Board

Minutes of the Meeting of May 24, 2016

Present: Committee Members; Sue Darling, Joyce McKinney, Kay Bishop, Shafonda Davis, Tim Deck, Cathi Hines, George Webb, Shannon McCabe, Jenny Campbell, Wendy Jacobs, Susan Teer.
Community Members: Sarah Riechman, Brock Sayre.

Next Meeting: July 26, 2016 at 7:00 pm at APS Shelter

Minutes taken by Sue Darling

Item I - Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of March 22, 2016 were approved with the addition of Laurie Hensley's last name in the "Animal Services Report."

Item II - Animal Services Report

Lt. Deck reported the Sheriff's Office received 1001 calls for animal services in April. There were 200 animals impounded and 16 returned in the field. The Mobile Response Unit van should be ready within two weeks. Jackson Creek Mfg., Denton, N.C. is renovating the van to accommodate approximately 30 kennels. The Healthy Animal Initiative is very successful. Since the program's initiation in 2015, 82 animals have been returned in the field, avoiding having to bring them to the shelter. Using the Sheriff's trucks microchip scanners and identifying the animals with rabies tags have been helpful in this regard. Lt. Deck is creating a rabies website that will allow veterinarians to put certificate information on the site. The goal is that once the certificates are caught up, he hopes to extend the rabies clinic dates and perhaps go out into the field to vaccinate. Lt. Deck is conducting a Periscope live-chat on the canine waste law tomorrow afternoon from 2:00 to 2:30.

Item III - Shelter Update

Shafonda reported this month's "Walk for the Animals" was a big success. The Sheriff's Office was the largest fundraiser. The shelter goal was \$80,000, and \$65,000 was raised. Last Wednesday, the Spay Days effort was also very successful. A second Spay Day is scheduled for this Thursday, May 26. With the help of Durham Builders, a total of 60 spays will have been performed this month utilizing the SNAP van.

The Shelter took in 366 animals in April, 175 of which were adopted, rescued, transferred, fostered or returned home. Ninety-six were adopted. Euthanasia was up this month. The focus of the shelter is to educate, spay/neuter, adopt and shelter in Durham County.

Kay Bishop is seeing many more animals coming into the shelter having been spay/neutered and/or chipped. She would like to begin gathering statistics on this trend.

Item IV – Old Business

Redemption fees: Lt. Deck attended the HHUS Animal Expo in Nevada two weeks ago. There was an interesting discussion on this topic. He would like to do some more research on further altering redemption fees.

Durham County's Healthy Animal Initiative has earned the county much positive notoriety. The worldwide presenters at the HHUS Expo highly praised the County's progressive reputation. Lt. Decker acknowledged the Coalition for Unchained Dogs' partnership in this effort. There was a suggestion made to report such information to the Board of Commissioners.

Lt. Deck indicated that World Rabies Day will be on a Saturday this year. A tentative date is set for September 24, 2016.

A motion was made and seconded to postpone discussion of the feral cat issue until Marie Inserra returns at the next meeting.

Sue Darling has volunteered to be the note taker for future meetings. A motion to this effect was made and seconded.

Item V - New Business

Brock Sayre is present at the meeting representing his wife, Risa Sayre. She has compiled a slide show about dog bites. He reports the couple has been overwhelmed with incidences of dog bites in his neighborhood. He has emailed the slide show to Jenny Campbell, who will share it with the other members for discussion at the next meeting. Lt. Deck reviewed the current law and procedures on this issue.

At the next meeting, members will discuss the dog bite issue, redemption fees, and the feral cat issue. Also to be discussed is the issue of asking vendors of animal traps to post a sign indicating that trapping by the public is prohibited by law.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.