

Durham County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of November 27, 2018

Present: Committee Members; Sue Darling, Shafonda Davis, George Webb, Shannon McCabe, Jenny Campbell, Joy Nolan, Susan Teer, Willie Darby, Tim Deck, Joyce McKinney, Heidi Carter.

Community Members: Anissa Litwin, Beth Wyatt, Sarah Reichman

Next Meeting: January 22, 2019 at 7:00 pm at APS Shelter

Minutes taken by Sue Darling

Item I - Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of previous meeting were approved.

Item II – Animal Services Report

Lt. Deck indicated that there were 963 calls for October, 2018. He expresses thanks to all of the Fourth Annual World Rabies Day event participants. There was a good turnout and there were 346 animals seen; 272 animals vaccinated; 190 chipped, and 240 ID tags were issued. There were 282 health exams. Only cats were offered three-year vaccinations. Providing three-year vaccinations for dogs will be explored for the next event. He is looking forward to the event next year.

Item III – Shelter Update

Intake was up for October. Volunteer hours were also up. The gala was good and raised \$193,000. Follow the website or Facebook for details on events with Durham Bulls, Dog Yoga, and the auctioning of *Hamilton* tickets.

Item IV – Old Business

The issue of electronic devices was discussed. The ordinance language provides that a remote control shock collar for dogs is enough restraint for dogs in public. This committee consensus is that a shock collar is not optimal for the dog and is not necessarily reliable restraint for dogs in public. The committee has the impression that the language in the ordinance may refer to electronic collars in connection with home fencing. It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to research the issue and perhaps rewrite the ordinance. There are no statistics on complaints from the public on this issue, but the consensus was that one complaint was not sufficient to rewrite the ordinance.

Item V - New Business

The issue of feral cat trap/neuter/release/return was brought up. This committee has researched and reported on this issue. Cats must be rabies vaccinated. Dogs and cats cannot legally be trapped by the public without permit. If cats are feral, adoption policy applies. The Health Department requires that people who trap ferals need proof of regular vaccination. This has proven to be unworkable. The Sheriff's office traps only at public request. The public can also request a permit from the Sheriff's office and then turn feral cats over to the shelter. The Sheriff's office gets over 300 requests per year with 500 cats brought in. They pick up 5-10 raccoons weekly with signs of rabies, but they are not tested lacking human contact. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.