

DURHAM COUNTY
ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 26, 2022
7:00 PM

Present:

Committee Members: Marianne Bond, Jan Paul, Kari Linfors, Amanda Gardner, Dr. Kate Bremser, Kari Linfors, Paul McKinnon, Joy Nolan, Elizabeth Overcash

Non-voting Members: Captain M. Manning, Mark Manning, Wendy Pinner, Leah Santelli, Shafonda Allen

Observer: Brian Mulligan, Kelsey Gilmore-Futeral, John Graves, Shenell Little, Danielle Bays

Community Members: Sarah Reichman, Sarah Teer, Heidi Carter

Committee Counsel: Willie Darby

Item I – Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Jan Paul provided welcome remarks and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken and there was a quorum. A motion was made by Marianne Bond and seconded by Amanda Gardner to approve the agenda for the July 26, 2022, meeting. The agenda was approved.

Item II - Approval of aMinutes

A motion was made by Dr. Kate Bremser and second by Marianne Bond to approve the meeting minutes from the May 24, 2022, meeting. The minutes were approved. Elizabeth Overcash was introduced as a new member.

Item III – Animal Services Report

Captain Manning provided the following highlights for the Animal Services Report. He reported that officers responded to 897 calls for service in June with 173 incident reports. Captain Manning reported that staffing for animal services has been reduced from fourteen to eight officers. Response times were an average of 23 minutes and prior to 2012 the response took days.

Animal Services completed four community events and they conduct educational courses. The held a class about animal behavior class for the Tax Administration Office.

One hundred and eleven animals were impounded in June and included cats, dogs, birds, fish, racoon, possums, and a turtle. Thirteen were returned to their owners. Thirty-six dogs were impounded and due to shelter crowding the trapping of cats was suspended. There were thirty-

nine animal bite confinement checks, 6 rabies investigations (5 bats and 1 possum) and all came back negative. Thirty-five animals were surrendered in June. Animal Services is conducting rabies clinics on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 to 4:30, and during the month of June they completed 63 rabies vaccinations. Captain Manning reported there were 37 animal abuse investigations, and all were unfounded.

Item IV – Shelter Report

Director Allen reported a surge in intake this fiscal year as compared to last year. She said it was about 1,000 more animals than the prior fiscal year. In June the shelter received 482 animals, 215 dogs 233 cats and 34 other animals. The shelter continues to have adoption events and they have not charged full adoptions fees in over a month. They are doing “pay your day” and then clearing the shelter all month of August. Adoptions are up but they are not seeing the life saving impact because of the increase in intake.

The shelter checks the number of cats each day and their capacity is 119 cats but the count has not been under 170 for the month of June. Some cats are going to Safe Haven for spay/neuter. They are reaching out to partners to assist with the number of animals coming in. Leah Santelli asked Captain Manning if there was going to be a rabies vaccination day and the shelter wanted to partner for the events and provide some microchips. See attached reports for further.

Item V – Old Business

Bylaw Update: The correction/modification of Committee Bylaws is in the process of being updated. Attorney Darby recommended additional permanent positions be added to include the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Any suggestions for the bylaw updates should be sent to Attorney Darby.

BOCC Action on AWAC’s Proposed Ordinance Modifications:

The county commissioners met on July 11, 2022 and agreed to adopt the model provided and look to see who would oversee the trapping of Community Cats. The suggestion from the county commissioners was to pull multiple groups to work together. Attorney Darby asked how many people would need to be added to Animal Services to assist with the ordinance change. Wendy Pinner said she has spoken with Independent Animal Rescue (IAR) and they are very interested in working with Animal Services. Safe Haven for Cats is also interested in assisting with the program.

Director Allen mentioned including the community in the ability to assist with TNVR and this is already happening but is not currently legal. Jan Paul mentioned that the recording of the county commissioners voted to adopt the AWAC draft version of the ordinance, contingent on receiving rules and regulations of the development of the program itself. The holding period would be changed and that the removal of the barriers for TNVR. Wendy Pinner said she

believed the version voted on was the one that put the burden on the Sheriff's Department. Director Allen said that the discussion was that no cat would be allowed to be euthanized unless medically necessary. She said that this should not be the case and that there should not be included in the ordinance change. Jan Paul said that the version mentioned by Wendy Pinner between June 16 and July 11 had been discussed further as the intent of the AWAC was to remove the barriers in the ordinance and not place the burden on the Sheriff's Department.

Attorney Darby said he believed the approved change was on hold until there was an understanding of what each group can and cannot do. The ordinance is not finalized and there is still time to make changes.

Item VI – New Business

Community Cat Nuisance Mitigation

A possible ordinance change recommendation may need to be made and community member Sarah Reichman was aware of concerns about how free roaming cats interact with the community. Danielle Bays developed several resources and training around this topic. Danielle said there are ways to mitigate concerns with cats and community. There are resources and training available to develop a process to deal with any complaints.

Director Allen mentioned that the process to deal with complaints should be in a policy from the sheriff's department and not in ordinances. Elizabeth Overcash said she strongly supported the complaints in policy and not within the ordinance. John Graves mentioned an officer training that they conduct about nuisance issues and there should be discretion and protocols.

Nominating Committee and Election of Officers

The committee tabled the discussion about nominations and Amanda and Kari would bring something forward to the next meeting.

Item VII – Public Comments

None.

A motion was made by Marianne Bond and seconded by Amanda Gardner to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.