

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL  
CITY OF AMARILLO

The Animal Control Board met on Monday, April 21, 2014, at 11 a.m. in regular session in the City Council Chamber located on the third floor of City Hall at 509 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with the following members present:

Sunny Hodge-Campbell	Chairman Animal Control Board Member
Andrea Slater Gulley	Vice Chairman Animal Control Board Member
Brooke Reeves	Animal Control Board Member
Dr. Jim Cook, DVM	Animal Control Board Member
Dr. C.P. Paullus	Animal Control Board Member

Members absent: None.

Also in attendance were the following administrative officials:

Scott McDonald	Acting Director
Marcus Norris	City Attorney
Deree Duke	Director Environmental Health
Tanya Champion	Information Technology Manager
Frances Hibbs	City Secretary

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell established a quorum, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and the following items of business were considered.

Item 1. Minutes

Motion was made by Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell; motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Andrea Slater-Gulley, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes.

Item 2. Presentation and Discussion from the Amarillo Panhandle Humane Society by Jena McFall, Executive Director

Jena McFall, Amarillo-Panhandle Humane Society Executive Director, presented a report in regard to the new Saturday hours reflecting adoptions of 10, 4, and 3, respectively, since April 5, 2014. She stated that they were looking for a new veterinarian to provide their low-cost spay program and that they may have to look at multiple veterinarians for the program. She also stated she helps select animals from the Animal Control Shelter to be transferred to other rescue shelters such as TPPS, Lost Pets of Amarillo, and breed specific rescue groups. Animal Control does the other animal rescue transfers.

Item 3. Presentation and Consideration of draft revisions to Chapter 8.2 of the Amarillo Municipal Code related to the Inhumane Treatment of Animals.

Before Mr. Norris' presentation of the ordinance, Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell read a statement concerning the role of the Animal Control Board members. Mr. Norris stated that as drafted Chapter 8-2, Article I, Sections 8-2-1 and 8-2-6, Definitions and offense of Inhumane Treatment, unlawful restraint of dogs; presumptions and investigations and prosecution of offenses was repealed in its entirety and replaced with new sections as directed by the Animal Control Board in February. The proposed ordinance would be presented to City Council for consideration upon the Animal Control Board's recommendation.

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell asked that chains be removed from tethering because sometimes the chains outweigh the animal and to add 'potable' water to the ordinance. Mr. Norris stated the Board had discretion on what they wanted to recommend to the City Council. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley to choose the second Option 2, motion was seconded by Dr. Paullus, selecting shelter suitable for the species, age, condition, size and type of each animal. Motion passed by a 4:0:1 with Dr. Cook abstaining.

Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley stated that ear cropping and tail docking was being done by non-professionals and not done correctly or without anesthesia. Dr. Cook stated that these procedures should be done by veterinarians who deaden the tissue before the procedures.

John Scott, 2046 S. Hayden St., stated that the ordinance should be changed to allow for mobility and that the restraint does not impede mobility. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley and seconded by Board Member Brooke Reeves to remove chains as a restraint. Motion passed by a 3:2 with Dr. Paullus and Dr. Cook abstaining.

Mr. Norris stated that restraint in b-2 will be difficult to enforce. Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell asked that chain be included on the types of collars. Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley asked that research be done on how other cities are dealing with restraint for unreasonable impeded mobility. Mr. Norris stated that weighing of the animal would be challenging and hard to prove in court. He agreed to find out more information and report back to the Animal Control Board at their next meeting.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley to add chain to the attachment section for tethering. To be attached on a dog by a choke collar, or prong or chain style collar. Motion was seconded by Board Member Brooke Reeves. Motion passed 5:0. Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell asked Mr. Norris if he would make the additions and changes to the ordinance and present it at the Animal Control's next board meeting.

Melody Malouf, P. O. Box 50236, asked that the punishment and fine be stricter for repeat offenses. Mr. Norris stated that fines were capped by State law.

Ruthanne Shepherd, 109 Sunset Terrace, asked that the animals also be able to access water, food and shelter while tethered. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley to add access to shelter to the tethering section, seconded by Board Member Reeves and motion passed 5:0.

Item 4: Presentation and Consideration of recommendations regarding Information Technology Department relating to technical assistance, software options, and data collection needs of the Animal Control Department, including documentation and notice of impounded animals.

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell tabled the item until the next Animal Control Board meeting.

Item 5: Presentation and Discussion of proposed orientation for Animal Control Board members.

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell asked that the Board tour the Animal Shelter facility, have ride-a-longs with Animal Control Officers and observe the front counter at the Animal Control Shelter. Dr. Paullus stated he could tour the facility but was not able to commit time with ride-a-longs. Ken Tenbrink, #5 Crenshaw, stated he believed it should not be an option but mandatory of the Board, so that the Board would fully understand what Animal Control was faced with on a daily basis.

Item 6: Update and Discussion on Animal Control Department

Scott McDonald, Acting Director of Animal Control reported stated that Animal Control was fully staffed with 29 positions. Officers are on call until 12:00 midnight providing additional 10-15 hours per week. The number of calls in March was 2,520 compared to last year's 2,405. As part of the technical assistance electronic ticket writers were being programmed to write tickets on the spot with the capabilities to have the charges downloaded to Municipal Court. Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell asked if they will have capabilities to keep statistics by category. Mr. McDonald stated they would be able to make any additional changes.

Item 7: Discussion of items for next meeting agenda

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell asked that Items 3 and 4 be scheduled for the next meeting. She also asked the Animal Control Board if they would be willing to meet again in May instead of waiting until June. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley to meet May 19 at 11:00 a.m. and seconded by Board Member Reeves. Motion passed 5:0.

Item 8: Public Comments

Stacy Grant, 5812 Spencer, stated she believed the Animal Control personnel serve in noble positions but lack in improvements and continuing education. She said there was minimal

communication between Animal Control and the public on the 72-hour rule. Changes are needed in the euthanasia procedures, shelter environment and rules.

Melody Malouf, P. O. Box 50236, stated she believes the Animal Control administration's hands were tied and no management to follow. She further stated there was no set time when animals were put down and no time limits to transfer animals and the paperwork was done hap hazardously. Changes were needed in sanitation to control Parvo, kennel cough and ticks. She requested that the Texas Rangers be called to investigate and that the investigation include the supervisors over Animal Control because she believed it was impossible to investigate ones' self.

Ken Tenbrink, #5 Crenshaw, stated he had read the Facebook pages and other social media sites concerning the 'Wanted Poster' for Mike McGee and Shannon Barlow and thought they were out of line.

Donna Rosenburg, 13800 Tangle Aire Point, stated she had trouble with Animal Control 4-5 years ago concerning the adoption of a dog and the welfare check that was never done.

Sandy Whitney, 4214 Catalpa, stated she too had read the information on Facebook and on social media and believed in light of the investigation, more information needed to be done on the facility and taken to a higher level of administration. She appreciated the new board trying to make changes and making sure, if needed, euthanasia was done properly.

Shea White, 4212 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated she appreciated current management for breaking down the laws while current administration was on paid vacation and that the investigation needed to include more than the two people.

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell confirmed the circumstances in the investigations were alleged at this time.

With no further business, Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell adjourned the meeting.

This meeting was recorded and on file with the City Secretary Office.

  
Sunny Hodge-Campbell, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Deanna Lamkin, Administrative Assistant V  
Animal Control Department