

MINUTES

On June 21, 2017, the Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board met at 5:00 p.m. in the Council meeting room to discuss the agenda, in the City Council Chamber located on the third floor of City Hall at 509 E. 7th Avenue, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Dr. Kellie Dodson DVM	Yes	09	09
William Kearns	Yes	11	11
Dale Potter	Yes	10	09
Christopher Wrampelmeier	Yes	06	06
Melanie Davidson	Yes	02	02

Also in attendance were:

- Kevin Starbuck Assistant City Manager
- Bryan McWilliams Deputy City Attorney
- Richard Havens Director, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Christy Fischer Asst. Director, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Jim Liggitt Compliance Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Kevin Moon Field Services Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Raymond Chavez Shelter Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Stacy Smith, DVM Shelter Veterinarian, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Jeffna Cox Administrative Tech, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Elisa Yara Office Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Larry Milam Executive Director, Amarillo-Panhandle Humane Society
- Chase Steinmetz TNR Coordinator, Amarillo-Panhandle Humane Society
- Cheyenne Zimmer Rescue Coordinator, Amarillo-Panhandle Humane Society
- Brittany Crofton Employee, Amarillo Panhandle-Humane Society

ITEM 1: William Kearns called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amarillo Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board to order at 5:01 P.M. The motion to approve the Minutes from Regular Meeting, April 19, 2017, was made by Dr. Dodson and second by Christopher Wrampelmeier. The motion carried 4:0.

ITEM 2: Richard Havens, Director of AM&W, presented on the operation of Animal Management & Welfare. Stats comparison is from the month of April 2017 and May 2017. All stats can be located on the AM&W website. **April 2017 compared to April 2016:** total intake was down 14%. Stray dogs were up 5%; stray cats down 31%; owner surrenders were down 29%; bite cases were up 40%; reclaims were down 46%; adoptions were flat; transfers to rescue were down 44%; animals that left through the efforts of the Humane Society were down 24%; euthanasia was down 9%. TNR baseline is being established for year 2017 (31 cats).

May 2016 compared to May 2017: total intake was up 9%; stray dogs were up 51%; stray cats were down 20%; owner surrenders were down 3%; bites were up 16%; reclaims were down 7%; adoptions were up 3.5%; transferred to rescue were down 4%; TNR was 44 cats. Animals that left through the efforts of the Humane Society were up 5%; euthanasia numbers were up 33%. Parvo in the shelter has impacted the Euthanasia number and not allowing cat trap rentals has impacted the stray cat population number. Richard Havens reported on the House Bill 1232 (Bestiality) changing from a misdemeanor to felony if passed on June 12, 2017 to be effective on September 1, 2017. Animal cruelty bill is increasing in the level of offense to a 3rd degree felony. Ordinance 7670 (Rooster to hen ratio) will be effective July 10, 2017. Canyon has seen influx on bats that are testing positive for rabies. Vaccinate your pets for rabies. Flea and tick season is here, please take preventive measures to protect your pets. Canine Flu is another item to be concerned about affecting our community. Cases are breaking out in the Dallas area. Vaccines are currently available at all local vet offices. Parvo vaccinations are recommended for puppies. Go to amw.amarillo.gov.

ITEM 3: Larry Milam, Executive Director, of Amarillo Panhandle Humane Society reported on animals available, animals unavailable, animals tagged for rescue, animals let to rescue and animals adopted. Currently 135 animals are available for rescue, 2 unavailable, 34 animals tagged for rescue organizations, 30 animals left on transport to Colorado for a total animals of 201 (20% increase) leaving through the efforts of the Amarillo Panhandle Humane Society. This week a total of 135 animals will have left for transport to rescue organizations. Chase Steinmetz reported on TNR in the community. The TNR program is targeting 10 spay/neuters per week. Five have been released and very few are re-trapped. No vets have expressed an interest to help with spay/neuter surgeries. \$35.00 male neuter and \$45.00 female spay cost through APHS. TNR is not funded with tax payer money.

ITEM 4: Richard Havens, Director of Animal Management & Welfare presented the discussion and review of the proposed ordinance changes to Chapter 8-2 of the Amarillo Municipal Code. Mr. Havens proposed on shifting the stray hold period from 3 days to 2 days to help with getting out the animals sooner for adoption and/or rescue. This would not change the hold period for Euthanasia. Reclaim rate for 2015 was 11.42% (1452 animals) reclaim rate in 2016 was 12.76% (1612 animals). Jan-May 2015 11.78% reclaim rate, in 2016 11.95% were reclaimed and 2017 10.22% were reclaimed. Historical data supports the need for reducing the stray hold period for rescue organizations and adoptions. Further historical data is available at amw.amarillo.gov. Question and answer session followed on discussion of shortening the stray hold period from 3 days to 2 days.

ITEM 5: Vote was taken on the proposed Transfer of Ownership Ordinance Provisions. Chris Wrampelmeier motioned to pass and with a second motion from Dr. Kellie Dodson. Ordinance passed 3:1 with William Kearns opposing the ordinance.

ITEM 6: William Kearns discussed future agenda items.
No future agenda items were discussed.

ITEM 7: Public Forum

Sara Cervantes, 5207 Echo Drive, agreed with Williams Kearns on the need to educate the public. Sara stated that 40% of the Hispanic population is needing to be educated on whom, why and how to care, where to go to reclaim their animals. She needs the tools to help educate the Hispanic population.

Deshay Anderson, 5227 Astoria, spoke to increase education and public relations with Animal Management & Welfare.

Ingrid Stockbough, 308 Canyon Crest Drive, spoke on improving customer service at AM&W, suggested home check put in place before people could adopt animals. She gave kudos to Humane Society on their efforts with transporting dogs out of the Shelter. She also suggested the need for public service announcements to let the public know about the AM&W Advisory Board Meetings.

Sandy Whitney, 4214 Catalpa Lane, agreed on the issues causing obstacles to reclaim animals at the Animal Shelter. She stated that the language barrier prevents animals from being reclaimed. She stated the need for low costs spay/neuter facility. She expressed the need for public service messages in both, English and Spanish to be put in place to start educating our communities.

Chris Miller, 5227 Astoria, encouraged for the city to come together. The Shelter is in need for a paid position to use social media to educate the public in order to become successful at efforts to reduce animal intake.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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


William Kearns, Chair Person

ATTEST: 

Elisa Yara, Office Manager,
Animal Management & Welfare Dept.