

**MINUTES**

On November 28, 2018, the Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board met at 4:30 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. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Melanie Davidson	Yes	08	08
Dr. Kellie Dodson DVM	Yes	15	15
AJ Fawver	NO	04	03
Dale Potter	Yes	14	11
Christopher Wrampelmeier	Yes	12	12

**Also in attendance were**

- Richard Havens                      Director, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Christy Fischer                      Assistant Director, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Kevin Moon                              Field Services Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Stacy Smith, DVM                      Shelter Veterinarian, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Chase Steinmetz                      Interim Shelter Volunteer Coordinator, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Amanda Wheeler                      Field Supervisor, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Rebecca Hiatt                              AMO, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Kevin Starbuck                          Assistant City Manager, City of Amarillo
- Jeffna Cox                                  Administrative Tech, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Elisa Yara                                      Office Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo

Dale Potter called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amarillo Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board to order at 4:39 P.M.

**ITEM 1:** Chris Wrampelmeier stated that the change to the previous minutes stating that Dale Potter was not in attendance on May 9, 2018. He then motioned to accept the previous minutes with that change. The approval of the Amarillo Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board minutes of May 9, 2018, was approved 3:0, with Dale Potter abstaining due to the fact he was not present at previous meeting.

**ITEM 2:** Richard Havens stated that board did not make quorum last time which prevented us from meeting in October. Mr. Havens presented summary of departmental operations and updates for AAM&W.

**May 2017 vs. May 2018:** Total intake down 4.11%, stray dogs down 12.17%, stray cats down 18.62%, owner surrenders up 30.26%, bites up 25.45%, reclaims down 15%, adoptions up 16.99%, transport to Rescues down 33.87%, TNR cats down 61.36%, animals leaving through efforts of Amarillo Panhandle Humane Society down 20.38%, euthanasia stayed the same, adjusted euthanasia down 6.47%, total EU rate 31.87%, adjusted EU 22.77%, live release rate 68.13%, adjusted rate 77.23%

**June 2017 vs. June 2018:** Total intake down 2.21%, stray dogs up 13.54%, stray cats down 17.55%, owner surrenders down 1.68%, bites down 35.68%, reclaims down 37.76%, APHS adoptions up .45%, adoptions AAM&W 3, transport to Rescues down 23.30%, APHS TNR cats down 100%, AAM&W TNR cats 1, animals leaving through efforts of Amarillo Panhandle Humane Society down 12.57%, , animals leaving through AAM&W 4, euthanasia down 29.02%, adjusted euthanasia down 16.31%, total EU rate 25.35%, adjusted EU 20.56%, live release rate 74.65%, adjusted rate 79.44%

**July 2017 vs. July 2018:** Total intake down 18.89% stray dogs down 19.20%, stray cats down 26.72%, owner surrenders up 8.09%, bites down 38.03%, reclaims up 2.46% with no fees, APHS adoptions up 98.19%, AAM&W adoptions 2 , transported to rescue down 56.06, APHS TNR down 93.10%, AAM&W TNR 2 animals, animals leaving through efforts of Amarillo Panhandle Humane Society down 5.37%, number of animals leaving through AAM&W 2, euthanasia down 30.02%, adjusted euthanasia down 21.72%, total EU rate 36.44% adjusted EU rate 63.56%. Live release 63.56% with adjusted live release rate 69.98%.

**August 2017 vs. August 2018:** total intake up 2.33%, stray dogs up 5.72%, stray cats down 1.35%, owner surrenders up 10.85%, bites were down 35.12%, reclaims up 105.95%, APHS adoptions down 35.12%, AAM&W adoptions 158, transport to rescue down 89.27%, APHS TNR down 100%, AAM&W TNR animals 12, animals leaving through efforts of Amarillo Panhandle Humane Society down 67.13%, animals leaving through efforts of AAM&W 170, total euthanasia down 34.53%, adjusted euthanasia was down 43.53%, EU rate 26.31%, adjusted EU 17.21%, live release 73.69%, adjusted 82.79%

**September 2017 vs. September 2018:** total intake down 26.27%, stray dogs down 31.37%, stray cats down 34.09%, owner surrenders up 13.48, bites down 57.58%, reclaims up 1.85%, APHS adoptions down 9.14%, AAM&W adoptions 176, transferred to rescues down 61.46%, APHS TNR cats down 100%, AAM&W TNR 9 animals, , animals left through APHS down 42.53%, number of animals left through AAM&W 183, total EU down 28.52%, adjusted EU down 28.52%, EU rate 42.4%, Adjusted EU rate 27.2%, live release rate 57.6%, adjusted live release rate 72.8%

**October 2017 vs. October 2018:** Surrenders down 12.86%, stray dogs down 19.16%, stray cats down 20.76%, owner surrenders up 15.14%, bites up 6.98%, reclaims down 8.05%, APHS adoptions up 20.63%, number of adoptions AAM&W 221, transferred to rescues down 65.76%, APHS TNR cats down 100%, AAM&W TNR cats 30, Animals leaving through APHS down 41.84%, animals leaving through AAM&W 251, EU up 8.29%, adjusted EU up 2.33%, EU rate 43.14%, adjusted EU rate 31.79%, live release rate 56.86%, adjusted live release rate 68.21%

A free Microchip event was held at Sam Houston Park on July 30, 2018. We implanted 730 animals. We serviced 23 Municipalities, including as far away as Dallas. August 18, 2018 we kicked off AM&W adoptions with National Clear the Shelter with Kruanda Beds sponsoring all adoptions 39 cats and 79 dogs. AM&W adoption package includes Spay or Neuter, Chipping with registration, shots including Rabies and Heartworm testing in dogs over 6 months, as well as 30 days of free pet insurance. Adoptions are \$35.00 dogs and \$25.00 cats. At this time the Volunteer Program Coordinator has been designated the task of Adoptions as well as coordinating volunteers which has drastically increased the work load of this individual. The person who was the Volunteer Coordinator has left the department and we will introduce the new Volunteer Coordinator at the next advisory board meeting.

We were awarded 2 grants Petsmart Charities-Pet Retention Grant and Maddie's fund-Innovation Grant. Petsmart Charities-Pet Retention Grant is for two demographic groups, that are Spanish speaking citizens and animals that belong to homeless citizens. Maddies Fund helps with intake process using AI incorporated into the intake process on a trial basis. December Adoption Specials are \$5.00 cats and \$10.00 dogs starting December 1, 2018. Weekly news animal will be \$20.00.

Kevin Moon our in house IT Specialist presented Adoptomize. We have implemented this software on a trial basis. The animal, upon intake, will have a video taken of them. We then pick 2 photos to upload to our website. One photo is for adoptability or cuteness and another for identification purposes. The software analyzes behavior, learns breeds and compiles data to see if their software helps animals get adopted. We are pleased with the software. This gives us better and clearer photos. This is on a trial basis for 3 months. Staff is teaching algorithm to the software by what photos we choose. It is a self adjusting algorithm. This came about from attending Best Friends convention. We want to work on eliminating barriers to reclaiming animals. With AAM&W kicking off adoptions at the shelter, due to the no adoptions being done at the shelter, we are eliminating barriers.

Christy Fischer presented her Amarillo College Partnership. We will be offering a Diversion Program for first time offenders. Prosecutors and judges will use this as a tool. AAM&W staff will volunteer time to teach. We will teach Local Laws and Basic Husbandry.

2018/19 Budget Additions: Fees \$35.00 Canine adoptions, \$25.00 feline adoptions and \$20.00 fee to surrender an animal. We will be adding the following Positions: 2 full time Veterinarian Assistants, 1 Full time Adoption Specialist and 3 Part time Adoption Specialists. The \$20.00 surrender fee will be on a case by case basis. We are not going to refuse surrender if they can't pay. We have tremendous success with the surrender fee. County intake has not increased.

Adoption Option will be taken over by AAM&W. Citizens will be able to adopt their animal back vs. reclaiming. Canines will be \$55.00 (\$20.00 surrender fee + \$35.00 adoption fee) and Felines \$45.00 (\$20.00 surrender fee + \$25.00 adoption fee). They get their animal back fixed and cheaper than reclaiming. Adoption option will waive citations of running at large, vaccinations (Rabies) and displaying vaccinations (Rabies) tags. The exception is Inhumane or Cruelty Citations will not be waived. We are trying to get this information out to citizens as an alternative to reclaim fees. We do have some people refuse this option and pay full reclaim fees.

Rescue proposed for AAM&W. Every year trucks are taken out of service. We are going to repurpose an ACO Truck to support rescue vehicle. We will then purchase a those funds to purchase a van. The last 6 months the rescue van has been broke down. We are not taking over rescues, but assisting APHS in their rescues. Adoption specialists will also be drivers for the rescue van. This is not in place yet, but we hope to implement this soon. ASPCA Transports- the Humane Society self suspended from the program so AAM&W reached out to ASPCA to pick this up. We have ACFA (Pet Animal Care Facilities Act) and are working through the Application Process to get this up and running- Colorado and ASPCA. This is a great tool to get our animals out to communities who want these animals.

Manage Intake – We are starting Scheduled intake (Surrenders). This is in line with Target Zero and Lubbock. We will schedule 7 to 14 days out and this is Effective January 1, 2019. Our intake has decreased in the past few months; we believe due to the fact staff is educating the public, by offering free training , food or other options.

**ITEM 3:** Jessica Arellano with APHS stated that she has nothing to report at this time.

**ITEM 4:** Proposed Ordinance Changes

- I. Sec. 8-2-1. – Definitions - discussed
- II. Sec. 8-2-2. – Enforcement - discussed
- III. Sec .8-2-4. – Fees discussed

- IV. Sec. 8-2-6. – Inhumane treatment, unlawful restraint; statutes; presumptions; definitions; enforcement - discussed
- V. Sec .8-2-16. – Intact dogs and cats at large - discussed
- VI. Sec. 8-2-53. – Notice of impoundment of tagged Animals - discussed
- VII. Sec. 8-2-58. – Spay/Neuter Fund established - discussed
- VIII. Sec. 8-2-59 – Mandatory Spay –Neuter- discussed

Breeders Ordinance Status Update –Agreement on Animal over population issue. We continue to work with Amarillo Kennel Club on a solution. Avoid unintended consequences. Amarillo needs a no barrier spay/neuter clinic, but the issue is funding. Current Options: 1. APHS sterilization discount card 2. No Balls for Baxter when funds are available 3. Amarillo SPCA teams with Lone Star Vet 4.0 Critters without Litters sold by Critter Camp and AAM&W

**Public comments on Item 4:** 1. Jill Humphrey 7714 Pine Ridge Drive- Concerned with Breeders Ordinance making increased intake to the shelter. States that most puppies coming into the shelter is the result of backyard breeding. Christopher Wrampelmeier moved to accept all Proposed Ordinance Changes and was seconded by Dale Potter it passed 4 to 0.

**ITEM 5:** Discussion on future agenda items: Updates on the results of community engagement on the proposed ordinance changes and updates from City Legal Department on rewrites of proposed ordinance changes.

**ITEM 6:** Dale Potter made a motion for future meetings dates to be tabled. It passed 4 to 0

Public Comments: Dacia Anderson 5227 Astoria discussing D building being listed on board, getting an EU list in advance, getting the public aware of reclaim fees being waived, would like improved communications between APHS and AAM&W they should be working together.

Jill Humphreys 7714 Pine Ridge Drive sees a need to work alongside with rescues, fostering and rescuing to improve animal outcome for AM&W, we do it because we love animals and have a passion. Take advantage of us. She hopes that we could all work together instead of against each other. Super important that relationships should start to be rebuilt. I hear that animals are picked at random to be killed. She wants quicker notice on the EU list.

Monica Woodard 501 Forrest recently started to work in rescues. She is upset at the messages that she is getting with calls microchips not getting registered. Need to get chips registered more quickly. Someone states that AAM&W states they can't help with microchip info.

**Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.**

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

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Dale Potter, Chair Person

ATTEST:

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Jeffna Cox, Administrative Tech  
Animal Management & Welfare Dept.