

Arlington Animal Services Center Advisory Board

MINUTES May 26, 2004

The City of Arlington Animal Services Advisory Board held a meeting at Noon on Wednesday, May 26, 2004 in the conference room of the Animal Services Center at 5920 West Pioneer Parkway, Arlington TX. The following members and City staff were present:

Board Members:

Jayne Cole Place 2
Dr. Erin Miller Place 3
Linda Yarbrough Place 4
Suzanne Berk Place 7

Staff:

Mike Bass Animal Services Manager

I. Call to Order

Linda Yarbrough, Chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Linda made a motion to approve April 21, 2004 minutes. Suzanne Berk, Place 7 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Agenda Items

a. 48 hour holding of purebreds and small dogs

Suzanne Berk asked for an update regarding her suggestion that the general public be given first opportunity to adopt, once purebred and small dogs come up for adoption, rather than let placement-assistance/rescue groups take out right away after they come up for adoption. Mike Bass noted he has several ordinance examples that he will be reviewing and will consider further by the June board meeting and as time allows.

b. Fund Raising Update

Suzanne Berk noted that PAAWS 2005 Tshirts, hats and business cards are now available and that the next major fund-raising event is the big October-speaker event with Dianne Cannon and the major donor dinners. Linda Yarbrough asked what type of 'fall back' plan is available for the \$200,000 if those two efforts are not successful. Susan noted the group has a plan that will produce the \$200,000 by the council's cutoff date.

c. New Shelter Planning Update – Master Project Plan

Lee Hitchcock was not in attendance but Mike Bass noted that until the \$200,000 is raised there is not much more staff can do other than what Lee is already doing and has presented at prior meetings.

d. Ordinance Revisions

Linda Yarbrough asked Mike Bass to provide an update on strengthening the animal ordinances, including maximum limits on animals per home; the Rescue Contract as discussed in prior meetings, including home visits; and the building issues surrounding 'muscle dogs'. Linda noted it is not uncommon to see young kids walking their 'muscle dogs' on major streets in the City. Suzanne Berk noted her North Arlington residential area has also seen this occurring, not local home residents but assuming they come from surrounding apartment complexes. Mike Bass noted this is an up and coming issue in Arlington. Linda asked Mike if he needed assistance gathering other city ordinances as examples, outside Texas, e.g. Detroit and other cities where there is long history of fighting dogs. Mike noted that in Central Arlington area, Animal Services has received complaints of dog 'tire-pulls' in the city streets. Mike explained this is usually indicative of 'training' muscle dogs but that it is difficult to prove the relationship of that activity to illegal fighting of dogs. Linda asked that an ordinance be considered to prevent this type of public display of 'training' especially if we have other city models to cite as good examples. Mike noted he should have something on the various ordinance changes in time for the June board meeting.

e. Shelter Numbers Update

Linda asked Mike to provide the board with current numbers. Mike noted it might be too early in the heavy season to provide much of a trend and asked to provide an update later in season.

IV. Announcements

Linda noted that the feral cat colony project in South Central Arlington is almost complete. The property owner is working with her but the last few unaltered cats have been difficult for him to trap. The owner still has two city traps that he is using.

Linda also noted that the Weatherford cat case totaled out at 102 cats, most had to be killed due to health/conditions. Linda explained this case was a result of an Austin Cat sanctuary/rescue group going under and the cats were transported loose in a horse trailer and dumped on a residential property belonging to a family member of the rescue group's founder. She added she will try to press cruelty charges both in Austin and Weatherford but no one from SPCA or HSNT has resources to help with the filing at this time.

Linda noted she attended the North Central Texas Animal Shelter Coalition monthly meeting at the SPCA McKinney facility on May 19th and that special guest, Richard Farinado/HSUS offered the attendees several techniques and hands-on experience with snakes, a common occurrence in residential areas this time of year.

V. Future agenda items

The board agreed that ordinances and new shelter are continued priority agenda items. Linda noted she will distribute the recommended Agenda prior to the next meeting as usual.

VI. Discussion of Future Meeting Dates and Times

The next board meeting is at Noon on Wednesday, June 30, 2004 at 5920 West Pioneer Parkway, Arlington TX.

VII. Adjourn

Linda Yarbrough, Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:15pm.

The order of the meeting is subject to change per the Chair's Discretion. For more information, contact Mike Bass, Animal Services Manager, 817-451-3536 or Linda Yarbrough, Chair 817-274-4188.