LOUDOUN COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 25, 2009
County Government Center, Leesburg Room
1 Harrison St. Leesburg, VA 20176

Committee Members Present:
Paul Popejoy, Sugarland Run, Chairman
Donna Lewis, At-Large, Vice Chair
Kathy Brice, Blue Ridge, Recording Secretary
Paul Dodaro, Sterlin
Ann Gallus, Catoctin
Monica Patty, Dulles (arrived at 7:05 pm)
Dr. Leslie Sinn DVM, Potomac
Lila Westwood, Broad Run

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Michael Strickland DVM, Leesburg

LCACC Staff Present:
Thomas Koenig, Director
Donna Levesque, Administrative Manager
Kim Miller, Animal Control Officer
Inga Fricke, Shelter Manager
Laura Rizer, Public Relations

Public Present:
Rhonda Bye

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Paul Popejoy, at 7: 00 pm. The minutes for the February, 2009 meeting were adopted 7-0-2.

Public Comment:
None

DIRECTOR UPDATE:

Board of Supervisors Budget Meeting: BOS took the tier 1 cut (2 animal care positions out of the budget). One of the interesting discussions revolved around the CARE program and the BOS voted to keep the program. There are more budget meetings scheduled for the future so mostly all decisions have been made at this time.

Public Safety will meet in April. The AAC meeting items will move forward for the April 22, 2009 meeting.

Public disaster trailers. In order to satisfy the requirements of the grant, Prince William County Fairgrounds will be the place for the mock disaster plan for a pet-friendly shelter. This will be held June 1, 2009. Dir. Koenig is also looking for volunteers (8-12:30 pm) for the event and debriefing. Dir. Koenig encourages participation as an observer or a volunteer to play a role. Please volunteer to Dir. Koenig by April 30, 2009.

Dir. Koenig stated that he will be out for the next 2 weeks. Please contact Ms. Frickefor shelter issues and Ms. Miller for animal control issues.

Owner requested euthanasia policy. Draft policy distributed to the committee (not previously distributed to the committee). This draft was distributed for review and discussion at the next monthly meeting. The policy distributed for review is for companion animals. There will be a separate policy for large/livestock animals. Chairman Popejoy requested an electronic version of this policy for comment.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL:

Animal Control: Kim Miller confirmed the distribution of statistics and noted that the rabies statistics were distributed at this evening's meeting. Ms. Miller stated that there was a good turnout for the recent fire in Fairfax county. ACC's role was to assist in the recovery of the lost and injured dogs in the area (17 dogs perished in the fire and an 18th died at the vet). ACC also transported the injured dogs to the vet. No dogs were brought into the shelter's custody. Three horses also perished.

Public Relations: Ms. Rizer stated she is also representing Amy Seymour.

The LCACC received the Outstanding Care Award for COG animal services award related to the horse seizure. Ms. Fricke won the adoption award for getting the horses adopted.

7 rabbits placed in February during their rabbit promotion.

Mobile adoption unit has arrived and is at the shelter.

There was a sharp decline in interest for Furry Fridays and the last event was canceled. They will be keeping a close watch on the statistics for future events.

Ms. Rizer reviewed the volunteer statistics and stated that all slots have been filled so they are taking a break from volunteer orientations in the future. Volunteers are welcome to attend the fostering orientation. Camp should still be on track for July/August. Chairman Popejoy asked what the qualifications for foster families are. Ms. Rizer stated that it depends upon the type of animal being fostered. Ms. Fricke stated that all rules must be followed and go through the orientation since having an animal 24 hours per day is very different than volunteering at the shelter. Participation in the foster program runs approximately 20-30 families.

Ms. Brice asked if there was a marketing plan for the mobile vehicle. Ms. Rizer stated that their plan is to go to areas less serviced in the county. They will also go to large shopping centers and go on Fridays where the shelter is closed. They will also go to local events in the county. Mr. Dodaro asked if there is a plan in place to judge success for the mobile adoption unit.

Chairman Popejoy asked if the Super Pet Expo was something the shelter could do. Mr. Popejoy asked is the fee is something within the purview of the trust fund. Dir. Koenig said we could have this discussion at a later date. Ms. Lewis asked if there is a list of local events. Ms. Rizer stated that they know which events work and which don't. Chairman Popejoy asked to add this item to a future agenda. Dir. Koenig offered to bring the mobile adoption unit to the next meeting.

Animal Shelter: Ms. Fricke asked if there are any questions on the report. She stated that the committee likely has a question on the euthanized puppy for behavior. She stated that the puppy was euthanized was fostered by someone and worked with it for a week. Ms. Fricke stated that the dog was showing fear behavior and it didn't get better at the foster family. Ms. Fricke stated that this puppy was a stray and a pit bull. Ms. Patty and other committee members asked how long the puppy was worked with and that information was not available at the meeting. Ms. Brice asked for the information on the dates the puppy was in the care of the shelter and the foster family and Ms. Fricke agreed to provide the information.

After-hours Veterinary Care Update: Ms. Brice asked if there was a competitive process for this care. Dir. Koenig stated that the process is complete and Blue Ridge was the only vet to bid on the contract. Dir. Koenig stated that purchasing performed the search, not their office. Dir. Koenig stated that The Life Center (TLC) did not respond to the request.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Review of Shelter Statistics and/or Reports. Ms. Brice restated her motion to return to the Chameleon report format. A short discussion followed related to the level of detail in the report. Vote conducted to return to the Chameleon report: In favor: Westwood, Brice, Patty, Mr. Dodaro. Opposed: Popejoy, Dr. Sinn, Ms. Gallus, Lewis. Motion is defeated (no majority).

Chairman Popejoy motioned that the Asimilar report be adjusted to add information previously included in the Chameleon report. This was seconded by Mr. Dodaro. Motion: add "other, rabbit, rodents and livestock" and to separate the behavior observation and behavior history detail to the Asimilar report. In favor: Ms. Brice, Ms. Westwood, Ms. Patty, Mr. Dodaro, Mr. Popejoy, Gallus, Sinn. Opposed: Lewis. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Subcommittee reports: Since subcommittees haven't been approved yet, we can have informal reports, if desired. Chairman Popejoy will add "subcommittee reports" as an ongoing agenda item. Dir. Koenig stated that this item is scheduled for the April meeting and if it isn't discussed at that meeting, then it will go to the June meeting. If any committee member has any subcommittee updates, they should be made in the next agenda item

COMMITTEE MEMBER INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

- Ms. Lewis stated that she will be volunteering
- Ms. Gallus stated that the disaster committee has been meeting and is in the process of writing. Mr. Popejoy asked for an advance copy. Ms. Miller stated that they will try to get something out.
- Dr. Sinn stated that the outreach subcommittee met and we are ready to meet with Ms. Rizer. She also stated that she has been working with Ms. Rizer on a microchip clinic on April 19th.
- Chairman Popejoy stated that he continues to work on behavioral issues at the shelter.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the advisory committee will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Leesburg Room unless otherwise notified.

The meeting was tape-recorded and this verbatim record is considered part of these minutes.

Attachments