

# Cleveland Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes  
July 3, 2019

## Opening:

The meeting of the Cleveland Animal Shelter Advisory Board was called to order at 1:07 PM on July 3, 2019 in the Meeting room of the Municipal Building annex by Dr. Sally Poston.

**Present:** Dr. James Lane; Rachel Veazey; Dr. Sally Poston; Pat Ownby

**Absent:** Tom Cassada

## A. Approval of Minutes

Pat Ownby motioned to approve the minutes as written. Dr. James Lane seconded. All approved.

## B. Director's Report

- 1) All Officers have been trained in their taser.
- 2) The Animal Control Facebook page was started on March 8<sup>th</sup> and that it was being maintained by employees.
- 3) An offsite adoption was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> and it was held at Check Into Cash. A volunteer named Billie Moore set it up through Check Into Cash.
- 4) There are 17 volunteers that have completed their background check and are approved. There are 12 that have not been trained.
- 5) There are only three approved rescues right now. They are Dixie Spay/Neuter Express, Westwood Farms, and Tennessee Dachshund Rescue. The SPCA changed their mind and did not want to be able to come and pull animals. Rachel Veazey asked why the SPCA would want to come and pull. Director Smith said some of their animals that had been adopted out ended up at Animal Control and they would have to adopt them to them because they couldn't just pull them. McKamey had all their paperwork in and had been approved by the City Council, but no one has come to sign the agreement.
- 6) There haven't been anymore reports of cat colonies around the city. There was one, but they are supposed to be removing them from there.

## C. Old Business

- 1)

## D. New Business

- 1) Director Smith said he would like to see contracted services be bid out to one vet. He said one of the reasons was so there would be just one vet that would be dealt with as far as transporting or taking the pets there. That would include claimed pets that need Rabies shots and sick and injured pets. He said he had a print out of the money the City had spent on those animals if the Board wanted to see it or

take it to the other vets and discuss it. There were 800 to 900 adopted a year and that would probably be somewhere between \$70,000 to \$80,000. The City has paid out between \$50,000 to \$60,000. So, that leaves about 300 pets that have not been billed, fixed, or gotten their shots. That's the only three things that could be happening because all of them are being delivered to the vets. He thinks that it would help get them all fixed, the tracking part, and the billing for the City. Hopefully, it would make it easier to keep up with and be able to communicate better with one business. He said he didn't have any problems with any of the vets, he was just thinking the business part and what would be good for the pet. Also, about \$15,000 a year was being spent on the sick/injured animals. So, it would be known that the pet would need to go to that vet. Some vets are still wanting to charge more for the same procedures than other vets do. So, this way there would be some kind of criteria and the vet would know and they would not have to call him. Animal Control just wants what is best for the animal and what would keep it comfortable to see if the owner is going to claim it. He said now the animals that need Rabies shots are being taken to the vets as well and all the vets charge a different price. Director Smith said he would like to get that resolved even if the other services weren't bid out for right now. Dr. Poston asked if he was going to prepare a proposal. Director Smith said he didn't mind sitting down with whoever he needed to so that something could be put in place. Dr. Poston said she didn't mind talking the veterinarians if he had something formal put together. They meet on the last Tuesday of the month. Dr. Lane said he did think it would be quite a bit of discussion among the vets. Pat Ownby said it seemed like there would be an amount that would be reasonable and customary like they do on medical claims. That there is just a certain amount that they pay because it's not fair for some doctors to charge \$100 and some to charge \$50. It should just be across the board the same price. She said maybe someone could do a study and see what the standard amount is. Dr. Lane said that would actually help in the discussion a lot. Gene asked if they could discuss it in their vet association meeting and just say what they want to charge so something could be decided on that part of it. He said that he was not a vet and when someone calls and asks him how far he wants to go with treatment, he's saying whatever to keep the pet comfortable. He doesn't think the City wants to go to heroic measures. Just keep it comfortable to see if the owner does claim it. Dr. Poston said it was almost impossible to set up those parameters because medicine is never black and white. So, sometimes you just don't know. Dr. Lane asked if there should have been \$80,000 spent on spay and neutering, but only \$50,000 was, if it was known what they could do if they kept the contract the way it was, dealing with all clinics versus one clinic, because he still didn't know how that would keep that from happening. Gene said he thought the problem was that Animal Control was not receiving anything back from the vets, so it may be on a billing issue. He said some billed two or three years later and the City doesn't want to pay past a year. Animal Control Clerk Jennifer Rogers said if the vet tells her that they haven't brought the animal back, then she would send them a letter, but if they vet doesn't tell her they haven't brought it back, then she doesn't have anyway of knowing. Dr. Lane said that he didn't think it would make a difference if they went to five vets or one vet, that person isn't going to bring it back. Pat Ownby said it seemed to her like it would be overworking one vet. Director Smith said that it would only be looking at about 1000 animals a year. Dr. Poston said she had a good point. She had to also work in other people's spaying and neutering or other surgeries or procedures.

Dr. Lane asked how Rabies vaccinations were handled now for claimed animals. Director Smith said they were just taken to the vet. Some people have their own vet and they will be called and the owner will be told what they will be charged and they will sometimes ask if another vet is any cheaper and so far Appalachian is the cheapest for \$10. Dr. Lane asked if there were any other vets that just charged \$10. Animal Control Clerk Rogers said not that she knew of. The last time she spoke to someone at Animal Medical Center, she was told it was about \$60. Dr. Lane said that if they talked to

the vets as a group there could be something that would work out. Gene said that even if it was \$15 or \$20, something set so that they were all charging the same amount.

- 2) Dr. Poston wanted to make a statement about pigs in the City. She said they did need to vaccinated against Rabies, but there was no legal, FDA approved vaccine for Rabies. It was all off label. That would open some legal doors if someone got bit by a pig. It would need to be tested for Rabies. She said that whatever decisions were made just needed to be made by the information that is out there. Rabies vaccines are given to pigs, but they are completely off label, which means it hasn't been approved for it and no one has done testing to know that it actually works in a pig. She said that pigs were much more likely to dig out and dogs like to attack pigs. She said she wasn't saying yes or no to having them in the City, she was just saying that those were the things the City needed to consider.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM by Dr. Sally Poston. The next general meeting will be at 1:00 PM on October 2, 2019 in the City Council Room of the Municipal Building.

Minutes submitted by:

Jennifer Rogers