

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

The Animal Control Board met on Monday, June 16, 2014, at 11 a.m. in regular session in the City Council Chamber located on the third floor of City Hall at 509 E. 7th Avenue, with the following members present:

Sunny Hodge-Campbell	Chairman Animal Control Board Member
Andrea Slater Gulley	Vice Chairman Animal Control Board Member
Brooke Reeves	Animal Control Board Member
Dr. Jim Cook, DVM	Animal Control Board Member
Members absent:	
Dr. C.P. Paullus	Animal Control Board Member

Also in attendance were the following administrative officials:

Scott McDonald	Acting Director
Marcus Norris	City Attorney
Tanya Champion	Information Technology Manager
Frances Hibbs	City Secretary

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell established a quorum, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and the following items of business were considered.

Item 1. Minutes

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley; motion was seconded by Board Member Brooke Reeves, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes. Motion passed 4:0.

Item 2. Presentation and Discussion from the Amarillo Panhandle Humane Society by Jena McFall, Executive Director

Jena McFall stated that at the "For Just One Day" event they did 40 adoptions. Ms. McFall stated 300 pets were microchipped and several donations were given. Ms. McFall stated the Humane Society has several new staff members, and they are always looking for ways to improve customer service.

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell asked if there has been a similar event like this one before. Ms. McFall stated at their last event under 100 animal got microchipped.

Item 3. Presentation and Consideration of recommendations from Information Technology Department relating to technical assistance, software options, and data collection needs of the Animal Control

IT Manager, Tanya Champion presented an update on the application for the animal management shelter website. She stated they were evaluating and demonstrating software to

find one that best meets the shelter's needs. She further stated the Animal Control webpage for impounded animals was up and running on May 27. They are also providing assistance and training for their employees.

Item 4. Update and discussion regarding pet registration, breeder licensing and spay and neuter

Interim Director Scott McDonald announced that Animal Control would be adding five new positions, and they are in search for a new Director. Mr. McDonald stated operations continue to improve at the facility, in staff development, with euthanasia practices and with kennel cleaning procedures, and relationships with other agencies involving rescue of impounded animals. Mr. McDonald stated staff is working on draft amendments to the Amarillo Municipal Code relating to impounded pets.

Mr. McDonald stated during the 'For Just One Day' event, there were 62 impounded animals, 300 animals impounded for the week. There were 3,074 complaints for the month which is up several hundred over last year's numbers.

Item 5. Presentation and discussion regarding pet registration, breeder licensing and spay and neuter

- Presentation by Paws 4 Change regarding above
- Board Discussion

Judy Glidewell presented an option for all the animals to be registered through pet licensing and breeder licensing programs. She also suggested the funds not be used for the City's general fund.

City Attorney Marcus Norris presented a chart showing a summarization of fifteen other Texas cities ordinances on spay and neuter requirements that all varied from city to city. Common exceptions to spay/neuter requirements were: animals were too young, vet certified health reasons, intact permits, registered breeding, competition dog/cat and service/police/military/rescue. Mr. Norris clarified some information for an upcoming draft ordinance on fees and sterilization.

Leslie Sprouse, 2111 S Hughes, stated that Amarillo does have sterilization requirements for dangerous animals.

Judy Birdsong, 812 S Maryland, inquired about having alternate programs for the plethora of stray animals (cats) in her area instead of having them euthanized. Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell replied that a trap, neuter, and release (TNR) program was not currently available.

Ruth Starr, 4412 SW 2nd, replied there is a low cost spay/neuter program for cats, and in some circumstances no charge at all. Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell thanked Ms. Starr for the work she has done for the community.

Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley stated a comprehensive approach for the spay/neuter program was needed. Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell asked what qualifies someone to sell animals on street corners and parking lots. Mr. McDonald replied a transient business license is required if they do not have a pet shop. Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell inquired if the transient business license is enforced. Mr. McDonald answered it is enforced through the Building Safety and/or Police Department.

Mr. Norris reminded the board that due to state procurement laws, there was a process the City would have to go through in order to select a specific group to implement a program for licensing and registrations. Vice Chairman Andrea Slater Gulley asked how long that process takes. Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell stated they may be able to keep the licensing and registration in-house. Mr. Norris stated any Animal Control Board's recommendations would be given to City Council for consideration. He also stated he would bring more information to the next Board meeting.

Item 6. Discussion of items for next meeting agenda

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell stated Monday, August 11, 2014 with a work session at 5:00 p.m. and a public meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Item 7. Public Forum

Shea White, 3212 W 12th, asked who was enforcing puppy selling. Mr. Norris replied Building Safety and/or Police Department.

Terry Lynn Salazar, 15500 Avent, asked the Chairman if she would answer some questions about the on-going investigation. She asked if she had contacted a City Councilmember in her capacity as a board member and individual, and what role she will play, if any, in the internal investigation.

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell stated she wasn't sure how much she was at liberty to say, but the Board is going to be very active with new ordinances and for the first time, the Chair is being allowed to create the Animal Control Board agenda.

Leslie Sprouse, explained an animal vs animal incident that ended with their cat being killed. She stated the response time for Animal Control needs to be addressed. Although she was impressed with the officer that handled her case, she was surprised to see that only one officer responded to the vicious animal and an angry dog owner. She later dealt with a supervisor she felt took an aggressive, condescending approach and wasn't enforcing the City ordinances. Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell responded that Mr. McDonald would handle any personnel issues.

Chairman Sunny Hodge-Campbell stated the next meeting was scheduled for August 11. Meeting was adjourned.

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

Sunny Hodge-Campbell

Sunny Hodge-Campbell, Chairman

ATTEST:

Deanna Lamkin

Deanna Lamkin, Administrative Assistant V
Animal Mgt & Welfare Department