

**Galveston County Animal Services
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2008**

Meeting Minutes

In attendance

Members:

Madeline Baker, Secretary to the Board
Joe Dickson, City Manager, City of Santa Fe
Carol McLemore, City Secretary, City of Dickinson
Jerry Finch, President, Habitat for Horses
Susan Moore, Cruelty Investigator, Habitat for Horses
Lark Tedesco-Finneman, Cruelty Investigator, Habitat for Horses

Staff:

Kim Schoolcraft, Manager, Galveston County Animal Services
Dana Beckham, DVM, Chief Epidemiologist, Galveston County Health District
Ronnie Schultz, Director, Environmental Programs, Galveston County Health District
Kerry Kloesel, Administrative Assistant, Galveston County Health District

Guests:

None present

Ron welcomed all and advised no quorum could be met.

Update Items:

- Report from Shelter Manger, Kim Schoolcraft:
 - Kim reported that the number of incoming animals to the facility has increased; there have been three new part-time positions added (and filled); one of the cat cage rooms has been converted into a free-roaming cat room, resulting in the adoption of longer-term feline residents; and puppy/kitten season begins in March. She also acknowledged the vaccination contributions by Animal Alliance and Shelter Buddies.
- Update on Seizures
 - Kim stated that the recent seizure activity has been mostly from puppy mills, and more stringent requirements for breeders would go a long way in reducing this problem. San Antonio's newly adopted mandatory spay/neuter policy was also referenced as a potential deterrent, with suggestions about how a similar policy could be implemented here. Madeleine Baker was in agreement, suggesting that recommendations be made to the Board of Health.

No public comments were received.

Discussion of the Preliminary 2009 Animal Service Budget Items:

- Budget discussions were tabled until there is a quorum.
- Joe Dickson stated that he will need the budget by the end of May/early June.

Committee Member Re-Appointments:

- Clear Lake Shores positions are still unfilled.

Animal Shelter Subcommittee Update:

- A review of the discussions from the newly created Animal Shelter Subcommittee was presented, with Lark Tedesco encouraging all members to tour the shelter to get a better understanding of its current limitations and needs. She also expressed her hopes that any modifications to the existing shelter or construction on a new facility include fiber optics and state-of-the-art upgrades.
- Carol McLemore suggested looking for land parcels on the tax rolls and applying for Dow grants (one-time grant, \$5,000.00 max) as potential funding sources.

Bacliff Area- Dogs Running at Large:

- The request for overtime for an Animal Control Officer passed Commissioners' Court on 1/16/08. The first weekend was 1/26/08; the ACO picked up three dogs, issued 11 Notices of Violation, patrolled the streets for eight hours, and assisted a constable with an aggressive dog during a serving of a warrant.

2007 Animal Services Data (Compared to 2006 Data):

- There was some concern over the incoming numbers for Dickinson and Santa Fe, as many residents actually live outside the city limits. Kim informed the committee that we are currently relying on the caller's statement of address to determine what area the call is from. It is hoped that an online resource can be utilized to make the actual numbers more reliable.

Shelter Storage Facility Needs:

- Kim spoke of the planned use of a POD (Portable On-Demand) unit as a temporary storage unit. It is 8'x40', costs ~\$120.00/month, and would be both portable and replaceable in the event of damage. It also would not need to be secured/tied down to be in compliance with current code.

Committee Member Comments:

- Lark Tedesco mentioned two upcoming seminars- Texas Dog Laws Seminar (Houston), and No-Kill Seminar (Louisiana).
- Joe Dickson stated that the DSHS report was flawed in that the number of confirmed rabies cases didn't add up. Ronnie acknowledged and will look into getting a more accurate report.

Adjournment

- The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 9:30am.