

**Galveston County Animal Services  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2007**

**In attendance:**

Committee Members Present

Richard Price, Chief of Police, City of La Marque  
Jerry Finch, Habitat for Horses  
Pam Wood, Administrative Assistant, City of Santa Fe, (Alternate for Joe Dickson, City of Santa Fe)  
Dr. Dana Beckham D.V.M. –Chief Epidemiologist, Galveston County Health District, (Alternate for Dr. Donald Cleary, United Board of Health)  
Kim Schoolcraft, Manager, Galveston County Animal Services  
(alternate for Commissioner Holmes, County Official Position)

Guests

Lark Tedesco- Finneman, Habitat for Horses

Staff Members Present

Ronnie Schultz, Director of Environmental Health Programs, Galveston County Health District  
Rhonda Liening, Administrative Assistant, Galveston County Health District  
Jay Holland, Chief Operating Officer, Galveston County Health District

Welcome and Introductions

Ronnie welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He advised no quorum could be met. Ronnie reviewed the committee member roster and updated attendees on current vacancies.

Update Items

Animal shelter upgrades

Kim Schoolcraft spoke about all of the upgrades that are completed at the shelter. Dog Kennels have been vastly improved with replacement of old webbing on kennel doors. An acoustic drop ceiling installation is complete and has reduced noise levels and improved our ability to control the temperature. The kennel has been painted. Also, an outside fenced area for exercise and socialization was added. Cat room floors have been painted and sealed with non-slip epoxy paint. Current cat room will be renovated as a

free-roaming area for the spayed and neutered cats. Front office has been painted and new office furniture is on order. Digital security cameras are installed and in use to cover all public areas and controlled substances lockers.

The Request for Proposal for the replacement of the freezer was withdrawn and will be resubmitted following legal review.

#### Recent animal seizure and lessons learned

Kim reviewed the recent seizures that the Animal Services has participated in and provided recommendations for improvement. Control of the paperwork during the adoption phase is critical. She also recommended that we limit the number of adoptions per day to reduce the over crowding. Lark Tedesco suggested chairs and water if we have customers waiting outdoors during summer months and additional portable restroom facilities.

#### Wildlife Issues

Kim reviewed concerns of increased calls for wildlife removal. New development in our area is part of the reason for the upsurge in calls. The Animal Services Division is concentrating on public education and awareness on how to deal with wildlife. Our Animal Control Officers respond to calls of wildlife that are in the homes and needing to be removed. Cities with questions about wildlife calls please contact Kim at the shelter. Dr. Beckham added that educating the public on avoiding bites from wildlife including bats is also important and provided a website that cities can refer calls to. The link to that site will be forwarded to the committee.

#### Public Comment

No public comments were received.

#### Draft Animal Services Policy

A draft copy of the proposed Animal Services Policy was provided to the committee. Ronnie reviewed the major changes to the Policy and drew the committees attention to the following sections:

Section 10: Number of Dogs and Cats Limited, major change to policy now allows for a person to have in their possession more than four animals if all animals are spayed and neutered.

Section 13: Dangerous Dogs, added requirement of microchipping all dangerous dogs and also requiring highly visible collars with the wording "Dangerous dog" on the collar to be worn whenever out of the enclosure.

Section 14: Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals, added language prohibiting any further importation of dangerous wild animals into Galveston County.

The next step in the approval of this policy is to seek a majority vote of the committee. Since, we did not make a quorum, the Health District will solicit a vote by phone seeking approval. If majority vote is achieved, the policy will be forwarded to the Galveston County United Board of Health.

#### Discussion on the FY 2008 Animal Services Budget

Ronnie discussed issues that may impact the FY 2008 Budget. Those include:

- Addition of one (1) clerical staff due to increased demands on the current Clerical staff.
- Increased cost of operating expenses
- Population increases in our communities that we provide service and the Impact on the calculation of costs formula in the Interlocal Agreement

#### Joe Vickery Galveston County Animal Shelter Open House

Health District currently working on date of the event.

The open house will show case the renovations at the shelter

Ronnie suggested an adopt-a-thon with information booths

District to work with volunteer groups and rescue organizations for ideas

Pam Wood suggested using city event boards to publicize.

#### Proposal to Purchase Cat Cadavers

Health District received a proposal from Kennedy-Boyd Enterprises, Inc. requesting for the district to enjoin in an agreement to purchase our cat cadavers. This proposal was discussed with committee members and the following comments were received:

- Jerry Finch was concerned that the message of helping the community would be misunderstood by many with the appearance of being a community service.
- Lark suggested preparing animal advocate groups by informing in advance of the benefits and concerns of the proposal. She was in favor of the whole of the proposal.
- Dr. Beckham was in favor of the proposal

#### Committee Member Comments

None Received

#### Adjournment

