

GALVESTON COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT
4C's Clinics, Public Health Programs, Galveston E.M.S.

Harlan "Mark" Guidry, MD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer & Health Authority



www.gchd.org

Warren J. Holland III
Chief Operating Officer

Ronnie Schultz
Director of Environmental Health Programs

**Minutes for
Galveston County Animal Services
Advisory Committee
June 21, 2007
9:30 AM –11:30 AM
Health District Boardroom
1207 Oak Street, La Marque, Texas**

Members in Attendance:

Jerry Finch – President, Habitat for Horses
Carol McLemore – City Secretary, City of Dickinson
Chief Richard Price, Police Chief, City of La Marque
Pam Wood – Administrative Assistant, City of Santa Fe
Lark Tedesco-Finneman - Habitat for Horses
The Honorable Stephen Holmes, County Commissioner, County of Galveston
Dr. Dana Beckham D.V.M, Chief Epidemiologist and Veterinary Consultant, Galveston
County Health District/ United Board of Health

Staff in Attendance

Kim Schoolcraft- Manager, Galveston County Health District Animal Services
W. Jay Holland – COO, Galveston County Health District
Ronnie Schultz, Director, Environmental Health Programs, Galveston County Health
District
Rhonda Liening, Administrative Assistant, Galveston County Health District

Ronnie Schultz welcomed all and everyone was introduced.

Certification of Quorum was met.

Update Items

- **Animal Services** is looking to move Open House to the fall due to an unexpected increase in the number of animals received at the shelter and currently one staff member short.

- **Cat Cadaver Agreement** has been approved through a phone polling of the Animal Services Advisory Committee. The consensus at the time of the poll was overwhelming yes. The Health District will move forward with the agreement
- **Freezer Installation-** The freezer bid has been awarded to Alan Vorda and Associates. We should take delivery in mid-July. A rental freezer is being used at this time.

Public Comment

No public present for this meeting...

Animal Services Policy

The Animal Services Policy Comments and Next Steps were reviewed with the Advisory Committee as drafted and included in the agenda handouts. In addition, Ronnie reviewed with the committee comments emailed during the public comment period concerning the amount of time a person-establishing residency had to register their animal. He also reviewed the Health District's response that will be read into the testimony at the scheduled public hearing.

Discussion and Approval of the FY 2008 Animal Services Budget -

A spreadsheet detailing the revenues and expenditures was presented to the Advisory Committee with a breakdown of shelter expenses, field operations and a page on the cost sharing for each of our member cities. Lark Tedesco questioned the limited amount of funds for repairs to the shelter. Jay explained that the dollar amount included in the budget was based upon actual expenses from the preceding year. He went on to say that any unexpected and unbudgeted items could be addressed with fund balance dollars. Jerry Finch wanted to make certain that donations were going to supplies for the shelter.

Ronnie asked for a motion to approve the FY 08 Animal Services budget. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion on Committee Member Re-Appointments

Ronnie reviewed with the Committee the members that are up for reappointment. Commissioner Stephen Holmes volunteered for an additional term as the Galveston County Official. Jerry Finch nominated Lark Tedesco as the representative for Non-Profit Animal Welfare Group Position 1 Member. No other nominations were received. An updated listing of Members and Alternates will be sent out to the committee, cities, and submitted to the United Board of Health for final approval.

Animal Disaster Planning

Ronnie acknowledged the efforts of Jerry Finch with Habitat for Horses in the development of the disaster plan for both companion animals and livestock for the Galveston County. Health District staff is reviewing a draft MOU with the Humane Society of the US.

The planning committee is looking to meet with a subcommittee to discuss a regional approach with Harris and Brazoria counties.

The committee is looking at both pre and post disaster plans for both companion animals and livestock. A priority for disaster planning will be educating the public on being prepared with a plan to take care of each animal.

Committee Member Comments

Jerry Finch shared his experience at a local veterinarian's office while taking one his pets in for rabies shot. He stated that veterinarian technician told him that the rabies certification tag is all that he will need. The technician did not mention the county or city registration and license requirement in Galveston County. Jerry suggested a brochure explaining the registration and license requirements in Galveston County and to be distributed to all local vet clinics and City Halls. Carol McLemore offered to display the brochures at City Hall in the City of Dickinson.

The meeting was adjourned.