

**Lincoln County Animal Services**

**Advisory Board Meeting**

**February 7, 2017**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Hannah Beaver, Animal Services Director

Josh Grant, Program Operations Manager

Dr. Ashley Oliphant, Chairman

Danielle Rudisill, Vice Chairman

Dr. Karen Miller, Secretary

Robin Franklin, Board Member

Diane Leatherman, Board Member

Mark Connolly, Board Member

Tyler Moore, Animal Services Caretaker

**Guest Attendees:**

Anita McCall, County Commissioner

**Opening:**

Director Beaver handed out January 10, 2017 minutes, a copy of the presentation, Gaston County's fee adjustments, and LCAS' proposed and current fee schedule for 2017. Dr. Oliphant started the meeting at 6:45pm, welcoming everyone. Doug Woods was not in attendance.

**1) Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Oliphant requested a vote to accept last month's minutes and Danielle Rudisill asked for the following corrections to be made to the minutes:

- a) In bullet point number four, "Chairman Oliphant asked for a vote...and Diane Rudisill seconded" to be changed to the person that actually seconded the motion (either Danielle Rudisill or Diane Leatherman).
- b) Another was in bullet point number six, section A, "Chairman Oliphant asked for a motion...Mark Conley motioned and Diane Rudisill seconded" needs to be updated with corrected name spelling and changed to the person who seconded the motion.
- c) Lastly, in bullet number nine, "She stated she believes that the public...'90% Release Rate' means and can be." The statement was agreed upon to be updated to "...on what '90% Live Release Rate' means and what is can be." After the corrections, Karen Miller motioned approval of the minutes and Mark Connolly seconded the motioned.

## **2) Animal Services Proposed Fee Schedule Presentation**

### **a) *Animal Shelter Fees***

Director Beaver described the fees that she wanted to propose such as increasing the adoption fee of cats to \$80 and dogs to \$100. Beaver was able to justify her choice in fees by comparing her proposed prices to local counties. The local counties on average for cats were \$83.75 and for dogs \$101.25. Therefore, the LCAS proposed fees seem to be an overall good choice.

With the new fees, Beaver would like to have adoption specials (which are priced in budget) such as "senior citizen" discounts (which are pets that are over 7 years of age have waived adoption price), military discounts, and variable adoption specials throughout the fiscal year. Mark Connolly suggested adding an offer for police officers and EMS workers as well to make it more equal and the board agreed with the suggestion.

Beaver continued with the presentation to how to adding incentive to spay and/or neuter (S/N) and rabies vaccinated the adopted animals. Beaver recommended adding a penalty after many follow ups, reminders, and a warning. Failure to complete the agreed terms would result in a fine of \$100. There were no objections from the board for the fine.

Rescue adoption fees were discussed to change to \$30 if the animal was already altered and microchipped by LCAS. Rescue adoption and pull were defined by Beaver by an adoption being LCAS S/N and microchipping the animal per request of the rescue or before the interest. Diane Leatherman asked if the county will "eat" the funds and if there be follow up for S/N. Beaver stated the county would "eat" the funds and that it would be difficult for the one person to follow up on all of the rescue pulls, but typically rescues insist in their adoption of the animal be S/N anyway. Dr. Oliphant suggested that Beaver do a survey of the rescues willing to pay the rescue adoption fee. Beaver agreed along with the board, that the poll would be a good idea.

Next, Beaver presented the suggested reclaim fees being increased and being separated whether the animal is spayed or neutered. Beaver also stated that she wanted to increase

the fee is the dog is picked up more than once. Beaver gave three different fees and offered a different option. Option number two was a reclaim adoption to encourage spaying and neutering the pets being reclaimed.

Beaver continued into talking about health services that we would offer at LCAS such as continuing rabies vaccinations and introducing a health certificate to help with rescues pulling from out of state. The proposed prices of \$7.00 for rabies and \$35.00 for the health certificate were agreed upon by the board.

In the health services, Beaver proposed introducing Owner Surrender Euthanasia (OSE) to help the public with dogs that have medical or behavioral problems that can only be solved by euthanasia. This will help the Live Release Rate of LCAS due to not be counted for in the statistics. Beaver opened conversation on the floor about price and the perception of the board. Dr. Karen Miller stated that veterinarians would euthanize an animal that needed it, even if the owner did not have the money due to ethics. She stated that they even can ask the owner to sign the animal over to the veterinarian clinic. A collective concern was over convenience euthanasia (such as nothing wrong with the animal) and Dr. Ashley Oliphant asked if LCAS could tell the public no, Beaver's response was we can refuse the OSE for a healthy animal. Mark Connolly stated that most owners do not have the money to be able to rehabilitate aggressive animals so they tend to turn to social media with no disclaimer to rehome the animal, so Connolly stated that he liked the option to have OSE. Dr. Ashley Oliphant asked if OSE would be documented differently but still documented, Beaver stated it would be documented. After much discussion, there was an agreement on the cost of the service at being \$25.00.

Next topic for Beaver was about bite quarantine's. She went over increasing the fee schedule from the already instated fee and including an actual quarantine fee of \$50.00. Beaver also suggested maybe a Bite Quarantine Adoption to help get the animal spayed/neutered and possibly reduce bites. Dr. Ashley Oliphant and Danielle Rudisill stated that they liked this suggestion.

Lastly in this section, Beaver suggested a trap rental program to decrease officer's from setting traps. Beaver stated that LCAS would want to have around 20 cat traps available for the public to pick up with a deposit. She suggested a \$40.00 deposit that would be held till the trap was returned. Danielle Rudisill (along with Dr. Ashley Oliphant) suggested a three to four day period of the trap being checked out.

Dr. Ashley Oliphant asked the board if they needed to vote on the presentation and the board stated they did not. Therefore, Beaver continued to animal control fees.

#### ***b) Animal Control Fees***

Director Beaver suggested increasing the nuisance fees by \$50.00 and increasing the unconfined dog in estrus violation fee also. Danielle Rudisill asked if the staff knows how to tell if a dog is in estrus, Beaver stated that the officers should and training is included for the

next fiscal year. Diane Leatherman asked if there was anything considered to be a secure enclosure, Beaver stated that the house and a normal chain-link fence enclosure are acceptable.

Beaver then continued onto tethering citations being increased. Dr. Ashley Oliphant asked if the officers would recheck within a certain amount of days; Beaver stated they would include a time frame.

Next, cruelty and neglect citations were suggested to increase as well. The civil citation would be for proper shelter, food, water, and vet care if needed. Beaver stated that this citation is mostly to help educate the public on what is adequate care stated by the state.

Beaver then went on to talk about creating a citation for interference of officers. This is a citation that would cover if the owner put the dog up and would not allow the officers to check for adequate care during a wellness check. The citation was suggested to be \$100.00.

Another suggested increase for a citation was for rabies control. Beaver stated that there would still be a grace period of three days decided by the state. For failure to vaccinate after the grace period would be \$100 and she suggested adding a quarantine violation of \$100 as well. The quarantine violation is when the owner does not show for the shelter quarantine or fails to abide by the regulations of a home quarantine.

Beaver then started to explain the increase in the citations. The increase in \$50 is overdue by many years since the fines have not been increased in over five years. Also, she stated they she wanted to make sure payment would occur. If the citation is overdue more than 90 days, Beaver suggested calling, sending a letter, and allotting 30 more days to pay before sending the citation to debt collection.

Lastly, Beaver suggested removing the exotic exception from the ordinance and increasing the license fee to \$100. However, Beaver stated that she would grandfather in the current exotic animal owners.

### **3) Fee Schedule Discussion**

Discussion is included in section two of the minutes in the dialogue of the PowerPoint summary. The board decided that a vote was not needed again. So, Beaver continued into the next and last section of Animal Services Officers.

### **4) Animal Services Presentation on Animal Services Officers**

#### **a) *Definition***

Beaver started this section by asking the board about changing the current animal services officer definition. Dr. Ashley Oliphant suggested taking out the sell and dispose section of the definition. Danielle Rudisill suggested referring to the next slide for the powers of the officers instead of listing them in the definition. Mark Connolly agreed stating to keep it vague.

**b) *Duties, Responsibilities, and Powers***

Lastly, Beaver went over the draft of the powers of officers with the board asking them what they thought. The board seemed to like the current draft, but Dr. Ashley Oliphant suggested about adding in about educating the public.

**5) Animal Services Officer Discussion**

Again discussion is included in section two of the minutes in the dialogue of the PowerPoint summary. The board also decided that they did not need to vote after the discussion and next item on the agenda began.

**6) Animal Services Advisory Board Website Update**

The board stated they were still waiting on a few bios from people of the board.

**7) Next Topic's Discussion**

Beaver suggested about going over dangerous dogs or feral cats. The board stated they would like someone to come in and speak about feral cats, so they would like to do a dangerous dog discussion next.

**8) Next Meeting Date**

March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**9) Public Comments**

Anita McCall made a comment about the new ad hoc board that was created the night before this meeting to help Animal Services to better reach the 90% or better goal.

**10) Motion to Adjourn**

Dr. Ashley Oliphant asked to end the meeting. Diane Leatherman motioned to adjourn with a second from Mark Connolly. The board voted and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned about 8:22 p.m.