

Animal Advisory Board Special Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2010

Call to order

Chair Dianne Barrett called the Special called Meeting of the AAB to order at 6:15 pm March 24, 2010. The following members were present: Voting members; Chairperson Dianne Barrett, Brenda Simmons, Paulette Woods, Mark Speed, and Dr. Elyse Goldman, DVM; ex-officio members: Franklin County Animal Control Director Graham Stallings, and Franklin County Humane Society President Kelly Larson. Absent: voting member Bess Nicholson, Jackie Oakley and non-voting members Commissioner Bunn and Dr. Kimberley Barth, DVM.

Members of the Public Commissioner Foy and other members of the public were acknowledged and participated in the ensuing roundtable discussions.

Copies of the Franklin County AAB Bylaws were passed to all those present.

Barrett reviewed the purpose of the meeting.

1. To ensure with a written SOP that all animals will be assessed and findings recorded upon impoundment. Further sick, injured or animals otherwise in need of immediate attention will be promptly recognized and handled humanely according to the SOP guidelines, preventing as much pain and or suffering as possible. To ensure the goals the ACO will bring those cases specifically to the AC Director's attention to be handled based on the criteria set forth in the SOP and appropriate action taken. The SOP will require documentation so each ACO can monitor changes in an animal's condition.

Discussion followed about training ACO's in first aid and being aware of more serious conditions and changes in an animal's condition. There are several levels of courses available.

The SOP will include but not be limited to:

- a. Initial assessment, evaluation and record of each animals condition by the ACO or the Directors designate
- b. There will be a daily assessment by the ACO or Directors designate
- c. In an emergency, the AC Director will be contacted for action to be taken.
- d. The AC Director is the responsible person to determine which animals are to be euthanized and will check each animals impound sheet

Discussion followed if SOP is not followed will affect employee's evaluation.

2. Ensure that Franklin County citizens have first option to adopt available animals from the Shelter before the Rescue groups. If an animal is not adopted the Rescue groups may then adopt as "Last Chance" Rescue. A discussion ensued as how best to implement this information. For example, a card behind the animal's record so the AC Director would know the animal is not for euthanasia. The public would still know that animal was available for adoption. Color-coding was discussed as an easy way to address this issue. Stallings felt any of the ideas discussed could work. Woods expressed concern to make sure the card would be seen by the ACOs and at the same time for the public to think there was a hold on the animal.

Question was raised to discuss how long after the three business day requirement, would the public have before animal would be available to the Rescue groups.

Woods requested an update of the Shelters spay/neuter program. Suggested volunteer to help with follow-up as needed. Barrett mentioned staffing shortages. Stallings replied that he has made requests for 2 years and has been denied.

The AC Director and DVM shall determine if and the level of veterinary care to be provided.

SOP will ensure that no euthanasia without due process, i.e. proper assessment, impound time as required by law, a public adoption period before rescue groups are allowed to adopt. This shall be recorded on the animal's card and otherwise easily available to the ACO.

The assessment shall be performed by a person appointed by the AC Director who has fulfilled the required training/or experience. Further discussion to designate the status of each animal.

Goldman read through that portion of SOP used in Warren County applicable to Franklin County and will email to members of the board and other interested parties.

Discussion followed to develop a system to implement this protocol. Foy discussed the county employee evaluations and discussion followed concerning reward and incentives or disciplinary action.

Discussion ensued concerning after the 3-day waiting period to adopt as required by law. The board is to consider having a 3-business day for citizens only and then allowing rescue groups to adopt. Known as "Last Chance Rescue". Kathy Johnson is the designated rescue coordinator.

Simmons requested that Stallings present to the board the SOP at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Discussion followed concerning the difficulty and frustration of communication between the front office and public. Most of the people on the board and those attending the meeting have received multiple complaints. Of special concern is calls being answered and returned promptly. Commissioner Foy will check into this. Stallings has documented these complaints. Speed suggested involving the media to draw attention to the issue and break down of communication.

Simmons reminded people to send Agenda requests to Chairperson Barrett.

Woods requested the following items be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

1. Licensing
2. Meeting more often than quarterly
3. Stallings present SOP at the next meeting
4. Report on spay/neuter program

Simmons motion to adjourn, second, all in favor. Barrett adjourned.
Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday April 14, 2010 at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Elyse Goldman, DVM