

JANUARY 15, 2019 MEETING MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Animal Services Advisory Commission (ASAC) of the City of Farmington met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 800 Municipal Dr., Farmington, NM. Roll call was taken with attendance as follows:

Members Present: Karen Bayless, Chair; Corinne Wright, Chair Pro Tem; Karen Mills; John Roe; Cheryl Ragsdale; Kathy Hogan, SJ Animal League; Shiela Noyes, DVM

PRCA Staff Present: Shaña Reeves, PRCA Director; Stacie Voss, FRAS Welfare Director; Dr. Rebecca Raichel, FRAS DVM; Linda Harris, PRCA Administrative Aide

Animal Control Unit: Sgt. Roque Velarde, Animal Control Unit Supervisor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Karen Bayless called the ASAC meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 10, and minutes from October 2, 2018. John Roe requested amendments to the minutes.

- ✦ After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Karen Mills and seconded by Corrine Wright to approve minutes as amended for July 10 and October 2, 2018. Upon vote, the minutes were approved as amended.

POLICY/PROCEDURE ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT – Policy and Procedures for the Animal Control Unit (ACU) were reviewed by members beforehand for the benefit of discussion and possible amendments. Sgt. Roque Velarde explained the policies and procedures were created to establish guidelines specifically addressing animal control issues. Since the ACU is under the administration of the Farmington Police Department (FPD) the Animal Control Officer (ACO) must also adhere to FPDs reporting and investigative procedures. Sgt. Velarde and PRCA staff addressed concerns from the members regarding aspects of the policy.

Ms. Wright asked, because of the high occurrence of stolen animals, if it is possible for an animal to be scanned regardless of the reason the ACO is dispatched (whether attended or unattended). Sgt. Velarde stated that would need to be verified with the city attorney as it raises a legal question.

Sgt. Velarde answered Ms. Bayless' concern regarding issuing citations and the policy for euthanizing animals. He explained that enforcement issues are left to the discretion of the officer and affirmed that all the ACOs have been certified to euthanize animals if needed. Dr. Raichel added, as written in policy Sec. E. 2 & 7, ACOs contact her prior to euthanizing an animal as well as confirming whether a citation would be justified when responding to an animal endangerment call.

Sgt. Velarde agreed with Ms. Hogan that micro-chip scanners should be added to the list of Vehicle Equipment and affirmed that every ACO has a scanner in their vehicle when they are on duty. Mr. Roe asked that the laser temperature gauge be added to the equipment list as well.

Mr. Roe pointed out several instances in the policy that he felt did not give clear instruction. His concern is in regards to when and under what circumstances the ACO should seek prior consultation with a veterinarian before any course of action is taken (D.1, 3, 8.e; F.6; G.2). Dr. Raichel stated that ACOs are trained and qualified by the State of New Mexico to check the health of the animal. While ACOs do not make a diagnosis, they will alert the veterinarian to any abnormal signs and, with reasonable cause, can remove an animal from the property. Currently, ACOs do not euthanize in the field, but all ACOs are certified to euthanize at the shelter if needed.

Ms. Bayless restated that the ACU policy will be amended with an updated equipment list. Sgt. Velarde assured members that all changes/amendments to the policy will be emailed to the PRCA Administration office which will then be dispersed to members. He also stated in order to be consistent among all the ACOs, there would be a procedural update in the governing policy as to how the barking dog complaints are handled.

Sgt. Velarde announced that the Farmington Police Department's web page has a link to "*File a Police Report.*" Since there are a high volume of complaints, the intent is to add barking dogs to the list of reports that can be reported online.

ANIMAL MICRO-CHIPPING ORDINANCE DRAFT – Micro-chipping ordinance draft was not available for review; discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Bayless asked that the committee meet and prepare a draft for presentation to members at the April meeting.

SHELTER REPORT, QUARTERLY – Ms. Voss summarized the quarterly reports for the Farmington Regional Animal Shelter. She emphasized that the high intake numbers added to the holdover of animals still there from the 1st quarter caused October and November to be over run. November was also low in live release rates for cats, resulting in some being euthanized for space. FRAS has since bounced back to normal with approximately 60% live release for cats. Positive outcomes are up and negative outcomes are down. Ms. Bayless asked if effects of the Spay and Neuter program have been noticeable as far as intake reduction at the shelter. Ms. Voss replied that the intake trend is roughly 7,000 per year, so effects have not been hugely obvious. The overall decrease in intake is more evident when looking to the last 10-15 years. Dr. Raichel added she has seen positive outcomes from spay and neuter programs in that she is beginning to see tattooed animals brought in, indicating they have already been altered at FRAS. Ms. Bayless brought attention to a possible error on the year to date outcome totals for October & November, and requested the report be corrected by next meeting.

COMMISSIONER BUSINESS – Ms. Bayless asked about adoption discounts to senior citizens and stated the Regional Animal Shelter Foundation Inc. is willing to subsidize the cost. Ms. Voss stated that currently FRAS has no system of tracking if an animal was adopted by a senior citizen. Ms. Reeves stated that tracking for reimbursement purposes may not be necessary as dialogue has already started as regards to offering 10% discounts to senior citizens across the department as a whole. Though it is currently in the preliminary stages, Ms. Reeves would have more information in 3-6 months. Ms. Hogan updated members on San Juan Animal League; the organization's Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) program has a back log since losing their vet and facility in June. Ms. Bayless added that the Regional Animal Shelter Foundation Inc. has approved a veterinarian from West Texas to come in and assist in Dr. Raichel's absence.

ADJOURNMENT – Ms. Bayless confirmed the next ASAC meeting will be on Tuesday, April 2nd. With no further discussion, Kathy Hogan moved to adjourn, Karen Mills seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.


Karen Bayless, Chair


Linda Harris, PRCA Administrative Aide