

Lane County Animal Services Advisory

Minutes

September 8, 2014

Members Present: Ann Jensen, Chair, David Calderwood, Dr. DuWayne Penfold, Tamara Banavige, Dr. Bill Young, Dale Hyland

Members Absent: Scott Bartlett

Guests Present: Cary Lieberman, Greenhill Humane Society
Jaclyn Rudebeck, Greenhill Humane Society

Staff Present: Mike Russell, Lane County

Public Present (signed in): Amy Valentine
Marilyn Lance

The meeting started at 3:01 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no one signed up for public comment.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda proposed.

Adoption of the minutes

The committee reviewed minutes for July 14, 2014. Dr. Penfold moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Calderwood seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

1st Avenue Shelter's Activities

Mr. Lieberman reviewed the shelter and outcome reports for August 2014. He said intake numbers are up from August 2013 but one month up does not indicate a trend.

Chair Jensen asked about the Owner Requested/Court Ordered Euthanasia number for Springfield and which was it, court ordered or owner requested. Ms. Rudebeck answered that it was court ordered for a dog that had been in the shelter since March waiting for disposition. She said it took so long because of the appeals process.

Mr. Lieberman said they are starting to look at the difference between strays that come to the shelter versus animals that come for other reasons. Mr. Lieberman said this is important because it affects length of stay and other metrics. He said that, for example, officer intakes often have an identified owner. He said these cases are different than a stray who comes in to the shelter and then can be adopted out if not claimed during the hold time.

Chair Jensen asked if the shelter is collecting boarding fees for officer intakes. Mr. Lieberman said that Greenhill is not fully recovering the boarding fees in these cases, mainly because the people cannot afford to pay the bills in full. He said they are prioritizing getting the animals back into their home. Ms. Rudebeck said that there have been a few occasions where the court agreements include language that waives these fees in order for owners to get their dogs back. She also said that when these cases result in court ordered euthanasia, then collection of fees upon return to owner does not apply. Mr. Russell said that these costs should have been accounted for in the shelter contract with the agencies who acknowledge there is a cost to holding a dog for evidence.

Mr. Russell said that he knows, of the 7 intakes, two or three of them were necessary because owners were not following court ordered sanctions, so LCAS had to take the animals into custody. Ms. Rudebeck said that those may actually be on July numbers.

Mr. Hyland asked how much money it costs for the shelter to house officer intakes. Mr. Russell said it just depends on when the owner comes to get the dog. He said sometimes it can be three days, sometimes it can be much longer. Ms. Rudebeck said the shelter charges \$12 per day to shelter animals. She said Officer Perkins does a good job of dealing with his cases expeditiously.

Lane County Officer Activities Report

Mr. Russell presented the Officer Activities Summary Report. He said there have been a lot of dog issues, which is typical of summer. He noted there have not been as many hot dog reports of dogs locked in parked vehicles on hot days. Chair Jensen asked if Officer Perkins has had to break into cars before. Mr. Russell responded that Officer Perkins has had to break into vehicles before, but he does not know how many. Mr. Russell said an officer will measure inside temperature with a device, look for water and determine if there is imminent threat to the animal's life. If so, then he will try to break the smallest window in order to gain access.

Chair Jensen asked the compliance rate from the license renewal letters sent. Mr. Russell said that it is around 34%. He said that they are going to start getting more firm with license renewal and after the second reminder letter, send non-compliant dog owners a citation in the mail. Mr. Calderwood said it would be important to get a press release out about this. He said out of 200 letters there may be as many as five dog owners that will be in this situation.

Mr. Hyland asked about how the website licensing was going. Mr. Russell said he will look at that and report at the next meeting.

Chair Jensen asked about looking into Pet Data. Mr. Russell said that will be a big project and probably would not get started until after October.

Mr. Russell said the City of Eugene Animals Services Manager, Kelly Darnell is no longer in that position and it has been taken over by a Eugene Police Lieutenant. He apologized for not knowing the name.

Public Experience with Greenhill

Mr. Calderwood passed out a letter of a good experience someone had interacting with Greenhill.

Rescue/Importation/Petsmart & New USDA Rule

Mr. Calderwood passed out information regarding his visit to a Petsmart adoption event on July 26, 2014. He said that there were three rescue groups involved - S-nip, Lucky Paws, and Wiggly Tails. He said it was a chaotic scene. He asked where the dogs came from and he was told they all came from California. He said he is concerned about this.

He passed out information about a transport service that transported dogs in a bad way (taken from a website maintained by Robin Broadbent).

Dr. Young said he has a real problem with the importation of dogs. He said he doesn't feel we should be the repository of other people's unwanted animals. Marilyn Lance said that the whole purpose for this is to save animals from known kill shelters.

Dr. Penfold said that these practices can wreak havoc with our numbers from which we measure success. These numbers that come from other areas impact our overall numbers that should represent Lane County animals, when in fact it includes animals from all over the country. Ms. Lance said she measures success differently; she measures success by lives saved. Dr. Penfold said he understands that, but this committee is concerned with Lane County animals and how do we take care of them.

Chair Jensen said this is one reason why she is interested in seeing Lane County be assertive in regulating rescues under the new state law. She said she want Lane County to perform inspections to see how healthy animals are, have they gotten vaccinations, have health tests been done.

Robyn Broadbent says she pays for the animals. She said spays, neuters and microchips happen before she sees the animal. She said when she saw her dogs on the transport in the pictures she was devastated. She said she is trying to get the word out about this transport service and shut it down. She said other transports are very good. Dr. Young asked if the dogs get health certificates. Ms. Broadbent answered yes and they are licensed and vaccinated. Mr. Calderwood asked how much transports charge for dogs. Ms. Broadbent said it depends on the size of the dog, for small dogs, \$40 to \$50 per dog.

Chair Jensen asked if they all have Lane County licenses. Ms. Broadbent said they are licensed from wherever they come from, that she does not have them long enough to get them licensed here. They get licensed when they get adopted.

Dr. Penfold said that, even though this is all done for good causes, it still creates a little conflict for us in that we are graded on how we take care of all the animals in the County.

Dr. Young said that there is a finite number of households in Lane County that could adopt a pet. He said, by bringing in animals from other areas, those slots that could be used for a Lane County adoptable animal are going to imported animals. Ms. Broadbent said that Greenhill does this. Dr. Penfold said that the reason Greenhill did this is because it attracted a lot more people to their facility so that they could adopt other dogs that were not as adoptable. Dr. Young said he has just as much of an issue with Greenhill bringing them in as anyone else.

Ms. Broadbent said she knows all three of those rescues and said they are really great and that they also work with Greenhill.

Dr. Young asked why Coos Bay is bringing their animals here. Ms. Lance said it a result of everyone networking to save as many animals as possible.

Mr. Calderwood passed out information on the new USDA import law, requiring inoculation. Dr. Young informed the group that there has been another rabies outbreak in China. The group discussed the relative danger of rabies in Lane County, and other country's prevention practices and cultural differences.

Tamara Banavige asked for a recap of the discussion regarding the Petsmart event. Mr. Calderwood gave a brief summary. The group discussed the importation process and the concerns of health issues not being caught before the animals are here. The group also talked about jurisdictional issues where each jurisdiction have their own rules.

Dr. Penfold related a story of his sister who adopted a dog out of Detroit that injured her. They found out that it had been adopted four separate times because of behavior issues. He said to Ms. Lance and Ms. Broadbent that it would be in their interest for someone to develop rules to follow. Mr. Calderwood said one of the pitfalls of "No Kill" is to save everything. Ms. Lance said that is a myth and that Mr. Calderwood should learn more about the no kill philosophy.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 4:06 p.m.

ADOPTED 10/13/14

Minutes Recorder
Mike Russell, Parks Manager