

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board

**MINUTES-VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING**

Friday, October 21, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.  
WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES  
CENTER CLASSROOM  
2825 LONGLEY LANE, #A, RENO, NV  
~VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE~

**MEMBERS**

Naomi Duerr (absent)  
Irene Payne, (Vice Chair)  
Paul Anderson  
Jill Dobbs  
Trudy Brussard  
Julie McMahon  
Kitty Jung (absent)

**STAFF**

Shyanne Schull (Director)

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

Jen Gustafson (Deputy DA)

-o0o-

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL [Non-Action Item]**

The meeting was opened and a quorum was established.

**PRESENT:** Irene Payne, Paul Anderson, Jill Dobbs, Trudy Brussard, Julie McMahon

**ABSENT:** Kitty Jung

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT [Non-Action Item]**

No public comment.

**3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 22, 2022 and JULY 22, 2022, MINUTES [For possible action]**

MEMBER McMAHON: Made a motion to approve.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Seconded.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Commented on correction of typo mentioned by Member Brussard.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Motion passes.

**4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON TURTLE AND TORTOISE RESCUE EFFORTS** [Non-action item]

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Introduced Justine who is a new Animal Service Assistant and also operates a rescue for tortoises and turtles.

JUSTINE SIDIE: Introduced herself and made presentation of turtle and tortoise rescue that she and her husband started a few years ago. Not a non-profit yet.

Rescue is called *Shell of a Rescue* which started in California. Began education on the species. Adopted a Russian tortoise in 2011 and it began her mission to help turtles and tortoises find loving homes. Donations are a large part of her rescue. Also held a GoFundMe for funds to purchase a greenhouse for them during the winter. Discussed the different types of turtles and tortoises.

MEMBER DOBBS: Inquired if they adopt or are just a sanctuary.

JUSTINE SIDIE: Confirmed they are mostly pets at this time.

MEMBER DOBBS: Discussed the UNR study program and the connection that could be made.

JUSTINE SIDIE: Currently has 17 aquatics and 10 tortoises. All have different personalities.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Advised she has connections in the Biology Department and will make the connection for her.

JUSTINE SIDIE: Discussed that tortoises can have a life expectancy of 50 to 150 years in captivity. Her oldest one is about 65 years old. Discussed the variations of diets between the breeds. Commented that ages are very hard to determine. Also discussed proper care. Also discussed the different variations of turtles and tortoises.

MEMBER DOBBS: Thanked her for the presentation. Requested contact information.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Requested information on the desert tortoise.

JUSTINE SIDIE: Discussed the desert tortoise and the sulcata tortoise.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Wondered if the other turtles and tortoises were exotics.

JUSTINE SIDIE: Confirmed that they have been domesticated over the years and are no longer considered exotics.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Commented on the fish in the ponds.

JUSTINE SIDIE: Confirmed that the snapping turtles will eventually eat the fish. It's good to have a variety of feeder fish because turtles do eat feeder fish.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Commented on a great presentation.

## **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT** [Non-action item]

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Opened discussion with intake of animals coming to the facility. Animal intake is climbing due to surrenders and the inability of people to keep their pets. A lot of strays. Financial issues are making it difficult for people and/or families to keep their pets. Adoptions are down. NHS is also experiencing this trend. This quarter is up 14% from five years ago on intakes.

Also seeing an increase in stray animals which she believes are actually owned animals and people are bringing them in as a stray, which leads to a decrease of animals being returned.

She is hopeful to work on a campaign with sheltering partners to discuss available resources and also empower community to get animals reunited.

Fiscal year 2023, last quarter, took in 3,775 animals, which is the highest quarter on record in the last five years.

Stray animals are the largest percentage of intakes. 28% return to owner is the lowest number on record for the last five years. 58% animals transferred to rescue. 9% for disposal that came in as deceased. 4% euthanasia and 11 animals died in care. Microchipped animal numbered dropped.

All intake means any animal that came into care – 30% were returned to owner. 6% were returned from the shelter. 17% were returned in the field. Stray pets returned with identification – 67% were microchipped. Started a free collar and tag program and they are being tracked and come back as repeat offenders.

Also discussed presentation of statistics to the Board. She will be doing an overhaul in how the statistics are presented to the Board, to her department, and the public as a whole. All information will be shared at the next Advisory Board meeting.

Discussed field stats. Discussed rescue of stuck chickens and being brought back, cleaned up and being placed in a home. Field service calls are down. Short staffed three Animal Control Officers which makes it challenging for services.

Welfare calls at 1,346. 799 bite calls. 635 noise complaints. 490 unrestrained dog calls. 1,611 miscellaneous calls.

Introduced Quinn Sweet to discuss the outreach program.

QUINN SWEET: Discussed statistics from Quarter 1 and events. Started a new program for free collars and personalized ID tags for all pets upon redemption. In Quarter 1, 190 collars were provided. Provided 300 ID tags. Also have provided personalized ID tags at outreach events.

Discussed nine events that were conducted. Funding for vet services for 85 pets was provided. Provided pet food for 319 pets in the community and provided 949 vaccinations.

Conducted four vaccination clinics for 502 pets. Provided 175 microchips and almost 400 rabies vaccines.

Attend Art PAWS. Conducted community health fair. Also conducted Hip to Chip campaign and provided green bandanas for microchipping. Helping Pets Home campaign was very successful.

Senior pet food distributions. Three events were conducted, 678 pets total. About 44% of the pets live with homebound seniors and were provided pet food.

Social media. Almost one year of a social media account. 480 new followers. Posted 117 times and reached over 100,000 people. Had 20,000 people visit Facebook page and had 8,412 react to posts and comments. Community is engaging.

Summary for next quarter. Hopeful to conduct three more vaccine clinics. Being that it's winter, it slows down events in the community. Will be conducting a livestock microchip clinic on 10/19/22.

Discussed events in October that were attended: Barktoberfest and Critters for Crafts. Barktober is SPCA's event and very successful. Critters for Crafts is Res-Que's event.

Microchip scanning stations. Program was launched in October as part of Return to Home challenge through Maddie's Fund. Microchip scanning stations were placed in every Pet Station in Washoe County, i.e., eight locations. Discussed recent story involving two pets returned to owner with use of this program.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Confirmed chip scanning program was with Pet Station.

QUINN SWEET: Confirmed. Discussed that Pet Station is a great partner.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Added that this program is partnered with SPCA, NHS and Pet Station to make the program work. Hopeful to make more steps for lost and found information.

MEMBER DOBBS: Commented that staff has been working very diligently with Pet Station for the last three years on getting this program up and running.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Commented when visiting Pet Station to acknowledge how much the program is appreciated.

MEMBER DOBBS: Commented the language is in English and Spanish for the microchip scanning program and it can be translated into additional languages, if necessary.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Discussed the partnership and working relationship from Pet Station perspective. Commented that Pet Station staff is very excited and wants to continue help with program.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Congratulated SPCA and WCRAS for making the program happen. Thanked everyone involved.

MEMBER McMAHON: Inquired about the scanners being inside the Pet Station stores.

QUINN SWEET: Confirmed the scanners are inside the stores. No way to protect them from the environment at this time. Only available during store hours.

MEMBER McMAHON: Commented on good Samaritan surrenders at her facility. Inquired as to information that is going to the facilities that if good Samaritan calls do come in during business hours, how can they be redirected.

QUINN SWEET: Confirmed that there has not been any discussion with vet centers. Would work on something like a postcard that can be generated to vet partners in the area to make them aware.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Discussed that additional microchip scanning stations are on the radar and would be a great next step.

QUINN SWEET: Concluded her presentation.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Presented collaboration with SPCA, NHS and Options Veterinary Hospital to start a resource list for resources within the community and be able to centralize information. Wants to continue to be proactive on the needs of the community and help keep pets in their homes, keep them out of the shelters, and provide necessary resources that not every pet owner knows is available.

MEMBER DOBBS: Additionally commented that both organizations have a “help desk” which can provide additional resources to help people keep the pets in their homes and not surrender/relinquish. SPCA calls have doubled this year. Seeing between 700 and 800 calls a month. Staffing continues to be a challenge. Requesting everyone to get involved to provide this information.

Also commented on starting Home to Home Pet Rehoming tool to keep pets out of sheltering system and enabling community to rehome pets directly.

Discussed Todd’s Fund which is over budget because the need has dramatically grown. Program has been paused for two weeks for the medical portion. The end of life/humane euthanasia applications are kept open. It will be back open for client specific side for emergency applications. The amount of funding able to be obtained will be lower, but still significant.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Discussed that a print order has been submitted and will be provided to front office staff and officers. Suggested to utilize resources.

MEMBER McMAHON: Requested printed materials.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed the second reading the Dangerous Dog Code has been passed and is now in effect. Updating internal forms and documents to reflect changes. The next section will be the variance permit for those who wish to own more than the legal limit of dogs or cats. Will provide further updates.

Also discussed the overview of off leash calls and outcomes. Will be working for a future meeting discussion.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Inquired as to cats getting respiratory diseases and control of same.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Reported a panleukopenia disease outbreak between shelters, mostly impacting NHS side. It is the feline version of parvo in dogs and can be fatal. All precautions have been put into place to protect future cats that come into the facilities.

**6. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD PERIODIC REPORT [For possible action]**

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Introduced presentation.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Last periodic report that was worked on was two years ago and her very first one. Hopeful that it is now advanced and more concise.

The Advisory Board Periodic Report is for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. An overview is provided of who all staff is and serve on the Board for code process. Provided photographs of various staff members and programs provided.

Presented outreach and perspective to continue to offer it as needed by community. Created drive thru vaccination clinics outside. Vaccinated 69 cats, 529 dogs and 118 microchips through seven drive thru clinics. Held vaccine clinics and vaccinated 209 cats and 2,358 dogs over 19 vaccination clinics during that period.

Also conducted drive thru pet food events. Pet food was delivered to 335 cats and 465 dogs.

Despite the challenges during the pandemic, resources were continued to be provided to the community.

Spay/neuter partnership with SPCA also was started during this period of time. Animal Services received grant funding to get the program started. Program is suspended for now until staffing levels can be reached and a program idea that will work more efficiently. 281 dogs and 143 cats were spayed/neutered during this time. Hopeful to work on a sustainable program for the future.

Highlighted shelter partnerships that Quinn Sweet provides resources to human shelters that allow animals. Very successful program and a great asset to the community.

Also discussed grant funding which was provided of \$50,000 for spay/neuter program from the ASPCA. They were able to continue to provide tools, resources, and staff payment to facilitate surgeries.

Also received \$630 for Spay Together Coalition which helped support the \$50,000 grant already received. Duffield Foundation granted \$5,833 for pet food for those experiencing hardship which is also why drive thru pet food distribution events were created. Also received \$1,500 from Duffield Foundation for one of the staff to attend the Humane Society of the United States Conference. Conference went virtual instead, so several staff members were able to attend.

Received a Portal Mania Grant – over 200 cat portals. Able to double the housing for the cats in the shelter. Also featured in Animal Sheltering publication as one of the receiving shelters.

Discussed participation in No Place Like Home Challenge Grant. Received funding for personal pet ID tag machine. Hopes to increase cats that have personal identification. Received \$3,000 in grant funding.

Worked two consecutive years on hot car campaign. First year was SPCA and Animal Services and then joined with NHS. Attempted to provide awareness of community members about animals locked in hot cars. Numbers were down this year for hot animal car calls.

Emergency response. Responded to six wild land fire evacuations and evacuated 44 dogs, 73 cats, 34 birds, 42 livestock and 10 miscellaneous.

Discussed the info graphics and wanted to share with the Commissioners – provides a general overview of some of the statistics and types of calls responded to.

Discussed table format to be used – as opposed to current format. Highlighted some discussions and updates that were provided to the Board or worked on collectively. Discussed past presentations and success of programs in nutshell version. Will agendize soon to get it before the BOCC.

MEMBER DOBBS: Commented she loved the format of the report.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Wanted to know if it would be in print form for the County.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed that it is presented during a regular BOCC meeting in which she will have 10 minutes or under to present and it will be in this format. Once it's final and approved, it will be on the website available for the public.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Commented on a great job with format. Asked for public comment. Seeing none, asked for further comment.

MEMBER ANDERSON: Commented on a job well done and it will be well received by the Commissioners.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Commented on typo on the grants page – Animal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Thought it was the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Agreed and verified it will be corrected.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Requested presentation information so they could attend. Asked for motion to approve.

MEMBER DOBBS: Made motion to approve the BOCC report.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Seconded.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Motion carries.

**7. SELECTION OF FUTURE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING DATES AND TIMES FOR 2022 (sic) CALENDAR YEAR [For possible action]**

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Discussed Advisory Board meeting dates and times at 9:30 a.m. on the third Friday of each month.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Provided 2023 calendar and advised open to continuing third Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Discussion of January, 2023, the third week.

MEMBER DOBBS: Suggested 9:30 a.m. on January 27, 2023. The remaining months would be the third Friday of the month.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Requested motion to approve.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Made motion.

MEMBER DOBBS: Wanted clarification of what specific dates.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: January 27<sup>th</sup> and then the third Friday of the quarter.

MEMBER DOBBS: April 21<sup>st</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, and October 20<sup>th</sup>.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Confirmed motion on the table.

MEMBER McMAHON: Seconded motion.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Motion carries.

**8. WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS [Non action item]**

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Asked about future agenda items.

MEMBER DOBBS: Requested an opportunity to present to the Board a presentation on cat declawing.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Agreed that when phrased as “toe amputation” it sounds much worse than declawing.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Advised that there is a request by leadership at NHS to present to this Board at a future meeting because there is a new COO and it would be a great presentation to discuss partnership, etc.

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Agreed it would be a great presentation.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT** [Non-Action Item]

No public comment.

MEMBER DOBBS: Acknowledged licensed vet tech week and have the Board recognize Member McMahan.

**10. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-Action Item]

VICE CHAIR PAYNE: Concluded the meeting and confirmed it is adjourned.