

## **DENTON ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Minutes from July 23, 2020**

- I. **Present:** Diana Leggett, Anne Sullivan, Charles Hunter, Jonathan Birden, Randi Weinberg

**Guests:** Stacy Romo, Sarah Kuechler, Becky Owens

**Absent:** Dr. Angela Paben, Sara Hensley

- II. **Called to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chair Diana Leggett

- III. **Approval of February 19, 2020 minutes:** A motion was made by Anne Sullivan, seconded by Jonathan Birden to approve the minutes as reviewed.

- IV. **Denton Animal Shelter Reports**

A. Intake/Outcome FY 19/20:

Adoption 2,007, Return to Owner 531, Transfers 75, TNR Program 15, Sick Died in Foster Care 15, Sick Died in Shelter 11, Sick Died at Vet 4, Request for Euthanasia 76, Euthanasia-Untreatable & Unmanageable 260, Intakes 3,098, Live Release Rate 91%.

TNR program is successful with 15 shelter placed in a new colony.

One of the new stats is the number of animals that have died whether in foster care, shelter or vet due to being sick.

Live release rate has risen 3% even with COVID.

B. Lobby Operation FY 19/20:

Call volume has increased drastically since shelter in place in March due to the shelter moving towards appointment only based adoption and owner surrender.

26,000 calls with voicemail at 33% which is 5% decrease from this time last year.

Walk in traffic trend has gone down since we had to shut our doors. Averaging out at 37,000.

**Volunteer/Foster Program Update:**

Volunteer hours, I want to show case. In February we had an all-time high of 957 volunteer hours, however, due to the COVID shelter in place, we had to suspend the program. Right now, we are a little over 4000 hours which is still impressive.

**C. Field FY 19/20:**

For the field, we have run a little over 4,600 calls this fiscal year. Stray calls have been our highest volume call at 439 calls. I also want to highlight that we take request through the Engage Denton app if you are familiar with that. We have taken 229 requests through that app.

**V. Operation Updates: COVID is the main update.**

- A.** We did shut doors down and move to appointment only business models for adoptions and surrenders. We are still doing the appointment only right now, but we are taking direction on when will are able to open.
- B.** We have added Dr. Brandon from SPCA. Already acclimated beautifully and is bringing new and different opportunities to the office. One thing is that we can neuter male kittens at 2lbs instead of 2.5lbs we usually wait for. This allows them to get out of the foster care or shelter quicker and into their forever homes. In addition, he does spay and neuter for rabbits and we will be working out a protocol with him in August regarding the start of spay, neuter and vaccinations with domestic rabbits we receive in the shelter.
- C.** We have hired a part time kennel tech, Kelvin and hired a part time customer service representative starting next week.
- D.** We are in the process of working on 20-21 budget. Looking to add more cameras to facility in small dog yard, vet clinic and hallways. Also, we will be looking to possibly add another full time ACO position.
- E.** One of the great things I want to highlight is the S.I.T. program (Supervisor in Training) that was introduced in October. Nicole Heyer was the first participant who graduated in June. She is working on a project that will help with stray surrenders in the shelter. She will be with us next meeting to go over what in-site she has gained from the program and what she is working on.
- F.** For our volunteer program, we have moved to a new volunteer system called Vomo. This new system allows our volunteers to schedule their time with us. Used for both volunteers and fosters. Fosters can schedule when their pet needs shots, need to see the vet. Vet staff and volunteer coordinator can see the schedule in real time and

coordinate together. We did not have this system or the Volunteer Coordinator last year and this has only enhanced our program. Foster program has successfully placed 78 kittens within 25 homes. Still have about 70 kittens in shelter.

- G. Lastly to touch on Clear the shelter. Last year, our Clear the Shelter was successful, however due to COVID, we are looking at some changes for this year's event. We will still do the appointment only. Instead of one day of clear the shelter, we will do two multiple days of half price adoptions and the free adoptions.

VI. **Q & A:**

Diana: When will we be able to see budget?

Randy: August 4th will be presentation to council.

Diana: Will we be able to see it before then? Or help you ask for more funds?

Randi: Due to COVID, we did have to scale back on what we are asking for. The thing we asked for is mainly for supplies for the shelter and animal food.

Diana: Is there any kind of wish list?

Randi: The Denton Animal Support foundation has reached out to us and we are compiling a list right now for big ticket items and what we need. They have a meeting in August and Betty is going to bring it fourth for approval.

Diana: One suggestion is to get with the us, so we can promote DASF on social medias.

Anne: Do we have an update on tethering ordinances?

Randi: We have been working on this for a year. In February, we had it finalized with everyone's approval. Once COVID hit, any council request we had was sidelined. They were only allowing COVID reporting. Just recently they have opened it up for departments to start presenting and submitting items for consideration aside from COVID. We took a step back to relook at our focus. This next budget year, we want to do a deep dive in our ordinance review with all the ordinances. We already looked at the tethering and got that approved by you, the dangerous dog additional verbiage, everyone has also looked at and approved. We are also looking to update our barking dog complaint ordinance by adding some time frames and an affidavit for residents to fill out. We will group them together and send to legal to review. Once legal approves, it will go to council to be put on the agenda. We want to make sure we are in line with the state of Texas and the legislator. Ethel Strother, our field supervisor is heavily involved

with Texas Human Legislator Network and she is our resource to reaching out to them and having them look over and give suggestions before we present.

Anne: Since volunteer hours dropped, is staff having to work overtime?

Randi: Staff is not needing to work overtime. Since intake has dropped down, we have been able to manager the capacity, so staff is able to manage. It is summer and is someone comes to our door, we are not turning them away. It's also kitten season and they have been stretched then, however we got approval to hire the PT ACO and that is why we have brought them in. We do get 4 volunteers a day. 2 in the am and 2 in the pm and they help fill that gap. Not everyone is comfortable with coming back and we understand.

Diana: What can we do to help bolster foster home aspect. Started new program with wild rescue for domestic. Is there anything we can do social media wise to help?

Randi: Fosterers have gone through a 2-week training prior to COVID. With kitten care, they are very fragile and difficult to understand at first. If we do move that route, we would like to take a slower route to make sure they are trained and ready for that responsibility.

Diana: Absolutely. I do all my training through zoom. there seems to be more people out there right now who are wanting to help because they are home right now.

Charlie: If a virtual option in training becomes accessible again, I am always available to internet the things.

Randi: We will definitely sit down, Diana, Charlie and Gayla, and discuss options so we are prepared for this 2<sup>nd</sup> round coming up. We did a lot of research on what we could do in house to save kittens. We started to use the Albond process which has shown an extreme increase in the success of kittens. It's a powder we put on their food like an amino acid. We have seen a 20% increase in survival. We also weigh them more often so if they are dropping weight, we catch that quickly. Roxy is the one who did the research and brought it to us. We are proactive and begin the Albond process as soon as they come into the office.

I'm excited to see everyone and thank you for joining us. I will try to keep everyone in the loop with everting. We have had 3 hoarding cases and helped Denton County with one as well last week.

The last thing I would like to do is introduce Sarah Kuechler, the new department head over animal services

Sarah: I am really looking forward to working with AS and learning their operations. I'm excited for this opportunity to work with Randi's team. I have had the chance to meet some this morning. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist.

Diana: Are the A/Cs working on all the trucks?

Randi: Yes! No more hot animals in the back of the truck.


Charles: I want to point out that my last name is misspelled on the official agenda.

Becky: I apologize, I am new to the group and trying to get acquainted to the new names. If I don't get anything right, I should get your names right. I will get it corrected.

**VII. Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30PM by Charles Hunter seconded by Anne Sullivan.

MINUTES APPROVED ON: October 21, 2020

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Diana Leggett

Chair



Karisa Richards

Recording Secretary