



## Animal Advisory Commission Minutes

April 22, 2021

- **Shelter Safety**
  - **Internal Radios** – we also have been focused on safety within the Shelter, so we now have internal radios. The building is large and sometime requesting help over the intercom can be challenging.
  - **Safety Boxes** – the safety boxes have been around for a while, but we've started do walks every month with the staff and showing them where these boxes are.
- **Association for Animal Welfare Advancement Organizational Leadership Program**
  - **Seven staff currently attending certificate program**
  - **Funded by Friends of DAS** – Scholarship provided

### Quality of Animal Treatment

- **Volunteers** – our numbers are down from Qtr. 2 FY20, due to COVID. We're going to start to increase some of our volunteer opportunities.
- **Volunteer Enrichment Activities** – Playgroup is down 5%, at 93%, slightly from Qtr. 2 FY20. Our D90 Runs have increased partially due to the weather warming up.
- **Doggy Daycations** – we are not currently doing Doggy Daycations, but we are having conversations about once again.

**Legislative Update** – we are involved in the Legislative process in Austin. We work with the City of Dallas' Lobbying Team. We also meet with animal shelters in large cities around the state, every other week to discuss items that are being proposed and discuss movement on Bills that are taking place and share materials that different cities have put together either in support or opposition of Bills.

- **DAS Actively Opposes**
  - **Published One Pagers in Opposition** – we have published two 1 pagers:
    - **HB 543: Working Animal Protection Act**
      - **Could potentially prevent cities from regulating pet breeding and s/n**
      - **Threatens first responders and public safety**
    - **HB 652: Epizoonotic Disease Notification**
      - **Unfunded mandate**
      - **Stigmatizes shelter pets**
      - **Will decrease diagnostic testing; increase euthanasia**

### BeDallas90.org

- **Launched February 2021**
- **Receiving praise nationwide**

Commissioner Karen Kennedy asked about who the people are and where these Bills come from? – Commissioner Bobosky explained that they can come from an individual or a group and they're unlikely to get passed.

Commissioner Timko asked if DAS has made any updates or amendments to the SOP's, that would then cause the Commission to remove some of the nine items, off their request to the City Auditor? She explained that the Commission can look at the current SOP's and eliminate some of the issues or send what they have from 2019 and they can address those issues as part of the audit.

MeLissa Webber, Interim Director replied saying that DAS is confident in their processes, where they are now.



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- **Phase III Return to Work Roll Out May 3<sup>rd</sup>** - We're still at that 50% with the Phase II, according to the City here in our building, but we were able to maneuver with a little more flexibility, by spreading us out. By doing that, we are looking at having bigger capacity to be able to get into this Phase III, which originally was scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, but everything got pushed back for the Committee to discuss, so it's a tentative date for May 10<sup>th</sup>, pending any changes at that Committee time. We're excited to see Phase III, it's still not a full open. Phase III, City areas are allowed to have a 75% capacity. We're working on getting our Field Staff back in the office. They've been operating entirely, by having to drop off things in the bay area. We are continuing to have the mask mandate and social distancing within our building. We have also gotten created with our scheduling, with flexible and staggered days and times.
  - We also are continuing to use the Tele-Adoption, Foster and curbside pick-up. The curbside pick-up has been incredible, and it has been very helpful to build safety. It's a lot more comfortable when people can wait in their cars and keep separated.
  - We continue to do the pavilion adoption, on the weekend, but this month we have expanded it to doing it during the week. It gives the animal a chance to get fresh air and stretch their legs and it allows people that walk up, a chance to see the animals, since some people don't like going on line and would prefer to see the animal in person.
- We do have more presence at our Adoption Center in North Dallas. Starting in April, we are there four days per week. We're there Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and that has helped us to move many more animals.

**Defining Success in FY21** – Our four measures for 365 Measures that we use this year are Combined Shelter & Field Dog RTO, Live Release Rate for Dogs & Cats, Timely Service Request Response and Decrease in Loose & Loose Owned Bites.

- **Combined Shelter & Field dog RTO** – 40% versus 29.2%, FY21 Q2 Actual
- **Live Release Rate for Dogs & Cats** – 90% versus 89.2%, FY21 Q2 Actual
- **Timely Service Request Response** – 90% versus 90.6%, FY21 Q2 Actual
- **Decrease in Loose & Loose Owned Bites** - .3% versus -14.4%, FY21 Q2 Actual

## **Dashboard of Performance-to-Date – Public Safety**

- **Total Dog Intake** – Down this quarter -51%, in comparison to last year's quarter this time. We aren't doing as many proactive calls. We're doing more Service Requests.
- **Field Dog Intake** – Down -36%, in comparison to last year's quarter this time.
- **Loose & Loose Owned Dog Bites** - Down -17, in comparison to last year's quarter this time.
- **Service Requests** – coming in from 311 are about the same. The requests in orange are our Pro-Active Calls and they are half about what we would normally do. Our Follow-up Calls have increased some.
- **Loose and Loose Owned Service Requests** – have actually gone down (-63%).
- **Timely Response Rate** – has gone down (-8%). We're having technical issues with 311 database and the calls coming over to our database and it's affecting our response time, but we're getting it worked out.



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To recap, Commissioner Timko said that they would send the 2019 research project over to the City Auditor's and ask them to address the questions therein.

MeLissa Webber agreed.

4. **Public Comment** – No comments
5. **Adjourn**
  - The meeting adjourned at 9:51.

Animal Advisory  
Commission Thursday,  
April 22, 2021

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**Stephen Edison**  
Animal Advisory Commission Chair

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**Cindy Hall**  
Board Coordinator