



Animal Advisory Commission Minutes

January 28, 2021

Minutes – DRAFT

1. **Call to Order** – 9:07 AM

2. **Approval of Minutes** – October 29, 2020 Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shelby Bobosky, to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes and second by Commissioner Stephanie Timko. The motion passed unanimously.

Director, Ed Jamison stated the objectives for the meeting, Principles & Defining Success, Dashboard of Performance to Date FYE20 and Other Topics, Decrease in Euthanasia, COVID Timeline, HASS Program, DEI, Hurricane Laura Response, Budget, Grants & Awards. Normally the whole team would present on their individual slides from the department, but in this virtual world, I will go through the entire presentation and the team is on and can jump in to answer any questions.

3. **AAC Annual Report Review Approval**

Commissioner Stephanie Timko made a point of clarification on the Overview on the RTO, how does the 35.5% breakdown between RTO Field and RTO Shelter and what percentage of the Live Release Rate is comprised of the RTO?

Commissioner Timko said that it needs to be clarified in the report and that she can abstain and everyone can approve it.

Commissioner Timko wanted to clarify the one of BCG's primary goals was a 90% Live Release Rate, is that true?

Chairperson Stephen Edison said that we could get the answers to her questions. He offered some choices, that the group could approve the report as written or approve it with the understanding that we will make the adjustments and get it out to everybody.

4. **DAS Manager's Report**

- **Principles** – Our guiding principles are Public Safety, Compassion and No Shortcuts and that is still to this day, what we use in trying to make tough decisions.
- **Defining Success in FY21** – These are the goals that the City has targeted for us. We are currently down on our combined RTO, it's at 30.5% and our goal was 40%. Live Release Rate for dogs and cats is currently at 88.4% and our goal is 90%. Our Timely Response Rate we are hitting that goal at 93.9% and the goal was 90%. Loose Owned Dog Bites are down 33.5%, compared to the 1st Qtr. last year.
- **Dashboard of Performance-to-Date**
- **Public Safety** – Total Dog Intake FYTD was 2,570, Field Dog Intake is 2,014 and Service Request was down as well, due to COVID-19. We're not running proactive calls, unless it is an emergency.
- **Quality of Animal Treatment** – Live Release Rate for Dogs and Cats FYTD was 88.4%. Live Release Rate for Dogs and Cats Split FYTD for dogs was 91% and 80% for cats. Percentage of Dog Intake Already S/N & Microchipped was 95% FYTD.
- **Stakeholders** – Dogs Returned to Owner Shelter RTO FYTD was 471 and Field RTO FYTD was 314, up 5%. Adoption by Visiting Parties was 74% FY21, still doing virtually. Overall Adopted Cats and Dogs, FY21 are down 43%.
- **Quality of Animal Treatment** – Quality of Stay Score only includes animals in adoption areas.



Animal Advisory Commission Minutes

January 28, 2021

- **Quality of Animal Treatment**
 - **Medical Care** – HW Treatment Completed is up 82%. We offer heartworm treatment for any heartworm positive dog that is adopted from DAS, but we don't always have that many keep their appointments. The Spay and Neuter Surgeries are 1,642, down 46% from last year same time frame, because the population is lower, that makes the number lower. Specialty Surgeries are up 19%. The lifesaving begins with the medical team.
 - **Quality of Animal Treatment** – Overall, Volunteer hours are down 51%. Volunteers are really used for Enrichment Activities. Volunteers are like an extension of our staff. Doggy Daycations are down completely due to COVID-19.
- **Decrease in Euthanasia** – We had an 83% decrease in euthanasia's from about 3-1/2 Years ago.
- **Dangerous Dogs** – There have been a lot of discussions about Dangerous Dogs.
 - We talked about ordinances on June 11, 2018 during the Quality of Life Briefing.
 - Regarding Dangerous Dogs and there were things that were identify in a 2016 City of Dallas Audit, we addressed that as well as other ordinances, that needed to be adjusted, in order for us to operate. Once the Audit is completed, we will present it to City Council. We don't have a timeline as to when it will be completed. Commissioner Timko said that she spoke with the City Auditor' office and that the audit may not be completed in FY21 and that request from City Council takes priority over these kinds of departmental schedules and that they would welcome any questions that the Commission had to help guide their audit. Commissioner Trimble suggested that the Commissioners contact their Councilmember to see if they could speed up the process.
 - On January 15, 2020, we did a Briefing to Council. The City's Attorney's office and Municipal Court is also involved in the process. Commissioner Timko said that the City Attorney's office does not audit department SOP's for compliance with the law.
 - There is a state definition for Dangerous Dogs and we're not allowed to change the definition of that.
 - **Aggressive Dogs** – Unrestrained animal to legally restrained animal. That is a City Ordinance and was made at the City level.
- **Looking Forward**
 - **Planning for Evictions** – there are a total of 174,398 Households, 188,521 are Dog Owners and 140,316 are Cat Owners. There are 59.8% are Renters and 40.2% are Owners.
 - **Grants** – ASPCA = \$50,000
 - **Maddie's Fund** = \$50,000
 - **Departures**
 - **Rita Hammelman, Budget Analyst** - Retired
 - **Christina Arriaga** – Was a Rescue Partner with Rockwall Pets, Relocated to Florida
 - **Toyota Partnership** – Their TSSC Program came to DAS to look at our processes
 - **Everyday Adoption Center** – We're doing 1 day per month
 - **Proposed Ordinance** – We can't take on community cats at this time. San Antonio just took on an ordinance to do away with pet stores getting puppies from puppy mills and selling them. Dallas is looking at doing this as well. There are some City Councilmembers that want us to look into this.
 - **Officer Safety**
 - **Shots fired at ASO/Vehicle** – after an ASO served a civil citation to an owner, for a loose dog.
 - **Increased stress in the community** – and we have seen it in our lobby area as well.



Animal Advisory Commission Minutes

January 28, 2021

- **Employee Assistance Program**

Critical Incident Support

Loss of Michelle James – she started working as temporary employee and she worked in the kitten nursery.

Commissioner Cherie Batsel - asked if the Field Officers have body cameras now? Ed Jamison said that we have them and IT is working on the platform/components for them and it will be a standard, for all Field Officers. We expect to have them by the end of March. We also have new radios, and our tablets are being replaced.

COVID-19 Stressors

Commissioner Karen Kennedy – asked Ed Jamison, why does he think that the dog bites are down? The first quarter we were at 33%, but we're not picking up as many dogs, since before COVID. It's probably due to people being at home, because of COVID.

Commissioner Stephanie Timko – is proud to say that she is incredibly proud of the staff at the Shelter, SNN and microchipping, the shifts in the Vets at the Shelter are so encouraging. The numbers on heartworm treatments, spay/neuter surgeries and specialty surgeries are so encouraging and she doesn't know of any shelter in Texas, that does these specialty surgeries. Kudos to the Medical staff. Planning for evictions is exciting, that we are getting ready for that. She sends her condolences to the staff with the lose of the employee who worked in the kitten nursery. Wants to shout out the Field Officers for their professionalism. She has a question about the budget and cutting back on medical supplies and how it will affect that area? Ed Jamison said that we have to make cuts every year between 3-5% and this year it will be approximately \$1,000,000. Last year, we cut back on supplies this year it may be staff.

- 2. **Pet Source and Support Center** – Bonnie Hill, with the Spay/Neuter Network announced that she retired in December and Victoria Cowper will be her replacement.

The Goal – Shift the paradigm to rescue animals BEFORE they enter the City shelter with a unique blend of services and resources to help pet parents either:

1. Keep their pets
2. Help pet parents rehome their pets
3. Offer alternative placements through a well-developed database of rescue groups who can take in pets directly from owners, bypassing DAS entirely. Working together with Dallas pet owners helping them help themselves.

The Partnership

Spay Neuter Network - Call Center/Basic Resources – we take any 311 calls regarding owner surrenders or loose cat calls and we take emails as well. We are offering basic services, that include feral cat spay/neuters, spay/neuter for pet owners, getting ready to services for rescue groups (medical services).

Dallas Pets Alive – Additional Resources – is offering all of the other resources

City of Dallas – 311 – City of Dallas is one of our partners

Dallas pet owners – we want to consider the Dallas pet owners as part of this partnership

Dallas Animal Services – is our last resort

Results by call so far: we can only track by phone call, because we're using the acuity system. We started taking calls on April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

- 2245 calls received (results by call not by pet)
- 30% resulted in pets staying in their homes



Animal Advisory Commission Minutes

January 28, 2021

- 14% went into foster or rescue pulled from Trello Board
- 6% of the calls were ineligible for services, because they live outside of the city limits, unless they adopted from DAS
- 36% of the callers to date ended up taking their dogs or cats to Dallas Animal Services for surrender.
- 13% of cases are still pending (12% of those from people who have not returned our calls)

DPA'S PASS Program (Positive Alternative to Shelter Surrender)

- PASS, established in 2017 works to help Dallas area families keep their pets in their homes and out of the shelters by providing medical care, training, temporary boarding and other resources to residents in need
- 2017 – 2020 Total interactions/families assisted: **10,652**
- 2017 – 2020 Total Surrenders Prevented: **1,753**
- 2020 Top Reasons for Assistance: **Rehoming & Medical care**
- 2020 Top Zip Codes Assisted: **75211, 75212, 75220**

Technology to Help Pets and Families – The intention is to be comprehensive from inquiry all the way to outcome. Getting other rescue groups involved, including having our own Trello Board system. We will be able to do our PASS Program, but also interact with 311 and ultimately, we want other cities and organizations all over the United States to be able to use it and implement it, into their program.

3. DPD Animal Cruelty Dashboard – was created in October of 2018

- **911 Calls** – MTD 70 calls YTD 685 for animal cruelty. If the call comes in as other, we don't capture that. It has to be classified as animal cruelty or animal cruelty in progress.
- **DAS Referral** – DPD calls refers to DAS. Violations such as spay/neuter, tethering. 1 MTD, 62 YTD.
- **Cases Filed to DA's Office** – warrants that have been issued. 0 MTD, 45 YTD.
- **Grand Jury Referral** – 0 MTD, 2 YTD
- **Seized or Surrendered** – 20 MTD, 696 (live & dead) YTD
- **Investigations** – 30 MTD, 305 YTD
- **Offensives** – 5 MTD, 126 YTD
- **Arrests** – 2 MTD, 30 YTD
- **Search Warrants** – 0 MTD, 1 YTD
- **Civil Seizures Extended** – 0 MTD, 5 YTD

Call 911 for animal cruelty. Please do not post animal cruelty on Facebook.

There are 3 Detectives that work animal cruelty cases.

4. Public Comments – No comments

5. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM