



September 8th, 2015

Animal Control Board Members:

Paige Turner
Gloria McCain
Jim Carter
Don McMillian
Tameka West

Clayton County Police Dept:

Maj. Green
Lt. Palmer
Brittini Daniels
Tiffany Phillips

Guest:

Kim Kirby
Linda Ingram
Maria Dorough

- The above were in attendance for the Animal Control Board Meeting on September 8th, 2015 at 7:00pm.
- Paige Turner called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
- First was the report from Lt. Palmer. He was proud to report that Animal Control has cancelled our Euthanization day 2 weeks in a row due the number of dogs and cats that are being pulled by Rescue, adopted and reclaimed. He also advised that our intake numbers are down slightly from previous weeks in reference to animals being brought in off the streets by the road officers. Animal Controls current YTD totals were as follows: Intake- 3037, Rescued- 1814, Adopted-174, and Reclaimed-263. Lt. Palmer wanted to thanks TLC Pet Rescue for holding the highest percentage in adoptions from the shelter in the recent months, followed by Safe Harbor, Courtney's Canines, Shelter Dog Rescue and Clayton County Humane. Based on a National average of stats from the ASPCA, we are approximately 58% below the current Animal Euthanization rate in the United States, the National average on Euthanization of animals is at 36% and we are at 13%, which is well below average. In animal adoptions the average is 35% and we are at 65%, so we are adopting/rescuing more and euthanizing less! Although our Reclaim rate is low compared to the

national, we are making up for it in other areas. Another large factor that has brought our euthanization rate down has been due to TLC's efforts in pulling cats out of our shelter. We have not euthanized any cats at Animal Control in months, unless it was a critical situation where one has come in severely injured and suffering. Lt. Palmer did advise that our #1 intake is still the Pitbull/Pitbull Mix breed which takes up approximately 88% of our kennel space. Rescue is getting some of them out but a lot are being held because we currently have some space available. The topic of Reclaim fees was then discussed by Lt. Palmer and it was requested by Maris Dorough for the Animal Control Board to make a recommendation to the Commissioners about reducing the fees. Paige Turner did join in on the conversation and agree that a working class citizen that could afford to pay a high fee would reduce our reclaim numbers, and asked what the board could do to help get the fee schedule changes. Paige requested a copy of the current reclaim fees schedule so it could be addressed at the next Animal Control Board meeting. At this time Ofc. Phillips mentioned for the Board to please take into consideration that a responsible pet owner will usually have current up to date shots on their pet and it will have already been spayed or neutered in this case the reclaim fee is already minimal. The majority of the citizens that cannot afford the reclaim fees are the backyard breeders who do not want their pets fixed and do not have current shots on their pets, and in some instances are repeat offenders. There can always be a situation where fees can be reduced by supervisors in house depending on the circumstances as Lt. Palmer advised he has done as early as this morning prior to the meeting tonight. Lt. Palmer asked if it was possible for our rescue groups to maybe organize a Spay/Neuter clinic monthly for Clayton County citizens in hopes of reducing the intake #'s at Animal Control. Paige Turner advised that she had hopes of our Vet position being filled and Animal Control being able to provide this service to the community. Backyard breeding was a big concern and educating the youth was a good place to start with educating the community about pet responsibility. Lt. Palmer wanted to again thank the rescue groups for all of their assistance, advising he could not keep the euthanization rates down without them.

- Next Maria Dorough with Partners for Pets wanted to speak. She started off with a stats flyer on the euthanization and adoption rates from 2011 - 2012, before and after Partners for pets assisted Animal Control in rescue organization. Maria advised that they have been back working with Animal Control since July 2015 and was very happy to acknowledge the much needed Rescue Coordinator position that Brittini Daniels was now in and how hard Brittini works to network and organize pet rescues. She also wanted to thank Lt. Palmer and Capt. Jackson for their assistance and professionalism that they have brought to Animal Control. She advised that the positive atmosphere, security cameras, open late hours and on

Sundays for rescue has really made all of the rescue organizations want to be involved with Clayton County again. Maria complimented Ofc. Phillips on her work with the community by referring County residents to Maria and their Safe@home project where they rescue unwanted puppies, help residents have their pets spayed/neutered and assist with pet food if needed. Next Maria spoke on the Pet Point system that she feel would help organize and expedite the paperwork process at Animal Control. It was requested that the Animal Control Board recommend the system to the commissioners for approval. Paige asked if the hold up on the getting the system in place has a money factor and she was advised yes. The advantages of the system would also include medical information entered would follow that animal, repeat offenders would be identified and the animal could be tracked through the micro-chips that come with the system. At this time Paige requested any information that Lt. Palmer had on the system that would assist the board in coming up with a recommendation for the Commissioners. Maria closed with a Kudos for the staff for their hard work and advised that she has talked to Clayton Humane about a Spay/neuter program where Paige advised that she would help in any way possible.

- Next Gloria McCain took the floor and wanted to discuss the Adoption Event. The event is taking place in an attempt to keep our euthanization rates low. The event is scheduled for October 17th from 10an-2pm at Animal Control. Ms. McCain wants to make this a big event to include a low cost adoption fee, free food and drinks to the public; Doggie baths and advice on new/proper pet care and ownership. She is hoping that this event will give people a different perspective or point of view on owning a pet and teach pet ownership responsibility. She wants everyone to put their best foot forward to making this a successful event and gave out her phone number to everyone for any suggestions or assistance they can provide for this event. We are still looking into Pet adoption kits that will come with the animal adopted. Suggestions were made to contact Pedigree to see about the adoption bags they use to offer the county and also for everyone to reach out to different stores like Walmart or Sams club for donations. It was suggested for us to reach out to Atlanta Humane or any other type of Mobile Vet for low cost Spay/neutering to be offered to adoptors. The question was asked if we were reaching out to Police dept and public for volunteers to assist in the event. Lt. Palmer agreed to cook the food for the event and he is going to check with Community Affairs to see if they could assist with volunteers and use of their grill equipment. We have one more Animal Control Board Meeting before the event takes place to get everything finalized.
- Citizen questions and comments were next, Kimberly Kirby asked a few different questions concerning customers coming into Animal Control to look for missing pets. She was advised that a daily inventory (with photos)

was printed out each morning after being updated which included all of the animals at our facility. We allow people to look at this list at the front counter to assist in locating their pet or seeing if there is anything there that someone may be interested in adopting before allowing each person to walk around in the back. She was assured that if someone is missing a pet, they are allowed to be escorted back to look for their pet after they have looked over the list of animals in the shelter. Mrs. Kirby then expressed her frustration over a nursing female dog that came into the shelter without her pups. She wanted to know why Animal Control was not going out to the area where the dog was picked up and posting flyers in an attempt to locate the owner or puppies. Ofc. T. Phillips advised at this time that efforts are made, but due to personnel shortages they just do not have enough time to go out to every location where a mother dog is picked up to follow up. Mrs. Kirby was advised that due to personnel shortage, the road officers are lucky if they are able to get to every call dispatched by Radio, much less follow up on dog traps and cruelty rechecks. She was assured that the road officers follow up on as many of these types of calls as time/man power allows. Mrs. Kirby was advised that the additional duties the road officers have to do at the shelter now, which include taking and printing out photos, and giving vaccines at the time of intake on each animals' takes time away from the road time also. Mrs. Kirby offered to assist in locating dogs with pups in question by posting flyers but there would be an issue of giving out resident's address which would be a violation of policy. Mrs. Kirby was advised that every effort within reason is made to conduct follow ups. At this time Lt. Palmer did advised that Animal Control had just hired 1 new officer that starts on Monday September 14th. With this being said, we are hoping it will give some relief to the stress of the call volume for the road officers.

- There were no questions or comments from the Board Members.
- Paige Turner then advised that the next meeting was scheduled for October 13th @ 7:00pm in the Community Room at the Clayton County Police Dept. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.