



March 14, 2023

Animal Control Board Members:

Barbara McKenzie
Myla Chapman
Kristi Thomas
Gloria McCain
Becky Sheffield

Clayton County Police Department:

Major Schindler
Captain Turnipseed
Tiffany Phillips
Deputy Chief O'Shields
Staff Vet M. Chastain

Public

Mati Santiago
Amy Albrecht
Aumiyah High
Lisa Fleming
Beth Green
Krisie Dry

Linda Ingram
Kimberly Kirby
Maria Dorough, PFP
Karen Kelley
Cindy Anderson
Bianca Velasco

Judith Davis
Kerri McLane
Robin Rawls
Carey Housen
Wendy McMahan

- The above was in attendance for the Animal Control Board Meeting on March 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Clayton County IT employee spoke to a few rule reminders for today's meeting. The meeting is being streamed via Zoom. Speakers are to speak into the microphone at front of room and should address the board members and not each other. Also, comments must remain respectful of everyone here and are limited to 3 minutes per person with two questions per topic.
- The meeting was called to order by Barbara McKenzie and the board approved the agenda for the meeting. The minutes of the December 13, 2022, meeting were approved.
- The first speaker was from Captain Turnipseed with statistics for 2023 YTD and 2022 Year End.

TOTAL	Intake PY 2022	YTD 2023	Adopted PY 2022	YTD 2023	Rescue PY 2022	YTD 2023	Reclaim PY 2022	YTD 2023	Euthanized PY 2022	YTD 2023
All	3206	449	691	106	1573	225	491	63	384*	56**
Dogs	2678	396	582	89	1235	198	483	63	330	51
Cats	482	52	92	17	329	26	6	0	40	5
Other	34	1	19	0	12	1	2	0	0	0

**Of the 384 animals euthanized in 2022, 257 were in shelter euthanizations and 127 were from road where officer responded to injured animal.*

***Of the 56 animals euthanized YTD in 2023, 19 were in shelter euthanizations and 37 were from road where officer responded to injured animal.*

- Old Business

Board member Gloria McCain asked about the status of credit card machines for animal control facilities.

Captain Turnipseed indicated that a request has been made and it would be beneficial if the board members would send an email to the Commissioners confirming this need.

Becky Sheffield asked if we will be getting more complete rescue names going forward of rescues that pull animals from CCAC. She mentioned that YE 2022 1573 animals were pulled by rescues, yet only 530 of those went to disclosed rescues. This leaves over 900 animals with no public disclosure of where they went. She acknowledged that the board only started asking for this information at the September 2022 meeting and assumes that all will be accounted for going forward. This was confirmed by Captain Turnipseed.

- New Business

Barbara McKenzie asked that Captain Turnipseed confirm the total number of runs/kennels available at both locations.

They are as follows: Jonesboro facility has 72 runs total. (This number includes 6 isolation runs, and 17 bite/aggressive runs. This means only 49 regular runs in Jonesboro.

Ellenwood Adoption Center has 40 regular runs with the remainder of the runs reserved for medical and isolation.

Gloria McCain asked about current staffing levels. Captain Turnipseed indicated that there are still extremely short staffed with 6 open ACO positions, 2 open kennel tech positions, and a detective position available. This leaves 5 officers to operate all of Clayton County including 2 or 3 on the road to cover the entire county. "Unfortunately, this is not exclusive to Clayton County" she stated. "Many other animal control facilities are having difficulty with staffing."

- The floor was opened for public discussion.

- The first member of the public was Mati Santiago. She stated that the organization that currently pulls dogs/raises funds is getting ready to leave and what plans the board has made to replace them. She is concerned that the euthanasia rate will greatly increase without the help of Partners. She also asked why with such low staffing volunteers are still not allowed to assist.

Captain Turnipseed indicated that CCAC would reach out to other rescues should Partners leave CCAC. And regarding volunteers, inmate workers are used so volunteers are not allowed.

- Kimberly Kirby, a Clayton County resident spoke next. Her first concern was that she has been blocked from CCAC and requested to be unblocked, however she still cannot see the site to share the dogs. She stated that other people have been blocked from CCAC Facebook page as well.

Captain Turnipseed clarified that Ms Kirby is not blocked, and the issue was with Petconnect. This has been checked and she should have full access now. She also asked what has been done to find out where the dogs that went to Dogs Rock went and if CCAC is following up on this.

Captain Turnipseed indicated that CCAC has begun microchipping every animal leaving the shelter to assist in tracking animals in the future. Heard County has been provided with information and pictures of all dogs that went to Dogs Rock Rescue.

Ms Kirby asked if the outcome of the investigation would be posted on Facebook by CCAC. Captain Turnipseed indicated that it is still an open investigation and posting would be by Heard County not Clayton County.

- Amy Albrecht, founder of TLC Pet Rescue. She is concerned about the fee for the microchips for rescues and the fact that payment must be in cash or Cash App which adds a \$4.00 fee to the \$20.00 microchip. She feels that good rescues are being run off by these procedures.

Captain Turnipseed said this is being addressed with the much-needed credit card machine which has been requested from the Commissioners. Also, now utilizing other apps to assist with making payments.

- Maria Dorough, Partners for Pets spoke next. She indicated that the list of 20 urgent dogs per week has worked well in the past, however last week 4 dogs were euthanized due to an apparent communication gap. Funds were raised for these dogs and rescue was being coordinated. She indicated that by the time the hold was put in, she found out they had been euthanized. She asked why the dogs can't be held over until Monday or Saturday, especially when the list is down to just 4 dogs.

Her second point was to request that the list be cut back sometimes as it is a tremendous amount of work to find rescue placement for 20 dogs per week.

Captain Turnipseed replied that the work of Partners and advocates are appreciated for all they do. Unfortunately, CCAC does not have the option of limiting the intake of dogs, so space is always a priority.

Maria Dorough asked why there were empty kennels when the transporter was there. Captain Turnipseed responded that there always must be some empty kennels when we bring in anywhere from 6 to 20 dogs a day, we must have place to put them.

Maria Dorough asked, "So you would prefer to lose our services helping you than to work with us?" Captain Turnipseed replied that she must keep some kennels open.

Gloria McCain called for point of order to bring the meeting back to order and to remind everyone to be respectful of the 3-minute limit and to allow other parties a chance to answer without interruption.

Maria Dorough said she would like to recognize that the vet and Tiffany Phillips are great to work with and have let Partners know in the past if a dog is planned for euthanasia to give them time to get the dog out. We do not blame the vet because ultimately, she reports to the captain, and she has no choice but to do what the captain says. And Tiffany Phillips has been marvelous to help, in fact we think she could run the shelter.

Gloria McCain again called point of order to bring the meeting back to order and "that innuendo and accusations are not fair".

Maria Dorough directed comment to Gloria McCain "If you want Partners to go, we are willing to go. We already have two other shelters that have asked for our help. Let's see you get the dogs out every week. I hope you do." Applause from the public.

- Beth Green, a Clayton County resident spoke next. She said she wanted to speak for the souls that were lost. "These dogs were fully funded and had rescue interest, on the verge of being saved and they were simply trying to find foster homes to save more lives." She feels that the volunteers who give their lives to save the animals are being undermined by the leader of this shelter. Speaking of one dog, Pearl, who was euthanized earlier this year. "Pearl was killed under very nefarious circumstances. No one has been able to provide answers. These 4 dogs were needlessly killed and the buck stops right there." Gloria McCain asked what do you mean that they were on the verge of being saved?

Beth Green replied: All we were waiting for was securing fosters. We had rescues ready to take them; we had fully funded dogs.

Gloria McCain asked for clarification of time. How long were you waiting for a response in order to get the dogs?

Beth Green: "for all intents and purposes these dogs were on the brink of being rescued. There was space; there were open runs. These dogs did not have to die." "What we are asking for is that the volunteers who work tirelessly (for these dogs) be given the benefit of the doubt before more lives are lost."

Board member Becky Sheffield asked about the circumstances of Pearl's death. CCAC Staff Vet M Chastain said that Pearl came in with an injured pelvis and leg. The x-ray machine was inoperable at that time. CCAC requested immediate medical rescue for her. "By the week, she was much worse, and I euthanized

her.” She had funds, but no rescue had placed a hold on her. I took an oath to not let animals suffer.

Beth Green: “She had rescue. She had rescue. She had rescue.”

Gloria McCain: We have responded to your concerns. Move on.

- Kerry McLane spoke next as a foster of a dog that came from the Ellenwood shelter. She stated that the medical records show the dog as being in the shelter for 12 days. She had 3 holes in her body, and one had a bone sticking out. She is also concerned about the kennel cough and why dogs are so sick coming from the shelter with inmates spraying them with chemicals and water. Also, mentioned was to consider the possibility of returning to previous spay/neuter requirement where the adopter must get the animal spayed within 30 days of adoption so that dogs are not taking up kennel space waiting on spay/neuter.

Staff Vet M Chastain responded that this is a bacterium causing the kennel cough and is tough to control in an overpopulated environment. She stated that she consults with UGA Vet school colleague on this and has been made aware that when a population reaches a certain % it will happen. Most animals come in with it, and normally not a problem, but the stress and crowding of a shelter increase the likelihood of Kennel cough infection rises with humidity rates as well. And in the Jonesboro shelter, there are basically 66 dogs in one room as the kennel partitions do not go to the ceiling.

On the dog with 3 holes and bone sticking out, she indicated that “it was gone before I saw it”. “The staff saw it, but I did not get a chance.”

Kerry McLane responded that “Dogs are not its, dogs are not its.”

Gloria McLain: Ma’am please. You don’t have to answer that. (Directed at Staff Vet.)

Kerry McLane asked for an answer on the suggestion to let animals be adopted prior to spay neuter (owner must spay neuter withing 30 days).

Staff Vet indicated that she is caught up on spay and neuter surgeries now that she has a 2nd vet tech. There is no delay currently.

- Lisa Fleming was the next speaker and formerly owned a boarding facility that provided boarding for dogs leaving CCAC and worked many years helping animals. She stated that it breaks her heart to see healthy, young, vibrant 9 month to 2-year-old dogs put to sleep. “You have rescuers staying up till 4 am trying to find rescue and homes for them. We have resources and volunteers willing to help, and we need to partner with and let them help save these animals.”
- Karen Kelly asked if Clayton County had ever considered mandatory spay and neuter laws. Also, she felt that more county sponsored spay/neuter accessibility would help. Not just reduced priced, but an actual voucher that allows free spay/neuter.
Ms Kelly added that free spay/neuter would be less costly to the taxpayers rather than housing them in shelters later. She is aware of some organizations who do

help with costs but would like to see the county provide some assistance with this.

Barbara McKenzie replied that we have started working on mandatory spay and neuter and have had one meeting with Maria who was making edits and we would take it to the commissioners. Also, No More Puppies Georgia will provide free spay neuter to certain breeds in Clayton County. Becky Sheffield added that we have discussed and begun work on this issue. The actual enforcement of it and legal details are something that still need to be worked out.

Captain Turnipseed commented that within Clayton County there are several city jurisdictions that have their own city codes. Any spay/neuter regulations must be able to align with the city code.

Unintelligible speaking from public.

Gloria McCain called for point of order. And reminded the speakers to not speak out of turn and be respectful.

- Judith Davis spoke next as a Clayton County resident and animal lover. She has worked with CCAC since Captain Thuman. She indicated that she would like to see public funds and services allocated for spay and neuter. Also, she feels that there is a need for an Inmate Training program with dogs.
Captain Turnipseed replied that she had spoken with former Sheriff Victor Hill about a jail dog program. With a future jail expansion there is a possibility of this program happening. Currently with the inmate overcrowding, it would not be feasible. This type of program requires one dog and one inmate per cell.
- Bianca Velasco said that prison labor is unethical and deplorable, and volunteers would be better since they have a vested interest in animals. She feels that prison labor is not necessary.
Captain Turnipseed responded that we have no guarantee that volunteers would be here all day consistently and do the job that is needed.
- Cindy Anderson was the next speaker. She is a Cherokee county resident but works to share and post CCAC dogs. She would like to see local vets and vet techs volunteer their time to do free spay/neuter clinics to help with overpopulation. She is also concerned with the lack of enforcement of backyard breeders and that animals going to a vet should be automatically sterilized.

Captain Turnipseed said that she and the staff vet have made a future goal of a vaccine and microchip clinic for the county. Microchips greatly improve animals being returned to owner in the field and not having to be brought into the facility. As far as automatic sterilization, that is a problem because in the state of Georgia, animals are property. Until it is brought into ordinance, it cannot be done.

Cindy Anderson replied, "Wouldn't that be where you start?"

Gloria McCain mentioned that we have started work on spay/neuter and the board had a work session with Captain Turnipseed, Maria Dorough, and members of the public. To date, the edits have not been received by the board. Maria Dorough replied that she was not able to make the edits as she has been busy working on the weekly urgent list of 20 dogs.

Unintelligible comments from the public.

Gloria McCain called point of order. "We are trying to have a meeting. We can't hear. This is being recorded. Please be mindful and respectful. She has to record the minutes, what I say, what you say, what each and every one of us says. Everyone wants to be heard. That is only fair and respectful. We are here to work together. We have a time frame, and we are trying to give everyone an opportunity to speak."

- Kate Lowery said that she would like to thank the board, CCAC staff, fosters and rescues for all they do. She went on to say, "Our fight is not with each other, its with the people of Clayton County (who don't take care of their animals). Rescues and advocates are always willing to help." She summarized that she was glad to see so many people at this meeting but is heartbroken at the disrespect directed at administration.
- Carey Housen was concerned that she found a blind, deaf small dog and when she tried to turn it into the Jonesboro shelter location, it was closed due to a parvo shutdown and CCAC had no suggestion of what should be done with the dog. She asked for clarification of the shutdown, if it was voluntary, and why both shelters were shut down for weeks at the expense of animals in Clayton County that needed the services of CCAC.
Captain Turnipseed replied that it was voluntary, but that it would have been mandatory based on DOA guidelines as it had spread in house/within the shelter. Also, animals had been transported from one shelter to the other, thus exposing all the animals in both shelters.
CCAC Staff Vet added that 11 or 12 dogs tested positive after starting with 4 positive dogs originally. The Jonesboro facility is one large room and parvo can be spread quickly there. Only 2 or 3 dogs were euthanized due to this. She also confirmed that she conferred with DOA and state vets on the closure. She was instructed that if CCAC did not voluntarily close, they would require them to close.
Ms. Housen also mentioned an area of Clayton County that has stray animals everywhere. This is Tara Mobile Home Park. Residents have complained that they cannot call CCAC for an animal to be picked up. She asked that we address these pockets of the county.
Captain Turnipseed replied that this is private property and management would be required to call CCAC and have the animal contained. There was a trap issued to them and they have lost it, we will not issue another trap to them until this one has been paid for.
- Linda Ingraham mentioned that she has been working and transporting animals from CCAC and with Partners since 2012 and through many leaders at CCAC. She feels that animal control is not the ones to talk to and that concerns for the animals should be addressed to the Commissioners on Smith Street. She concluded that she is tired of people "fussing" at the captain and staff.
- Maria Dorough asked to revisit the topic of the spay and neuter meeting. She indicated that during meeting proposals had been previously approved by staff attorney and previous Captains. There were more edits than she expected, and

her priority is getting the 20 dogs out per week that are on the urgent list. She indicated that she would get a draft to the board.

Jodi Turnipseed mentioned that some of the policies have changed since the draft mentioned. Police policy will have to be updated through Clayton County PD (Captain Turnipseed responsibility) and county ordinance that need to be changed need to be sent to the Commissioners (Board responsibility). Staff Attorney, India Keefover, explained that it is a multi-step process of providing a text amendment, then legislative request, review, and finally onto agenda for approval.

- Comment from Barbara McKenzie: This concluded the business for today's meeting. The next meeting date will be June 13, 2023.
- Meeting Adjourned

Capt. J. Turnipseed _____ Date _____
Animal Control Commander

Major S. Schindler _____ Date _____
Animal Control Commander