

6/7/2023 Advisory Board Meeting Notes, 2nd Meeting of the Year.

In Attendance are board members Lisa McDonnell, Carla Stoner, Courtney Mioni, and Steps Seger, as well as Dyanna Uchick and Gudrun Claydon.

Shelter Staff in attendance: Jessica Wilde, Meghan Conti, and Theresa Canape

University of Florida Dr. Mazano and Alice Burton, Shelter Assessment: Team Shelter USA is part of Maddy's Million Pet Challenge, and something that UF works with to increase access to veterinary care. Recommendation based on national recommendations and standard of care. Report is based on recommendations from her playbook of best practices. Challenges of shelters are standard across the U.S. Solutions are universal. Summary report sent to DC Hatfield and Captain Fox. Recently met with Captain Fox. Reviewed process of how they evaluate shelters. Goals are to exhaust all options for intake for pets with no alternative, manage the population, and then operate as efficiently as possible to limit length of stay. Allows enforcement to focus on animal and public safety. Proactively help people keep or place their pets. Industry is moving away from trigger of shelter intake. Make it more community based. We don't need more shelter space; it's about using it more widely. Remove barriers to positive outcomes. Reserve euthanasia for the worst cases. Want to meet with Chief Neudigate and DC Hatfield to discuss solutions. Consult is pro-bono. Want VBASB to meet with other groups that have used their recommendations to see result. Alice Burton shared contact information in case there are questions or if VBASB need assistance. Met with different leaders, field team, kennel staff, went to pathways meetings, etc. Spent three days onsite. Certain issues are a result of foundational issues, but they can be fixed. Next advisory meeting should provide results of the recommendations and how the shelter is implementing them. Other local shelters are looking forward to the results of the assessment. Request for email updates regarding assessment prior to the next advisory meeting. It is mentioned that one reason that VBACAC is behind the curve because it is under the umbrella of the police department, which can lead to certain obstacles that other shelters may not face. Assessment was funded through the grant process.

Staffing: Biggest concern is staffing. Operating hours to change due to staffing but may help with adoptions. Volunteerism is growing post-covid and will hopefully be the cushion for staffing. Request for pre, during, and post covid volunteer numbers. A complaint mentioned regarding a polygrapher and their demeanor. Volunteers don't get polygraphed. The Volunteer pipeline is much faster and more streamlined than before. Two applicants pending employment. Open req for Admin assistant. Four open recs for ACOS, and others are on light duty, pending retirement, in training, etc. ACO hiring process is really long. Most recent was interviewed in October and didn't start until June. March applicants haven't been hired yet. Request to advisory board to spread the word about open reqs to increase hiring pool. Request regarding when last raises were, it was recognized as a sensitive topic and unanswered.

AC Statistics: January through date of Advisory Board Meeting, 7,292 calls for service. 145 animal cruelty, 497 bites, 886 animal sickness (wild or domestic), 1,428 dog strays, 356 cat strays. These stats include the whole city. There is a breakdown by precinct. New commonwealth attorney is more passionate about Animal Control cases, which has helped convict criminals on felony investigations. Six felony cases this year, three resulted in convictions, the rest are still pending.

Events/Misc.: Next week is the next Rabies and Microchip clinic, Wednesday 10am-1pm. These happen quarterly. Last event was very successful. Owners just need to bring their pet. If they have a previous rabies vaccine, please bring info so they can potentially get a 3-year vaccine instead of a 1-year. SPCA has clinics much more often and offer discounted services. Long lines can cause visitors to be frustrated with

long waits, but there are virtual queues that can be implemented. Currently posted on website and social media so people know when these clinic events occur.

Comments on advisory board rallying community support and that it can be much more than it was previously. Current members are much more committed and invested.

(Most of this is difficult to hear/make out) Questions regarding tourist area. Information provided to hotels and restaurants, but it is up to them to distribute that information to their patrons. Someone mentioned poop bag stations and laws regarding carrying poop bags.

Question regarding city geese and duck crossing signs.

Pet pantry to help pets to keep from being surrendered due to mitigating income issues with owners. Plan is to build on promoting other options, like low-cost vet care.

End of meeting.