



CITY OF NORMAN, OK ANIMAL WELFARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Animal Welfare Center, 3428 South Jenkins Ave, Conference Room,
Norman, OK 73072

Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, retaliation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Co-Chairperson Mark Howery

Co-Chairperson Rebecca Bean

Committee Member Kim Fairbanks

Committee Member Kristy Wicker

Committee Member Dr. Rod Hall

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH MINUTES

Dr. Rod Hall made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Kim Fairbanks seconded. The motion passed.

MONTHLY STATISTICS AND UPDATES

Ashley Battiest provided an overview for the three months of statistics. March had 263 animals come in to the shelter. That same month 231 were adopted, reclaimed by owners, or sent to rescue.

The shelter had a 95.7% live release rate in March and sent 40 animals out to foster. The total shelter numbers were up compared to last year in March, but animals were still flowing through to adoption.

All staff are now trained to microchip pets, and during the reclaim process staff are encouraging microchipping and waiving reclaim fees if owners are choosing to microchip their pets at that time.

April had 269 animals come in and 171 live released. There were 71 animals in foster that month. We had a large number of puppies and kittens come into the shelter in April. Some of those puppy numbers were

87.2% live release rate in April, Ashley Battiest spoke about some of the specific cases related to the live release rate during this month.

April 24th was the date that OKC animal shelter shut down to the public. Ashley Battiest spoke about how that affected the shelter's intake numbers, and the rise in requests from outside of Norman jurisdiction.

In May 306 animals came in and 248 released including the 58 NAW sent on the Dog is my Copilot transport. The shelter had a 89.5% live release rate in May and 117 animals in foster during the month.

Currently 253 animals in our care and 88 in foster. June's numbers will only be higher.

Rebecca Bean asked if it would be fair to say that Norman was euthanizing for space. Ashley Battiest said that it was definitely part of the decision with several of the dogs. Those that were listed in statistics as euthanized for "behavior –other" were dogs that the shelter might not have had to euthanize in the past when dogs were being adopted more quickly and there was still kennel space. Not getting along with other dogs, being food aggressive, or deteriorating behavior in the kennel in addition to not being able to get them into a foster home or rescue and being out of kennel space were reasons that some dogs were euthanized in March, April, and May.

There was a discussion about the adoption events that had been held during the previous months. Norman Animal Welfare has been participating in the monthly Twilight Market, held at the Well in Norman once a month. Those events have been successful in getting dogs adopted out and seen by the public.

Kristy Wicker asked about the growing owner surrender list. Ashley Battiest spoke about continually having to add to the owner surrender list, and specifically that only in the last few months have staff had to add cats to the list for space reasons. We took in 26 dogs in April and 17 in May even though the shelter was beyond full. Staff are giving owners resources, and owners are being told that it is a lengthy wait.

Dr. Tyler spoke about the canine influenza development in the OKC shelter. There was a discussion about the surrounding metro shelters that have closed to the public. It is a virus that is very hard to isolate in a shelter setting. Norman Animal Welfare's plan is to quarantine and test any suspected cases that come through the door.

Kellee Robertson did say that staff have had discussions regarding closing to the public and having the animal welfare officers respond to those at large dogs similar to the protocol during the Covid-19 shut down. It is not something that the shelter is currently doing.

Dr. Tyler spoke about the spay/neuter outreach that has been done through the shelter. It began in January after shelter staff responded to parvo outbreaks in the puppies that were

owned by people in the unhoused community. Working with Norman Caravans to bring owned animals in to be spayed/neutered at no cost. Russel Rice with Norman Caravans has the owners fill out paperwork in the field and then he brings the animals in, and after surgery picks them up and takes them back to their owners. Dr. Tyler and shelter staff have done two vaccination clinics in the area, as well as worked through St. Francis. When it is done through Norman Animal Welfare, we have the vaccination records on file. Dr. Tyler has also been working with Best Friend of Pets to help with some of those spay/neuters.

Dr. Rod Hall spoke about the OVMA fund that is available for spay/neuter programs.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Summary of Hands Helping Paws' Spay/Neuter & Vaccination Clinic at Animal Welfare Expo

Kim Fairbanks spoke about the Animal Expo held in March. Total animals helped in the community 219 with 102 vaccinations and 117 spay/neuters. She had 54 volunteers helping with the event. She asked the committee if next year's Animal Expo on March 23 should focus on spay/neuter and spoke about some of the smaller spay/neuter events that are already being planned for later this year.

2. Summary of Dog is My Co-Pilot Flight May 16th, 2023

Kellee Robertson spoke about the first flight transport this year. Dog is My Copilot found us a receiving shelter in Oregon called Street Dog Hero, and Kellee found three additional receiving partners for the flight. She spoke about the process, and that the receiving shelters are foster based so they are tagging dogs that they are finding fosters for on their end. Norman Animal Welfare sent out 58 dogs for the May flight. The next flight is scheduled for July 19; there is a third in September and a fourth flight in October.

3. Facility Study for NAWC - Estimated Timeline and Status

Major Brent Barbour spoke about the RFP (request for proposals) for a study on the emergency services departments. The study would be focusing on current staffing levels, organizational effectiveness, personnel allocation, equipment, technology, spending, and potential areas for improvement. The study would consider future developments within the city and the need for additional service. The goal is to begin the study in the fall of this year, and that the study would take about a year to complete.

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Kristy Wicker suggested talking about the relationship between Wildcare and Norman Animal Welfare and having a speaker from Wildcare come to speak as a future agenda item.

There was a discussion about updating a few of our animal ordinances as a future topic of discussion.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

There was a discussion about making sure the Volunteer of the Year Nomination press release would go out in July, then a vote could happen in the September meeting.

The committee also briefly discussed changing the September meeting date to the second Monday so that the meeting is not on the same date as the September transport flight.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Rod Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:56PM, Kim Fairbanks seconded. The motion passed.

Mark D'Howery
Committee Co-Chair