



# CITY OF NORMAN, OK ANIMAL WELFARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM

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## 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-Chairman Mark Howery  
Committee member Kim Fairbanks  
Committee member Kristy Wicker  
Committee member Dr. Rod Hall

### APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY MINUTES

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

### MONTHLY STATISTICS AND UPDATES

- Current Shelter Capacity
- Recent Personnel Changes
- Update on the Request for Donation Account Funds for Spay/Neuter Clinic

Ashley Battiest discussed the January and February statistics for the shelter. February's adoptions, reclaims, and rescues totaled 174 animals, more than the 163 animals that came in that month. This allowed for some breathing room in the shelter and kept us from being over capacity during February. Shelter staff focused on bringing in owner surrender cats, and currently there are no owners waiting to bring in cats. There are still 112 dogs waiting to be owner surrendered to the shelter. There has been a push to network dogs waiting to be surrendered to the shelter with local rescues, in an effort to find them placement faster. January had a 91% live release rate, and February's rate was 91.1%.

Kellee Robertson spoke about the new Animal Welfare Tech hire who had started a few weeks ago. Her name is Kacey Braley, and she is doing great. The Adoption Coordinator position had been interviewed for, and we are waiting on HR to determine which candidate is going forward.

Kellee mentioned that the day after the tornado had come through Norman, the shelter took in 17 stray animals, so staff made an additional social media post to try to find owners for those affected by the tornado damage.

Kellee said that she didn't get any questions about the request to use donation funds for the Spay/Neuter Clinic, and there were no issues receiving that money.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Hands Helping Paws' Animal Welfare Expo, March 25, 2023**

Update on the planning, schedule, and volunteer or funding needs for the Animal Welfare Expo and Spay/Neuter clinic.

Kim Fairbanks gave a presentation on the upcoming Spay/Neuter Clinic. She gave a detailed schedule for the event, and the numbers of surgeries and vaccination clients she anticipated for the day. She discussed the budget for the event. Nearly \$50,000 was spent in preparation for the Spay/Neuter Clinic. For future events she would like to focus on targeted areas in Norman and make contact in person for educational purposes.

### **2. Animal Welfare Volunteerism Award**

Timing of news release and solicitation of nominations.

Recognition for the award is usually in September, and Mark wanted to make sure the discussion was started on when we need to solicit nominees. Jeanne Snider said there needs to be a couple months of lead time between promoting nominations and the council meeting. There was a general discussion on wanting to promote the Volunteer Award more through social media as we get closer to summer.

### **3. Norman City Pet Licenses**

There was a discussion about removing the ordinance requirement for Norman citizens to license their pets in the future. Shelter staff have encouraged microchipping on reclaimed animals and low-cost microchipping for citizens. Revenue from city pet licenses are not high, and regardless staff don't see animals being reunited with owners through city pet licenses. There was a discussion about the antiquated system of city pet licenses. Kim Fairbanks spoke about private veterinarians' frustration with licenses. Dr. Tyler spoke about an alternative pet tag that could be kept updated by the owner. There will be follow-up conversations about this subject.

## **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Topics for next meeting: A follow-up discussion about sunseting pet licenses, and a follow-up on the Volunteerism Award.

## **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

Kathleen Estes spoke about her volunteer experience from last year.

Kim Fairbanks commented on a couple of bear sightings (mother with cubs) near Thunderbird, and asked if staff would follow up with Dr. Carter about the BAM darts.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Rod Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:30 PM. Kim Fairbanks seconded. The motion passed.

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June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 X Mark D. Hawley

X RLM