

Abilene Animal Control Advisory Committee

May 11, 2000

The Abilene Animal Control Advisory Committee held its first yearly meeting, May 11, 2000, at the Community Services Conference room.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. by the Chairman, Dr. Jack Callan.

Members present were Dr. Jack Callan, Charlotte Roy, Dottie Scott, and Leah Herron. Also present Heather Randolph, and Tony Neitzler.

The minutes of the January 6, 2000, meeting were approved as mailed.

The first item on the agenda was the Superintendents report. Ms. Roy reported an increase in adoptions of 36%, giving Rescue the Animals credit due the media exposure they create. She also reported that the cremation program is still strong, with cremations scheduled for almost every weekend. The number of animals impounded has decreased totaling 40 less than last year at this time and owner reclamations are also down. Ms. Roy stated that all of our other programs are following approximately the same line as last year. Mr. Neitzler asked how the complaint call response times were this year compared to last, Charlotte stated that the times were actually up but contributes this to the increase of public education in the field.

Second on the agenda was an update on Animal Control Divisions progress to certify euthanasia technicians. Ms. Roy informed the Committee that she will be able to send four employees this fiscal year. She also stated that we sent two last year and will be able to send two next year. There was some discussion regarding where to obtain certification and it was learned that through the Texas Animal Control Association certification can be obtained by attending a course from a veterinarian in Denton, TX. Dottie Scott asked if becoming certified makes the officers feel more professional, Charlotte answered by stating that this certification makes the officers feel better about what they have to do. She also added, "after a while the stress starts to wear on you".

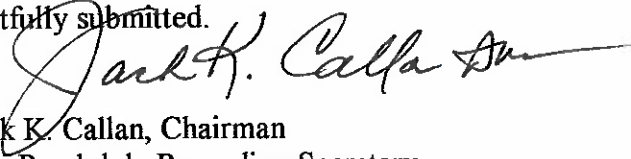
Third, Ms. Roy presented information on additions to the budget. She expressed genuine appreciation to Mike Hall and Tony Neitzler for their support. The additions were then discussed in detail including: painting the inside of the shelter, purchasing two additional hand-held radios in order to equip all the officers, covering the receiving area with an awning to protect the officers and the citizens from the weather when unloading animals, and installing a vestibule in the front office entrance for wind protection. The proposed budget amount totaled \$499,740.00. Mr. Neitzler commented that city council will not finalize the budget till August and also stated that technology requests are also being submitted to boost the computer system.

Finally, Ms. Roy presented information about the National Adopt-A-Thon, "Saturday on South 25th Street". The division has been in participation with North Shore Animal

League since the conception. This was the first year to have other activities in conjunction with the adopt-a-thon. There were vendors, exhibitors, games, and contests including a Homecoming King and Queen. In a total of five hours 60 animals were adopted despite the 106-degree record breaking heat. If KEAN would have been able to be present, Ms. Roy stated that she believes we could have adopted more. She also added, "there were only four puppies left after Saturday". Charlotte closed by saying that she is already planning and looking forward to next year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.



Dr. Jack K. Callan, Chairman
Heather Randolph, Recording Secretary

Date minutes approved: 8-31-00