

Abilene Animal Control Advisory Committee

November 15, 2001

The Abilene Animal Control Advisory Committee held its second yearly meeting, November 15, 2001, at the Community Services Conference room.

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

Members present were Dr. Jack Callan, Charlotte Roy, Dottie Scott, Megan Santee, and Leah Herron. Also present Heather Randolph, Melissa O'Neill and Tony Neitzler.

The minutes of the May 3, 2000, meeting were approved as mailed.

Discussion on amendment to City Code Chapter 6, Article VI was the first item on the agenda. Tony Neitzler, Assistant Director of Community Services presented information on these amendments. It was stated that the recent increase in animal to animal attacks has caused an increase in concern. In regards to dog to person attacks the state gives regulation, the bite and attack is investigated and then brought before review to consider all the factors. The team (consisting of Mike Hall, Director of Community Services, Tony Neitzler, Assistant Director of Community Services, and Charlotte Roy, Animal Control Superintendent) then makes a determination and the owner of the dog is notified. State law then goes into effect if the dog is deemed dangerous. Mr. Neitzler commented, "Most times when an owner finds out the requirements for owning a dog that has been deemed dangerous, they surrender the animal for destruction." If the owner does not comply, the city can obtain a court order to require the owner to surrender the animal. Tony then made the recommendation to enter State Code into City Code in order make necessary changes and amendment to the new item regarding dangerous dogs and animal to animal attacks. Dr. Callan asked if most people obtain the necessary insurance? Tony answered stating that most do not, only a couple of people in the past have. Dr. Callan then asked if we are notified if the insurance lapses? Tony answered no, but periodic checks are made. Dr. Callan called the motion, Dottie Scott moved for the motion, Leah Herron second. All in favor, no opposed.

The Superintendents report was the second item on the agenda, beginning with information on the 2001 Annual Adopt-A-Thon. Named Cinco De Dog Meow, the Annual Adopt-A-Thon, held on May 5th, was very busy. Despite all the rain we had a very good turn out. The shelter adopted 18 dogs, 8 cats and Rescue the Animals took 9 animals. Charlotte commented that the staff does a lot of work. The shelter stayed open till 3:00 PM, and we had piñatas for the kids. It was a success. Next Ms. Roy announced that the 2002 TACA Annual Conference would be held in Abilene. Charlotte said "I said the one we hosted in 1997, was the last one that I would do!" This will be a very big conference; lots of vendors and up to 300 people are expected to attend. Then Charlotte told the Board that the last of the Shelter Attendants to get CET has been certified. "It took us two years, but it is the best feeling to have everyone completed", Ms. Roy stated. CET stands for Certified Euthanasia Technician, the state has one Doctor that travels

where needed to teach the 2 & ½ day course that touches on the mechanical and psychological aspects of euthanasia. Charlotte closed with a thank you to the City for providing funding and allowing Animal Control to attend these necessary classes.

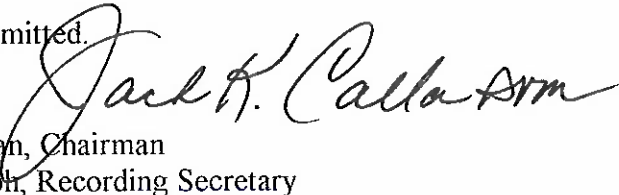
The third item to be presented was information on the city license tag increase. Charlotte stated that an extensive survey of cities comparable to the size of Abilene was completed and it was learned that some cities charge upward of \$25.00 for a city tag. Starting October 1, 2001, the cost for a city license tag in Abilene increased from \$7.00 to \$8.00.

The fourth item was to introduce the new Animal Control Legal Advisor, although a new advisor has not yet been appointed. Currently any legal questions, concerns, or problems should still be directed though Megan Santee.

The last item presented was information on Christmas for Animals. This is the 17th year for the pairing between the Taylor Jones Humane Society and the Animal Shelter. Charlotte reminisced that 200 animals were released in one day the first year. Christmas for Animals will be held from December 10th through December 21st. Cost to adopt a cat will be \$35.00, and a dog will be \$45.00. This price will include altering, rabies shots, and city tags.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date minutes approved: 4/25/02