

Abilene Animal Services Advisory Committee

January 15, 2004

The Abilene Animal Control Advisory Committee held its first yearly meeting, January 015, 2004, at the Community Services Conference room.

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

All members were present: Dr. Jack Callan, Charlotte Roy, Tony Neitzler; Larry Johnson, Dotty Scott, Leah Herron, Megan Santee and Jo Roberts, Acting Secretary.

The minutes of the April 25, 2002 meeting were approved as mailed.

Rabies Update – Charlotte Roy reported that last year there were eleven positive rabies cases in Taylor County. Five of those were within the city limits of Abilene. So far this year, there has been one positive case in the same area as two from last year (skunks). Two dogs are currently on home quarantine because of exposure to a skunk. Their vaccinations are current. One current case had two dogs exposed to a coyote in their yard. The coyote got away so the dogs are in isolation.

Larry Johnson introduced himself to the board members. He also introduced Dr. Zane Travis, the Health Authority who is also the Rabies Authority.

Larry Johnson presented the March 2003 “Rabies Vaccination Policies” and went over the procedures that were agreed to with local veterinarians after the State law was changed. A letter was sent to all local Veterinarians that included the March 2003 policy.

Each licensed Veterinarian can use their judgement as to administering the rabies vaccine annually or every three years.

Puppies are to receive their first vaccination by 4 months of age and a second vaccination is required within a year of the initial vaccination.

Animal Control will accept a certificate from a licensed Veterinarian that is dated within 3 years of the date that an animal is checked for confirmation of rabies vaccination as proof of current rabies vaccination.

Abilene will continue to require that animals be licensed annually. There will be no immediate changes to the tagging procedures or fees. The date the rabies vaccination will expire is to be noted somewhere on the current licensing form.

There are no changes to other vaccination requirements/recommendations.

Larry Johnson commented that a follow-up meeting would be held with local Veterinarians to determine if this policy is going to be workable or needs adjusting.

Dr. Callan commented that there are going to be problems with people going to one county from another where some require annual vaccinations.

Christmas for Animals – Charlotte Roy commented that this program was handled in conjunction with Taylor/Jones Humane Society and Rescue the Animals during the month of December. When an animal was adopted from the shelter, Abilene waived the adoption fee.

During December, Rescue the Animals sent a \$20.00 rebate check to those who adopted an animal and showed proof they had the animal sterilized.

When someone went to the Humane Society and filled out information with them, they could go to the shelter and adopt any dog for \$45.00 or cat for \$35.00. There were 140 animals adopted during this past December (197 the previous December).

Superintendent's Report – Charlotte Roy presented the statistics for the past fiscal year (10/1/02-9-30-03). There were 14,929 animal (10,881 alive) picked up by Animal Control. Total adoptions were 1,652, down by 200 from the previous year. There were 1,153 owner reclaims. Reported bits were at 218, up from 173 the previous year.

Superintendent's Retirement – Larry Johnson commented that Charlotte Roy would be retiring after being with the City for many years. Charlotte commended the staff at Animal Control and thanked the Board members for their support. Dotty Scott commented that as a citizen of Abilene, she appreciates what Charlotte has done at Animal Control and that she will be greatly missed. Leah Herron commented that Charlotte has always been very gracious when working with the Humane Society. There are also going to miss her. Dr. Callan commented that she is going to be really hard to replace. He's noted the tremendous change that has gone on while she has been there. Tony Neitzler commented on the changes that Charlotte has overseen while at Animal Control. Abilene has a good staff and great improvements have been made.

Larry commented that Charlotte has also been serving as Treasurer for the Texas Animal Control Association (TACA) for the last 10 years.

Larry Johnson invited the members to the retirement party for Charlotte on Wednesday, January 21, from 2-4 p.m. at 918 S. 25th.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.


Dr. Jack K. Callan, Chairman
Jo Roberts, Recording Secretary

Date minutes approved: April 28, 2004