

Abilene Animal Services Advisory Committee

May 5, 2005

The Abilene Animal Control Advisory Committee held its first meeting, April 5, 2005 at the Community Development Conference room.

The Chairman, Dr. Jack Callan, called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M.

Members present were Dr. Jack Callan, Alvin O'Dell, Leah Herron and Thaddeus Iwuji. Also present Lesli Andrew, Carolyn Foster and Christy Frost, recording secretary.

The minutes of the June 10, 2004, meeting were presented. After being reviewed, Ms. Herron made the motion to approve as written, seconded by O'Dell and approved by acclimation. A copy will be sent to Tom Rigsby for reference.

Alvin O'Dell reported that he had been approved by the City Council to be voting member from Animal Services. Mr. O'Dell also introduced Thaddeus Iwuji as the voting member representing the Legal department and reported that Tom Rigsby had been approved to fill the vacant position left by the death of Dottie Scott. Dr. Callan welcomed all and expressed his sorrow in the loss of Dottie Scott.

Alvin O'Dell reported to the board that Animal Services had been realigned from Community Services to Community Enhancement under the direction of Lesli Andrews.

Dr. Callan stated he had enjoyed the several years he had been chairperson, but felt there needed to be a change. After some discussion Ms. Andrews suggested the matter be brought up again after the new board members had been to more meetings and had a better understanding of the position of Chairperson.

Dr. Callan opened the floor to Mr. O'Dell to present a new policy for the enforcement of rabies vaccinations in the city. Mr. O'Dell presented a printed copy of the policy (see attachment #1). There was some discussion on the penalties imposed by the court. Mr. Iwuji and Ms. Foster explained some of the options the Judge had on fines and punishment. Dr. Callan suggested getting the new policy to as much of the media as possible.

Mr. O'Dell then continued with a copy of the handout presented to citizens on the City Ordinances that were effective June 6, 2005 (see attachment #2). Mr. O'Dell stated that the rabies vaccination policy would be included on the other side of this handout. Dr. Callan again stated that these guidelines and ordinances should be publicized as thoroughly as possible.

Mr. O'Dell presented clarification document between Animal Services, Taylor County Sheriff's office and Abilene Police Department in regards to the Estray Act and who is responsible for livestock inside the city limits. (see attachment #3)

Spay/Neuter enforcement progress – Mr. O’Dell reported that since November 2004, 50 citations had been issued for noncompliance with Spay/Neuter requirements. Mr. Iwuji reported that another 25 are being held until media briefing on May 9. There was some discussion on what procedures need to be for people that claim the animals had been stolen, ran away or given away. Ms. Foster suggested an affidavit be signed. There was also some discussion on changing the adoption agreement to a more easily read document with the rabies vaccination and spay/neuter requirements highlighted in a more noticeable manner.


Incinerator – Mr. O’Dell reported that the new incinerator had been installed in December, 2004 and is in operation on a daily basis. The new incinerator allows private cremations to be done on a daily basis in it and permits the old incinerator to be used for shelter animals. The new incinerator was purchased and installed for less than \$20,000.00.

Mr. O’Dell reported operational data for July 2004 through February 2005:

Animals picked up alive –	5,710	
Animals picked up dead -	2,112	
Total animal picked up -	7,822	
Destroyed at Shelter -	4,003	comparison YTD 2004 3473
Reclaimed by owner -	621	
Adopted -	588	
Bites -	112	Owner animals
	32	Stray
Citations -	120	
Avg. response time -	32	
License issued by Vets -	\$54,322	

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 P.M. with the motion made by Ms. Herron, seconded by Mr. O’Dell and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.


Dr. Jack K. Callan, Chairman
Christy Frost, Recording Secretary

Date minutes approved: 5-9-05

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Dr. Jack K. Callan, Chairman
Christy Frost, Recording Secretary

Date minutes approved: 5-9-05

Rabies Vaccinations Policy
4/29/05

For the purpose of this policy, an "owner" shall mean a person with either control or custody of an animal.

For an owner of animals (dogs and cats) that does not have proof of current rabies vaccinations, the owner may be allowed three business days to comply with the city ordinance Article II, Division I, Section 6-31. Failure to provide verification in writing from a licensed veterinarian by the fourth business day, after having been notified of a violation, will result in the issuance of a citation. The citation may be issued either in person by an Animal Control Officer or via mail. Should the owner decide to release the animal to Abilene Animal Services before the expiration of the three business days, it will become the property of Abilene Animal Services for disposition. Release of the animal does not guarantee that a citation will not be issued.

Additionally, each dog or cat must wear its assigned tag at all times when it is off of its owner's premises in accordance with the city ordinance Article II, Division I, Section 6-51. Failure to comply with this section will result in the issuance of a citation each time the dog or cat is impounded. Should the owner decide to release the animal to Abilene Animal Services to avoid receiving a citation, it will become the property of Abilene Animal Services for disposition. Release of an animal does not guarantee that a citation will not be issued.

Any person "reclaiming" a released animal has 48 hours to reclaim the animal and will be responsible for all fees relating to the impoundment of the animal, including a rabies vaccination, board, and an impoundment charge. A citation may also be given to the "reclaiming" party based upon the lack of written verification of a rabies vaccination.

(2)

ANIMAL SERVICES/SHERIFF'S OFFICE/APD
COOPERATIVE EFFORTS
INSIDE THE CITY OF ABILENE

1. Any **large animal** inside an enclosure (fenced area) is the responsibility of Animal Services as far as the welfare of the animal is concerned.

(A large animal is defined as any (cloven hoof, including horses) animal that cannot be easily and securely transported by an ACO vehicle.)

- a. If, in the opinion of the investigating ACO, the welfare of the animal is in question, he should contact APD to notify them of a potential cruelty case.
 - b. The ACO should then attempt to locate the animal owner. If he is able to locate the owner, the owner should:
 - 1) take it to a veterinarian immediately;
 - 2) sign a release if he is unwilling to take it to a veterinarian;
 - 3) be made aware that we may obtain a warrant to seize the animal if he is unwilling to take it to a veterinarian;
 - c. If the ACO is unable to locate the owner, he should:
 - 1) obtain a warrant from the JP via an affidavit or ask for APD assistance;
 - a) be specific about the location, description of the animal and number of animals to be seized; (if **there is more than one animal, all may not have to be seized**)
 - 2) make arrangements with SO to utilize their equipment and seize the animal;
 - 3) take the animal directly to a veterinarian; (make arrangements first);
 - 4) if necessary, leave animal with the veterinarian for evaluation;
 - 5) when the animal is released to Animal Services from the veterinarian, contact the SO to check on the boarding of the animal.
2. With any **large animal** that may be off its premises, we will assist as necessary. If the owner is known, we should:
 - a. Attempt to get the animal onto its own premises;
 - b. Contact the SO about the animal being off its premises;
 - c. Make every effort necessary to keep the animal from roaming onto the public right of way and endangering the citizens of Abilene.
 - d. If owner is located, advise SO so they can add contact information into their database for future reference.

3. With any **large animal** that may be **off its premises**, we should assist as necessary. If the **owner is unknown**, we should:

- a. Attempt to contain the animal;
- b. Contact the SO about the animal being off its premises
- c. Make every effort necessary to keep the animal from roaming onto the public right of way and endangering the citizens of Abilene.

4. According to the city ordinance, swine may not be kept within the city limits. We should treat them as livestock and ask the SO for assistance.

(3)

**NEW CITY ORDINANCE PROVISIONS
(SHORT VERSION)
EFFECTIVE—6/05/04**

CARE AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

- A. Animal must have sufficient good and wholesome food and water
- B. Animal must have adequate housing—3 sides, a roof and a floor
- C. Animal must have access to appropriate veterinary care
- D. Do not abuse animal
- E. Do not transport in a inhumane manner
- F. Do not cruelly confine animal
- G. Do not alter animal except as provided by Veterinarian Licensing Act
- H. Do not use steel jaw or leg-hold traps or snares
- I. Do not abandon an animal
- J. Do not instigate or permit fights between animals or animals and humans
- K. Do not leave animal in a parked vehicle in a way that endanger the animal's health
- L. Do not tie or tether animal in an unhealthy situation which include the following
 1. Do not permit access to public right of way
 2. Do not tie or tether to cause injury
 3. Do not tie or tether away from food, water, or shelter
 4. Do not subject animal to attacks by persons, insects or animals
 5. Do not fail to remove waste daily
 6. Do not use choke-type collar or tether
- M. A tether must:
 1. Be at least 10 feet in length
 2. Have swivel ends
 3. Be positioned free from entanglement
 4. Prevent the animal from leaving the owner's property
 5. Be attached to a properly fitted collar or harness
- N. A person must not kill an animal except as allowed by law
- O. Do not expose an animal to any poisonous substance

NOTHING IN THIS DOCUMENT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT ELECTION BY THE ANIMAL SERVICES PROGRAM TO PURSUE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THE OWNER OR OTHER PERSON FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE APPLICABLE ANIMAL CRUELTY PROVISIONS OF THE TEXAS PENAL CODE.

THIS DOCUMENT IS STRICTLY FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE AMMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 6. ANIMAL AND FOWL, ARTICLE I PROVISIONS OF THE ABILENE CITY ORDINANCE. FOR A COMPLETE COPY OF CHAPTER 6, ANIMAL AND FOWL ORDINANCE. YOU MAY GO TO www.abilenetx.com.

MUNICIPALITY AND STATE PENALTIES MAY BE ENFORCED RELATING TO THIS ORDINANCE.