

Abilene Animal Control Advisory Committee

December 8, 2005

The Abilene Animal Control Advisory Committee held a regular meeting on December 8, 2005 in the boardroom of Community Development.

The Chairman, Dr. Jack Callan, called the meeting to order at 3:34 P.M.

Members present were Dr. Jack Callan, Leah Heron, Alvin O'Dell, Tom Rigsby and Thaddeus Iwuji. Also present, Christy Frost, recording secretary.

The minutes of the November 10, 2005 special meeting were approved as mailed.

Dr. Callan opened the floor to Alvin O'Dell to present several year end reports.

Mr. O'Dell reported the following data for the fiscal year 2004-2005: 13,327 animal picked up alive, 4,350 picked up dead, total 17, 857; the shelter destroyed 14,666, 1,230 picked up by their owner, 1,134 were adopted; 14,291 calls for service, 11,284 calls satisfied; average response time 28 minutes, bites totaled 338 and 181 cremations were held.

Mr. O'Dell reported the total number of animals trapped for FY 2004/2005 was 2,821 with the following the following numbers recorded: cats-1,903; raccoons-234; opossums-221; skunks-188; squirrels-213; dogs-19; rats-32; armadillos-3; rabbits-3; foxes-4 and nutria-1.

2005 Rabies cases in Taylor County and the city of Abilene were down considerably from 2004 with 6 positive cases in Taylor County compared to 34 the previous year. Only three of these cases were inside city limits.

A report on accomplishments was given by Mr. O'Dell that included improving adoption and cremation paperwork, new guidelines for spay/neuter and rabies vaccination citations, new website that includes pictures of all animals in the shelter, guidelines between APD/SO/AS for stray livestock, new incinerator, digital cameras and color printer, assisted Craig Griffis, Sheriff Dept., in creation and presentation of cruelty class for Abilene officers and surrounding cities,

Goals for the 2005-2006 fiscal year were discussed. These included acquiring animal shelter manager software, upgrade shelter, adopt more animals, add 13 pens, update animal and fowl ordinance, create additional parking for employees to allow more customer parking, continuing education for officers, ACO attendance at cruelty classes, obtain euthanasia certification for shelter attendants, purchase flat bed trailer for large animal carcasses.

Thaddeus Iwuji, attorney for the City of Abilene requested discussion on adopting By-Laws for the Advisory Board. The subject had been looked into previously and Mr. O'Dell reported that after contacting several other cities, there is not any place that has by-laws for their Advisory Board. Mr. Iwuji explained that all other advisory boards he is a member of have by-law. There was some discussion on the matter and Mr. Iwuji and Mr. O'Dell will do more research.

Additions to the Animal Services equipment fleet projected for the next two years include a new flatbed trailer which should be delivered by early spring, new pickup for errands and to pull trailer and two new cage beds for trucks.

A discount of \$20 per adoption is being offered by the shelter during the month of December. Rescue the Animals is again offering the \$20 rebate after the animal is spayed or neutered and Taylor/Jones Humane society is offering its "Christmas for Animals" program.

The change of wording for ordinance Chapter 6, Art. II, Sec. 6-3 will be considered at the Dec. 15 City Council meeting.

Mr. O'Dell reported that Officers Joe Helm and Cole Edmondson had attended a class on animal cruelty in Texarkana, Ark., Dec. 1 through 4, 2005.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date minutes approved: 12-16-05