

Animal Services Advisory Board | MINUTES

July 17, 2019 | 5:30 p.m. | Mesquite Animal Services

Meeting called by	Jeanne Saadi	Board Members: Raymond Rivas, Jeanne Saadi, Mark Pirrung, DVM; Karen Ellis, MaryAnne Chiarelli, Tracey DeChant, Chris Swain, Brad Craft, Patti Dawson Guest: Leslie Carranza
Type of meeting	Regular Meeting	
Facilitator	Jeanne Saadi	
Note taker	Leslie Carranza	

AGENDA TOPICS

Minutes | Presenter Jeanne Saadi

Jeanne asked if the minutes from the previous meeting had been read and if there was anything that needed to be discussed further. Group was in agreement that there was no further need for discussion. Jeanne moved to have the previous minutes approved. Seconded by MaryAnn.

Old Business | Presenter Jeanne Saadi

Marketing Strategy:

Jeanne stated that we would be reaching out to new media avenues through a third party. Patti suggested the possibility of posting on the City of Mesquite Facebook as a way to boost publicity. Jeanne agreed that it would be a good idea to feature dogs for public relations. Patti suggested that it would open the door for more fosters if we had a “dog of the month.” Jeanne stated that she would reach out to Tralana to put her in touch with Patti to feature Dogrrr as a rescue partner.

Strategic Plan:

Jeanne stated that Raymond was shooting for August/September to present the strategic plan to city council. Raymond stated that he would update Jeanne when there was a finalized date. MaryAnn asked if they needed to be present as members of the board. Raymond stated that they were welcome to attend and would update them with a date/time.

Euthanasia Protocol Review:

Jeanne informed the board that an independent reviewer had evaluated Mesquite Animal Services' euthanasia policies/procedures as well as observed the euthanasia process and would have a full report within one week. She stated that it would be available by the next board meeting and that the reviewer did not find anything of note or concern. Patti suggested that perhaps we can come up with new ideas and MaryAnn suggested the use of a single bottle.

Heartworm Handout:

Brad had requested at the last meeting that we develop a Heartworm handout for the public. Jeanne discussed the sheet she had created and said that even though everything was emailed to the adopters this was something they could physically take home. Raymond asked if it was translated into Spanish. Jeanne stated not yet, but that she would follow up with a Spanish translation. Mary Ann suggested a potential Feline URI sheet or a Puppy Parvo sheet. Jeanne discussed parvo at Town East Animal Hospital and Lake Ray Hubbard. Patti stated that her doctor had told her that fully vaccinated dogs had been coming down with Parvo and that it was a different strain that was killing white blood cells. She stated that she had never lost so many. Raymond suggested the Parvo sheet be in English and Spanish.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Translate Heartworm Handout to Spanish	Jeanne	?
Create a Feline URI & Puppy Parvo Sheet	Jeanne	?

New Business/Questions Topic | Presenter Varied

Spread the Love Campaign:

Jeanne briefly described the promotion and how it supported the city's free lunch program. Explained that adopters could receive \$10 off (up to \$50) for every jar of peanut butter or jelly they brought in. Jeanne stated how popular the Spread the Love Campaign was last year. She also stated that \$5 cats would continue through August 3rd.

Clear the Shelter:

Jeanne encouraged the members of the board to volunteer if they could. Patti stated that she was not a fan of Clear the Shelter and Chris followed up with the fact that she was worried about where the animals would end up. Patti asked if the shelter cleared to which Jeanne replied that last year there were only a few dogs remaining. Tracey asked for a breakdown of how the process for adoption would work. Jeanne stated that the adoption fee would be waived, we would let in a certain number of clients at a time, and would still be having conversations with everyone. She stated that the event wasn't too bad last year. MaryAnn asked about the return rate. Jeanne stated that the return rate was no higher than usual. Tracey asked if we were going to deny anyone. Jeanne stated that we can tell people if it is not the right fit and evaluate on a case to case basis, but cannot deny unless it is a valid reason. Patti told a story involving DAS outreach and a woman who had several dogs/puppies, but lived in a shed. She took the DART rail and was able to adopt another dog even though she did not have the means to care for it. She stated how DAS still approved the adoption because they didn't know and they can't deny. Suggested tracking if adoption is reoccurring. Jeanne stated if a client says something that is a total red flag like they are going to fight dogs than we would definitely not allow them to adopt.

Intake Protocol:

Jeanne stated that deworming upon intake was added to the intake form along with getting the animal's weight, vaccinations, and Nexgard/Capstar if needed. Patti stated to watch the weights. Jeanne informed the board that Leslie would be running reports to get animals the appropriate booster vaccines.

Surgery for Rescue Groups:

Jeanne stated how there was no set policy for surgeries for rescue groups. Jeanne specified that she had only budgeted for surgeries for adoptions, but proposed to Town East Animal Hospital the possibility of offering lower cost surgery fees for rescue partners. TEAH agreed to lowering the costs for rescue partners to \$70 for cats, \$85 for dogs 0-15lbs, \$100 for dogs 16-30lbs, \$120 for dogs 31-50lbs, and \$145 for dogs over 51lbs. Raymond followed up with the comment that MAS was trying to be progressive. Jeanne stated that the fee also includes the cost of rabies, microchip and that we already do free heartworm testing. Patti stated that she could flip dogs quick with a heartworm test. Raymond suggested moving this to the norm as a tool Jeanne can implement. He asked the group if they thought those prices were a bargain. Patti replied that it was convenience vs cost. Having it already done and ready to go makes things easier. Chris asked if the rescues would be paying TEAH or MAS. Jeanne replied that MAS would take the animals to TEAH and then rescues would pay TEAH directly at pickup. Patti asked if MAS could email the paperwork. Jeanne stated yes and that we could even run a report. Jeanne stated that she would speak to Traci about spays & neuters.

Owner Surrender forms:

Patti asked about owner surrender forms and profile info. Jeanne replied that the adoption kennel card has all of the profile info. Patti stated that she would like to use them, Patti then brought up the possibility of scheduling owner surrenders. Jeanne and Raymond said that it is part of the strategic plan. Patti said that it would foster better relationships if we talked about why they are surrendering and their particular situation. Patti then talked about a situation she encountered at Garland with a supposedly aggressive dog that didn't turn out as such. Jeanne said it is whittled down to behavior incompatible. Patti said that the more info they have the easier it is to network.

Motion to Adjourn: Jeanne Saadi

Second: MaryAnn Chiarelli

All in favor, no objections