

# ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time:	Wednesday, December 18, 2024 *4:30PM
Location:	Saginaw County Animal Care & Control Resource Center 5615 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48604
Council Members Present:	Dr. Mielke, Tracey Slodowski, Cynthia Winiecke, Alycia Norton, Emilie Lyday, Kelli Scorsone, Carol Pickelmann
Council Members Absent:	Jonna Scharf, Laureen Lutenski, Tom McIntyre
Others in Attendance:	Sharon Maher, Alissa Specht, Demetrios Scott, Diane Niederstadt, Rachel Horton

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:31PM

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Lyday made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 20, 2024. Member Winiecke supported. Motion passed (7-0).

### III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Donations** – Christmas brings a lot of donations, and it really helps with the animals. Thanking publicly on Facebook.
- Best Friends** – Adoption event started on 11/1 went through 11/8. Data submitted to Best Friends have already surpassed numbers from last year by 400; decreased length of stay but still having trouble keeping up. Attending a conference next year in CA, visiting national offices on the 19<sup>th</sup> to ask/learn about best practices with the surgical center.
- Bissell** – Ended on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 32 adoptions, fewer than the summer event but also shorter duration.
- Surgical Center** – The oxygen generator is in, waiting on fireproof door. We need an ultrasound machine, looking for a grant. Center is stocked except the ultrasound. Member Norton asked if this would hold up the grand opening. Director Horton stated no. Member Scorsone asked if we could use ultrasound machines from any of the OBGYN's that just closed. Dr. Mielke stated possible but there is different software and equipment. Would need to be researched.
- Vet Care** – A lot of appointments at Gratiot Animal Hospital and Animal Alley for care. Foster numbers down substantially but still have 65 animals that will need spay/neuter.
- ShelterLuv** – Employee training was December 4<sup>th</sup>. There is no contract for Chameleon.
- Rachel Ray Grant** – Submitting letters of support as the second step.
- MDARD Grants** – Still in the running for 3 but won't hear until February. Member Norton asked what are the MDARD grants? Director Horton stated, animal welfare grant is money allocated for shelters for: sterilization, education and outreach about animal welfare, animals housed from court proceedings.
- Volunteers** – New volunteer orientation is tonight and there is a staff/volunteer potluck on Monday.

#### 10. Other:

- a. Chair Slodowski asked what a tattoo gun is used for? Director Horton stated its to mark and identify spayed/neutered animals. They are generally used in shelter med as an easier way to tell vs. bloodwork and exploratory surgery.
- b. Member Scorsone asked does the microchip have health information? Director Horton stayed, yes, if registered properly with updated information but can put privacy restrictions on the information.
- c. Chair Slodowski asked for an update on licensing? Director Horton stated we are trying to make licensing align with the rabies vaccination via a 1year and 3year license; also trying to sell online, via vets and haven't trained on the new software yet.
- d. Member Scorsone asked when you license a dog, do they give any weight to the titer test? Director Horton stated, maybe if the vet makes an exception.
- e. Chair Slodowski asked how much does new tag program cost? Director Horton stated she is not sure, it is not the SCACC budget, but this software was selected before Rachel started
- f. Member Pickelmann asked what is "return to field"? Director Horton stated, if an animal is picked up in the field and can go back to owners without intake.
- g. Chair Slodowski asked if we are trying to decrease court case animals? Director Horton stated, no we are not trying to decrease the animals, but trying to push the prosecutor along with the cases, especially because they are usually from dog fighting, so it is not good to keep them longer than necessary. Prosecutor has been receptive to the request. They will be court-ordered to euthanize if they are aggressive and a risk to other animals. There are also dogs that have not been involved in fighting but have been bred. Chair Slodowski asked do we have a dog fighting issue in Saginaw? Director Horton stated, yes – we just issued a social media warrant so were able to pull everything from them that has been posted on social media regarding the dog fighting and it is now a federal charge.
- h. Gallery member Demetrios asked where is the fighting? Director Horton stated it can be in basements, garages, but it is usually done with plywood and a quick setup that can pull down easily. There will be treadmills and bite sticks, evidence of veterinary care.
- i. Member Pickelmann asked about the spay/neuter of the puppies from the court cases? Director Horton stated they are not legally ours while it is an active case. In MI, dogs are considered property, and we can't alter that property. Like stray hold, we can't fix animals until stray hold is up and we can prove there is no owner.

#### IV. REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1. **Fundraising** – Member Norton stated that Articles of Incorporation have been submitted and working on 1023 document.

#### V. OPEN ISSUES

1. Other: N/A

#### VI. NEW ISSUES- N/A

1. **2025 Schedule** - attached to packet. This will be on the Saginaw County website.

#### VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **Alissa Specht** – The public would like to hear more about what is happening here and now with current animals. As far as an ultrasound machine, she has worked with many vets that work with portable ultrasounds that plug into iPads and they give clear

images, cost about \$2,000. Animal Alley and other vets use them. Regarding dog fighting, rescues are working together to try and stop the fighting because it's a big issue, The house on Hermansau where Animal Control has been someone went in and took the dog. Leverage Facebook that they can't take the dog because it interferes with the law. You are trespassing, if you go in and if you remove the dog, you are interfering with a case.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING**

1. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

1. Member Lyday made a motion to adjourn. Member Pickelmann supported. The meeting ended at 5:07PM.

DRAFT