

Animal Control Committee
Blue Room – Logan County Safety Complex
April 10, 2013

Present: Kevin Bateman; Andy Anderson; Andy Meister; Dave Hepler; Jan Schumacher

Absent: Bill Martin

Guests: Julie Parker; Lindsey Kavelman; Chris Wilson; Lisa Conley; Lesley Wilson; Maurice Tierney; Bob Farmer; Lyle Johnson; Dan Wheat; Kelly Cale; Brian Cale; Jane Whiteman; Chris Whiteman; Ellen Burbage; Wanda Stevens; Leland Hahn; Steve Smith

Mr. Bateman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Ruben to approve the minutes from March 13, 2013 as printed. Motion passed.

Old Business:

1. None

New Business:

1. Contracts: Contracts offering services for FY 14 were prepared for the following communities: Lincoln, Mt. Pulaski, Latham, New Holland, Atlanta, Hartsburg, Emden, Middletown, and Broadwell. **A motion was made by Mr. Hepler, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the contracts for animal control services as presented. Motion passed.**
2. Hours of operation: This item will be held for discussion next month.

Administrator/Warden's report: Nothing further to report.

Budget: No concerns.

Mr. Bateman provided accurate numbers for warden salaries, as there was inaccurate information in a recent letter to the editor. He also provided figures on the number of animals received, the number of animals euthanized and the cost of medical treatment provided to any animals. In 2012, the live return rate was over 91%. Logan County Animal Rescue indicated they are the reason for the high return rate, since they actively attempt to locate homes for the animals. The floor was opened for the guests to make public comment.

Jane Whiteman, from Lincoln Animal Hospital, praised the efforts of Julie Parker and Animal Control. She indicated Animal Control's function is to control rabies, pick up animals running at large and control population. They are not intended to function as a shelter. She also reported she has worked in this arena for a long time and it is impossible to be 100% no-kill. There are many times animals are seriously ill and it is in the best interest of the animal to be euthanized.

Wanda Stevens indicated she has worked closely with Julie in her role at the Humane Society. She had high praise for the work being done at Animal Control over the last few years and spoke highly of the relationship between the Humane Society and Logan County Animal Control.

Ellen Burbage, president of the Humane Society, indicated she has called Animal Control as a citizen and has been pleased with the service she received. She feels lucky that Logan County has the well-functioning staff at Logan County Animal Control.

Another guest asked about the possibilities of a change in the hours of operation to increase adoption rates. Mr. Bateman indicated this would be discussed at next month's meeting. He reminded the group that there is limited

funding and time constraints with veterinarian services available. He believes considerable thought and planning needs to go into this decision. She also asked about medication administration for the animals. She asked whether a log system could be developed to ensure that the animals are receiving their medicine as prescribed. Mrs. Parker reported they are currently using clipboards that employees date indicating the medication has been given. She then questioned whether buckets could be purchased to keep water and food off the ground for larger dogs to avoid spills. She provided pictures of sample buckets that she recommended. Mr. Bateman indicated he is working on a solution for shade for the summer, but wants it to be a permanent solution.

The next speaker expressed concern over animals suffering for several weeks without receiving medical attention. Another guest reported she has received calls from Julie regularly seeking treatment. The first speaker provided a photo of a dog that's leg had been caught in a trap and needed medical attention. Mrs. Parker interrupted and indicated Dr. Sanborn was on staff at that time and she was not going to criticize his work because he provided excellent veterinary care. The dog in question needed amputation or euthanasia. Dr. Sanborn administered pain medication and antibiotics while a rescue was identified. The facility is not able to provide amputations. Had a rescue not been located, the dog would have needed euthanized for humane reasons. The speaker indicated the dressing had not been changed and was infected when received at the rescue facility. Mr. Bateman reminded the guest that this was under previous administration and things have changed. The speaker then asked for better communication with Mrs. Parker so everyone could help the animals. Mrs. Parker indicated she was definitely willing to communicate regarding the animals. The guest made it clear that Shirley Watkins is not part of Logan County Animal Rescue and the confrontational communications received from her were not sent on their behalf. The guest then asked whether micro-chipping events could be held. Mr. Bateman was concerned about the advance expense of purchasing the supplies and the public not participating to recoup the cost.

Mrs. Schumacher expressed her appreciation for everyone's attitude at this meeting. She was concerned because the last meeting was hostile and several inappropriate comments were made.

Brian Cale discussed how Logan County Animal Rescue has assisted with building kennels, fences, etc. and this has assisted with budget constraints. He hoped that this was appreciated and the entire committee indicated they were well aware of all of the efforts of Animal Rescue and it was sincerely appreciated.

Maurice Tierney discussed the change in hours that took place several years ago.

Mr. Bateman agreed that weekend hours are important and this will be evaluated. He indicated a desire to work with everyone. However, Animal Control is a government-run entity. Sometimes when the facility is running short of volunteers, it is because of liability issues.

Mrs. Parker discussed her hope that all three groups could work together to educate the public and seek an end to chaining dogs. Chaining dogs can affect their temperament and cause injury.

Mr. Anderson told the guests that Logan County needs their assistance and it will get done.

A motion was made by Mr. Ruben, seconded by Mrs. Schumacher, to pay the bills as presented for payment. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Hepler, seconded by Mrs. Schumacher, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.