

# MINUTES FROM THE HURST ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 13, 2016

On the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016, at 12:00 p.m., the Animal Services Advisory Committee for the City of Hurst, Texas, convened at the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 1505 Precinct Line Rd, Hurst, Texas.

The following members were present:

Assistant Chief Steven Niekamp – City of Hurst  
Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl – City of Hurst  
Animal Services Officer Michelle Watson – City of Keller

Veterinarian Dr. George Moses was absent

The meeting was called to order and the following business was conducted:

## **Consent Agenda**

1. Considered approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on October 21, 2015. A motion was made by Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl to approve the minutes. Assistant Chief Steven Niekamp seconded the motion. Motion prevailed by the following vote: 3-0.

## **Discussion Items**

1. Animal Services Supervisor Earl advised the Committee of Hurst Animal Services statistics for October 2015 through March 2016 and provided a comparison to October 2014 through March 2015. Total animals impounded at the shelter have decreased by 19% the two time periods, with cat impounds having decreased by 37%, the majority of which were feral cats. Animals transferred to Placement Partners has increased by 260%, most of which were feral cats, with others transferred to Operation Kindness and the SPCA of Texas. The shelter's return to owner percentage has increased by 13%. Dog adoptions decreased minimally, while cat adoptions decreased by 27%, largely due to the significant decrease in impounds and increase in release to Placement Partners.
2. Assistant Chief Niekamp advised the Committee that City Council has approved the architect for the shelter project. There was not much more to report, as Assistant Chief Winstanley has been out on leave. The next step is to sit down and talk to HSNT and Richland Hills Animal Services.

3. Assistant Chief Niekamp advised the animal ordinance revisions have been tabled until after City Council elections. We will revisit proposed changes at the next meeting.
4. Animal Services Supervisor Earl advised the Foster and Borrow A Buddy Program is supposed to be with the legal department. We are waiting to hear if it has been approved or not.
5. Public Comments were made by Sandra Bitz, 50 year resident of Hurst and Connie Stout, resident of Colleyville and supporter of Hurst Animal Services. Mrs. Bitz appreciates the casual manner of the Animal Services Advisory Committee's meetings. It is more welcoming to residents. She also gave kudos to the new shelter supervisor for her open mind and willingness to explore options concerning placement of animals and working with Placement Partners. She would like to see at least one additional member added to the Advisory Committee – a resident of Hurst. She would also like to see Hurst explore the idea of Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release (TNVR). Mrs. Bitz is an active member of two organizations, one of which is Mid-Cities Community Cats, who are willing to help support a TNVR program in the City of Hurst. She spoke briefly about the success of an active TNVR program at TCC, a successful 12 year TNVR program at TCU called Cats and Frogs Together, a new relationship MCCC has developed with Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth, and a successful TNVR relationship with Freeman Toyota. Current TNVR statistics support that TNVR is the most humane, cost effective, and efficient method to control community cat populations.  
Connie Stout would like the City of Hurst to consider the possibility of allowing 501(c)3 Placement Partners to take animals over the weekend to offsite adoption events, then bring back to the shelter if not adopted. Mrs. Stout also asked how we handle 'Code Red' animals, do we post on Facebook or contact rescues? She also requested that we speak with those people who find kittens too young to be separated from their mothers about leaving the kittens until the mother can be trapped.
6. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, August 3, 2016, at 12:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 1505 Precinct Line Rd.

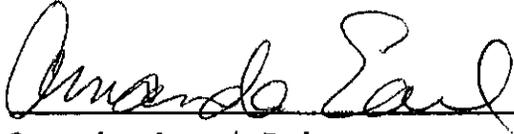
### **Adjournment**

1. A motion was made by Assistant Chief Niekamp to adjourn the meeting. ASO Watson seconded the motion. No further matters were discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Approved this 13 day of MAY, 2016.

Attest:

Approved:



Supervisor Amanda Earl



Assistant Chief Niekamp