

MINUTES FROM THE HURST ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 21, 2015

On the 21st day of October, 2015, 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 Neikamp – 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 December 10, 2014. A motion was made by Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl to approve the minutes. Assistant Chief Steven Neikamp seconded the motion. Motion prevailed by the following vote: 3-0.

Discussion Items

1. New Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl gave a brief introduction to herself. She has a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Michigan State University and a Masters of Business Administration from Texas Woman's University. She spent seven years working for the City of Richardson Animal Services as an Animal Services Officer and Resources Coordinator, eight years with three different municipalities as a Code Enforcement Officer, then the last 16 months as the manager of one of the SPCA of Texas' veterinary clinic. She also spent five years on the Plano Animal Shelter Advisory Committee and two years as a board member for the Texas Animal Shelter Coalition, now called Texas Unites for Animals. Her goal is to make Hurst Animal Services the example for other shelters to follow.
2. Animal Services Supervisor Earl provided a spreadsheet with the FY 2014 – 2015 Hurst Animal Services statistics. The total live release rate is only 75%, with dogs being at 87% and cats at 59%. The main reason for the discrepancy between the live release rates of cats and dogs is feral cats, who cannot be adopted out to the public. Hurst Animal Services has developed a new relationship with Mid-Cities Community Cats to help with

public education and placement of feral cats. The goal is to positively impact the cat live release rate by this time next year. The Shelter had 3074 visitors to the shelter last year and there were almost 3000 Field Service Requests. There have been some changes made to the way that certain statistics are gathered. The changes were made so that the Shelter statistics will be more inclusive and show a more accurate picture of what is actually happening at the shelter. Assistant Chief Neikamp noted that Shelter fees are down about \$10,000 from last year, but Animal Services Supervisor Earl noted that it is likely due to the increase in the number of transfers to Placement Partners, who are not charged an adoption fee.

3. Animal Services Supervisor Earl stated that the half-price adoption event held in conjunction with National Clear the Shelter Day on August 16, 2015 was a huge success, even though the Shelter was unable to fully participate in the Clear the Shelter event. There were 16 total adoptions – 13 cats and three dogs. The 13 cat adoptions accounted for almost 20% of the total cat adoptions for the year. Hurst Animal Services also participated in National Night Out and Dogtoberfest, held the first week of October this year with much success, increasing Shelter visibility and public awareness. Animal Services Supervisor Earl stated that she will do what she can to make sure that Hurst Animal Services fully participates in the National Clear the Shelters event next year. It will be held July 16, 2016.
4. Assistant Chief Neikamp stated that the City of Hurst is looking to update many of the City Ordinances. A recent area of concern are the sections of the Ordinance pertaining to chickens and the right to keep chickens within the City of Hurst. Currently, chickens are prohibited unless the property is more than 40,000 square feet. A growing number of citizens would like to keep chickens in the City of Hurst. Animal Services Supervisor Earl noted that modifying the definition of 'fowl' to differentiate between domestic birds, such as guinea hens, chickens, and other 'food' resource birds, and exotic birds, such as parrots and other birds kept as pets, is how most of the local municipalities define birds or fowl. Also, most local municipalities do allow their residents to keep chicken hens, but prohibit roosters. With enough community support, Assistant Chief Neikamp noted that the City Council may look more favorably on changing the Ordinance to allow chickens. Animal Services Supervisor Earl also mentioned that there is a need to update the verbage on 4-46 and 4-48, pertaining to the number of animals allowed and under what circumstances. As it is currently written, it is vague, confusing, and contradictory. One more change the Shelter staff supports is to require all animals impounded at the Animal Shelter to be microchipped before being reclaimed by their owners.

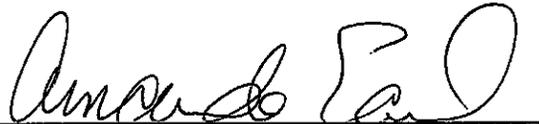
- Public comments included those by Rachel Slosson of 30 Van Ct., in support of allowing chickens in the City of Hurst. Chickens are great for pest control and allow those who own them to participate in personal sustainability; they are also said to be easy to maintain and are relatively clean. They are 'pets that give back.' Kelly Spiker of 2224 Hurstview Dr., also spoke in support of the City allowing residents keeping chickens. Her statements coincided with Mrs. Slosson's. Connie Stout, a resident of Bedford mentioned that she would like to see the City Of Hurst visit adding an Ordinance to allow for multi-pet permits for those who foster animals for Placement Partners. Sandra Bitz, a City Of Hurst resident asked that an update about the shelter expansion and joint venture with the City of Richland Hills and North Texas Humane Society be added to the next agenda.
- The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 12:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 1505 Precinct Line Rd.

Adjournment

- 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.

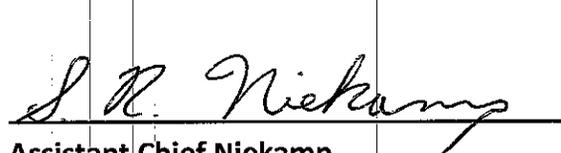
Approved this 23 day of OCTOBER, 2015.

Attest:



Supervisor Amanda Earl

Approved:



Assistant Chief Niekamp