

Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission  
February 21, 2017

The eighteenth regular meeting of the Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 in the Main Conference Room of the Drumcastle Government Center. This meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by the Chair Deborah Stone-Hess. Members in attendance were Deborah Stone-Hess, Jon Christiana, Jamie DeRita, Joy Freedman, Ann Gearhart, Roy Plummer, Jean Townsend, VMD, Janice Vincent and Julianne Zimmer.

Minutes from the January 17, 2017 meeting were motioned and approved as submitted.

**Motion to accept minutes**

Motioned by: Jean Townsend, VMD

Second motion by: Julianne Zimmer

Decision: Unanimous Approval

**Old business** – None

**New business**

*Volunteer Program Update*

A handout was distributed showing the volunteer opportunities within the Baltimore County Animal Shelter (BCAS). The new Dot system utilized by the Volunteer program allows people to see the level of training that you have on your name tag by the dot color. This program has blossomed and is improving regularly.

Liaison Committee Meeting Summary

*Standards of Care*

The Standards of Care document has been completed by the Baltimore County Animal Shelter and was sent to the Commission's Liaison Committee for review. The Standards of Care are available to those who ask at the Baltimore County Animal Shelter.

*Sunday Hours*

Members of the Liaison Committee continue to suggest the shelter be open for adoptions and for volunteering on Sunday. However, this policy is not going to change in the foreseeable future. The Liaison Committee members were told that shelter staff currently has either Friday/Saturday or Sunday/Monday for their days off. There are no Sunday hours because that day is used to get deep cleaning completed within the shelter. There are no volunteers at the shelter on Sundays because of the lack of a supervisor.

*Donations*

The Baltimore County Animal Shelter can accept monetary donations at the shelter. They cannot accept any type of gift cards. Donations cannot be solicited. The donations are not tax deductible. There is ongoing discussion about the benefits of creating a 501(c) 3 non-profit to work with the shelter. This, among other things, would create an entity that could solicit donations.

*County Code Changes*

Working on changing language for animal control violations in order to clarify the meaning of menacing animal versus a dangerous animal.

*Jackson Galaxy Program*

Jackson Galaxy is the host of Animal Planet's *My Cat from Hell* and two-time NY Times best-selling author. He has a new research project and Baltimore County Animal Services has been chosen as one of nine shelters to participate for part of this year. It is a cat enrichment program using techniques that encourage cats to come to the front of their cages to greet those who visit the shelter. This program started last year and the MD SPCA participated. Will Webster at BCAS found out about it and reached out asking to be considered as a participant. This program just got underway. Five cats at a time will participate in this program.

*Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR)*

There is a desperate need for newspaper for the TNR program at the shelter. If you have any newspaper, you may bring it to the next Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission meeting.

*Rabies Bill*

This bill before the Maryland General Assembly would require veterinarians to report every rabies vaccine given. The purpose of this report is to be able to determine if an animal has a current rabies vaccination in the event of a bite.

*Ann Gearhart's Assignment*

Ann's assignment is to attend some of the trainings being offered at the shelter for the volunteers. She will report back.

*United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)*

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service reports have been removed from the USDA website. These reports were critical to a Maryland law passed last year requiring pet stores to disclose the sources of their pets. Some have been restored.

*Lobby Day in Annapolis*

Five animal related bills are being championed.

Motion to adjourn

Motion by Jean Townsend

Second by Julianne Zimmer

Adjourned at 7:24 p.m.