

BALTIMORE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
APRIL 18, 2017

The twentieth regular meeting of the Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 in the Main Conference Room of the Drumcastle Government Center. This meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm. By the Chair Deborah Stone-Hess. Members in attendance were: Deborah Stone-Hess, Maryanne Bailey, Joy Freedman, Roy Plummer, Jean Townsend, VMD, Janice Vincent (by phone) and Julianne Zimmer.

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the March 21, 2017 meeting were motioned and approved as submitted.

### **Motion**

Motioned by: Janice Vincent  
Second by: Roy Plummer  
Decision: Approved

### **Introduction of New Commission Member Appointed by Councilman Quirk – Maryanne Bailey**

Maryanne is a District Leaver Volunteer for the HSUS in Maryland Congressional District 7. She is interested in working with shelter issues.

### **Old Business**

General Assembly Legislation  
Legislative Outcome 2017 was distributed and discussed.

### **New business**

Rescue Well Grant Guest – Christine Sandberg

Also attending with Christine Sandberg, Carrie Hughes, who is on the Board of Directors at Rescue Well. Here is the information she provided to the Commission: Rescue Well became a federally-recognized non-profit in October, 2016. In November 2016, Rescue Well entered the grant process with Baltimore County and received a twenty-five thousand dollar grant. The goal of the grant was to provide owner retention support and, when surrender is necessary, to provide shelter-diversion support by routing pets to new homes, rescues, or closed admission shelters. Rescue Well leads the Coalition of Rescues – East, whose members represent over 70 regional organizations. These organizations often absorb the owner surrendered pets, bypassing local shelters altogether. The Well-Placed Pet Program started in November 2014, and since then 150 pets were re-homed, and fifty families chose to keep their pet.

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Rescue Well also manages a Crisis hotline that Sandberg says receives an average of 1200 calls per month. Roughly eighty percent of clients are in Baltimore County. Callers are referred to the hotline by area crisis centers, social media and area shelters. Rescue Well's goal is to keep pets in safe and healthy homes. To that end, they provide food, supplies, veterinary care and other assistance. Veterinary and boarding expenses lead the Grant expenditures.

Rescue Well also supports shelters and rescues by providing transport services for animals in the Maryland area via its team of 105 volunteers.

In support of the County, Rescue Well has distributed over 1,000 flyers around the spay/neuter clinics, and they staffed rabies clinics to provide additional support, provide onsite microchip registration and provide owners with our hotline information.

### **Stats from 11/27 – March 2017**

Grant funding has helped 105 pets by providing supplies (crates/leashes, etc.), food and veterinary care.

In total, Rescue Well has prevented the rehome/surrender of 167 pets by providing support through training, advice and other resources (including veterinary care).

Rescue Well has diverted 116 imminent surrenders to closed admission shelters, rescues or private adopters.

The County also partners with Rescue Well to provide support to citizens in crisis: sex trafficking survivors, veterans, domestic violence survivors and other similar cases. Baltimore County's is the first grant they have received. They would like to expand educational programs for pet owners. Rescue Well hotline contact cards are distributed at the shelter and callers are provided their number as a resource.

It has been a very collaborative partnership with Baltimore County. In the county grant, Ms. Sandberg reports to the Baltimore County Administrative Officer.

### **First Quarter BCAS Statistics**

Statistics were distributed. The numbers were discussed. The most remarkable are the cat euthanasia numbers... 7.8% this year compared to 17.4% for this quarter last year. This is a great improvement. Over 90% live releases for both dogs and cats and even larger number of animals were taken in this year over last.

### **Liaison Committee Meeting Summary**

BARCS has been awarded a grant that will be paying for the mega adoption event at the fairgrounds.

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The rabies bill was discussed earlier with legislation outcomes.

People are encouraged NOT to bring litters of kittens to the shelter unless they are certain that the kittens are not being cared for by their mom.

Educational material is given to those that trap cats and kittens.

For the TNR update the committee discussed why the county is legally prohibited from going onto property without permission from owners.

Some spay/neutering is done at the shelter currently. This will eventually be done only at the east and west side spay/neuter clinics. Any trapped cats are released the day after surgery.

West side spay/neuter clinic numbers are still low and there are still problems with people following through with appointments. They are currently performing 16 surgeries a day with a goal of performing up to 30 surgeries per day.

There is a discussion about using billboards to educate people in the West side clinic area about the clinic and Deborah suggested going through African-American churches to get the messages to the community as well.

Jackson Galaxy program at BCAS is finished.

Deb Stone reached out to The Bissell Pey Foundation for a blog article and learned Bissell provides grants. She passed on info to Dr. Jones to look into whether they qualify for a grant.

Deb is planning a post for her blog about the ways the shelter has changed over the last two years.

ReLove will be awarding its Valentino Award to the two Baltimore County Animal Control Officers who saved the stray dog from the sewer.

Volunteer appreciation event dates were distributed and discussed.

Emails received recently were praising the changes that had been made at the shelter and with the volunteer program. Joy wants to discuss with the Liaison Committee about some rescue issues that have been occurring. She also agrees with Deb that Sunday hours will need to be discussed soon.

There was a discussion about the Commission's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual report and what should be included. Julianne, Joy and Lavinia will be working on this.

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The Dundalk Optimist Club presented Roy Plummer its Humanitarian of the Year Award. His picture was in the Dundalk Eagle and he will also be working in the Dundalk Parade. It was suggested that he create a float representing the shelter.

**Volunteer Update – Ann Gearhart**

Ann was not in attendance.

**Announcement of Next Meeting Date and Location**

May 16, 2017 at Drumcastle Government Center, 6401 York Road, Third Floor, Main Conference Room

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn

Motion by Joy

Second by Maryanne

Adjourned at 8:07 pm