

Baltimore County
Animal Services Advisory Commission
June 20, 2017

The twenty first regular meeting of the Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 in the Main Conference Room of the Drumcastle Government Center. This meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm.

By the Chair Deborah Stone-Hess. Members in attendance were: Deborah Stone-Hess, Jon Christiana, Joy Freedman (by phone), Roy Plummer, Jean Townsend, VMD, Janice Vincent and Julianne Zimmer.

Minutes

Minutes from the April 18, 2017 meeting were motioned and approved as submitted.

Motion

Motioned by: Jean Townsend

Second by: Janice Vincent

Decision: Approved

Julianne – Class Visit to BCAS

Perry Hall High School special education students visited BCAS on a field trip. While some of the students went on a tour, others visited the Education Room where the students made enrichment toys. The students also read to the dogs and cats. Dr. Jones visited with the students and explained what animal rescue is all about. The shelter process was discussed with the students. The staff went out of their way to make the students feel welcomed and comfortable.

Enrichment Blog Post

Deb profiled the enrichment program at BCAS for her blog and sent link to all commission members.

New business

Summary of Liaison Committee Meeting

Due to several citizen complaints to County Council members about impounded animals being automatically spayed or neutered on first impound, the shelter policy has been changed. The new policy is to spay or neuter impounded dogs/cats only after the second impoundment. The law will not be changed, only the shelter policy.

The BCAS Picnic was held to thank volunteers. Five hundred invitations were sent out, but only 80-100 people attended. Kudos to the county for inviting volunteers to enjoy a picnic day at the shelter.

BCAS participated in its third mega adoption event on June 10 at Timonium Fairgrounds. About 30 volunteers and 20 staff members from BCAS were on hand. Out of the 83 pets taken to the event, 15 dogs were adopted and 40 cats were adopted. 28 cats remained at the end of the day.

Kitten season is fully underway. It is believed some of the kittens brought in to BCAS by citizens are actually being taken from their nursing mothers. Citizens are asked not to do that.

The Maryland 2000 is an expansion of the former Baltimore 500. This will involve shelters around the state and the goal is to find homes for 2000 cats in July by offering free cat adoptions.

Because of kitten season there are many cats at BCAS. Rescues are saturated, so are not pulling animals from the shelter.

With the TNR program, an ongoing problem persists: people who are reluctant to let the county on their property to trap cats and return them. On the other side of this issue are those who are upset that the county isn't doing more for the health needs of individual cats.

The County has performed fourteen thousand spay/neuter surgeries since it ended the voucher program and began performing these surgeries for the public.

The County continues to struggle to fill slots at the West Side Spay/Neuter Clinic. They have handed out flyers, met with church representatives and met with community associations. The county is considering a pilot program

where they would buy gift cards from Petco or PetSmart so that citizens who make and follow through with spay/neuter appointments would receive a \$20 gift card, which is the price of the surgery.

There has been an outcry on social media over a dog that was neutered at BCAS. There were complaints about the way the neuter surgery was performed, that the entire scrotum was removed, not just the testicles and this is a more painful surgery. When Dr. Jones was asked about this, she explained that with some dogs, particularly large older dogs, there are risks to leaving the skin behind. With younger dogs, the skin will retract, but with older dogs it often does not retract and leaving the skin behind leaves open the possibility of hematoma, which is a collection of blood. As a result of this outcry, people were calling for the vet to lose her license to practice veterinary medicine. Everyone is encouraged to stay out of angry conversations on Facebook or other social media. Joy will attempt to get the emails from the Rescue that is involved.

County Council Effort in Reference to Circuses

Maryanne Bailey, Lisa Radov and Deb asked the County Council to outlaw circuses that use wild, exotic animals. Several County Council members have asked to meet with Deb, Maryanne, Lisa and reps from the HSUS to discuss this.

Commission Annual Report

Joy, Lavinia and Deb are working on the annual report, which will probably be finished in August.

Any other business?

Jon wants to know if there are any fees involved when an animal is impounded. Deb is going to research and bring back the answer to the next meeting.

Announcement of Next Meeting Date and Location

July 18, 2017 at Drumcastle Government Center, 6401 York Road, 3rd floor, Main Conference Room

Adjournment

BCASAC Minutes for June 20, 2017

Motion to adjourn:

Motion by Jean Townsend
Second by Julianne Zimmer
Motion approved.

Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.