

Baltimore County Animal Services
Advisory Commission
June 19, 2018

The thirtieth regular meeting of the Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 in the Main Conference Room of the Drumcastle Government Center. This meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by the Chair Deborah Stone-Hess. Members in attendance were: Deborah Stone-Hess, Maryanne Bailey, Joy Freedman, Ann Gearhart, Roy Plummer, Larry Townsend, and Janice Vincent.

Minutes

Minutes from the May 15, 2018 meeting were motioned and approved as submitted.

Motion

Motioned by: Ann Gearhart
Second by: Janice Vincent
Decision: Approved

New Business

Welcome New Commission Member, Gerald Brooks

Mr. Brooks was unable to attend due to prior commitment.

Animal Abuse Team

Sergeant Sundia Gaynor and Mo Gardner of the Baltimore County Police Department Animal Abuse Team were present. (See Q and A Report)

County Administrative Officer and Mr. Gary Klunk from Animal Services

There is a new policy for volunteers and members of the public to get a key to use the restroom at the Baltimore County Animal Shelter (BCAS). Department of Correction volunteers have to be escorted to the restroom. This is due to clogs with towels, feminine products and many other items that should not be disposed of in a toilet. When the sewer line backs up, it backs up into the kennel.

Oscar's Law is being implemented by the Animal Service Officers (ASOs) handing out brochures. The procedure for violations of Oscars Law is for the ASO to call their supervisor, who in turn sends the information to BCPD Animal Abuse Unit at 410-887-5555, or afterhours to Emergency Communications 410-887-2222. Crimes will be handled with criminal investigations. When citizens call in to BCAS for an animal abuse issue, they are given the proper phone number to call and offered to be transferred to that number. A complaint is created and it is noted where the call is transferred to. Complaints are also created for police reports that are sent to BCAS. These complaint reports can be searched by address, name, pet name, or other multiple factors.

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If a case goes to court and it is a criminal case, the State's Attorney will attend. If it is a civil case, the Baltimore County Law Office will have a representative attend. After normal working hours, there is a recording on 410-887-5555 to call 410-887-2222, where a call is dispatched to the nearest precinct. All investigations for criminal abuse or cruelty cases are completed by the Police Department Animal Abuse Unit, which operated on a Monday through Friday schedule.

In regard to Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) cats, if someone does not want a cat returned to their property, the area needs to be checked to find out who is taking care of the cat. There are other options for some of these cats. Currently, there are two working barn cats at the Ag Center at this time. If that does not work, then the cat will be euthanized, as a last resort. Colonies of cats cannot be created in public parks, only on sequestered parks. The TNR hotline is 410-887-2727. BCAS offers sonic deterrents and other options to deter cats from your yard. Animal Services will only loan cat traps if you agree to have the trapped cat released at your location and a consent is signed. Animal Services does not relocate any animals from one neighborhood to another. When food is being left out for cats, but becomes food for rats, code enforcement becomes involved. Animal Services educated about the rat/cat issue and how to prevent cats from coming onto their properties. Again, it is a code violation to leave food out for cats/rats.

Team Shelter USA have been able to reconcile constituent complaints to 100%. The Working Cat Program is on the website as well as the hotline number. This was produced within the last year. Becky Sass-Crews monitors this program for cats to be placed in commercial establishments for rodent control. Quarterly reports will be issued soon. Becky determines which cats are good for the barn program and the working program. The companies that adopt cats for these purposes are given instructions and time for adjustment, the cats are not just dropped off.

If a cat that comes in for TNR has wounds of unknown origin, they will be euthanized. Kittens should not be separated from the mother cat for 12 weeks, so they can nurse. Animal Services does have a Milk Man program that supplies bottles and formula for kittens under 6 weeks found motherless. If after this program, a kitten is able to be socialized, it is entered into the adoption program.

When a cat from the TNR program is spayed/neutered, it is released back where it was captured less than 24 hours after surgery. They only stay overnight. Outdoor cats are sent back outdoors, they are not kept indoors to be adopted.

BCAS works with Carroll County Animal Services who pulls adoptable cats from BCAS. Deborah and Joy would like statistics of how many adoptable cats that Carroll County pull from BCAS.

In reference to complaints, giving big citations is not the first recourse. It is best to have residents comply with requests for change. Rescue Well will help with shelter for a pet, if needed.

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Announcement of Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at Drumcastle Government Center, 6401 York Road, Third floor, Main Conference Room at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion by: Roy

Second by: Maryanne

Motion approved.

Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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Questions for Animal Abuse Team

1. How are things going since March 1?