

Jones County Board of Commissioners
Jones County Government Center
Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room

November 10, 2010
6:00 PM

Summary Agenda
Work Group Committee Meeting
(A subcommittee of the commissioners' Animal Control Committee)

Members Present: Members of the committee present were:

Dr. Debbie Gadd
Stephanie Parker
Erin Roberts
Halie White
Tina Humphries
Lynn Smith
Chap Nelson
Leila Brittain

Actions taken are indicated in red.

Commissioner Chap Nelson opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Animal Control Issues:

Christmas Dance Proceeds: A Christmas Dance will be held December 17th and the net proceeds will be donated to Animal Control. The funds will be used for a Spay/Neuter Program. Accounting of the funds if deposited into the county's general fund was discussed. Funds can be identified in a Reserved Fund Balance line item. Other items that are needed for Animal Control were also discussed.

Election of Chairperson: By unanimous vote, Stephanie Parker was elected to serve as chair.

Preston Hawkins, Chairman of the Commissioners, asked Tina Humphries to get information on a new incinerator.

Halie White is posting animals available for adoption at Jones County Animal Control on PetFinder.com. The use of Facebook was discussed. Furever Friends has Facebook page. It was suggested to include with the pictures posted, the date available for adoption and the last date available.

1. Volunteer Program:

Tina Humphries and Stephanie Parker will draft written policies to present to the committee.

Tina Humphries and county staff will write a reasonable proposal for staffing needs and a policy to address animals euthanized only when cages are full then it goes to the animals that have been there the longest. The policy will address staffing and space needs.

Touring the Atlanta Humane Society was suggested. Tina as the Department Head and Office Manager would supervise or be responsible for animal control officers and county employees. The agencies involved could assist with overseeing the volunteers.

Use of prison labor was also discussed. The shelter could use two inmates daily to clean runs.

Issues were discussed that volunteers could help with to include:

- Posting animals available for adoption to websites and Facebook
- Foster and adoption programs
- Fund raisers – to help with the costs of vetting (foster) animals, spay/neuter program.
- Volunteers to help animal control with limited staffing issues
 - Paperwork
 - Cleaning runs and feeding animals
 - Office help – answering phones, etc
 - Grant Writing
 - Education of Public. Refer to third main topic below.
 - Adoption of animals offered at store fronts, such as Ace Hardware on Saturdays
 - Expand hours at the shelter that are open to the public for adoptions and hold animals longer before euthanized through volunteer staffing to cover additional labor that would be needed.

The county attorney will need to address liability issues and waivers. Attorney Sara Roberts will draft liability waivers and forward them to County Attorney Frank Childs to review.

Dr. Gadd reiterated that liability issues should be reviewed and addressed for the county.

Sara Roberts, Lisa Stinson, and Tina Humphries will draft recommended changes to the ordinance (if needed) to clarify issues discussed:

- The number of days held before euthanized
- Number of days available for owner to claim
- If animal is owner surrendered then immediately available for adoption
- Inclusion of an adoption period
- Hold animals if runs aren't full.

Sara will forward proposed changes to Attorney William Noland and the committee to review. It was later discussed whether a written change is needed or just a change in interpretation. County Attorney Frank Childs should be consulted.

2. Spay/Neuter Program:

Dr. Gadd will draft the written guidelines of the program. Dr. Gadd asked that the review of the animals included in this program go through her. (Perhaps as a Program administrator)

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- Establish base costs for procedures (using proper sterilization techniques) and address how to handle any flea and tick issue upon arrival for procedure
- Once price is set, then based on funds available/donated/grants, the number of procedures that can be done can be determined
- Share the number of procedures between the two clinics – Animal Doctors of Gray and Piedmont Animal Hospital
- Offer the reduced cost spay/neuter twice a year – Spring (possibly March) and Fall
- Educate pet owners on pet care/vet care – they can come in to the vet's office to ask questions and get advice free of charge
- Education on other health issues and diseases
 - Heart worms
 - Coccidia
 - Ring worm
 - Influenza
 - Fleas and ticks
 - Zoonotic – liability issue

Dr. Gadd will need information on agencies that could donate funds towards this program and the amount of funds available if possible. Halie White will coordinate and comprise this information from the agencies for Dr. Gadd. (All About Animals, Heart of Georgia, Furever Friends, Daffy's Pet Soup Kitchen)

Dr. Gadd's staff has offered to volunteer a day with no pay to help with the spay/neuter procedures (and cost containment).

Sara Roberts and Lisa Stinson will write/complete grant application for the \$10,000 Pet Smart grant discussed.

3. Education Program:

- Education of Public
 - School system:
 - Erin Roberts has the curriculum from Bibb County's program to use as a model to then adapt to Jones County's needs
 - Erin Roberts had an update for the committee from the Jones County school system - she had spoken with Bill Mathews, School Superintendent. Tina Humphries will need to be present for this program when given in schools.
 - Tina Humphries and Erin Roberts will meet with school officials and then finalize a written plan/program
 - The amount of time – length of program and the number of times offered in schools will be established.

Another meeting will be scheduled for December. Stephanie Parker will set the next meeting and Leila Brittain will email an agenda.

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The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.