



**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee  
Minutes for February 20, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rayna Ross  
Marsha Patykiewicz  
Madeline Monroe  
Dr. Imran Rana  
Virginia Stinchfield  
Lisa Turner  
Lily Yap  
Mattie McClean

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Diana Rosales  
Michelle Steppe  
Robin Ghio  
Debbie Barclay  
Karen Tesmer

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Turner, in the Conference Room at Prairie Paws Adoption Center at 6:44 p.m. with a quorum present.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Review November 14, 2019 Minutes**

Madeline Monroe moved to approve the minutes, Rayna Ross seconded. **Motion passed.**

**B. Celebrating TNR- Presentation by Grand Prairie Cat Crew**

Jean Melton presented a slide show highlighting Grand Prairie Cat Crews development. Cat Crew is a volunteer group in Grand Prairie that assists Animal Services and colony caregivers with TNR. In September 2014 the live release rates for cats was 12.2%. TNR ordinance passed in February 2016 allowed feral cats to be released back to familiar territory after being sterilized to avoid being euthanized. In 2016, Feral Friends granted Prairie Paws \$26K to aid the cost the TNR program. Majority of the grant went to transporting ferals to Spay Neuter Network. Now Prairie Paws' veterinary staff sterilizes and vaccinates TNR cats. Animal Shelter Officers release majority of the cats while some are still picked up by the citizens that trapped them. This month Cat Crew is celebrating 3,800 TNR services rendered!

Lily Yap discussed growing TNR. TNR follow-ups and mass trapping by ASOs will supplement Cat Crew by targeting areas that need more attention. We will start to look at our intake process and how we label the each cat intake to be more descriptive of the health and situation the cat is coming from. Currently there is

not a report to track the outcomes of the cats after release. Will look to develop a report to show both the negative and positive outcomes TNR cats.

Lily Yap discussed updating the city's TNR web page. Looking for ways to change the conversation to focus more on "community" cats, a more positive representation of our free-roaming cat population.

Lily discussed the restrictions on TNR cats; Cats that are adopted, cats that are under the age of 4 months, owner surrendered cats and cats that are tagged by a rescue will not be eligible for TNR.

### **C. Improvement Projects: Kennel Renovation & Quarantine Drainage System**

Lily Yap discussed follow-up on the kennel renovation. Shoreline will take lead on this project. Shoreline was not available to start renovation until April or later which is the start to the busier time of year for the shelter. We want to avoid putting extra stress and population constraints on the shelter staff and animals. The project will start in January 2021 barring any set backs.

The shelter is looking to update the drainage system in our Quarantine areas. During the original construction, there were not enough funds to put in an adequate drainage system. The current kennel set up can be cleaned and sanitized but the odor is offensive. This will be an estimated \$75k project. We will be looking at CIP budget at the end of this fiscal year to determine a timeline for this project.

Lily Yap discussed recent housing changes in the shelter. Shelter staff took the initiative to switch the small dog section and one of our cat sections to prioritize this space for an onsite population that generally has a longer length of stay. Now we will be able to have cats in areas that get the most foot traffic. Cat portals will be installed to give cats access to adjacent kennel. Having the space to hide and function naturally will ultimately increase the cats experience while they are in the shelter.

### **D. Program Updates**

Lily Yap provided Program highlights from this past quarter.

Petco Kennels continues to be great adoption exposure for cats/kittens. To date 42 cats have been adopted! We have been able to get some of our longer stay residents adopted in a matter of day. Currently having difficulty keeping the Petco kennels filled since our in house population is not as high. Average length of stay at the Petco kennels is approximately 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the stay at the shelter. Very impressive!!

Lily Yap discussed working with our Public Information Officer to recruit fosters while our kitten population is low. We will utilize billboards with the tag line "Be the 1%" to catch the attention of citizens looking to foster. Statistics show if even only 1% of Grand Prairie households fostered a pair of underaged kittens per season, they would all be able to get out.

Lily Yap discussed a new volunteer opportunity focusing on shelter essentials.

This opportunity will allow volunteers to fulfill required hours without utilizing the three- shadow shift protocol. This will benefit the shelter by allowing volunteers to come on board faster to help with tedious, yet important tasks such as dishes and laundry. This will help staff aim time and resources towards volunteers wanting to work long term.

Lily Yap also announced Mattie Mclean will officially transition to the Programs Supervisor position at the beginning of March.

#### **E. Operations Updates**

Dr. Imran Rana gave Operations highlights from past quarter.

Two full time positions have been added to our staff: a Veterinary Technician and a Senior Animal Care Technician. The Sr. ACT position will focus on supporting the medical staff with daily shelter operations. Both positions are filled and will start as soon as onboarding is complete through HR.

HR still working on the equity review process for the new veterinarian position. Currently are using contract vets to fill the role. Once HR posts the position we can start conducting interviews. We are confident we will have a good turn out in candidates. Dr. Imran Rana discussed the quality and skills we are looking for in our full time veterinarian.

We have received our x-ray certification. We are now able to immediately assess animals while saving the shelter time and money. Looking to implement a protocol for heartworm positive dogs to do a chest x-ray to identify the intensity of the disease in the dog.

Additionally, we are looking into being able to do in house diagnostics on blood panels. Having the proper machinery will ultimately allow the shelter to improve the care and diagnostics given to animals.

#### **F. Animal Shelter Manager Quarterly Report**

Lily Yap provided quarterly numbers for November, January, December 2019. Overall Live Release Rate is 101.3 for the month of January. Lily Yap explained shelters generally focus on one of two reporting systems: Save Rate & Live Release Rate. At GPAS, we have been calculating Live Release Rate, meaning when positive outcomes (including those for the population that has been onsite before the beginning of the month) exceed intakes, percentage exceeds 100%. Upcoming events will help keep the trend moving in a positive direction.

#### **G. Raving Fans Initiative: Rabies Ordinance**

Lily Yap reported on the most recent efforts in our Raving Fans Initiative. A rabies ordinance adjustment will be submitted at the next council meeting. Currently it is our responsibility to follow-up with adoptions under 3 months of age to ensure the pet has receive their rabies vaccine. We are reviewing best practices to include in our adoption age appropriate vaccinations. If the ordinance

is adjusted we will no longer issue citations to adopters that do not provide proof their pet has been vaccinated. Adopters would still have the option to utilize the shelter to obtain their pet's rabies vaccine but ultimately it will be the adopters responsibility to ensure the vaccine is received. This ordinance adjustment will need to be approved by the Public Safety Committee before it can be submitted to City Council.

#### **H. Public Comments**

Jean Melton inquired about mandated sterilization for frequently impounded animals. Lily Yap discussed the biggest reason we do not enforce sterilization is mainly due to concerns regarding complications after surgeries and affordability on the owners side.

Lisa Turner provided a customer's feedback on a visit in January. The customer was very pleased with the knowledge the Care Tech had on the animal's behavior and overall happy with their experience throughout the whole adoption process. Mattie McClean encouraged that the customer submit a Raving Fans so we can highlight the staff members involved at our next all staff meeting.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business to discuss, Madeline Monroe made a motion to adjourn, Virginia Stinchfield seconded, all members in favor, meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:30 pm at Prairie Paws Adoption Center.



Lily Yap, Animal Services Division Manager