

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SCHEDULED MEETING - OCTOBER 20, 2015

The Animal Control Advisory Committee met on Tuesday October 20, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Burke County Library. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Tinley. Also in attendance were: Jones "Scrap" Gresham, Larry Lewis, Stephen Murray, Kelly Jenkins, Sarah Ford, and Carol Jones. Monika Mobley and Jesse Stone were unable to attend. Minutes from the September 15, 2015 meeting were approved.

Scrap Gresham and Bill Tinley each shared research reports about the City of Waynesboro Animal Shelter. The shelter has issues with having no set budget, only one employee, and taking in too many animals. It is currently taking animals from both inside and outside the city limits.

Kelly Jenkins presented data from the Old Fella Animal Rescue from 2010 and 2011. In 2010, this group rescued over 600 dogs and in 2011, over 300 dogs. (In 2010, the figures were very high because the City Shelter was not open). Kelly stated that these figures likely represent only about half of the problem because they do not include the City of Waynesboro shelter, Girard Life Savers, or other individuals who may be rescuing or fostering dogs. Sarah Ford requested figures from Girard Life Savers, but these were not provided. Larry Lewis pointed out that these numbers are very likely to increase once a shelter opens because there will be more dumping of unwanted animals.

Sarah Ford and Bill Tinley discussed the tension between rules and the desire to help as many animals as possible. On one hand, strict adherence to the shelter's legal limits and to the City's ordinances would require that many more dogs be euthanized. On the other hand, sympathy for the dogs means that they might live at the shelter for an extremely long time (over a year in some cases). Neither extreme is desirable; therefore, it is critical to have oversight for the shelter, so that established criteria are enforced with respect to the disposition of each animal.

Carol Jones asked that we research the possible working relationships between animal control and the rescue organizations. Stephen Murray emphasized that there is a big difference between animal control and animal rescue. Animal control includes vicious animals and other threats to public safety, involving animals that are not suitable for rescue. Rescue groups are more concerned with saving animals and finding permanent homes for them. These two functions have very different requirements. Larry Lewis stated that the Sheriff's Department receives a very large number of calls concerning vicious dogs.

Bill Tinley reported on his meeting with Ms. Cowart of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. She made the following recommendations:

1. Develop ordinances at the County level, such as limits on the number of dogs owned, requirements for spay / neuter, tag fees, etc.
2. Establish an animal control officer who is also a sworn law enforcement officer.
3. Shelters must keep detailed records of each animal passing through and should microchip each one for future identification.

4. The shelter facility does not need to be elaborate, it just needs to get animals out of the weather and provide adequate food and water for them.

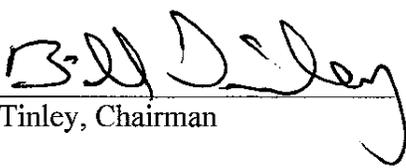
Screven County's Animal Shelter was briefly discussed. It is adjacent to the jail, and trustee prisoners provide labor to keep down operating expenses. Larry Lewis agreed that this could be a good approach, but that the shelter must be adjacent to the jail and that only certain prisoners could be used, i.e. non-felons. They could perform maintenance tasks such as cleaning kennels.

There was also some discussion about budgeting for a shelter. Bill Tinley explained that the County is not likely to fund a new function like animal control in the middle of a budget year. Thus, this committee's recommendations will be consider in the planning for a future fiscal year. We are not yet at the point of being ready to make specific recommendations about the costs, but we do recognize that there would be construction and ongoing facility costs, and probably at least three employees required.

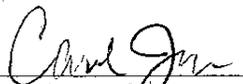
Assignments were made for next month's meeting:

1. Jesse Stone will be coordinating visits to shelters in nearby counties.
2. Stephen Murray will collect the relevant ordinances of nearby counties.
3. Larry Lewis will research the number of calls received by the Sheriff's Department.
4. Kelly Jenkins will provide financial data from Old Fella.
5. Carol Jones and Scrap Gresham will meet with local rescue groups regarding ways of working together.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2015, at 6:00pm at the Burke County Library.



Bill Tinley, Chairman



Carol Jones, Secretary

Animal Control Advisory Committee Meeting
At The Burke County Library
6:00 P.M.
October 20, 2015

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of last meeting Minutes
3. Reports on Information Gathered
4. Discussion concerning Information Gathered
5. Discussion of Visits to neighboring Facilities
6. Other Topics to Research for information we need
7. Other
8. Adjourn

Notes submitted by Scrap Gresham

October 9, 2015

Chief Deputy Larry Lewis and myself met and Chief Lewis has a possible solution that sounds reasonable and workable, he is still studying the idea and will bring it to the table at the appropriate time.

October 9, 2015

Visited the Waynesboro City Animal Services Department—I promise you this is not the facility the County needs to follow. Why? It has no set budget. It has only one employee and her daughter who tries to help (she just graduated from High School and wants to go to Vet school). The City pays only the minimum to this employee, the employee seldom sees anyone from City government to help or encourage the employee to be successful in having a clean and healthy environment to get the animals adopted out. Visitors would be absolutely negative to the way this department is operated and would not want to adopt from this facility.

The employee tries to help county pick ups (strays and abandoned) as well as City animals because there is no other place to keep them.

Description of the Facility:

Approximately 40' X 80' X 100' , enclosed by chain link fence

- 1 Building in the center that has 10 fenced run
- 5 runs on each side with concrete floor
- 1 10 X 10 cage with concrete floor
- 5 cages with dirt floors, with wire on the floor to keep animals from digging out

All cats (18—20) are in a wooden storage building.

I challenge this committee to visit the facility to see if you would want to live or work at this facility. It is a very complex problem to solve but I believe that we can make a difference if we get serious and no less than serious.

Information concerning the City of Waynesboro Animal Control Shelter collected by Bill Tinley.

October 6, 2015

The City facility is an Animal Control Facility not a rescue/adopt/foster facility but cooperates with entities that conduct those activities.

The following information was furnished by Ms. Angela Rystrom concerning monthly activities at the shelter :

MONTHLY AVERAGES

Number of dogs collected	10—15
Number of dogs maintained at the shelter	25
Number of dogs euthanized	less than 5
Number of dogs adopted from the shelter	0—2
Number of dogs transported to rescues for adoption	14

The shelter is only licensed to hold 10 dogs.

On average 50% of the dogs taken into the shelter originate from outside the City Limits of Waynesboro.

Observations:

Concerning conditions at the shelter—the conditions could be improved greatly and in a short period of time by adopting one or all of the following options.

1. Discontinue taking animals from outside the City Limits.
2. Adhere strictly to our licensed capacity of ten animals.
3. Comply strictly with City Ordinance Sec.13—21 Disposition of impounded animals

“(a) The Animal Control Officer shall be authorized to dispose of any animal in as humane and painless a manner as possible if such animal has remained unclaimed for five days after impoundment and the animal has not been adopted after impoundment. If possible, the Animal Control Officer may donate any unclaimed animal to a nonprofit institution or agency for the purpose of humane placement or rescue.

The dilemma is, are there other options and if so what are they and how can we implement them?

2011 SURRENDER REQUESTS to OLD FELLA HOTLINE

	Cats/Dogs	%Total-Unwanted	Humans (2010)	%Total-Humans
Girard	13	3.0%	156	0.7%
County-Northwest	53	12.1%	332	1.4%
Midville	28	6.4%	269	1.2%
Sardis	8	1.8%	999	4.3%
County-Northeast	168	38.4%	15,682	67.3%
Waynesboro	165	37.7%	5,766	24.7%
Vidette	3	0.7%	112	0.5%
	438		23,316	

2011 IntakeTotal 316

2011 Spay/Neuter Total 227

2010 SURRENDER REQUESTS to OLD FELLA HOTLINE

	Cats/Dogs	%Total-Unwanted	Humans (2010)	%Total-Humans
Girard	7	2.7%	156	0.7%
County-Northwest	55	20.8%	332	1.4%
Midville	15	5.7%	269	1.2%
Sardis	41	15.5%	999	4.3%
County-Northeast	61	23.1%	15,682	67.3%
Waynesboro	83	31.4%	5,766	24.7%
Vidette	2	0.8%	112	0.5%
	264		23,316	

2010 IntakeTotal 603

2010 Spay/NeuterTotal 323

Entities Licensed By The Georgia Department of Agriculture

BURKE COUNTY

City of Waynesboro

Girard Lifesaver Rescue Inc.

Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue Inc.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Columbia County Humane Society

Columbia County Animal Rescue Inc.

Columbia County Animal Services

Dog Networking Agents Corporation

Heartsong Animal Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc.

McDuffie County Friends of Animals

Molly's Militia Inc.

Ruff Rescues Inc.

Wheels of Hope Humane Society

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

Coastal Pet Rescue

Effingham County Animal Shelter

Second Chance Dog Rescue & Referral Inc.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

City of Wrens

Ogeechee Veterinary Assoc. P.C.

JENKINS COUNTY

City of Millen Animal Shelter

Jenkins County Furever Friends Rescue

McDUFFIE COUNTY

Southern Souls Rescue Inc.

Thomson—McDuffie Animal Shelter

RICHMOND COUNTY

Augusta Animal Services

Augusta Humane Society

CSRA Humane Society Inc.

Save The Animals Rescue Society Inc.

SCREVEN COUNTY

Friends of Screven County Animals (FOSCA)

Screven County Animal Shelter