



Animal Shelter Advisory Committee 10/19/2023

Notice is hereby given of a regular meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee of the City of San Angelo to be held on October 19, 2023 at 12:00 PM at City Hall – East Mezzanine, 72 W. College Ave., San Angelo, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

Issues or concerns not on the Regular Agenda may be raised by the public at this time. Citizens should speak from the podium, address all comments to the committee, begin by stating their name and address or Single Member District number, and limit their remarks to less than three minutes.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider approving the August 18, 2023 Animal Shelter Advisory Committee regular meeting minutes (Morgan Chegwidden)
- b. Consider accepting positive rabies specimens for 2023 (Morgan Chegwidden)

4. Regular Agenda

- a. Discussion and possible action related to monthly shelter numbers for August 2023 (Presentation made by Assistant Director Neighborhood & Family Services followed by Morgan Chegwidden)
- b. Discussion and possible action related to monthly shelter numbers for September 2023 (Presentation made by Assistant Director Neighborhood & Family Services followed by Morgan Chegwidden)
- c. Discussion and possible action related to annual shelter numbers for fiscal year 2022-23 (Presentation made by Assistant Director Neighborhood & Family Services followed by Morgan Chegwidden)
- d. Update and possible action related to community-supported sheltering model (Presentation made by Assistant Director Neighborhood & Family Services Morgan Chegwidden)

5. Follow Up and Administrative Issues

- a. Discussion and possible action related to 2024 meeting dates

6. Adjournment

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of San Angelo, Texas, on the 16th day of October 2023, at 10:52 a.m.

Morgan Chegwidden, Assistant Director
Neighborhood & Family Services

All agenda items are subject to action. The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee reserves the right to consider business out of posted order.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of San Angelo will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending board or commission meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received 48 hours prior to the meetings. Please contact the Assistant Director Neighborhood & Family Services at 325-657-4225, or the ADA Coordinator at 325-657-4407 for request, or by completing a request form online at cosatx.us/ada.

Staff Report



Requestor: Morgan Chegwidden, Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services, Neighborhood and Family Services, 325-657-4224

Meeting Date: October 19, 2023

Item type: Consent Item

Caption:

Consider approving the August 18, 2023 Animal Shelter Advisory Committee regular meeting minutes (Morgan Chegwidden)

Summary/History:

Attached are the draft minutes for the committee's consideration.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Other Information/Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval.

Attachments:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | 3a 231019 ASAC August Minutes | 3a 231019 ASAC August Minutes.docx |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Presentation:

None

Approvals/Reviews:

Morgan Chegwidden
Theresa James

Created/Initiated
Final Approval



City of San Angelo, Texas
Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes
August 17, 2023

Present:

Caitlin Wylie, SMD1
Jen Murphy, SMD2
Sgt. Chris Carpenter, SMD3
Bambi Aker, SMD5
Morgan Chegwidden, SMD6

1. Call to Order/Roll Call to Establish Quorum

With a quorum of the committee members present, Committee Member Caitlin Wylie called the regular meeting Animal Shelter Advisory Committee to order at 12:00 p.m. on August 17, 2023 at City Hall – East Mezzanine, 72 W. College Ave. San Angelo, Texas.

2. Public Comment

Citizen Kay Brown asked for spay/neuter ordinance and microchip enforcement that leads to intake.

Tom Green County resident Susan Perry asked for spay/neuter and microchip ordinance awareness to the public.

Citizen Mary Wilson stated she doesn't support killing for space and asked to (1) appoint a group for ordinance review and recommendations, (2) budget for animal services officers' spay/neuter enforcement and disallow breeders permits for pits, and (3) we can spay/neuter our way out of capacity issues.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider approving the April 20, 2023 Animal Shelter Advisory Committee regular meeting minutes.
- b. Consider accepting positive rabies specimens for 2023.

MOTION: Committee member Aker made a motion, seconded by Committee member Murphy, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

4. Regular Agenda

- a. Discussion and possible action related to monthly shelter numbers for April 2023.

A presentation was made by Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Morgan Chegwidden. No action was taken on this item.

Tom Green County resident Susan Perry asked about the intake of animals at the shelter being open.

b. Discussion and possible action related to monthly shelter numbers for May 2023.

A presentation was made by Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Morgan Chegwiddden. No action was taken on this item.

c. Discussion and possible action related to monthly shelter numbers for June 2023.

A presentation was made by Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Morgan Chegwiddden. No action was taken on this item.

d. Discussion and possible action related to monthly shelter numbers for July 2023.

A presentation was made by Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Morgan Chegwiddden. No action was taken on this item.

Committee member Carpenter asked if San Angelo Animal Services had euthanized for space. Committee member Chegwiddden answered that they had not.

Citizen Kay Brown stated the infographic presented should include spay/neuter ordinance enforcement and compliance data.

e. Discussion and consider adopting the revised coordinated intake policy for owners wishing to surrender their pets.

A presentation was made by Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Morgan Chegwiddden.

Wall resident Jenie Wilson asked for this policy to shift approval responsibility to the City of San Angelo.

MOTION: Committee member Aker made a motion, seconded by Committee member Murphy, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

5. Follow Up and Administrative Issues

Committee member Carpenter stated microchip scanners for the San Angelo Police Department have been deployed for patrol officers.

Tom Green County resident Susan Perry asked what San Angelo police officers protocol is once a loose dog is secured.

6. Adjournment

MOTION: Committee member Aker made a motion, seconded by Committee member Murphy, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays. The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Staff Report



Requestor: Morgan Chegwidden, Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services, Neighborhood and Family Services, 325-657-4224

Meeting Date: October 19, 2023

Item type: Consent Item

Caption:

Consider accepting positive rabies specimens for 2023 (Morgan Chegwidden)

Summary/History:

This agenda item serves to update you on the positive rabies specimens that we've collected this year. Three specimens tested non-negative since our last report.

Specimen 4306 - inconclusive

August 16, 2023

1300 S. Madison St.

No human exposure, pet dog exposure

Skunk

Specimen 4307 - positive

August 21, 2023

8400 Hangar Rd.

No human exposure

Bat

Specimen N/A - positive

September 14, 2023

8300 Duckworth Rd.

No human exposure

Raccoon

Financial Impact:

N/A

Other Information/Recommendation:

No action necessary at this time.

Attachments:

Presentation:

Yes

Approvals/Reviews:

Morgan Chegwidden
Theresa James

Created/Initiated
Final Approval

Staff Report



Requestor: Morgan Chegwidden, Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services, Neighborhood and Family Services, 325-657-4224

Meeting Date: October 19, 2023

Item type: Regular Item

Caption:

Discussion and possible action related to monthly shelter numbers for August 2023 (Presentation made by Assistant Director Neighborhood & Family Services followed by Morgan Chegwidden)

Summary/History:

208 new animals arrived at the shelter during August. 100 were transferred, 64 were redeemed by their owner, 23 wildlife were released, 40 were deceased and 260 were in custody at month end - all onsite, none in offsite quarantine or medical.

Our live release rate was 84.62%.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Other Information/Recommendation:

No action necessary at this time.

Attachments:

Presentation:

Yes

Approvals/Reviews:

Morgan Chegwidden
Theresa James

Created/Initiated
Final Approval

Staff Report



Requestor: Morgan Chegwidden, Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services, Neighborhood and Family Services, 325-657-4224

Meeting Date: October 19, 2023

Item type: Regular Item

Caption:

Discussion and possible action related to monthly shelter numbers for September 2023 (Presentation made by Assistant Director Neighborhood & Family Services followed by Morgan Chegwidden)

Summary/History:

239 new animals arrived at the shelter during September. 79 were adopted/transferred, 84 were redeemed by their owner, 38 wildlife were released, 35 were deceased and 267 were in custody at month end.

Our live release rate was 85.17%.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Other Information/Recommendation:

No action necessary at this time.

Attachments:

Presentation:

Yes

Approvals/Reviews:

Morgan Chegwidden
Theresa James

Created/Initiated
Final Approval

Staff Report



Requestor: Morgan Chegwidden, Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services, Neighborhood and Family Services, 325-657-4224

Meeting Date: October 19, 2023

Item type:

Caption:

Discussion and possible action related to annual shelter numbers for fiscal year 2022-23 (Presentation made by Assistant Director Neighborhood & Family Services followed by Morgan Chegwidden)

Summary/History:

2,901 new animals arrived in the shelter during fiscal year 2022-23. 1,477 were adopted/rescue transferred, 920 were redeemed by their owner, 292 were wildlife released and 275 died. 267 were left in the custody at year end.

Our live release rate was 90.72%.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Other Information/Recommendation:

No action necessary at this time.

Attachments:

Presentation:

Yes

Approvals/Reviews:

Morgan Chegwidden
Theresa James

Created/Initiated
Final Approval

Staff Report



Requestor: Morgan Chegwidden, Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services, Neighborhood and Family Services, 325-657-4224

Meeting Date: October 19, 2023

Item type: Regular Item

Caption:

Update and possible action related to community-supported sheltering model (Presentation made by Assistant Director Neighborhood & Family Services Morgan Chegwidden)

Summary/History:

In April 2023, the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee approved a shift to a community-supported sheltering model to draft programming such as found pets, rehoming owned pets, field operations case management, transparent euthanasia decisions, and more from a new perspective. This premise was drafted and approved in response to the shelter overpopulation crisis in which previous measures were largely ineffective. Six months later, it's important to reflect, report back, and identify further action needed.

Shelter Crisis Background

In 2022, shelters across America reported increased intake, decreased adoptions, and longer shelter stays leading to increased behavioral issues. San Angelo's overall intake was largely unchanged compared to the prior year, but puppy intake increased by 15% necessitating the repurposing of shelter space to isolate young dogs in an attempt to prevent the spread of parvovirus. Adoptions/rescue transfers stayed strong year-over-year so we beat the trend on that front. The major issue still needing attention at the end of the fiscal year 2021-22 was canine capacity specifically overcrowding, daily standards of care, lengths of stay, and public participation.

Previously developed policies for addressing these issues and newly launched programs provided little relief as summer 2022 concluded. For example, the weekly capacity meter reporting "red" level canines onsite from 5/17/22 - 8/24/22 did not measurably increase the number of foster homes. This communication was unilaterally criticized and not received well by San Angeloans.

City Response to Crisis

When a linen donation infested with pests was not quickly identified and disposed of, immediate attention was necessary. Generous volunteers worked closely with Concho Valley PAWS to temporarily house over 100 dogs by the end of August 2022 to administer widespread pest control decreasing our shelter population from 288 to 177. Once committed to these pups and learning of the shelter crisis, the vast majority of dogs stayed in foster homes until adopted thereby permanently decreasing the shelter population to manageable levels.

To ensure the canine population never again reaches crisis level, the City set a finite policy that no more than 180 dogs may be housed at any one time. This still allows for deploying reasonable resources to give each

animal a chance at Life First while providing appropriate housing and daily care metrics. By adopting community-supported sheltering aiming for the highest level of community involvement, each policy was revised under this new perspective.

Community-Supported Sheltering Solution

You'll recall from April's meeting, that this lens aims to inspire and empower public involvement bringing animal shelters, the community, and government to support operations and leverage resources to serve the most vulnerable people and pets in our community. This supportive environment shares a sense of ownership and responsibility for people and pets in need. This is no single program but is a cohesive integration of strategies to support and invest in the community.

It is neighbors helping neighbors, like a recent widow facing hospitalization whose primary concern is the care of her dog. Friends stepped in and housed that pup for months while she worked towards a prognosis that included reunification with her dog. A shelter intake was not necessary and that family stayed together after facing so much tragedy already.

It is San Angelo's helpers, like the committed social media browsers who develop an almost eidetic memory bank connecting a family that posted a lost blue dog three weeks ago and a recent post from a finder of the same dog. National statistics show a dog's chances of returning to their family decrease exponentially within days of their escape, but these dedicated community members do it.

Successful programs edited this year include Good Sam and euthanasia transparency.

- Good Sam connects friendly finders with resources like microchip scan and look-up, posting the found pet to a wide audience, providing crates and other supplies, and posting yard signs in the finder's homes with a description of the dog. Over 100 San Angeloans participated in Good Sam this year and 20% were reunited/rehomed without a shelter intake, 60% came into the shelter set up for success with medical and behavioral background and the remaining Good Sams are still actively participating in the program. Pets reunited with their owners or rehomed organically through Good Sam's circle of influence are connected with microchip and spay/neuter services. Good Sam's are committed to housing the pet transition to proper foster homes getting the pet spay/neutered, microchipped, and marketed.
- Euthanasia transparency was a priority this year as we shared the responsibility with the public for offering Life First to all animals in our care. Of course, management approves euthanasia for aggression or medical in accordance with a policy that provides for a 360° review of a pet's chance at adoption. However, considering euthanasia for happy, healthy dogs due to capacity is a decision that must be shared. The average San Angeloan is supportive of lifesaving but spends much of their time handling the priorities of family and career. Volunteering may be a luxury they cannot offer. After every possible dog has reunited with its owner and all adoption marketing is deployed, and your shelter is still full — we have to make tough decisions. But we won't make them in a vacuum. So we pick faces to spotlight and give a deadline that this dog will be euthanized if not adopted, fostered or rescue transferred. Thankfully, Animal Services has not had to do the unthinkable and needlessly end the life of an adoptable dog. Each time that we've published a euthanasia list, San Angelo saved every last dog. To date, 42 great dogs are safe.

Continued Assessing - Field Operations

The next work group to recommend changes for is the field operations services. One criticism of lifesaving efforts is the risk to public safety. There is a misconception that community-supported sheltering allows dogs to free-roam, and that is never an intended consequence.

In recent years, we've adopted a case management approach for each household that Animal Services Officers respond to. Speaking to pet owners about responsible pet ownership including informing residents of local laws, referring them for services, or issuing citations when they fail to make a prompt response is an important component of community-supported sheltering. Investing the majority of hours in high-call areas or target neighborhoods is a natural consequence of increased awareness of animal welfare. As the City has changed from allowing after-hours drop-offs and other such activity to instead asking pet owners to responsibly care for their pets for their lifetime, San Angeloans are more likely to call in animal-related violations. Changing the culture and expectation for how families should own pets has an impact on the number of calls for service received annually. Animal Services has continued to take and dispatch these calls but providing a prompt response has proven difficult under current staffing.

One factor contributing to increased dogs at large for field services is the owner surrender process. Until 2015, citizens of a 13-county region could bring any number of any species of pet in at any time of day to surrender for any reason at no cost. This led to constant capacity limitations and an inappropriate burden placed on the City. From 2015-2017, we developed our current process which is San Angelo city residents may complete the form at cypaws.org/rehome to surrender their adoptable pets at a scheduled time for a \$10.00 fee. Although successful for hundreds of pets annually, citizens in crisis opt to simply turn their pets loose to free breed causing nuisance behavior in neighborhoods. We believe the process is fair but it is a component of why more dogs are loose this year compared to prior years.

The two most common requests we get from owners wishing to rehome their pets are (1) reactivity/aggression in the home and (2) restrictive housing practices prohibiting certain breeds or sizes. A difficult part of pet ownership is euthanizing a pet with a bite history, reactivity, aggression, or otherwise unsafe behavior in the home. We ask citizens to have such pets humanely euthanized with the veterinarian of their choice but we suspect such owners often turn these dogs loose in the neighborhoods. Regarding housing restrictions, we advocate for private landlords, corporate-held apartments, and the public housing authority to offer truly pet-friendly housing opportunities with no restriction on breed or size.

An unintended consequence of Animal Services Officers enforcing local ordinances governing pet ownership has criminalized pet ownership for a large volume of San Angeloans. Requiring spay/neuter and microchip for all dogs and cats over four months of age is certainly appropriate and a best-case scenario. However, imposing this on marginalized citizens makes pet ownership a crime, and such individuals are cited and fined leading them to consider rehoming their pets.

Animal Services is budgeted for one Animal Services Officer supervisor and four Animal Services Officers. With frequent vacancies and a lengthy certification process, we struggle to provide a round-the-clock response. The same, small team responds to calls during regular hours and then takes a rotation of after-hours emergency calls thus overtaxing an under-resourced system. Staff advocates for funding for additional staffing, equipment, and overtime to keep up with community demands.

Lifesaving in animal welfare is a community ethic and it impacts daily life. When your animal care workers are taxed to the limit, San Angelo shows up. That is the very definition of community-supported sheltering.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Other Information/Recommendation:

No action necessary at this time.

Attachments:

Presentation:

Morgan Chegwidden

Approvals/Reviews:

Morgan Chegwidden

Created/Initiated

Staff Report



Requestor: Morgan Chegwidden, Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services, Neighborhood and Family Services, 325-657-4224

Meeting Date: October 19, 2023

Item type: Regular Item

Caption:

Discussion and possible action related to 2024 meeting dates

Summary/History:

To comply with state health code 823, the animal shelter advisory committee must meet at least three times annually. Staff recommends meeting four times in calendar year 2023. Proposed dates include:

- January 18, 2024
- April 18, 2024
- August 15, 2024
- October 17, 2024

As provided in the bylaws, additional meetings may be called by the chairperson.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Other Information/Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval.

Attachments:

Presentation:

Yes

Approvals/Reviews:

Morgan Chegwidden
Theresa James

Created/Initiated
Final Approval