

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 2019

The Caddo Parish Animal Services Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (6). ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1).

Also in attendance were Parish Administrator Dr. Woody Wilson, Assistant Parish Administrator Randy Lucky, Parish Attorney Donna Frazier, Animal Services Director Travis Clark, Assistant Animal Services Director Kelvin Samuels, Commissioner Chavez, Susan Trahan, Nina Lopez, and Brandi Cornell.

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was given in the previous meeting.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson opened the floor for public comments:

Ms. Susan Trahan came before the Committee and said that only 73 citations were given in 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. She would like Animal Service Officers to enforce the law, especially when it comes to animal cruelty.

Ms. Nina Lopez came before the Committee with concerns regarding dogs being underfed at the shelter prior to Mr. Clark being director. She said that she was told it was due to worms or environment; she did not believe that to be true. Ms. Lopez pointed out since Mr. Clark became director, there have been dog bowls and the dogs do not look emaciated. Ms. Lopez commended Mr. Clark on all of his hard work in improving the shelter. She also said that she's seen Mr. Clark on hands and knees cleaning the kennels himself.

Ms. Brandi Cornell volunteers for the shelter. She also commended Mr. Clark on all of his hard work at the shelter. She said that she is able to reach Mr. Clark at any time of the day. She also commended Mr. Clark and Animal Services on the transparency at the shelter.

At this time, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson closed the public comments.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and stated that today's meeting is to provide an update from Animal Services Director:

- Animal Services 2018 Year in Review
- Animal Services operations update
- Update regarding automation of Animal Services operations and the latest inspection and program review by Pet Point officials.
- Update on the outcome of the March 20, 2019, Department of Agricultural Inspection
- Future initiatives for Animal Services and any concerns from the Director

Mr. Clark conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding Animal Services. 2018 was a record setting year by the citizens of Caddo Parish with the lowest intake numbers, lowest euthanasia rate, and the most positive outcomes. They attribute that to adoptions, Facebook Lost & Found pages, decreased intake numbers, etc. We feel that allowing citizens to look at the entire selection of animals in the shelter and online has helped increase our adoption efforts. Marketing our animals has increased foot traffic to the shelter and strengthened our online presence. Adopters from other areas have also been willing to help our community.

Basic care for dogs and puppies cost approximately \$28 (this is without surgery or additions). The basic care includes DAPPL, Bordetella, flea pill, HW test, parvo test, rabies vaccination, microchips, etc. Basic care for kittens and cats costs approximately \$35 (this is without surgery or additions). The basic care includes feline vaccinations, flea pill, FIV test, rabies vaccinations, microchips, etc.

From July 2018 until December 2018, Animal Services had a total intake of 1,891 dogs. Of those, 631 were owner surrendered and 1,147 were strays. The outcomes of those dogs were: 641 euthanized, 555 adopted, 492 transferred, and 148 returned to owner. Dogs were euthanized due to space (80), behavior (152), aggression (75), and medical reasons (326). Most of the dogs who were euthanized were bully breeds, lab mixes, and shepherds.

From July 2018 until December 2018, Animal Services had a total intake of 634 cats. The outcome of those cats were: 407 euthanized, 278 adopted, 127 TNR (trap-neuter-release), 127 transferred, 109 died, and 45 were missing. Only seven cats were redeemed by their owners.

For the first quarter of 2019 (January to March), Animal Services had a total intake of 1,166 animals (655 strays, 434 owner surrenders, 64 seized/custody, and 13 returns). The outcomes of those animals were: 474 rescue transfers, 357 adoptions, 91 return to owners, 52 TNR's, 209 euthanized dogs, 18 euthanized cats, and 19 animals died in care. There were 974 positive outcomes, which is an 80% live release rate (LRR). The Annual Live Release Rate does not include 13 owner/guardian requested euthanasia which were unhealthy and untreatable, along with the 19 dogs and cats who died in Animal Services care resulting in an 81.99% LRR.

Going forward, citations are issued in accordance with violations observed, owner's willingness to come into compliance and investigation. Officers will issue a Correction Order in an attempt to give the animal owner a chance to reach compliance. This helps establish a relationship between the Officer/Owner and also created a paper trail that CPAS has attempted to work with animal owners. Officers have become more familiar with the warrant process, and we will continue to investigate animal related crimes. Animal Services also continue to promote Robinson's Rescue in spaying and neutering pets.

Mr. Atkins thanked Mr. Clark for the presentation. Mr. Atkins mentioned that the intake of animals is decreasing. Mr. Clark said that the numbers are decreasing which allows them more time to "market" and get the animals out of the shelter. He explained higher intake numbers means less time to get the animals out of the shelter, so they would have to make room for the new intakes.

Dr. Wilson said with the combined efforts of Robinson's Rescue, as well as every animal be spayed/neutered prior to leaving the shelter, is the reason the intake numbers have decreased. He believes that all of these efforts are bringing the community animal population down.

Mr. Linn asked for more clarity on the TNR program in Highland. Mr. Clark stated that the TNR program allows citizens to bring the cats into the shelter to be fixed and vaccinated prior to being released back into its original area.

Mr. Clark then gave the Committee an update on Animal Services' operations. He said that PetPoint technicians came out and gave Animal Services a good review. He also said that they were ahead of schedule on utilizing PetPoint. He also said that they have been working on teambuilding and working together to "get on the same page".

Answering a question from Mr. Atkins regarding monitoring employee moral or comment cards, Mr. Clark said that it is an objective point of view, but they could bring back comment cards if they would like.

Mr. Kelvin Samuels, Assistant Animal Services Director, said that Animal Services received a letter from PetPoint. The letter stated that they would like to use Caddo Animal Services as a model for PetPoint. He also said that they have a QA (Quality Assurance) person who performs the checks and balances at the shelter.

Mr. Samuels then gave an update on the outcome of the March 20, 2019, Department of Agricultural Inspection. He explained that the only mark they received this year was for door guards. They suggested that Animal Services install door guards on the bottom of the doors to keep rodents out. He said that Facility & Maintenance has an order to replace and install door guards.

Mr. Clark then talked about the future concerns with Animal Services. He said that he is engaging with the citizens by going to more events which allows him to educate the public on keeping their pets contained, spay/neutering their pets, and other basic care issues for their pets. He has also looked at numerous grant writing opportunities, but government agencies are not allowed to apply for many of those grants. He also said that there is more that could be done with the enforcement activities, and they are working to improve those issues.

Mr. Middleton thanked Mr. Clark for all of this information, as well as the hard work he is doing to improve Animal Services and the shelter. He also asked about the citation process. Mr. Clark explained that they give the person a written citation and allows them two weeks to correct their problem. If the issue has not been corrected, the animal could be seized. If they are working to address the issue, then they will work with the person to try and allow the person to keep their animal.

Answering a question from Mr. Middleton regarding PEP, Mr. Samuels stated that PEP is leaving town and going to Houston, but they are providing Animal Services with the literature to keep it going in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Middleton recommended that the ACO's pass out fliers for Robinson's Rescue during their downtown. Dr. Wilson explained that there is not much downtown, but they do work with the City of Shreveport to target certain communities. Mr. Middleton suggested that some of the volunteers help with the issues by being "proactive, not reactive" to address problems such as spaying/neutering animals. He explained that they could go to target neighborhoods and pass out flies for Robinson's Rescue.

Answering a question from Mr. Linn regarding a shelter partnership, Mr. Clark explained it is a 501-c3 that attaches themselves to a local government agency. They would use Caddo Parish Animal Services as a source for their rescues, which would also allow them to utilize the shelter's

statistics to apply for grants. Mr. Linn also wanted to know if Animal Services has identified a shelter partner. Mr. Clark said that they have not identified a shelter partner at this time.

Mr. Linn also wanted an update on Best Friends. Mr. Samuels said that they have a conference in Dallas. One of the topics being discussed is adopting large dogs.

Mr. Linn suggested obtaining a shelter partner and "moving the needle forward" for Animal Services to go from good to great. Mr. Clark explained that they work with about thirty 501-c3s, but each group has their own types of animals that they could help. For example, Nina's Road to Rescue helps smaller dogs, so it would not be appropriate for Mr. Clark to ask them to pull a 45 lbs. lab. Dr. Wilson said that anyone could be a partner, but no one has stepped up yet.

Attorney Frazier explained that a partnership could be formed if an organization comes forward and volunteers to work with the shelter. She said that it would need to be an organization that is not breed specific or type specific. She also explained that the organization would be willing to raise funds for the shelter as a whole, not just their rescue.

Dr. Wilson commended Animal Services and the staff for improving the shelter. He said that it does not go unnoticed. He also mentioned that last Friday, Travis left work and drove to Maryland to transport sixteen dogs and drove back. Dr. Wilson said that he does not just "talk the talk; he walks the walk".

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson also commended Mr. Clark on all of his hard work. He said that the rabies vaccinations event was a huge success and looks forward to more events like that in the future.

Mr. Samuels announced that Caddo Parish has its first rabies case in 20 years. He said that a skunk was acting relatively strange and got into a fight with someone's dog. The skunk came back positive for rabies, and the dog was quarantined. He also mentioned that the dog was up to date on its vaccinations, which lessens its quarantined time.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/Todd Hopkins  
Todd A. Hopkins  
Commission Clerk