

September 4, 2008

ANIMAL CONTROL TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Members: Commissioner Theresa Abed (Chair), Commissioner Denise Clarke, Commissioner Linda Keefe, Commissioner Carol Strachan; Representative from Sheriff's Office, Captain Wessels; Representative from Capital Area Humane Society, Julia Palmer; Community members; Judy Oisten and Helen Schneider.

Other Participants: Larry Green, Animal Control Director; Patti Roost, Community member; Connie Friedly, Eaton County Humane Society; Dr. Edward Foster, DVM.

Consultation with: Jamie McAloon, Director of Ingham County Animal Control ; Lorna Elliott, Chairman, Ingham County Advisory Board; Brian Smith, Vice-Chairman, Ingham County Advisory Board; Dr. Charles Decam, Chairman, Michigan State University Small Animal Clinic; Helene Pazak, Director of the Technician program at M.S.W.; David Kracker, Kent County Environmental Health Division, regarding external review; Ionia County Animal County; regarding Advisory Board; Eaton Intermediate School District.

Visits to outlying Animal Control Shelters: Ionia County, Ingham County and Kent County Animal Control.

Unanimous recommendations of the Animal Control Task Force:

1. Contracting with a nationally or state-recognized agency (National Animal Control Association, Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers, Humane Society of the United States) for the conducting of an external review of the Department's operation and facilities, or contract with a qualified, appropriately-experienced independent consultant to conduct the external review. Seek grants to help offset the cost of such a review.
2. Create an Advisory Board to meet on a quarterly basis. Composition, term and frequency to be determined by Public Safety Committee. (Sample models from Ingham and Ionia Counties attached) Proposed purpose to facilitate the implementation of Task Force Recommendations and provide feedback to the Public Safety Committee as to progress, with continued oversight of the recommendations identified in **bold**.

Adoptions

3. **Continuing ongoing efforts to increase the facilitation of adoptions through a variety of means, including the utilization of the County's website and other resources (e.g., Petfinder.com).**
4. Expand hours of shelter operation, and consideration of weekend business hours.
5. Development and formalization written agreements with the local humane societies and recognized rescue organizations to increase adoptions; contracts with these agencies would include fee waivers.

6. Host periodic adoption events, perhaps in partnership with other agencies/organizations.

Volunteers & Interns

7. **The utilization of volunteers to assist in areas deemed appropriate, e.g., assisting in the facilitation of adoptions and updating and maintaining the website.**
8. Explore partnering with a veterinary school for student interns to assist in the operation of the Department.
9. Use college program interns (credit-based) to assist in the Department's operation.

Pound Release

10. Maintain by County Board resolution the Sheriff's Order to end the practice of pound release (sale or transfer) of animals for research.

Policies and Procedures

11. The adoption of a mission statement, which includes an emphasis on adoption. (Examples from other counties attached)
12. Continue the development of Standard Operating Procedures based on nationally recognized models, to be submitted to the Public Safety Committee, by April 1, 2009.

Public Education and Resources

13. **Solicit donations of supplies and funds.** Establish a special fund in the Treasurer's Office for monies received, dedicated to Animal Control and Shelter.
14. Provide public education on the issue of spaying/neutering pets. Establish website links to other spaying/neutering programs. Pursue the possibility of a mobile spaying/neutering clinic.
15. Adopt a name change for the department to Animal Control & Shelter.
16. Develop a license renewal procedure, including annual renewal notices, to increase compliance. Offer the option of multi-year licensing.
17. Pursue exploration of the purchase of new computer software.

Other

18. Discuss through the Public Safety Committee the advantages and disadvantages of having Animal Control directly under (and reporting to the Board of Commissioners) rather than the Sheriff.