

Minutes of the Oconee County Animal Services Advisory Board
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
OCAS Conference Room, 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairperson, Kelsey Fox. Members present were Marsha Mitchell- Vice Chair, Heather Macbeth- Secretary, Angie Eades, and Debbie Caffery. Crystal Berisko, Oconee County Animal Services Manager, and CJ Worden, EMA Director was present. Nina Wingrove, President of Friends of Oconee Animal Shelter was also present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Fox raised the review and approval of the minutes from the July 7, 2021 called meeting after confirming everyone had reviewed the minutes sent by Secretary Macbeth. Berisko noted corrections needed for typo (Christmas misspelled) and to correct date for April 13th board meeting date. Eades made the motion to approve the minutes pending corrections and Caffery seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments – limit of 5 minutes each

Wingrove reported that someone called Friends of OCAS inquiring about the donation button on the county website and wanted clarification regarding why there are 2 buttons for donation as well as where funds go when donations come through the County website.

4. Manager of Animal Services Updates – Crystal Berisko

Ordinance- Manager Berisko indicated that additional revisions will be made to the Ordinance as follows:

- Under Humane Manner definition add “adequate medical care” and add description to better define “adequate.” Berisko will work on definition
- Amend number of animals per acreage.
- Include breeding without a licence.
 - Department of Agriculture currently does not issue citations
 - Consider county based ordinance level if breeding without a licence.
 - Currently State Level Activity would have to get Law Enforcement involved.
 - Draft will be prepared for next meeting
- Consider adding ethics violation for vets who see repetitive trends of unhealthy animals and do not report/do not want to get involved.
 - Consider class to educate vets on reporting

Bylaws- Have been approved by the County Attorney. Berisko will send to the clerk to add a signature line and get on the Agenda for the Board of Commissioners to Adopt.

Projects- Catio. Berisko in the process of getting estimates. Current budget of \$3,000. Possible donation.

Stats- Manager Berisko reported fiscal year/calendar year intake, outcome, death and euthanasia counts. The current inventory is 7 dogs and 119 cats at the shelter.

Events-

- Fall Festival- October 23 from 10-2. Low cost adoptions
- Yard Sale October 23 from 9-1 at the Farmington Depot. Donation based (leashes, harnesses)
- National Cat Day- possible even October 29. Low cost cat adoptions (\$25)
- National Adoption Event- November 8-14. Berisko Applied for Pet Smart Charities
- November is Adopt a Senior Pet month. Low cost adoptions for animals 8 years of age and older.
- National Animal Shelter Appreciation week November 7-13. Celebrate staff, provide goodies and notes of encouragement.
- National Mutt day-December 2. Proposed adoption fee \$12 for that day
- Volunteer Appreciation Banquet during National Volunteer Appreciation week third week in April or April 20, 2022.
 - Ideas to promote volunteerism- Recruitment, Bring a friend, postcards in addition to evites, information tables
 - Limited RSVPs in the past.

Emergency Preparedness Plan- Oconee River Kennel Club to sponsor an emergency response trailer

Other- Updates from Last Advisory Board Meeting:

- KPI were approved. Reporting started in September.
- July National Adoption Week- 19 adoptions that week. 13 at PetSmart, 9 at Shelter
 - Between 5 agencies, 200 animals were available, 41 adoptions total
- September Volunteer appreciation banquet was a success
- September Rabies Clinic- 61 rabies vaccinations were given. Berisko acknowledged Dr. Tim Crowe who volunteered for the event
- Emergency Preparedness plan meeting was cancelled. Plan to be edited with new information and meeting rescheduled.
- Emergency Shelter Action Plan- complete. Example provided
- Volunteer Signup genius- Subscribed and available on the county website and Facebook page.

Created and Approved by County Attorney-

- Confidentiality Agreement for select volunteers to access Petpoint
- Submitting a Veterinarian Contract Agreement for approval
 - For vet to come to the shelter 1x per week
 - reduce transport time/cost

- Rabies vaccinations and surgeries
- Athens Area Humane Society donated surgery equipment when they moved

Grants-

- Potential goals: Education. Berisko looking at grants to aid in implementation and provide metrics.
 - National Adoption Event
 - ASPCA- Cruelty Research grant
 - Applied Behavior Seed Grant
 - PAWS- University of Georgia School of Law's Practicum in Animal Welfare skills
 - Collaboration for ordinance revisions, extract metrics from previous welfare cases

Website Updates-

- County website and Facebook to provide PSA's for Ordinance topics. Educational literature, and resources
- PayPal donation link added to the County Website
 - Wingrove inquire about where fund go
 - Berisko explained that funding goes to a special revenue account which can be used for medical, adoptions, sponsorships.
 - Can only be used directly for the care of animals
- Animal Services Facebook page: working on adding events and donation link.
 - Discussed method to explain to the public that either method of donating is acceptable and proceeds go to the same cause.
 - Provide donors with all options to donate based on personal preference and comfort level.

6. Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 9, 2022

April 13, 2022

8. New Business- none

9. Closing Comments – none

10. Adjournment

Caffery made the motion to adjourn at 7:03, and Eades seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.