

Minutes of the Oconee County Animal Services Advisory Board
Wednesday, February 09, 2022
OCAS Conference Room, 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 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.

2. Approval of Minutes

Fox raised the review and approval of the minutes from the October 13, 2021 called meeting after confirming that everyone had reviewed the minutes sent by Secretary Macbeth. Eades made the motion to approve the minutes pending corrections and Mitchell seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments – limit of 5 minutes each

No public comments

4. Manager of Animal Services Updates – Crystal Berisko

Budget-

Personnel- Berisko to request pay adjustment for Supervisor, Med Tech and Road Officer to remain competitive and increase staff retention. Request will also be made to hire a full-time kennel tech. Increased personnel is needed to provide better care such as enrichment to de-stress animals. Improved socialization and temperament will directly impact successful adoptions.

Education and Training- Increase \$400 for CAWA Certification

Dues and Fees- Increase \$250 for CAWA Certification

Licenses- Increase \$900 for DEA license. Current vet holding DEA license comes 1x weekly for minor medical issues.

Site Improvements- 4 metal doors are needed to replace the door for Kennel building 1 and kennel building 2 as well as 2 push bar handles and 2 key code panels.

Special Revenue- Increase all line items regularly used to the expenditure this fiscal year. This includes general supplies and materials such as medical, office, officer, and animal specific supplies as well as professional services not covered by donations.

Events-

PetSmart National Adoption Week- February 28-March 6th. Volunteers needed.

- 100-150 animals will be made available for adoption for the week

Stats- Manager Berisko reported fiscal year/calendar year intake, outcome, death and euthanasia counts.

Total intakes-

- all species: 1007
- Cats- 635
- Dogs- 357

Total Outcomes-

- All species Adoptions- 413
- All species Transfer Out- 240
- All species Return to Owner- 84

Deaths- Total- 29 Cats

Euthanasia- Total-63 All species

DOA- Total- 4 Dogs

Other-

- **Bylaws-** were adopted and sent to the board via email.
- **Efficiency Study-** 1st meeting was February 1. Process has started and is being conducted by an outside agency. It is a 30-60 day process. Findings will be presented to the Board of Commissioners.
- **CAWA-** Certified Animal Welfare Administrator-
 - Independently validates and recognizes the knowledge, skills, and achievements of high-level managers working in animal sheltering, spay and neuter services, and field services;
 - Supports best practices within the profession
 - broadens the understanding among those making hiring decisions and the general public of the specialized qualifications required to successfully lead non-profit organizations and governmental agencies dedicated to companion animal welfare.

Grants-

- PetSmart National Adoption Event- \$3000
 - Looking to update PetSmart Donation/grant- \$5000
- ASPCA- Cruelty Research grant- applied for the grant however did not get \$10,000. ASPCA is interested in the submitted proposal and will be in touch.
- Applied Behavior Seed Grant- not applied for

- Department of Agriculture grant- will be applying again this year. Requesting \$4500 . Will strictly pay for spay and neuter

Projects-

- Marine Corps came out and got the walking trail completed.
 - Still needs to be mapped out and signs posted
- Additional 20x40 interaction pens needed for exercise for the animals. Berisko indicated they are looking for sponsors and/or quotes
- Catio- still looking at reasonable rates.

Emergency Preparedness Plan- Oconee River Kennel Club and AKC Reunite set up a meeting with the communication director. Emergency response trailer was approved. It must be available 2x/year at events. Will be housed at the shelter.

Website Updates-

- Working on web updates
 - The Adoption fee is not listed properly on Petango.
 - Goal to post the volunteer application on the county website
- Animal Services Facebook page: working on branching out FB page.

5. Upcoming Meeting Dates

April 13, 2022

6. New Business-

- Volunteers needed to help transport animals. May be able to use the county vehicle. Help also needed for dog walkers and enrichment (e.g cleaning and stuffing KONGs, making treats.)

7. Closing Comments – none

8. Adjournment

Caffery made the motion to adjourn at 7:16, and Eades seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.