



TULSA ANIMAL WELFARE COMMISSION

**Tulsa Animal Welfare Commission
Regular Meeting | October 12, 2020 | 6:00 pm
One Technology Center 175 East 2nd Street Tulsa OK 74103**

Commissioners Present: Susan Savage, Robin Ballenger, Christine Kunzweiler, Teresa Burkett
(arrived at 6:10 pm)

Commissioners Absent: Cordell Dement

City of Tulsa Staff Present: Patrick Boulden - City Council Administrator, Dwain Midget - Director of Working in Neighborhoods, Marshelle Freeman - Interim Manager

Meeting Minutes from Monday, October 12, 2020

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Chair Savage opened the meeting at 6:04 pm. She announced that Commissioner Dement sent a message of resignation because he couldn't commit the time for a variety of business and personal reasons. She noted that Mr. Dwain Midget would notify the Mayor and City Council of the resignation.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Savage called for review of the minutes from the September 14th meeting of the Animal Welfare Commission. Commissioner Kunzweiler made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Burkett seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Shelter Operations and Facilities Update – Dwain E. Midget, Director of Working in Neighborhoods

Mr. Midget highlighted updates given in the attached Animal Welfare Commission Monthly Report.

He went on to say that in response to the Park Board discussion regarding ACOs enforcing the leash laws in Title 26, staff is working on a solution that will give ACOs, who currently can only enforce Title 2, the authority to enforce the ordinance. Through an Executive Order, something similar has been put in place before and staff will work with the Legal Department to sort through the details. Commissioner Burkett, who chairs the Park Board, offered some background context advising of several complaints of loose dogs, with their owners, in parks between 4pm – 6pm. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Midget advised Commissioners that Foster Program statistics, which will include detailed dispositions of foster animals, will be included in future monthly report. The goal is to also share stats online for transparency.

City Council Animal Ordinance Review Update – Patrick Boulden, City Council Administrator

Mr. Boulden advised that about four (4) weeks ago, City Council had a discussion on fines and penalties in the Animal Ordinance. As a result, he created a table that shows maximum fines and penalties before and after proposed revisions. Fines and penalties over the \$500 maximum evoke a jury trial in our municipal court, so he felt it was a good decision to stay under that threshold. After reviewing the table

and numbers with Councilor Patrick, the Council is no longer concerned about any of the fines and penalties in the Ordinance. Mr. Midget was in attendance and able to elaborate on the reality of what happens when citations are issued.

He advised that Councilor Dodson has several proposed changes to the exemption permits that she plans to present to the Council during Wednesday's 2:20pm Committee Meeting. In summary, the Councilor wants to bring back the hobbyist permit verbiage and limit the use of the intact animal permit. Commissioner Chair Savage asked what the goal of the changes would be. Mr. Boulden mentioned the summary previously presented to explain the recommended changes and believe there is possible pushbacks from hobbyist. Commissioner Kunzweiler noted that we need some kind of exemption for those serious breeders so that they can breed beyond a year. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Kunzweiler summed it up saying that the vast majority of animals should be spayed and neutered and there needs to be enforcement without penalizing the legitimate preservers of purebred breeders.

Commissioner Burkett asked if the number of chickens allowed had come up again. Mr. Boulden advised that there had been discussion that chicken coops should be 40ft away from other residents. That prompted concern about smaller lots, particularly in District 3, and creating exemptions was mentioned. He noted that if exemptions are offered, an appeal process must also be in place. He concluded stating that there hasn't been a specific directive or proposal offered on how to address chickens.

Spay & Neuter Subcommittee Status Report

Commissioner Ballenger advised that there is nothing new to report. She mentioned that she is still waiting on some indication that the Council is receptive to a report and how they would like it formatted. It was suggested by Council Chair Savage that Commissioner Ballenger meet with the Chairs of the Public Works Committee to discuss what might be useful to them. Mr. Boulden said he would discuss further with Council Chair Savage and finalize something by November.

Humane Treatment and Animal Cruelty Enforcement

Commissioner Burkett advised the committee will be reviewing the permitting for commercial animal establishments in the ordinance. She plans to find out how other cities address the issue of selling animals in pet store and propose changes accordingly. Discussion ensued about how to schedule and advertise the committee meeting for interested parties to participate. Mr. Midget advised that City staff can assist with organizing and notifying partner agencies and the public of the meeting once scheduled. Erin Shackelford with Oklahoma Animal Alliance emailed a lot of information that may be helpful.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Adjourn

Commissioner Savage entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kunzweiler motioned and Commissioner Burkett seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

TAW UPDATES

Animal Welfare Commission Monthly Report

COVID-19

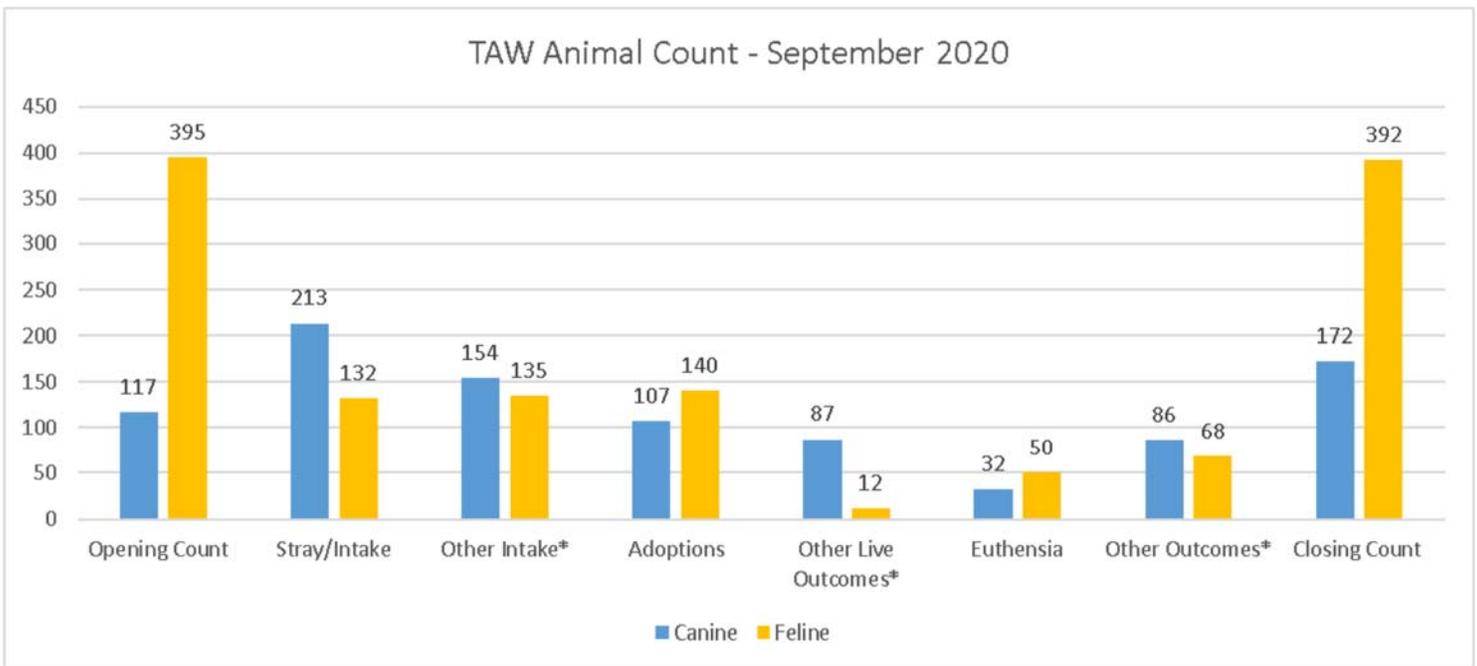
Pleased to note, only one (1) team member is quarantined due to COVID-19. Staff continues to take extra precaution to ensure CDC and City’s guidelines are followed for both their and the public’s safety, including further reducing the number of people waiting in the outer and inner lobbies, separating the use of writing pens to prevent cross contamination and installation of floor placards for social distancing.

On-line Licensing at TAW

October 1st was TAW’s official go live cutover date for migrating from Chase to Paymentus to continue allowing walk-in payments for licensing. The next step is integration of the Paymentus XOTP payment method with WebLicensing which will allow on-line payments for licensing and adoptions.

Return To Owner (RTO)

Field staff continues to proactively return stray animals to their owners from the field. Each ACO is being asked as a goal to increase their RTO from the field by 25%. We will monitor and measure how well we’ve done at the end of the year and make needed adjustment for 2021. In September, staff returned 13 animals to their owner from the field.



*Other Intake includes: Transferred in from Rescue Group/Shelter, Relinquished by Owner/Request Euthanasia and Miscellaneous

*Other Live Outcomes include: Return to Owner and Transferred to Rescue Group/Shelter.

*Other Outcomes include: Died/Lost in Care and Owner Requested Euthanasia.

TAW UPDATES CONTINUED

Tulsa Community College – Veterinary Technology Program

TAW has relaunched discussions with Tulsa Community College to allow students in the Veterinary Technology Program to participate in a clinical rotation experience (Practicum) conducted at the Shelter. We are reviewing terms of the Clinical Rotation Agreement with TCC’s Attorney.

The program is designed to provide students practical experience with medical assistance, anesthetic and surgical assistance and assisting with preparation and administration of chemotherapy, or experimental drug therapies and client communication, under the supervision of license DVM and/or RVT with the consent of the City. It should be noted that students will only perform duties and procedures for which he or she has been prepared academically, or those for which the student has received adequate training during the Practicum.

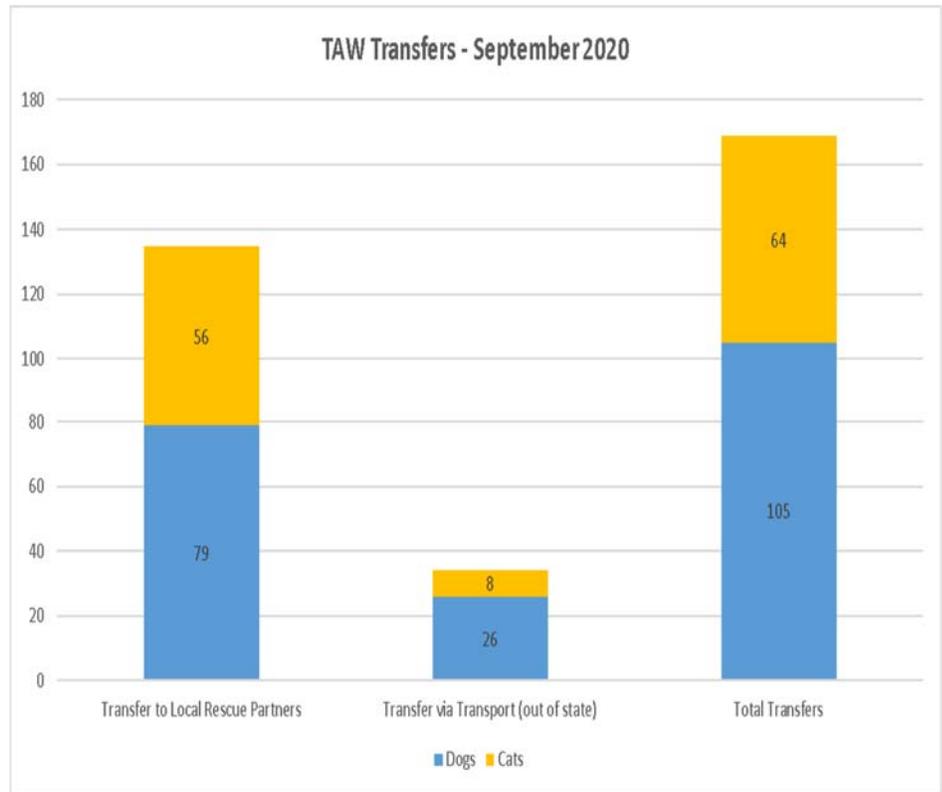
We are also reviewing details and requirements contained in a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and TCC to participate in their “Small Animal Wellness Program”. Under this program, animals from the Shelter will be eligible for elective surgeries throughout the year. The program appears to be mutually beneficial, but program details will have to be thoroughly vetted.

Bond Forfeiture/Confiscation/ Cruelty

TAW successfully move another dog into foster, so we are now at four (4) in foster and three (3) remaining at the Shelter.

According to staff, it’s important to note that since we cannot sterilize the animals yet they’re more prone to certain hormonally-motivated behaviors. Consequently, it has proven VERY difficult to find long-term fosters. In the meantime, our Animal Placement Coordinator, Mrs. Kathryn Weston, has asked staff and volunteers to make sure the

remaining three (3) dogs get daily trips outside for enrichment. Mrs. Weston has also arranged for occasional off-campus field trips with volunteers who function as a short term “flash-fosters.” According to Mrs. Weston, these fosters still meet the same criteria required of long-term fosters for cruelty case dogs.

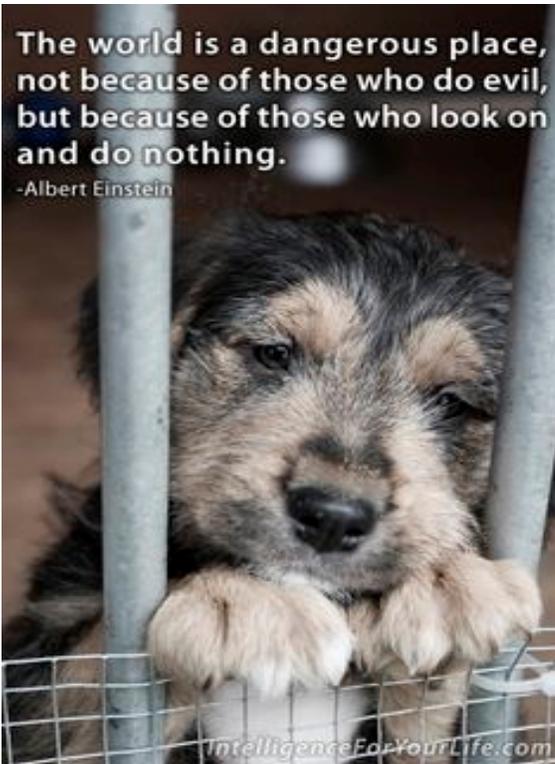


TAW UPDATES CONTINUED

Veterinarian Services

AWC is still without a full-time veterinarian; however, we continue to use our relief veterinarians to help keep the Clinic and services moving forward. Typically, this arrangement has worked well, but there have been occasions when the Shelter is short veterinarian services which impact our ability to move animals out the

Shelter faster. Staff has been instructed to revisit adoption and surgery scheduling to avoid overcrowding in the Clinic and delayed releasing of animals ready for adoption.



Facility Expansion

Met with GH2 ARCHITECTS for a design/programming work-session. Goal was to create concept options based on “Gaming Piece” discussion and determine critical areas where facility expansion could occur given funding limitations. A 50% increase in space would be ideal; however, the total cost is \$7,274,867.51.

Consequently, based upon current funding level it was agreed to move forward with a 25% increase in space at a cost of \$4,699,141.72 which keeps the expansion within budget. We are approximately \$2.6 million short of achieving what we believe would be an ideal expansion of the Shelter. GH2 and the City remain committed to public input including circulating design concepts for broader public (online) feedback as part of this expansion project.

