

**Tulsa Animal Welfare Commission  
Regular Meeting | November 9, 2020 | 6:00 pm  
One Technology Center 175 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Tulsa OK 74103**

**Commissioners Present:** Susan Savage, Robin Ballenger, Christine Kunzweiler and Teresa Burkett

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

**Meeting Minutes from Monday, November 9, 2020**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Commissioner Chair Savage opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Chair Savage called for review of the minutes from the October 12, 2020 meeting of the Animal Welfare Commission. Commissioner Ballenger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Kunzweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Shelter Operations and Facilities Update – Marshelle Freeman, Interim Manager**

Mrs. Freeman highlighted updates given in the attached Animal Welfare Commission Monthly Report.

A short discussion ensued about filling the Veterinarian position and the average number of surgeries performed daily.

**Foster Placement and Transfer Program – Kathryn Weston, Animal Placement Coordinator**

Mrs. Freeman advised that Mrs. Weston was unable to make the meeting because she volunteered to help transport cats to Maine. Commissioner Ballenger commented that Maine must be doing something right to need cats and we should look into their methods of keeping their cat population down. Mrs. Freeman went on to advise that as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, there a total of 180 animals in foster care. Throughout the month 107 new animals were sent to foster care and 199 were adopted or sent to rescue groups from foster care. Commissioner Chair Savage suggested that individual foster/rescue groups present at a future meeting to provide, start to finish, the process of fostering and where rescue animals are sent. It was also mentioned that it would be interesting to hear from other agencies offering adoptions as it relates to their numbers and pandemic adaptation.

**Identifying Hotspots for Proactive Patrols - Joel Hensley, Neighborhood Liaison**

Mr. Midget introduced Mr. Hensley who is one of the Neighborhood Liaisons in the WIN Department. One of his principle functions is to serve as the link to City services for neighborhood and community groups so that they feel empowered to address their concerns using public and private resources. Mr. Midget went on to mention that staff has been formally tasked with helping the City reduce health disparities through increasing walkability and bikeability throughout the city. Each Animal Control Officers will be proactively patrolling known hot spots, trails and parks in their designated zones to

ensure that stray animals are not hindering outdoor activities. The Tableau Mapping System that Mr. Hensley will present will serve as a matrix of how hotspots are identified and

Mr. Hensley explained that Tableau helps analyze data in real time to help make informed data driven decisions. His demo displayed a dashboard with a heat map compiled with information from Chameleon. Data extracted from Chameleon includes types of calls which can be filtered or overlaid by intake locations, animals' species and/or year. This tool will be used by the ACOs to address problem areas and proactively patrol those areas more often than other areas.

Mr. Midget explained that even with additional ACOs, we haven't been able to address problem areas based on data, however this program will allow staff to pinpoint areas and plan outreach and enforcement accordingly. Mr. Hensley advised that once published, the information would be updated daily and accessible for anyone with internet access increasing transparency of the calls received and issues addressed by staff. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hensley reminded that this program is just a tool and doesn't tell the whole story.

### **Humane Treatment and Animal Cruelty Enforcement**

Commissioner Burkett reported that she has been working with several people on the commercial animal establishment issue. The model they are working on prohibits the retail sale of dogs and cats. It also would require background checks annually rather than only during the application phase of the establishment's management team and anyone who directly handles animals. Mr. Boulden agreed that Commissioner Burkett should have a recommendation of the redlined changes approved by the Animal Welfare Commissioner to provide Councilors when they discuss this topic again.

Commissioner Chair Savage asked Mr. Boulden if Councilor Dodson's suggestions had come forward at the Council Meeting. He advised that they have not because final versions haven't been prepared, only discussed. He continued noting that all of the items discussed by Councilors as proposed changes need to be finalized and presented for the Council to formally discuss and incorporate into the ordinance.

### **New Business**

The 2021 regular meeting schedule was presented for approval. Commission Chair Savage said that in addition to discussing those meeting dates, the legislation allowing virtual meetings will expire before the December meeting. With the surge of COVID cases, it would be hard to safely meet in person. Discussion ensued.

Commission Chair Savage suggested approving the 2021 meeting schedule and address individual situations as they arise. Commissioner Burkett made a motion to approve the 2021 regular meeting schedule. Commissioner Kunzweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Linda Adkins reviewed the redline of the proposed ordinance. She has submitted a rewrite about the importance of spay and neuter. Ms. Adkins had questions surrounding enforcement and prosecution of



## TULSA ANIMAL WELFARE COMMISSION

the ordinance. Commissioner Burkett asked Mr. Boulden to address. He advised that if there is a preset fine, once paid there are no other consequences. Discussion ensued.

### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Savage entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Burkett motioned and Commissioner Kunzweiler seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

# TAW UPDATES

## Animal Welfare Commission Monthly Report

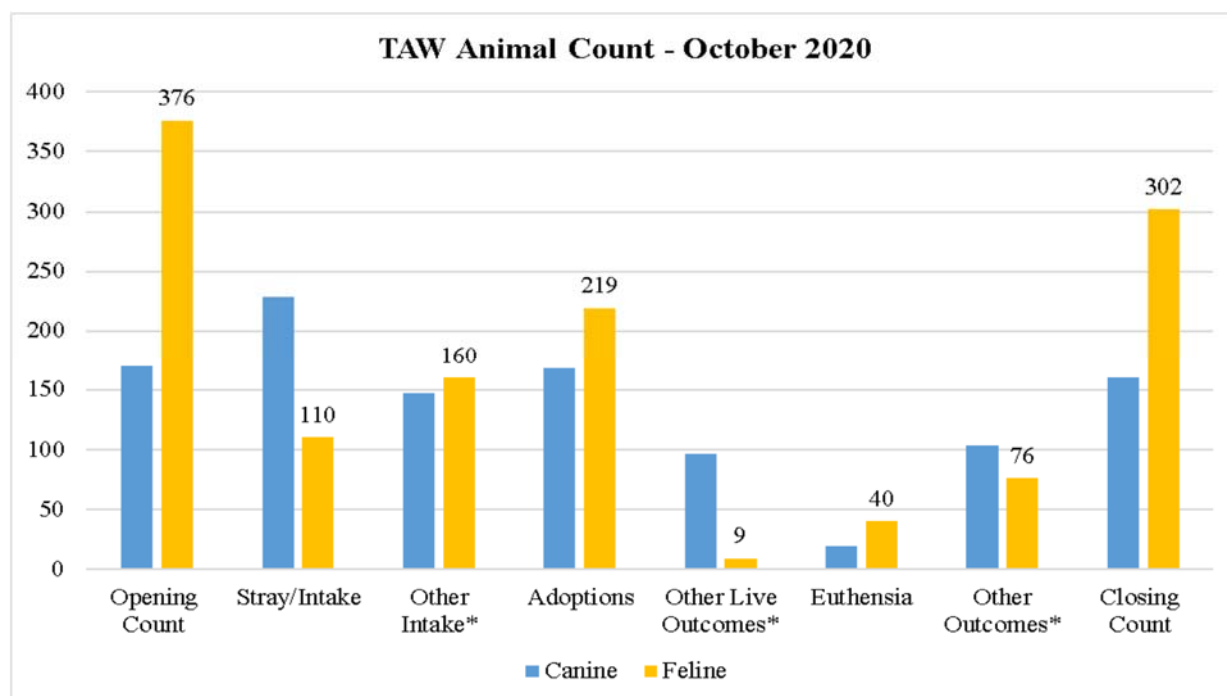
### Tulsa Community College – Veterinary Technology Program

The Clinical Rotation Agreement between TCC and the City has been approved and signed by TCC’s attorney. We are waiting final signature by TCC folks and once completed and forward back to the City, we will place it on the Mayor agenda for his signature. The goal is to have the agreement in place and the program ready for implementation for spring semester.

### Bond Forfeiture/Confiscation/Cruelty

Last week staff successfully obtained the owner’s release of Brandog Walsh and Bone Crawford who had been at the shelter for over a year. Since the animals now belong to the City, staff will spay and neuter them and work to find them appropriate placement. This could not have been achieved without the help of Ms. Beth Sharp, one of TAW’s volunteer who helps with behavioral assessment and placement of animals in our care.

With the exception of Brandog and mom, TAW still has four (4) dogs awaiting resolution of their owner’s cases. As a matter of City ordinance and policy, staff will work with the District Attorney and City Prosecutor to develop protocols to proceed with spay/neuter surgeries of these animals as part of their on-going health care.



\*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



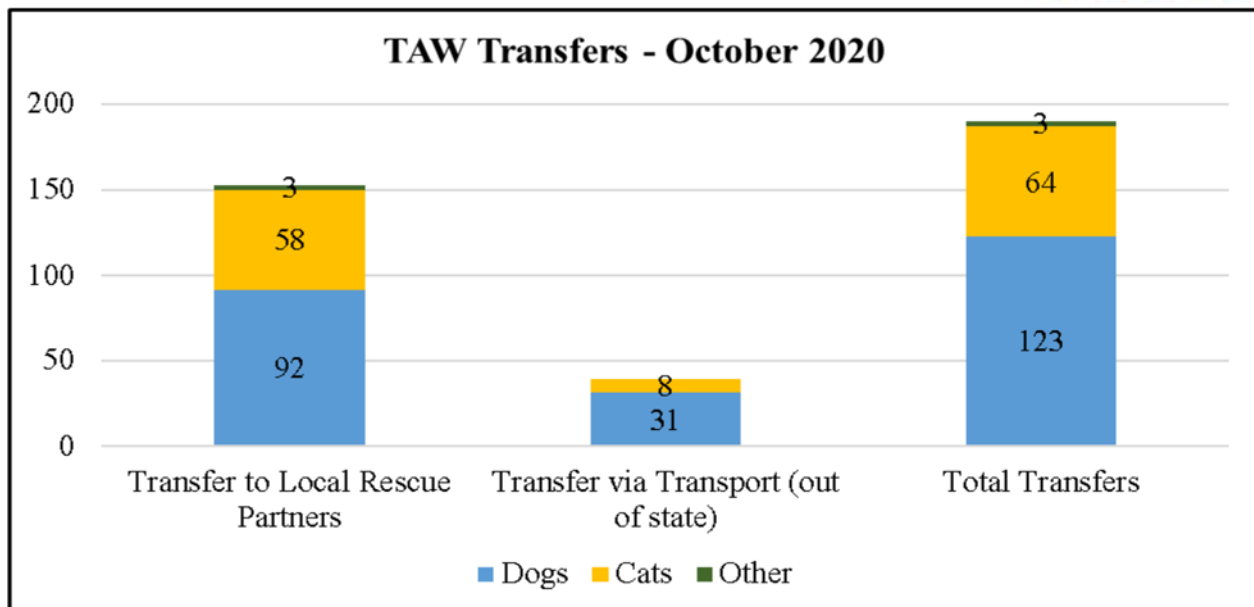
Animals Currently in Foster Care				
	Canine	Feline	Others	Total
Behavior Management	1	0	0	1
Condition Minor	1	20	0	21
Minor Illness	0	1	1	2
Minor Injury	0	0	1	1
Space	3	6	3	12
To Adopt	0	3	0	3
To Transfer	6	0	0	6
Other	4	20	4	28
Under age/weight	0	106	0	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>180</b>



Save a Life.



**FOSTER.**



# TAW UPDATES CONTINUED

## Veterinarian Services

We continue to use our relief veterinarians to help keep the Clinic and services moving forward. Staff has completed a revised adoption and surgery scheduling to avoid delays releasing of animals ready for adoption and overcrowding in the shelter.

## Staffing Update

We recently filled three (3) vacant positions. Please help us welcome Haleigh Baker - Vet Tech, Randi Kinsey, Office Assistant and Amy Stout, Animal Control I to the team. Human Resources is working diligently to find qualified applicants for the remaining vacancies.



## Facility Expansion

Continue to discuss operational and design aspects of the facility expansion with GH2. As a follow up to our last meeting, city staff stressed the importance of ensuring that during the construction phase allowance is given to the need for the shelter to remain operational. As a municipal shelter, we have an open shelter and must take stays and owner surrenders. Consequently, it is imperative that we have the ability to remain open and functional.

GH2 will have updated concepts for our review Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Once the concept is finalized, we will pick up the pace, meaning we anticipate meeting every two-weeks between now and end of December.

