

Task Force for the Humane Treatment of Animals

Minutes from October 7, 2015 Meeting

Members in attendance: Co-chair Michael Freda, Co-chair Diane Collette, Paula Poplawski, Dr. Kimberley McDonald, Cindy Theran, Mark Bailey, Sergeant Keller, Edward O'Brien

Humane treatment of Animal in municipal shelters Minutes

Chairman Freda opened the meeting at 2:18 PM.

He began with introductions of the task-force members

Chairman Freda moved onto public comment.

Seeing none he then moved onto item 4 of the task force agenda.

Cynthia Theran began with tracking system for animal abuse offenders

Cynthia Theran wanted to thank a coworker for their assistance. She then brought up an Office of Legislative Research report put out in 2014. This report suggested that there are registration laws in at least 5 states nationwide with varying degrees of complexity.

She suggested that these laws could be utilized for drafting legislation to implement an animal abuse offender tracking system. She stated that the report was too comprehensive to go over every aspect of the report. She focused on New York and some of the counties that have implemented tracking system. She also stated that Tennessee had a state wide law.

She stated that there were variances state by state in how offender was defined. There were also variances on who administers the tracking system. She stated that there would be means of financing the registry maintenance and there would be benefits to requiring an adoption agency to check with the registry before allowing someone to adopt an animal.

She stated by means of a closing statement that there appears to be precedence for this type of law on the state level because of current laws in states such as Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Texas, Tennessee and New York.

Ed O'Brien thanked Cynthia for her research.

Sergeant Keller had concerns with how compliance to the law would be enforced/funded.

Mike Freda stated that this initiative has been added as one of the major proposals for legislation in the 2016 legislative session.

He suggested that one or two of the task-force members should work with Cynthia on finalizing a proposal for the legislative session for the completion of the task-force in January.

Mike Freda asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

It was made by Ed O'Brien and seconded by Diane Collette.

Mike Freda moved onto item 6. Subcommittee initiatives.

#### Subcommittee 1. Euthanasia in Municipal Shelter

Mark Bailey went on to speak about his subcommittee regarding euthanasia in municipal shelters. Mark began by stating that his subcommittee had a side initiative that was proposed in prior meetings and that was mandatory spay and neutering which he said he had researched and would touch on later.

He stated that he found significant research on laws in other states that require that no healthy and treatable animal would be euthanized in a municipal shelter. He suggested that these laws could be utilized to improve the proposal the task-force would be putting forward.

He also brought up that perhaps to be included into any legislation to be set forth in a bill regarding no euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals. That there be applied a mandatory spay and neutering of animals brought to the shelter. Data seems to suggest besides the simple merits of fewer unwanted animals spayed and neutered animals tend to be adopted more frequently. He says that although there is no specific ordinance in New Haven, the de facto practice is to spay and neuter all animals and then charge a base fee to anyone adopting a pet out of the shelter. This base fee would also cover vaccinations and any other medical attention the animal may require.

Sargent Keller asked a few questions, she stated that she once again had concerns with the transportation of the animals to veterinarians, even if there were dedicated volunteers to transport the animals.

She stated that she felt there were issues of staffing and facilities for smaller communities as well.

#### Chairman Freda moved on to subcommittee 2. Breeders Licensing

Sergeant Keller stated that she looked up the definition of Kennel as Kennels in the state were supposed to be licensed anyway. She found that the state's definition was a home or facility with multiple animals used for breeding more than twice per year. As this definition was fairly strict she stated that a breeder's license could be applied to anyone breeding an animal not within those restrictions.

Sergeant Keller presented her current New Britain ordinance for breeders Licenses. She suggested that the task-force refine that document to be presented to the state.

#### Mike Freda moved onto subcommittee 3. Volunteer Model

The volunteer model. Presentation by Paula Poplawski

Paula had prepared a presentation for the Taskforce

Link to the presentation:

[http://cgalites/pd/tfs/20141001\\_Task%20Force%20for%20Humane%20Treatment%20of%20Animals%20in%20Municipal%20and%20Regional%20Shelters/20151007/Volunteer%20Model%20Presentation.pdf](http://cgalites/pd/tfs/20141001_Task%20Force%20for%20Humane%20Treatment%20of%20Animals%20in%20Municipal%20and%20Regional%20Shelters/20151007/Volunteer%20Model%20Presentation.pdf)

Paula began the presentation by thanking the individuals who assisted in making it. She stated there are several reasons to create a volunteer model. She stated that volunteers bring a number of benefits to a shelter, those benefits can be simplified to improving the conditions for the animals in the shelter.

She stated several reasons a shelter might be resistant to volunteers and why there is both costs and benefits to having volunteers. She made the argument that this model would optimize the benefits while minimizing the negatives. This would be done by implementing a uniform screening process that is quick and efficient, which asked the questions that need to be asked but minimizes the process time so a volunteer is not put off by the experience and staffers are not wasting time they could be utilizing to do their duty.

Paula's Full Presentation can be found below at the web address below.

Mark Bailey asked if in the model there was opportunity for inclusion in the model for volunteers that might not be completely hands on with the animals but rather be doing something outside of the shelter, such as fundraising or networking through social media.

Paula stated that although the model did not include that currently she saw no reason why it could not be added.

Dr. Kimberly McDonald echoed Mark's point stating that it would be an extremely important part of the model as the more people involved the better for the shelter. She brought up the limitation of people with allergies.

Sergeant Keller stated that the screening process aspect involved a placement aspect for Volunteers.

Chairman Freda stated that the next step in the process would be getting the administrative aspect assembled. He stated that Paula's process (included in her presentation) Develop an application, establish a code of Conduct, Create a waiver of Liability, Form Rules and Regulations. He stated that there should be secondary outlines created as well.

Edward O'Brien stated that West Haven town council was open to the idea of a volunteer model and offered West Haven as pilot town to implement the volunteer model.

Chairman Freda thanked the subcommittee leaders and asked for other comments.

Mark Bailey announced that the Beagle freedom bill, had become the Beagle freedom law. He stated that was a big win for animal welfare.

Chairman Freda echoed the sentiments

Chairman Freda adjourned the meeting at 3:27pm