

Animal Care Advisory Committee
February 16, 2022

A regular meeting of the Animal Care Advisory Committee of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held in the Training Room at Waxahachie Police Department, 630 Farley Street on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Assistant Police Chief Joe Wiser, Chairman
Terri Muniz, Animal Services Officer
Nelda Corbell, Humane Society of North Texas

Members Absent: Dr. Tommy Menser, Veterinarian
Me'Lony Jordan, Code Enforcement Officer

Others Present: Jami Bonner, Assistant City Secretary
Kelley Gelsthorpe, Animal Services Officer
Joe Vasquez, Animal Services Officer

1. Call to Order

Chairman Assistant Police Chief Joe Wiser called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

Terri Muniz gave the invocation.

3. Public Comments

Aubrey Drouillard, 1809 Riviera Dr., Waxahachie, TX, expressed concern in regards to the number of animals in the Waxahachie Animal Shelter. She stated she has founded "Friends of Waxahachie Animal Shelter" Facebook page and is dedicated to assisting the City with networking animals through social media and community introductions in an effort to increase adoption/rescue placements, encourage volunteers, donations, and decrease euthanasians. Ms. Drouillard recognized Kelly Gelsthorpe for her efforts to improve rescue engagement and adoptions.

4. Approval of minutes of the Animal Care Advisory Committee of September 15, 2021

Action:

Ms. Nelda Corbell moved to approve minutes of the Animal Care Advisory Committee meeting of September 15, 2021. Ms. Terri Muniz seconded, All Ayes.

5. Discuss last quarter intakes and outcomes

Animal Services Officer Joe Vasquez provided last quarter intakes and outcomes data.

	October	November	December	Totals
Total animals impounded	91	81	53	225
Total animals reclaimed	68	59	45	172
Total animals PTS	16	20	1	37
Live release rate	75%	73%	85%	
Euthanasia rate	18%	25%	2%	

Live animals still at the shelter	7%	2%	13%	
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Chairman Assistant Police Chief Wisner noted the “live release rate” is trending up due to the changes in procedures implemented in December. Chief Wisner stated he expects the trend to continue and the euthanasia rate to decrease.

6. Discuss options for moving the animals at the shelter

Animal Services Officer Kelly Gelsthorpe reported the shelter continues to improve their social media engagement through several rescue group and the City’s main social media profiles.

Ms. Gelsthorpe shared ideas to encourage the community to visit the Waxahachie Animal Shelter including partnering with low-cost vaccination providers to host events at the shelter to raise awareness of the existence of the shelter.

Ms. Nelda Corbell, Humane Society of North Texas, suggested utilizing databases such as “Pet Point” to assist with processing the animals. Ms. Gelsthorpe replied the Waxahachie Animal Shelter has recently acquired “Shelter Pro” which should simplify and stream line the process of intake, posting photos/info to adoption sites, and maintain animal information.

Ms. Gelsthorpe shared the desire for volunteers to assist with photographing animals to better display animals to the community and other service opportunities.

7. Hear current list of approved rescues to date

Ms. Gelsthorpe explained she is working to establish agreements with rescue groups and has completed agreements with the following:

- Austin Boxer Rescue
- Cody’s Friends
- Dauntless Rescue
- German Shepherd Rescue of Texas
- Happy Dance Dog Rescue
- Hearts and Tails of Hope
- Heart of TX Lab Rescue
- Labs4rescue
- Lost Paws Rescue of Texas
- Mac’s Mission
- Operation Kindness
- SPCA
- Human Society of North Texas

8. Discuss rescue agreements with transfer of animals

Ms. Corbell offered to share the Humane Society of North Texas’ rescue contract and other documents that may be beneficial.

Chairman Assistant Police Chief stated the shelter is reviewing all documents and opportunities to improve the shelter's processes.

9. Hear report on last quarter's numbers

Animal Services Officer Terri Muniz shared calls for service, animal bites, and microchip data.

	Last quarter	2021
Animal bites	7	44
Calls for service	749	1,283
Formal notice letters sent	31	
Animals microchipped	47	161

Ms. Muniz stated her support for reintroducing the shelter to the community. She recommended partnering with local media.

Chairman Assistant Police Chief recommended reaching out to KBEC and local newspaper to highlight animals. Ms. Gelsthorpe suggested a "pet of the week" highlight. Chairman Assistant Police Chief stated there will be a new Community Services Officer (CSO) and recommended meeting with the CSO in regards to including animal services highlights during the weekly KBEC community report.

Chairman Assistant Police Chief Joe Wiser asked Ms. Drouillard if she is able to post videos of animals through her communication methods. Ms. Drouillard responded that she does share short videos through social media. She stated video reduces delays as the video displays the animal's personality and behaviors.

10. Set next meeting date and time of the Waxahachie Animal Care Advisory Committee

The Animal Care Advisory Committee set their next meeting for May 25, 2022.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Bonner
Assistant City Secretary