

Animal Control Board
Thursday, January 14, 2021
Virtually

Members Attending: R. Rosato, D. Straub, A. Miller, S. Baller

Others Attending: S. Smith, E. Blankenbiller, H. Carroll, D. March, E. Manwiller

Call to Order

Mr. Rosato called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Mr. Rosato noted that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Straub, seconded by Mr. Rosato, to approve the September 3, 2020 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Animal Control Agency Report

Ms. Manwiller stated that she will provide 2020 data via email. She stated that 2,031 animals were processed for Reading in 2020.

Mr. Rosato questioned if that number was higher than normal. Ms. Manwiller stated that this is within the normal range for Reading.

Mr. Rosato questioned the impact of COVID-19. Ms. Manwiller stated that intake of animals was relatively the same but that there were more adoptions.

Ms. Manwiller reported that 653 dogs, 38 puppies, 610 cats and 612 kittens were processed for Reading.

Permit Updates

- 1711 Cotton St – more than 6 dogs/cats

Mr. Carroll stated that these animals have not been licensed or vaccinated. He stated that he will be issuing citations as the animal owners appear to be actively avoiding him.

Mr. Straub questioned who reported this property. Mr. Carroll stated that a family member called and stated that there were unclean conditions, which is unfounded.

- 611 Maple St – operating as cat rescue

Mr. Carroll stated that there are currently fewer than 6 animals at this location at this time. He stated that this started as a rescue that was shared on Facebook. He stated that it was mostly cats

but that a fee was being paid for adoptions. He stated that the landlord did not allow pets and that most of the animals had been adopted out. He stated that he will stop for random checks in the future.

Mr. Straub questioned if this person needs a shelter permit. Ms. Baller stated that mostly stray cats and kittens were being rehomed. She stated that the animals were spayed/neutered and vaccinated but that it became a large burden. She agreed that there was a fee for adoptions.

Mr. Carroll explained that PA has shelter laws relative to dogs but not to cats. He suggested that the regulation of cats be added to Reading's local animal regulations.

- 1520 Mulberry St – more than 6 dogs/cats

Mr. Carroll stated that all the animals are vaccinated and that the property is in good condition. He stated that he has no concerns about the welfare and care of these animals.

Motion was made by Mr. Rosato, seconded by Ms. Miller, to approve the permit to keep more than 6 dogs/cats at this location. Motion carried unanimously.

- 1233 Oley St – breeding and selling underage puppies

Mr. Carroll stated that the dogs that he inspected were in good condition. He stated that he does not have enough proof that the animals are being bred. He stated that there are suspicious behaviors of the dog owners. He stated that he has informed the dog warden about this property and that he will continue to monitor the situation.

- 619 Chestnut St – rooster

Mr. Carroll stated that the rooster has been removed. He stated that he has visited the property several times and has not seen or heard the rooster.

- 1034 Court St – more than 6 dogs/cats

Ms. Baller stated that there are 19 animals at this property, the majority of which are cats. She stated that the premises are kept clean and there are no odors. She stated that the animals are spayed/neutered and vaccinated. She stated that the owner indicated that she would file for a permit but that it has not yet been received. She stated that she will follow up. She stated that she has no concerns about approving the permit.

Old Business

- Animal Chapter Review and Update

Ms. Smith stated that the amendment has been enacted by City Council as presented.

Mr. Carroll stated that the regulations do not assign authority to remove animals when necessary. He requested that this be addressed. He noted the need to understand when he can and cannot enter a property for animal issues.

Mr. Straub questioned if kennel regulations are needed. Mr. Carroll stated that kennel regulations are covered by State law but that cats are not addressed. He stated that he will research this issue and provide information at a future meeting.

Ms. Miller suggested that the regulations also be amended to include a definitive time period for rescues and fosters to be held.

Mr. March cautioned that new regulations regarding cats should not impact feral colonies and those who care for them. He suggested that impeding the management of these colonies may have adverse effects.

Mr. Carroll agreed. He noted the need for any regulations to be specific to the intent. He stated that current cruelty laws can be used in some cases.

Mr. March stated that if animals are kept inside they must already comply with all regulations.

Mr. Carroll suggested that although fosters and rescues may be kept temporarily they should still be permitted.

Other Matters

Mr. Straub questioned if funding from the \$3 million grant provided to No Nonsense Neutering is still available. Ms. Manwiller stated that the grant was awarded to Humane Pennsylvania. Mr. March explained that No Nonsense Neutering will receive grant funding in 2021. He stated that the grant was used to fund many projects.

Next Meeting

Mr. Rosato stated that the next meeting will be in June 2021. He stated that a poll for a specific date will be sent via email.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk