

Minutes of Programs Committee meeting 1/5/12

Meeting was held at the Lawrenceville Police Dept.

Members Present:

Kelly Alder
Elizabeth Burgner
Dr Solveig Evans
Wanda Johnson

We began by having each member present list their areas of greatest concern about the current policies at Gwinnett Animal Control. Concerns cited were:

- Cases were known to have occurred in which potential adopters had interacted with dogs, then left the shelter and returned with a family member or their own dog to meet the shelter dog, and were told they were not allowed to take a shelter dog out for more than one interaction.
- The shelter needs to allow "adoption fairs" and events outside the shelter. It was noted that one such event does occur yearly at Auburn Days.
- Customer Service is a concern with shelter employees who interact with the public.
- Owner give-ups with no vaccine history should not be immediately killed. If there is space for unvaccinated strays, the same consideration should be given to owned pets. Quarantine area is needed so that pets can be vaccinated on intake and held.
- Not enough time is allowed for rescue groups to find placement, particularly for cats. Rescuers have been notified of impending euthanasia, but not allowed time to find placement. Minimum 24 hours should be given.
- The shelter has many unused cat cages. "Time is up" is not a valid reason to euthanize a healthy cat as long as empty cages are available.
- Animals may be classified "aggressive" when they are actually only scared. One of the ACO's currently is allowed to hold one special case dog at a time. This is a dog that appears aggressive but may be only be reacting to a scary environment. We're not sure whether other ACO's have this option.
- Regarding euthanasia for communicable disease, one rescue was scheduled to take a litter of pups when one pup began showing signs of illness. The entire litter was euthanized. While the state has policies mandating communicable disease, and it's desirable for an entire pod to not be shut down, the rescue group should have been offered the opportunity to pull the litter rather than all being killed.
- Transports could be included as part of the outreach to rescue.

We particularly wish to review the lack of a full-time veterinarian. Dr Evans will provide the committee with the results of a study that showed the county could save \$70,000/year by hiring a veterinarian, vs current policy of using area clinics for sick and injured animals. Currently each field ACO has a budget of \$250 per animal for medical emergencies.

TO-DO for next meeting:

Ms Burgner will create a draft list of survey questions for other Animal Control organizations and submit the list to the committee for review.

Ms Burgner will check on the availability of an expert on the "No-Kill" movement for possible presentation to the Committee and/or Task Force.

Ms Alder will go through the SOP's and make a preliminary determination as to which should be addressed by this Committee, and which are more appropriate for the Policy Committee.

Dr Evans will obtain information regarding the current Petco program, and provide a copy of the study regarding a full-time veterinarian.

Ms Johnson will contact Shaunika Taste about the extent of assistance possible from the County's communications department for setting up and maintaining a Facebook page for the shelter.

Ms Johnson will inquire about any potential legal concerns regarding posting shelter pets on Facebook & other social media.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 12 at 7pm at the Lawrenceville Police Dept.

Minutes of Programs Committee meeting 1/12/12

Meeting was held at the Lawrenceville Police Dept.

Members Present:

Kelly Alder
Elizabeth Burgner
Dr Solveig Evans
Wanda Johnson

Dr. Evans recapped her conversation with Officer Cannon, in which he answered questions posed at the previous week's meeting. Her notes follow, with the committee's concerns followed by his responses:

- *Cases were known to have occurred in which potential adopters had interacted with dogs, then left the shelter and returned with a family member or their own dog to meet the shelter dog, and were told they were not allowed to take a shelter dog out for more than one interaction.*
 - o *Don't usually allow multiple visits prior to "due out day" b/c if o comes in looking and dog is out visiting, o may not see dog to reclaim*
 - o *Questions before adoption include, do you have family members and other pets/dogs- if so, encourage/require them to come visit prior to adoption*
- *The shelter needs to allow "adoption fairs" and events outside the shelter. It was noted that one such event does occur yearly at Auburn Days.*
 - o *Police/fire day at g braves stadium*
 - o *Ellas run*
 - o *Auburn*
 - o *It is in charge of this, also depends on how many officers scheduled that day. Have to make sure enough employees to run shelter and adoption event*
 - o *Do not have a set protocol to allow rescues to take pets to events-*
 - o *Would have to look into legal issues with this*
- *Customer Service is a concern with shelter employees who interact with the public.*
- *Owner give-ups with no vaccine history should not be immediately euthanized. If there is space for unvaccinated strays, the same consideration should be given to owned pets. Quarantine area is needed so that pets can be vaccinated on intake and held.*

- o *This is not allowed because the public started using this service as a "sick" pet drop off to avoid veterinary care.*
 - *Not enough time is allowed for rescue groups to find placement, particularly for cats. Rescuers have been notified of impending euthanasia, but not allowed time to find placement. Minimum 24 hours should be given.*
 - o *If rescue can commit, animals can be held overnight for rescue to p/u next day. Many times officer asks for answer right away, b/c if rescue #1 cannot come to get she tries to call rescue #2, etc.*
 - *The shelter has many unused cat cages. "Time is up" is not a valid reason to euthanize a healthy cat as long as empty cages are available.*
 - o *Day 6 does not = euthanasia as long as animal is 1) not sick, 2) adoptable, 3) not aggressive, 4) old dog rescue cant come get/full*
 - o *Reason for empty cages- since no longer have enough officers to p/u stray cats, only source of cats is owner drop off/intake*
 - o *Didn't discuss "feral" cat-is it really feral?*
 - o *Lowest level cages does have trouble adopting, b/c not animals not easily seen*
 - o *Try to keep 1 cage in between but only because they can,*
 - o *No tnr release b/c illegal to abandon animals-county ordinance*
 - *Transports could be included as part of the outreach to rescue.*
 - o *Can "ADOPT" to out of state rescues,*
- recent 11/11- if vaccinate all dogs on intake for dhp2c and bord
1) would cost shelter based on 2010 numbes \$25,709.00; due to dogs not being adopted and never leaving
shelter-shelter would lose \$12,455.00(trend would be close to this for 2011, 2012)*
- Petco- initially tried to utilize volunteers to clean bid- but did not have adequate volunteer efforts
Petco staff spots cleans thru day, can keep 4 cats there, if adoption, fax application to shelter and do adoption so adopter does not have to go to shelter to do paperwork
GCAC is first govt agency to partner with petco throughout US.*

(end of SE's notes)

In addition to the above, we had discussed the use of Facebook to 'market' the shelter pets. Officer Cannon said that county policy prohibits social media, but a committee is currently exploring an exception for Animal Control. **Wanda Johnson will obtain a copy of this policy, and find out what committee is addressing this. Dr Montgomery may have some insight.

We question the wisdom of AC's policy that prohibits the adoption of HW+ dogs or FeLV+ or FIV+ cats. These conditions should NOT fall under the policy of not knowingly adopting 'unhealthy' animals.

Officer Cannon would like the following:

1. Task Force members ride along with ACO in the field
2. Another agency assigned to pick up dead animals
3. Humane educator/volunteer coordinator

Ms Johnson would like to see our Task Force result in more public education.

The shelter currently scans each animal for a microchip THREE times prior to euthanasia.

Ms Burgner will request Valerie Hayes' attendance at our next meeting to discuss the No Kill movement, and will distribute "No Kill 101" for each committee member to review.

We discussed the great amount of overlap between our committee and the Policy Committee.

We reviewed the numbers provided to the BoC that show savings of \$76,283 for 2011 if a FT shelter vet were hired. Also regarding veterinary services:

- The relationship between AC and SHF was explained
- Dr Evans disclosed that all controlled drugs are purchased by the shelter's DEA license holder and marked up 100% when sold to the county. Vaccines are purchase by Joanne Kronenfeld at no markup.
- We don't believe the fees provided to the Task Force are current. They do not include the \$60 spay/neuter fee, which is charged to the adopted even if the animal was already s/n'd at intake.

The committee wants to know why so many cats are euthanized when so many empty cages are available to house them. Officer Cannon's reason that they are not entering the shelter doesn't seem plausible since November 2011 report shows intake 194 and euthanasia 182.

We briefly discussed the county policy prohibiting animal abandonment and its application to feral cats. Officer Cannon had stated that he would personally TNR if requested, but no citizen has ever authorized the cats to be returned to their property.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY JAN. 19TH AT LAWRENCEVILLE POLICE DEPT.

Minutes of Programs Committee meeting 1/19/12

Meeting was held at the Lawrenceville Police Dept.

Members Present:

Kelly Alder
Elizabeth Burgner
Dr Solveig Evans
Wanda Johnson
Tatiana Romeo

Joel Taylor, Task Force Chairman, was also present.

Action items for next meeting are indicated with **.

Brief discussion of public access to meetings. Mr. Taylor will give direction to all Committees at the full Task Force meeting on 1/23/12.

Requested that Valerie Hayes, spokesperson for the No Kill movement, be placed on the agenda for the 1/23/12 Task Force meeting. Mr. Taylor agreed and requested that the No Kill 101 primer be sent to him for distribution to the Task Force prior to the meeting.

Ms Johnson f/u from last meeting: no info obtained on committee that is reportedly looking into granting access to social media for Animal Control. Ms Taste, from county communications dept., did say that public access TV is allowable.

Dr Evans f/u from last meeting: no answer obtained on reason for high number of cats euthanized while many cage are empty. Will ask 'higher up.' Still checking on fee schedule and the contract with Dr. Wallis.

Ms Romeo had previously requested that Sgt Schiralli, volunteer coordinator, address our Committee. Others expressed doubt that she still fills this role. **Ms Johnson will contact Sgt Schiralli prior to the next meeting. Ms Romeo had applied to be a volunteer at the shelter, and her application was approved four months later.

Friends of Gwinnett Shelter (?) have been updated FB but volunteers have to physically go to the shelter daily for updates. Dr Evans: per Monica Peete, this is because the shelter does not have enough staff to provide daily updates while still answering phones and serving the public. Shelter is in the process of reorganizing to give ACO Cain a dedicated area for computer access ~~accessse~~ that he can update photos, PetBuddy, etc. He currently uses the computer for PetBuddy updates, and perhaps his time could be utilized for photo updates as well.

We believe the Rescue Coordinator's job should include marketing i.e. social media, and not duties that are not related to actively moving animals out to rescue.

****Ms. Burgner will ask Theresa Cox if she can help us understand how the county's abandonment policy is applied to feral cats, since TNR does not cause abandonment of cats that were not already in the area, but only the neutering and return to the same location. **Ms Romeo will contact San Antonio to ask how they got around this issue.**

Grants for free or low-cost spay/neuter should not only be applied for, but the program actively marketing to the public.

We discussed surveying other AC's. The Policy committee is already approaching other AC's. It's not desirable for several committees to contact the same people, so perhaps each committee could develop 5 questions, then assign one person to contact each AC.

Our committee would like to see changes to the current TF Committee Structure, perhaps a merging of the Policy and Programs committees since so much overlap exists in the areas that both are discussing. Specifically, we would like to see committees or sub-committees designated for:

1. Feral cats
2. Marketing of the shelter, its policies, and the animals in it
3. Separate consideration of in-house policies relating to dogs vs cats

Here are the items we want to present to the full Task Force as desired outcomes:

1. TNR program
2. Enhanced Volunteer Program
3. Rescue/Adoption Coordinator position redefined, possibly with an assistant
4. Review of in-house medical treatment of pets, including consideration of hiring of a FT staff veterinarian
5. Dedicated Marketing staff, including social media, to market pets and the shelter
6. Improved temperament testing of dogs and cats
7. Education (i.e. rabies, spay/neuter benefits)
8. **DIFFERENT CRITERIA FOR DECIDING WHAT PETS ARE EUTHANIZED, AND MORE TIME GIVEN PRIOR TO EUTHANASIA**
9. **CHANGE IN ACO'S WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THEIR ROLES, I.E. EMPOWER THEM TO BE CREATIVE AND SEEK BETTER OUTCOMES FOR THE ANIMALS ENTRUSTED TO THEM. THE SHELTER SHOULD BE A SAFE HAVEN FOR ANIMALS, NOT AN END POINT BLAMED ON AN IRRESPONSIBLE PUBLIC.**

****All members will review the survey questions submitted with 1/5/12 minutes.**

Minutes of Programs Committee meeting 2/2/12

Meeting was held at the Lawrenceville Police Dept.

Members Present:

Kelly Alder
Elizabeth Burgner
Dr Solveig Evans
Wanda Johnson
Tatiana Romeo

Two members of the public were in attendance.

SOP's were reviewed and suggested committee assignments decided on. Ms Burgner will update the spreadsheet provided by Ms Alder and distribute to other committee chairs.

Ms Johnson summarized her discussion with Sgt Schiralli regarding volunteers. There is no volunteer coordinator assigned to AC; rather, Sgt Schiralli is volunteer coordinator for all departments that fall under Gwinnett County Police. Volunteers are recruited under the "Engage Gwinnett" program, and emails are sent to people who have signed up to volunteer with AC. Ms Romeo noted that she has been through the approval process and has received no emails. The cumbersome process of background check & fingerprinting is necessary because AC reports through the PD; volunteering would be expedited if this were not the case. Another concern is the lack of a coordinator at AC; no orientation program exists, and volunteers are not well trained.

Dr Evans reported that no contract exists for Dr Wallis' services, which include ordering controlled drugs (for AC euthanasia only; not for drugs used in spay/neuter) and training ACO's. She also checked into the fee schedule, which is out of date in the info provided to the Task Force. Current info is available on the website. Fee to rescue is \$60 if the group wants to have the animal altered before pulling; no fee if unaltered. This fee is frequently waived.

Ms Burgner shared Theresa Cox's interpretation of the abandonment policy. Abandonment applies because ferals are considered 'owned' when trapped, thus abandoned when returned. We believe a change to county code will be required, and will stress this concern to the Policy committee.

We will each begin research into the 'desired outcomes' of our committee:

1. TNR program – Ms Romeo – and will recommend sub-committee to Task Force on 2/7/12
2. Enhanced Volunteer Program – Ms Johnson. Will invite Sgt Schiralli to address next committee
3. Rescue/Adoption Coordinator position redefined, possibly with an assistant – Ms Burgner will send message to Structure Committee that we are very concerned that this be addressed.
4. Review of in-house medical treatment of pets, including consideration of hiring of a FT staff veterinarian – Dr Evans
5. Dedicated Marketing staff, including social media, to market pets and the shelter – Ms Johnson
6. Improved temperament testing of dogs and cats – Ms Alder

7. Education (i.e. rabies, spay/neuter benefits) – *Ms Alder (Ms Burgner will also look into information that can be provided to the public to prevent them from surrendering their pets)*
8. DIFFENT CRITERIA FOR DECIDING WHAT PETS ARE EUTHANIZED, AND MORE TIME GIVEN PRIOR TO EUTHANASIA
9. CHANGE IN ACO'S WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THEIR ROLES, I.E. EMPOWER THEM TO BE CREATIVE AND SEEK BETTER OUTCOMES FOR THE ANIMALS ENTRUSTED TO THEM. THE SHELTER SHOULD BE A SAFE HAVEN FOR ANIMALS, NOT AN END POINT BLAMED ON AN IRRESPONSIBLE PUBLIC. – *Dr Evans said that shelter personnel attended a shelter medicine seminar at UGA last weekend and may have made some progress in this area.*

Next meeting: Thursday 2/9/12, 7pm at Lawrenceville P.D.

Minutes of Programs Committee meeting 2/9/12

Meeting was held at the Lawrenceville Police Dept.

Members Present:

Kelly Alder
Elizabeth Burgner
Dr Solveig Evans
Wanda Johnson
Tatiana Romeo

One members of the public were in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:20pm

Ms Romeo requested an addition to the minutes from 2/2/11: Quality Control calls to the shelter regarding feral cats. Two calls were made to the shelter on 1/30/12 and 2/1/12 regarding feral cats, one re cats in the neighborhood, and another re cats seen near a shopping center. In both cases the callers were told that ferals will only be put to sleep if brought to the shelter and that they are probably sick and 'full of disease.' In addition, the shelter does not have traps to loan but suggested that traps can be purchased at Wal-Mart, Home Depot or Lowes. It was suggested that the callers could look online for feral cats and that there is a group called Sterile Feral that might be able to help [*this group is in Rome GA*]. One caller was advised to go to spotsociety.org for a list of rescue groups.

Minutes were approved with no further changes.

Dr Evans reported that the SOP's delivered to our Task Force are already being rewritten by Lt Respass and the supervisors. We should continue working on the SOP's that the TF was given until further notice. Dr Evans will notify Joel Thomas to confirm this and ask whether they would like to provide the TF with their revisions.

Progress on 'desired outcomes' of our committee:

1. TNR program – *Ms Romeo*

Dr Levy can do web conference at end of March re TNR, that's not soon enough. Emailed Rebecca Gulnn for confirmation that she can attend on 2/28. (P.S.: Major Mooneyham from DeKalb AC will also try to attend)

Received Jacksonville Municipal Code info; will review and save for next meeting.

The 1st meeting of the TNR committee is Weds 2/15 6pm at Planned PETHood.

2. Enhanced Volunteer Program – *Ms Johnson*.

Sgt Schiralli cannot attend on Thursdays, but can attend the next full TF meeting. We will invite her to meet at 6:30

Dr Evans: per Lt Respass fingerprinting required as long as inmates are present . **Ms Johnson does not believe this is correct due to her experience with the jail dog program and will confirm the policy of the sheriff's dept. and request more information about fingerprinting. While these aspects are worrisome, in the long run they may not be subject to change by our TF and may not be as important as the lack of orientation and training for volunteers that do make it through the process.

3. **Rescue/Adoption Coordinator position redefined, possibly with an assistant – Ms Burgner**
Message sent to Structure Committee that we are very concerned that this be addressed.
4. Review of in-house medical treatment of pets, including consideration of hiring of a FT staff veterinarian – *Dr Evans*

There are no in-house medical protocols re specific treatments Once the animal has been identified as sick, taken to sick bay and supervisor notified, then the animal is a) examined by s/n vet; or b) taken to local vet- ie dr. wallis because he is close or emergency clinic if after hours and is deemed an emergency; or c) sergio looks at animal, and may start antibiotics from left over meds until animal can be examined by veterinarian the next day. Two persons must approve euthanasia, one of whom must be a supervisor, or if attending veterinarian deems in the best interest of the animal.

Structure comm. is also looking at FT vet possibility, we should share our discussions with them.

5. **Dedicated Marketing staff, including social media, to market pets and the shelter – Ms Johnson**
WJ: no reply from Taste re policy prohibiting FB & what committee may be addressing per Cannon

Contacted Theresa re email address on TF web site for public questions; she agreed and will coordinate through Ms Taste.

Dr Evans said that Chris is getting many calls from FB urgent posts from concerned citizens who can't adopt but just inquire. They have installed a new phone system – Ms Burgner reported trying to call last week and callers now cannot get 0, must listen to message if not answered during business hours.

6. **Improved temperament testing of dogs and cats – Ms Alder**

Provided material re behavior evaluations. We believe Ofcr Hughes is in charge of temp testing after hold period currently, so Ms Alder will contact Hughes to ask current practice (dog/cat)

7. **Education (i.e. rabies, spay/neuter benefits) – Ms Alder**

NV HS recommended reducing focus on education programs not specifically aimed at reducing euthanasia

Ms Romeo provided an article about educating young children.

8. DIFFERENT CRITERIA FOR DECIDING WHAT PETS ARE EUTHANIZED, AND MORE TIME GIVEN PRIOR TO EUTHANASIA

Will review specific policies at a later date

9. CHANGE IN ACO'S WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THEIR ROLES, I.E. EMPOWER THEM TO BE CREATIVE AND SEEK BETTER OUTCOMES FOR THE ANIMALS ENTRUSTED TO THEM. THE SHELTER SHOULD BE A SAFE HAVEN FOR ANIMALS, NOT AN END POINT BLAMED ON AN IRRESPONSIBLE PUBLIC.

No discussion

Other topics:

Fostering: not sure how to manage expenses. May be more efficient to push through rescue groups. What if rescues don't take them?

It was noted that Lt. Respass has pointed out that 2011 to 2012 #s intake approx same but euth half.

Ms Johnson said the shelter has a Valentine special – how is it advertised?

Input from public attendee: HSUS ranks states re animal care. New England states (after CA) rank very highly, GA very low. Conclusion: sending dogs north is a good thing. Has been at shelter to watch pets arrive. Shelters work together to target sources & move efficiently through areas up coast for pickup/dropoff. Mostly volunteer drivers. Health cert's required in some states but may be waived. For ferals, Maine has a 'barn program' Portland has dock cats.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16

Next meeting: Thursday 2/9/12, 7pm at Lawrenceville P.D.

Minutes of Programs Committee meeting 2/23/12

Meeting was held at the Lawrenceville Police Dept.

Members Present:

Kelly Alder
Dr Solveig Evans
Wanda Johnson
Tatiana Romeo

Three members of the public were in attendance.

Guest Speaker: **Shaunika Taste**

The communications dept is responsible for the development of messaging delivery through various channels; GwinnettCounty.com, TV Gwinnett , TVGwinnett.com and various newsletters. Residents can sign up on the website to receive E-Newsletters.

E Newsletters are: News for the Neighborhood every week, Eye on Gwinnett TV

There are currently 17,000 on the county email list

Eye on Gwinnett is shot in community studio. The studio is available for non-profit groups to use.

We can produce a show with passive slides that can profile animals for adoption. They only have 1 person to create the slides, so they need the info 3-5 days in advance.

Social Media:

County administrator wants to make sure that each division has the resources to handle social media. They have to be prepared to respond to all open records requests. Guidelines must be set up for employees. They have been working on the social media issue for approx 2 years. They are waiting for approval from **Glenn Stephens**, the County Administrator. They are getting closer to approval. Each dept will have its own page and each dept will be responsible for their pages content.

Billboards are funded by outside sources. If AC partners with an outside source they may be able to put up a billboard.

The communications dept would assist AC in creating an education video. AC would write the script, the communications dept would help put everything together. They are required to do so many (hrs weren't specified) hours of new programming every month.

They used to include info on adoptions in the monthly newsletter that is sent out in the water bill. This month there is an article about feral cats.

Issues discussed by sub-committee:

Ms. Romeo contacted Joe Sorenson, head of the Communication's Dept. to discuss social media. It was explained, there is no policy prohibiting the use of a facebook page, although there is a directive in place. The communication dept. feels they are making headway and on the cusp of getting the necessary approval. Ms. Romeo also spoke with Mr. Sorenson about adding additional information on the GCAC webpage about feral cats and TNR, which he said should be fine, but in order to add a link to any particular rescue group/non-profit, the group must have a contractual agreement with the county.

We have heard, but it has not been confirmed that we received a one month extension for the task force

We asked Mr. DeCarlo to explain what he meant when he mentioned a 72 hr hold on before an animal is killed. We found out that there is a meeting held at AC every morning, in which it is decided which animals will be killed at the end of the shift. Mr. DeCarlo, would like the animals to be held for an additional 72 hours so that rescues can be notified and have time to pick them up or to push adoptions. He would also like members of the task force to evaluate some of the animals to verify that they are not adoptable.

We found that each day Officer Hughes receives a list of animals that are on day 5. She then asks volunteers how many times they have been shown, how they have responded to shelter staff, how they have behaved in the shelter. Then the decision is made to kill or not.

Dr. Evans is requesting all vet related expenses for the last 3 years

Mrs. Johnson is going to research HB782. She also heard that another bill dropped for consideration, it states that the owner of dog that bites or causes bodily harm, will be charged with a felony. Mrs. Johnson is researching this also.

We also discussed the fact that Lt. Respass is in the process of updating the SOP's. We were told they would be completed in about 30 days. We discussed whether the task force should be put on hold for 30 days, so we have accurate SOP's to work with.

Ms. Romeo had requested the AC budget, but only received a summary of the budget. We all agreed that we need complete budget information to make our recommendations. Again, the task force should possibly be put on hold until we receive complete budget information.

Ms. Alder is going to check with Gwinnett County Dept of Health & Human Services to see how they partner with other agencies to offer help with low income issues, like utility bills, housing etc. We would like to see how we can list other agencies on the future AC facebook page.

Moving Forward:

It was discussed, contingent upon Tuesday's meeting, that a tentative schedule be put in place to start working on the nine target area(s) previously agreed upon (with the exception of TNR, which will be discussed in the ad hoc subcommittee) to try and gain more efficiency of the subcommittee's time. In setting forth an agenda, we hope to pull our resources together and collectively work on the specified target area each week.

Comments from the public:

If a dog appears to be skittish or that it will possibly not pass the temperament test, a breed specific expert should be called in for a second opinion. Home checks should be done by breed specific experts. These experts can be volunteers from rescues.

There is no consistency in temperament testing. Dogs aren't exposed to other animals to see if they get along with them. They do at times do the rubber hand test. But, there are no specific requirements.

There is no consistency in what is offered to people picking up their animals. They are not always being offered low cost spay/neuter

Any person can walk in and claim a dog that came in as a stray is theirs. They don't ask for vet records or any kind of proof.

What is the criteria for breed identification?

Next Meeting: Thursday March 1st at 7:00pm
Lawrenceville Police Dept

Minutes of Programs Committee meeting 3/8/12

Meeting was held at the Lawrenceville Police Dept.

Members Present:

Kelly Alder
Elizabeth Burgner
Dr Solveig Evans
Wanda Johnson
Tatiana Romeo

Two members of the public were in attendance.

Minutes were not provided for the last meeting, so we moved on to 'homework' from last meeting.

Ms Romeo provided detailed notes from her meeting with Jamie Martinez, Adoption/Rescue Coordinator with DeKalb County, on 3/7/12. Notable comments about her meeting:

DeKalb requires potential adopters to complete a questionnaire/application. Some committee members were surprised/disappointed that Gwinnett does not have these.

Dekaib's volunteer photographer lives in Gwinnett County. She offered her services to the Gwinnett shelter some time ago but was told that they already had a photographer and her services were not needed.

Ms Martinez provided a copy of her job description. We would like to model a Rescue/Adoption Coordinator position for Gwinnett on this document.

Rescue activities were not specifically covered during this visit. Ms Alder will be visiting on 3/16/12 for this purpose.

Ms Romeo provided notes from her telephone appointment with Sgt Schiralli, Volunteer Program Coordinator with Gwinnett P.D., on 3/8/12. Notable comments:

She has a hard time filling some positions, specifically cleaning cat pods and photography, because these tasks must be performed before the shelter opens in the morning. We do not believe that the photography requirement is valid; visitor Ms Ruelle stated that she is allowed to take photographs all day.

We clarified that Sgt Schiralli's position enables her only to fill specifically requested positions; she is not physically at the shelter and has no role in assigning or supervising volunteers.

Ms Alder reviewed her 'shadow' shift with Chris Hughes on 3/3/12.

Officer Hughes was very accommodating. They started by cleaning kitten cages, during which Ms Alder conveyed our concern that Officer Hughes' time could be better spent coordinating rescues. Officer Hughes' primary concern with devoting 100% of her time to rescue activities is that the other officers might resent her not sharing the cleaning burden. Later that same day she did state that she doesn't always have time to contact rescue groups before animals are euthanized.

Hughes keep her own unofficial log of animals that are diverted to rescue from intake; these are transported directly to rescue and are not admitted to the shelter, therefore not counted in any shelter statistics.

Ms Alder and Officer Hughes reviewed euthanasia criteria. Hughes always gets a 2nd opinion before an animal is euthanized for temperament reasons. Temperament testing is done using a "fake hand" tool.

Our committee intended to discuss the feasibility of a full-time veterinarian, but ran out of time. We did clarify a couple of items on the spreadsheet provided by Dr Evans (via Theresa Cox), but have questions regarding the amount paid to Gwinnett Animal Clinic; i.e., does the amount include euthanasia drugs, which we believe are marked up 100% over cost, or the \$3,000 paid annually to Dr Wallace for training and use of his DEA license. Ms Burgner will follow up with Ms Cox to obtain this information.

We discussed the priority given to our nine stated goals, and decided to drop Public Education since the Partnership committee is addressing this.

We want to review the criteria used for euthanasia, and justification given for euthanizing each animal. This will be done during review of the SOP's.

Homework:

- Ms Burgner and Dr Evans will 'crunch numbers' regarding full-time veterinarian cost-savings analysis.
- Ms Romeo will build on volunteer recommendations, including simplification of the application process.
- Ms's Romeo and Alder will work on a Job Description for a Rescue/Adoption Coordinator.
- Ms Johnson will begin preparing recommendations for Marketing shelter services.
- Ms Alder will confirm joint Policy/Programs meeting; Ms Burgner will invite Major Bruno when meeting is confirmed.

Next Meeting: Joint meeting with Policy Committee, March 14th at 7:00pm, Lawrenceville Police Dept.