

Monterey County Animal Advisory Board

Monterey County Animal Services Center

Meeting Date October 25, 2006 Time: 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: District 1 Tom Collier
District 2 Joy Rosales
District 4 Darlene Drain
District 5 Susan O'Brien
Member-At-Large Barbara DeGrootd, Chair
Member-At-Large Tom Bailey
Member-At-Large Shirely Jorgenson

Members Absent: District 3 Cookie Johnson
Member-At-Large Tom Bailey
Member-At-Large Vacant

Ex-Officio Representatives Present:

Barbara Carvalho, SPCA of Monterey County

Staff:

Kathy Prew, Director of Animal Services
Nancy Ratto, Supervising Animal Control Officer

The meeting of the Monterey County Animal Advisory Board was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Barbara De Grootd proposed a change to the minutes of May 17, 2006 to indicate that a large number of wolves that end up in sanctuaries in New Mexico are from Monterey County. The minutes were then approved with the change.

Kathy Prew reported that the animal shelter now includes a "rabbit room". A volunteer office was converted into a small creature room, since there had never been a place to display rabbits and other rodents. Money was donated for the room's renovation and for cages by Friends of County Animal Services. Also, the cat play room in the courtyard area has been completed and well-used by the cats and kittens for play, beyond their cages in adoptions. Asked if the shelter had experienced ring-worm this summer, she stated that some kittens had come in with it, and it was discovered before they were placed up for adoption. One shelter cat tested positive and was treated, and the shelter received thorough cleaning in an effort to aid in disease confinement.

Kathy informed the group that the Senate Bill 1578, known as the anti-chaining or tethering bill passed the State legislator and was signed by the Governor, which limits tying or chaining dogs to no more than 3 hours per day. Animal Control will probably not have authority to enforce this law until it is adopted as a part of Title 8. At this time, Humane Officers will likely be called on for enforcement. Also, Barbara De Grootd mentioned that the Pet Evacuation and Transport Standards Law was signed by the President which sets governmental requirements for pet rescue and care as well as human care during disasters. This legislation was in response to the public's outcry over the fate of animals left behind following the Katrina Hurricane.

Kathy spoke about a situation in Monterey County where a resident has 50 dogs in her house and 40-80 cats on her property. Despite the poor conditions under which the animals are forced to live, there is no prosecutable route to take, since she has complied with requests for medical care. The animals live in a state of filth and neglect, physically and emotionally, although the owner does clean up the majority of the feces prior to allowing anyone in the locked gate to her property. Environmental Health has made recommendations for improvement due to the rotted drywall from urine saturation and other health concerns. However, there have been no neighborhood complaints to justify The only enforceable ordinance route available is that of rabies vaccination requirements and dog licensing. Animal Services has worked closely with the SPCA on this case and will again soon on another similar case in south county. Title 8 has no limitation on the number of pets that a household may keep. Zoning has ordinances as relate to livestock, but not pets. Many cities in have restrictions on within their jurisdictions, but she asked the Advisory Board to look at whether it wants to recommend a limit for unincorporated Monterey County as a way to control hoarding. Kathy stated that she recently spoke to the Director of Kern County in Bakersfield, who is also trying to establish limits for their unincorporated areas, because that area also has multiple hoarding problems. The Board reviewed Marin County regulations for “hobbyists” and ranch dogs. The group also reviewed Title 8 definitions and kennel requirements to consider using some of the current language. Kathy stated that the Director of the Health Department recommended that the Advisory Board consider adding limits to pets per household to the animal ordinance, rather than putting the regulation under zoning ordinances.

Barbara suggested that all Board members review Title 8 prior to the next meeting. The ordinances can be accessed on-line on the Monterey County home page.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2007.