

## **Metro Animal Care and Control Advisory Council Meeting Minutes July 18, 2012**

### **Present:**

Bill Paul, MD, MPH  
Phran Galante  
Susan Cole  
Joy Beach  
Dr. Brent Hager, PhD  
Rep. Janis Sontany  
Billy Biggs

Judy Ladebauche  
Marc Stevenson  
Teri Zweifel  
Council Lady Karen Bennett  
Tom Sharp  
Janise Shaw  
Martha Bickley, recorder

Dr. Paul called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

### **Approval of May 9, 2012 Minutes**

**Phran Galante made a motion to approve the May 9, 2012 minutes. Council Lady Karen Bennett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### **MACC Update**

Judy Ladebauche distributed the MACC report and other materials.



071812 MACC  
Attachments.pdf

The attachment includes:

- MACC Comparison FY2007-FY2012
- Advisory Board Report
- Draft Rescue Group Application
- Draft Guidelines for Rescue Groups
- AVMA educational materials regarding the dangers of leaving animals in cars

She noted that rabies vaccinations were down this year and said that would be watched closely.

She also reported that the Board of Health had approved the dog food donation agreement with MARS Petcare at the July 17 meeting. Council Lady Bennett said that council members had received an e-mail from Pedigree announcing the agreement. Ms. Ladebauche said that Williamson County, Nashville Humane, Maury County and Sumner County shelters had also signed similar agreements with MARS.

Judy offered to provide a list of the rescue groups that have filed papers with MACC or that MACC has dealt with on request. She explained that animals can be transferred at no cost and unaltered to any municipal animal shelter or state-certified animal shelter, as those

organizations are bound by the same statutes regarding spay and neuter prior to adoption as MACC.

Dr. Hager distributed charts that Councilman Claiborne had previously requested. Dr. Paul requested changes for clarity and those are reflected in the attachment:



MACC Services  
Rendered July 1 2011

Council Lady Bennett asked if the information could be presented to Council and if Mr. Sharp could be present one council meeting to discuss and answer councilmembers' questions.

Council Lady Bennett requested that a user-friendly link or links about MACC be compiled that council members could provide on their individual web pages for their constituents. She also asked that a public relations event be planned to introduce the information to the council members, and those councilmembers who could not be present could be provided the information in a packet. Ms. Ladebauche agreed, and Mr. Sharp said that he would discuss further with Council Lady Bennett what to present to Council members.

#### **Legislative Update**

Council Lady Bennett met with Referee Todd about the Responsible Pet Owners School. She went to Court on a separate matter and she and Billy Biggs met with Referee Todd following court. She said that as a result of the meeting offenders must appear in court after they have attended the class with a certificate signed by Mr. Biggs. Council Lady Bennett said that Referee Todd is ordering more offenders to the class, and Mr. Biggs said that Referee Todd is including class attendance in the courts orders and failure to attend is in contempt of court. Mr. Biggs said that a remaining obstacle is that the infractions are violations of Environmental ordinance and are not criminal offenses.

Rep. Sontany advised nothing had been done for animals in the legislative session, but a bill to permit horse slaughter had been rebuffed again. She cautioned that MACC should exercise great care in adopting horses to ensure they do not fall into the hands of a "kill buyer." Ms. Ladebauche assured her that adopters are carefully screened.

#### **UPAW Update**

Education program had been discussed at the previous meeting, Ms. Galante asked Ms. Ladebauche to propose dates in regard to the collaboration on the education program that had been discussed at the May 12 meeting; she said she has the other parties set up and ready to go. Ms. Ladebauche said she would provide.

#### **Data Collection Update**

Ms. Ladebauche stated that the Data Collection Committee met and are still planning to go after the daycare population to reduce dog bites among children. Another meeting is scheduled but there was no additional data to provide. Ms. Beach has provided to Ms.

Ladebauche and Dr. Thomas-Trudo videos and other educational materials to review for selection.

Dr. Paul asked how many of the 700 bites reported were in young children. Ms. Ladebauche stated that the number is greater than 100 and will provide the exact number at the next meeting.

### **Update on Partnership Between Pets and People**

Ms. Beach reported the total number of animals spayed and neutered to date was 1,228 animals. The project has served 789 families and issued 938 rabies tags through the clinics.

Ms. Beach stated that the initial PetSmart grant will end in August, and then other zip codes will be evaluated for need of intensive spay/neuter efforts.

### **The Big Fix 2020**

Ms. Galante said work continues.

### **Evaluation/Other Business**

- Rover will be at spaying and neutering at MACC on Friday, September 21, funded by the \$3.00 of boarding fee allocation for education and animal welfare. To promote the event, MACC officers will be passing out flyers and cards. Because Metro can hold animals after surgery, Rover can alter up to 50 animals that day. It is hoped that the event could be conducted monthly.
- Rep. Sontany expressed concern about who is making educational presentations on behalf of MPHD and her hopes that MACC employees present information about animal care and welfare.
- Dr. Paul updated the council on his research into amending the composition of the Board of Health to include a veterinarian. He advised that the state requires that a board of health be composed of a greater number and variety of members than Metro has specified, and includes the Mayor and Director of Schools. He explained the Metro Charter specifies a different composition by stipulating three medical doctors (one a psychiatrist), one registered nurse, and two others specifically not of the medical professions. He also explained that a change to the composition would require amendment to the Metro Charter and could open the Board to the larger composition as defined by the state. He shared his reluctance to do advocacy about the composition of the Board of Health, since it governs him.

Rep. Sontany stated that the program had seen dramatic improvement since 1995, and now might be an advantageous time to pursue a change in the composition of the Board to include a veterinarian. Council Lady Bennett and Rep. Sontany advised that they would make effort to meet with Mayor Dean to advocate for changing the Board's composition and report back at a future meeting. Dr. Paul invited the group to attend Board of Health meetings. To automatically receive public meeting notices, subscribe at [http://www.nashville.gov/global/agenda\\_subscription/health/index.asp](http://www.nashville.gov/global/agenda_subscription/health/index.asp)

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

Due to a conflict in Dr. Paul's schedule, the next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, **September 19, 2012** at 3:00 p.m. in Room 220 (the Library) of the Lentz Public Health Center, instead of September 12. Please mark your calendars!

### **Please mark your calendars for the next six meetings:**

September 19, 2012

November 14, 2012

January 9, 2013

March 13, 2013

May 8, 2013

July 10, 2013