

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 2nd, 2023 - 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
In person at 511 W 3900 S Salt Lake City, UT 84123 Conference Room

Meeting recording:

<https://slco.webex.com/recording/service/sites/slco/recording/2e97757e5bcf103c8f6100505681e761/playback>

Members in Attendance:

Dustin Gettel – Midvale
Juli Ulvestad – Industry Expert
Rita Lund – Millcreek
Brian Wright – Murray
Linda Price – White City
Gary Bowen – Emigration Canyon
Jeff Bossard – Brighton

Grant Crowell – Bluffdale
Arlyn Bradshaw – SLCO County Council
Audrey Pierce – Magna
Stephanie Carlson – Holladay Alternate
Carmen Bailey – SLC
Alan Peterson - Kearns

Members Absent:

Scott Baird – SLCO Mayor
Holly Smith – Holladay

Kevin Severson – Copperton

Non-members in Attendance:

Talia Butler – Animal Services
Carrie Sibert – Animal Services

Karl Carpenter – Animal Services
Amber Andersen – SLCO Public Works

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL – Dustin Gettel, Chair

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. [Approval of 7-27-23 Meeting Minutes](#)

Gary Bowen motioned; Alan Peterson seconded. All say aye.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

3.1. Coyotes/Wildlife, Carrie Sibert, Liaison & Contracts Coordinator

Carrie Sibert explained that recently Animal Services has received a lot of calls and questions regarding coyotes and other wildlife. Carrie explained that Animal Services cannot legally handle wildlife and the jurisdiction of wildlife falls under the USDA and DWR. Animal Services will only get involved if there is a case with potential of rabies exposure.

Recent calls have been received of the community observing wildlife in urban areas, especially around the rim and foothills, some pets have been attacked. Carrie advised the public can reach out to the USDA Urban Wildlife program for assistance and help with the wildlife. Citizens can also call dispatch who will then dispatch the appropriate authorities. Some urban pets such as squirrels, rodents, and feral rabbits they can contact pest control companies. Animal Services also has a working cat program for citizens interested in getting an outdoor working cat. Carrie will send out information for the working cat program.

3.2. 2024 Meeting Schedule, Carrie Sibert, Liaison & Contracts Coordinator

Carrie provided a draft of the proposed 2024 meeting schedule. Members requested to change the July meeting date to the 18th so it is away from the holidays. Meetings will be held virtually/hybrid, the July meeting will be held in person.

3.3. Field Policy Updates, Karl Carpenter, Field Manager

Karl explained the new field rank policy outlining titles and rank structures used by the field department. Ranks have been in practice since 1992 but has not been official so Animal Services is proposing making the rank titles official. The ranks mirror other law enforcement agencies and is beneficial when interacting with

other agencies. Ranks depend on field positions/HR titles and their responsibilities. Animal Control will still hold its same values and philosophy establishing a balance between law enforcement and as an animal resource for the public.

Vote amongst the Advisory Board was taken. Then the policy will go before the County Council. If approved the policy will be implemented internally and then Animal Services will try implementing it in ordinance.

Policy vote: Rita Lund motioned; Carmen Bailey seconded. All members say aye. Policy passes unanimously.

3.4. Budget, Talia Butler, Division Director

The mayor presented her budget on October 24th. Public Works is presenting November 7th. Animal Services is separating the budget into 3 separate areas: general funded, contract funded, and donation funds. Requests have been made for 1 Associate Director to fill a reclassified vacant position, the position is funded by contracts and partially funded by the general fund.

On the contract side we are asking for 2 full time positions in July, those positions will be filled depending on Animal Services needs at that time. There is an anticipated dispatch cost increase. The capital fund improvement fund has already been built into contracts; the budget presentation will include the price of some building repairs that are needed.

For the general funded side part of the Associate Director position is included.

Animal Services is also asking for \$20,000 from the donation fund for an adoption campaign. \$2000 is being pulled from the spay/neuter fund in hopes of sterilizing as many animals as possible. \$150,000 is being pulled from the injured animal fund to assist with treating animal injuries.

Gary Bowen recommended emphasizing the extent of our operational hours and services to justify the increases.

Alan asked what the status is on the Animal Care Campus project. Talia explained we are currently conducting a community survey. The survey is being completed in waves/phases. In the survey the community are asked various questions to measure how supportive they are on the resources and services the Animal Care Campus would provide and that Animal Services currently provides, along with the community's support on the no-kill mission, and animal and human demographics across Salt Lake County. Once the survey is completed Animal Services will present the comprehensive results to the County Council. Talia also updated the committee on the status of the mobile spay/neuter clinic. The mobile unit is currently being remodeled and is expected to be completed within the next month to a month and a half. As soon as Animal Services receives it, we will reach out to each jurisdiction to find target neighborhoods that need sterilization assistance.

3.5. Division Updates, Talia Butler, Division Director

Talia explained that during this legislative session Animal Services would like to find a solution to address court hold cases. Currently the animals are being held at the shelter for extreme lengths of time while we have to wait for a court disposition. Animal Services is hoping to have the courts make a determination within a certain time frame. Talia will be in contact with each jurisdiction to discuss these options.

Talia also explained that there is a potential the community cat act will be challenged during this legislative session. Animal Services' no-kill mission relies on the community cat act, Talia is requesting a letter of support from the committee in support of the community cat act. Arlyn asked which jurisdictions are wanting to challenge it, he suggested approaching these jurisdictions in hopes of educating them on the community cat programs and approaching those in legislation in hopes of deterring changes and increase support in community cat programming.

Talia shared photos with the committee featuring Petapalooza and Spayghetti.

Talia also shared photos from a recent animal cruelty case involving a dog that was abused, Animal Services took custody of the dog who is now receiving treatment through the injured animal fund and will go up for adoption once she is medically cleared.

Karl and Talia also explained the amazing work of Animal Services Officer Turner. Officer Turner worked a case involving an abandoned dog that the owner attempted to turn over earlier that day. Officer Turner was able to trace the dog's microchip to a lady that stated the dog belonged to her ex-boyfriend whom she was afraid of. Officer Turner gathered his information from her. The dog owner was wanted with warrants for double homicide and was one of America's most wanted. Officer Turner went above and beyond and was able to establish a relationship with the lady and through this assisted law enforcement in locating and apprehending him.

4. MEMBER REPORTS

4.1. Updates from member's jurisdictions that may impact Animal Services.

- Alan Peterson – Kearns – no updates
- Grant Crowell – Bluffdale – no updates
- Rita Lund – Millcreek – no updates
- Dustin Gettel – Midvale – no updates, wished a happy holidays
- Carmen Bailey – Salt Lake City – It's budget season for next year. Carmen will submit a request for 2 additional Officers or overtime options for SLC park patrols.
- Holly Smith/Stephanie Carlson – City of Holladay – Asked about the status on the licensing app and requested an education campaign for licensing. Carrie explained that the new Barkpass licensing application is almost ready to launch, and she will work with the field department to build a licensing campaign.
- Lt. Brian Wright – Murray – no updates
- Kevin Severson – Copperton – n/a
- Jeff Bossard – Town of Brighton – Was able to attend Spayghetti and looks forward to attending next year.
- Linda Price – White City – Wanted to thank the staff for support during their township days and results of Spayghetti.
- Audrey Pierce – Magna – no updates
- Gary Bowen – Emigration Canyon – looking for microchipping solutions for residents in the canyon.
- Scott Baird/Amber Andersen – Salt Lake County Mayor – no updates
- Arlyn Bradshaw – Salt Lake County Council – no updates from County. From Best Friends, data collections were conducted nationwide. Best Friends is showing appreciation to shelters that are no-kill. Salt Lake County Animal Services received an award plaque for our no-kill achievements and the shelter will receive a visit from Julie Castle to congratulate the shelter and celebrate.
- Juli Ulvestad – Industry Expert – congratulated on successes of Petapalooza. Juli also requested coordination with HSU to join the support for the concerns with the legislative session. Juli also asked about Animal Services not taking in rabbits as strays or owner surrenders. Talia explained that we stopped accepting most stray and owned rabbits due to space constraints, the hemorrhagic fever concerns, as well as difficulties with sterilizations. Talia explained there is also not really any great solutions to the rabbit population especially when dealing with pest rabbit populations vs pet rabbits. HSU still accepts rabbits as owner surrenders and Animal Services does intake some owned rabbits just not strays.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Chair & Vice-Chair vote**
- **Open Meetings Act training**

Carrie explained that we will hold our annual Chair and Vice-chair vote. Carrie also explained there might be online options for the open meetings act training rather than an in-person training. If one is available Carrie will send out that information. Those who complete the training are then asked to send Carrie the completion certification for the committee records.

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