

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board

MINUTES-VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Friday, July 23, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.
WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES
CENTER CLASSROOM
2825 LONGLEY LANE, #A, RENO, NV

MEMBERS

Naomi Duerr (Chair)
Paul Anderson
Jill Dobbs
Irene Payne
Trudy Brussard
Julie McMahan

STAFF

Shyanne Schull (Director)

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jen Gustafson (Deputy DA)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL [Non-Action Item]

The meeting was opened and a quorum was established.

PRESENT: Naomi Duerr, Paul Anderson, Jill Dobbs, Irene Payne, Trudy Brussard,
Julie McMahan

ABSENT: None

2. PUBLIC COMMENT [Non-Action Item]

MS. PERRY: Welcomed new members and thanked them for serving. Had questions for the staff regarding the Animal Control Officers and training for the officers. Averages 4-5 calls a week about AC issues. For example, an officer provided owner and microchip information on a dog that was found about the owners. It was on Facebook. Feels the officers are getting a little broad with the interpretation of the law. Discussed an incident re: dog in the back of a vehicle.

MS. CLERK: Read email into the record:

“This is a petition I have started to hopefully get some legislation on this issue. So far, I have obtained over 100 signatures.” Provided information re: dogs riding in the back of trucks and circulating a petition to stop that.

MS. BRINKY: Alexandria Brinky “Sandy.” Wanted to request from the Board to create legislation to prohibit dogs from riding unharnessed or uncrated in the back of pickup trucks. Since 2004, there has been a tremendous increase in population and she has seen more instances of unattended dogs in the back of pickup trucks.

Currently, there is an ongoing petition with over 150 signatures. Is also working on getting statistics from law enforcement re: accidents involving the same.

In 2007, SB 329 was enacted prohibiting dogs in the backs of pickup trucks. There was an Amendment that took that wording out of the legislation. At this time, it only pertains to dogs being inside of vehicles.

Requesting the Board’s support of the enactment of the legislation.

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 23, 2021 MINUTES [For possible action]

MEMBER PAYNE: Motion to approve Minutes of April 23, 2021.

MEMBER ANDERSON: Seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS [Non-Action Item]

CHAIR DUERR: Introduced Julie McMahon and Trudy Brussard. Asked for new members to introduce themselves.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Has been a realtor in Reno since 1989. Served on the Animal Control Board previously. Very interested in animals. Has a biology background and is pleased to have been appointed. Lives in Reno.

MEMBER McMAHON: (Unable to connect).

CHAIR DUERR: Confirming quorum without Member McMahon.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [For Possible Action]

CHAIR DUERR: Recommending Irene Payne as Vice-Chair.

MEMBER PAYNE: Confirmed she would be proud and very willing to serve as Vice-Chair.

MEMBER ANDERSON: Motion made to nominate Irene Payne for the Vice-Chair position.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Seconded the motion.

CHAIR DUERR: Motion passes unanimously.

Going back to introduction of new members with Julie McMahon.

MEMBER McMAHON: Introduced herself. She is a licensed technician in Nevada, born and raised in Reno, and lives currently in Sparks. She teaches full-time for the Community College and works part-time in emergency and specialty.

She was asked to be a part of the Board as the representing veterinary technician and thought it would be a good opportunity to serve the community.

CHAIR DUERR: Welcomed Member McMahon.

CHAIR DUERR: Commented that the training is a good refresher for everyone, especially new members.

DAA GUSTAFSON: Asked Chair Duerr about Item No. 7 and the guest appearance of Chris Day. (Inaudible/cross talking).

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed taking agenda items out of order and will do Item 7 and then Item 10, and then come back to Item 6, the Open Meeting Law Orientation.

7. GUEST APPEARANCE [Non-action item]

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for Chris Day to join the meeting.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Requested to do a brief introduction of Mr. Day.

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed Mr. Day has video and audio.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Introduced Mr. Day. He was previously employed and worked for the Washoe County DA's Office, and represented a number of animal cruelty cases for WCRAS. Mr. Day was nominated for the National Animal Care & Control

Association Bill Lehman Memorial Award. Mr. Day was the recipient of the award. He was presented the award to the Board at the last meeting and the Board requested to formally recognize him.

Mr. Day is no longer employed by Washoe County. He currently works for Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith doing civil litigation. He is considered an advocate for animals in the community based on the number of cases he successfully litigated for WCRAS with successful outcomes.

CHAIR DUERR: Welcomed Mr. Day and advised they wanted to adopt a resolution in his honor. Reading it into the record as follows:

Resolution of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board expressing our appreciation to Christopher Day for his extraordinary service to Washoe County Regional Animal Services.

WHEREAS Chris Day has been an active and strong advocate for animals in Washoe County, Nevada, serving the interests of Washoe County Regional Animal Services with dedication and distinction.

WHEREAS Christopher Day has demonstrated professionalism and perseverance in attaining successful prosecutions in approximately 20 misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor and felony animal cruelty cases.

WHEREAS Christopher Day developed a streamline process for WCRAS felony case submissions.

WHEREAS Christopher Day developed training workshops for WCRAS staff to further develop their investigative skills and case preparation.

WHEREAS Christopher Day was always reliable, polite, attentive and helpful of the WCRAS staff.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board does hereby express their deep appreciation to Christopher for his extraordinary

awareness and devotion to being a voice for animals in Washoe County through the dedication, implementation and administration of quality legal work on Animal Services criminal cases.

Advised WCRAS would adopt and attest and are very pleased. Asked Mr. Day to say a few words.

MR. DAY: Advised he was a Deputy District Attorney for approximately five years. He enjoyed working at the DA's Office. He has always had a passion for animals and working on more difficult cases that were emotional. He was impressed by WCRAS and was drawn to the work helping the animals.

CHAIR DUERR: Thanked Mr. Day for his hard work and recognized the validity of his work and appreciated his integrity for the program.

MEMBER PAYNE: Echoed Chair Duerr's comments. Reminded those with a strong voice to speak up for the animals.

CHAIR DUERR: Encouraged Mr. Day to try and stay involved for the animals.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Thanked Mr. Day for attending and hoped he still had interest to advocate for the animals in the community.

MR. DAY: Said he was happy to volunteer and help out in any way.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for a motion to approve the Resolution.

MEMBER PAYNE: Made the motion to approve the Resolution and Chair Duerr to sign the Resolution.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Seconded the motion.

CHAIR DUERR: Motion passes unanimously.

10. INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON WCRAS QUARANTINE PRACTICES
[Non-Action Item]

CHAIR DUERR: Taking Item 10 out of order.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Introducing this Agenda Item as a request by the Advisory Board from the last meeting to discuss quarantine practices at WCRAS. Heidi Mittelstaedt is a Field Supervisor who will speak on the topic.

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Providing a brief overview of quarantine procedures and policies.

CHAIR DUERR: Indicated they have received several inquiries over the last 6 months to a year about quarantine practices and wanted to know what they could do to assist.

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Indicated WCRAS is the delegated authority through the Washoe County Health Department for rabies control and enforcement. Any time an animal's teeth or claws pierce the skin of a human, there is a concern for rabies. Rabies is almost 100% fatal in humans.

Washoe County has rabies in the wild animal population. There is the concern that a domestic animal comes in contact with a rabid wild animal or contracted rabies through another domestic animal contact. For public health and safety reasons, animals are quarantined as per CDC guidelines, as well as Rabies Compendium Guidelines, state and county law.

Every animal should be quarantined regardless of vaccine status. Discusses even with vaccine, it's still possible to contract a disease as they are not 100% effective. If an animal is vaccinated for rabies and is considered low risk would be allowed a home quarantine. An unvaccinated animal is higher risk or a roaming at large animal. Those are quarantined at a vet or WCRAS. Presented stats on how many bite reports per year.

For 2021, there have been 720 bite reports; 622 animals were quarantined – a combination of home and vet/county locations. 2020 was a total of 1,086 with 933 quarantined. 2019 was 1,164. 2018 was 1,282. 2017 was 1,139. 2016 was 1,128. 2015 was 1,128. There are a lot of bite reports. Goals are to have animals vaccinated and animals quarantined in home.

MEMBER PAYNE: Asked about when an animal is quarantined, how long are they held for?

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Confirmed the holding period is 10 days.

MEMBER PAYNE: Wanted to know if they are held in isolation for the 10 days.

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Discussed the animal is held in a kennel which is an indoor/outdoor run so they can go outside, but they are in isolation. The animal is to have zero contact with humans or other animals.

MEMBER PAYNE: Wanted to know if once the 10 days was over, does the companion animal return home? And is the wild animal released?

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Confirmed that the wild animals are euthanized and tested for rabies. Living animals can return home if the owners wish to have them back.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for clarification.

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Confirmed squirrels are very low risk species. In this area it will be bats, racoons, skunks, coyotes, wild mink. In Washoe County, bats are the most common carriers of rabies. The only way to test animals for rabies is to wait it out or to test a portion of the brain. The wild animals are euthanized because they aren't equipped to have that animal.

CHAIR DUERR: Is that process if the bat bit a human?

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Depending on the circumstances. If a wild animal contacts a domestic animal, and the domestic catches the wild animal and brings it in, something is wrong with the wild animal.

CHAIR DUERR: Has a number of questions. Wanted clarification that if the bat was in the house, it would be presumed that the bat may have bitten neither a person or an animal while in the house. Is the animal automatically taken and put in quarantine?

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Provided an example if a bat entered a home and eyes were kept on the bat at all times, then the bat would be relocated. If the homeowner can't clearly demonstrate where the bat has been at all times, in the interest of their health and safety, the bat is euthanized.

CHAIR DUERR: Inquired if there are animals in the home, are they put in quarantine?

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: The bat would be tested and rabies status would be checked. Some cases are referred to the Health Department for presumed positive cases. Until test results come back, it is a presumed exposure.

CHAIR DUERR: Wanted to know how long the test results take.

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: If it's a weekday, 48-hours. Depends on the volume at the disease lab. Weekend cases have to wait until Monday.

CHAIR DUERR: Discussed dogs tangling with racoons. Asked for explanation as to the process of handling this situation.

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Stated the ideal goal is to find the racoon. There is protocol if the pet has been vaccinated and that information is provided to the Health Department. If the pet is unvaccinated, it is recommended euthanasia or strict quarantine for four months. Discussed post exposure series of vaccines if the pet is vaccinated.

CHAIR DUERR: Wanted to know if rabies was conveyed to be a scratch also.

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Agreed it can be tooth or claw pierces the skin.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested further information home quarantine procedures.

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: The CDC wants everything quarantined. For vaccinated pets with a lower risk bite, the animal is left at home and "grounded" and can't come in contact with other people and animals. If the owner is willing, home quarantine is preferred. Higher risk bites with unvaccinated animals or animals that have been roaming at large while the bite occurred, they have to be quarantined at a vet.

CHAIR DUERR: Wanted confirmation when she was speaking about "being vaccinated" that she meant a rabies shot.

MS. MITTELSTAEDT: Confirmed it is the rabies vaccine since it's the one that kills people.

CHAIR DUERR: Summarized the conversation. Confirmed a quarantine case currently in the court system and the response time with the court resulted in the animal in 4 to 6 months in quarantine with no human touch. Inquired if there is a procedure to implement protective clothing (if it's not a rabies concern) and how can it be addressed?

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Wanted to clarify bite animals and animals potentially exposed to rabies or have exposed a human to rabies. "Quarantine" is specific to a bite. It was clarified that the case Chair Duerr was referring to was a Dangerous Dog case and has no relevance to quarantine.

CHAIR DUERR: Inquired as to the “hold” versus “quarantine” because they fall under the same practices; not touched, not walked, not interacted with.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Suggested wrapping up the discussion regarding quarantine to let Ms. Mittelstaedt get back out to the field and then discuss the hold procedures and case animals.

MEMBER PAYNE: Doesn’t have any more questions and thought Ms. Mittelstaedt did a good job explaining the procedures.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested to address the holds versus quarantine.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: To answer Chair Duerr’s questions, the animals that are quarantined are kept out of general population for protection of humans and other animals. A case animal might be a cruelty case, a Dangerous Dog case, Administrative Hearing Appeal, that has the animal there for an extended period of time.

If it’s a Dangerous Dog case, the reasons usually are exhibited behaviors towards other animals and/or people. It’s difficult for staff to decide when it is okay to have hands on to an animal who has been declared dangerous. There have been significant staff incidents when it was presumed the behavior was okay in a kennel and staff has been severely bitten or injured. The protocol has become more strict in not handling the animals.

The staff is provided all the tools and equipment to handle difficult animals and are utilized accordingly.

CHAIR DUERR: Wanted to know how many animals are either in quarantine or on a case hold.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Indicated those numbers change. There is an increasing number of Dangerous Dog cases over the last year

MEMBER PAYNE: Confirmed there are two reasons an animal is held in isolation – because of quarantine with rabies; or a Dangerous Dog.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed that was correct. There is more hands on with case animals because they have to be weighed and examined. Currently, there are two horses there on a cruelty case and they are exercised every day. Kennel staff are implementing enrichment tools which is over and above standard kennel care.

MEMBER PAYNE: Inquired if a dangerous dog gets any enrichment at all?

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Dangerous dogs are part of the enrichment program as long as it's not hands on.

CHAIR DUERR: Discussed the presumption of innocence on a dangerous dog which is why a hearing is conducted.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: In many dangerous dog cases, the animal stays with the owner until the hearing occurs. Sometimes the animal is impounded depending on the circumstances. Discussed a dangerous dog case and the dog was in the possession of the owner and the owner refused to cooperate with Animal Services and so a Warrant was issued to seize the dog. The Dangerous Dog Code was not being followed and the dog was reported to be at large again after being declared dangerous, and the owner was not complying. Animal Services had no choice but to seize the animal and the owner had to await that court date.

CHAIR DUERR: Discussed the court system and that it has slowed down because of COVID. Wondering if the Judge's understand the animals being on hold during all of these continuances with the court. Chair Duerr has offered to go with Director Schull to discuss these cases with the Judges so the cases were not delayed and requested timely adjudication. Suggested the Advisory Board continue to encourage the process.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Agreed with Chair Duerr. Confirmed that a system has been created to help flag those cases. Same process is implemented with the Administrative Hearing.

CHAIR DUERR: Suggested a tour of WCRAS with the Judges to understand the process.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Inquired if there was a behavioral expert on staff or a volunteer who is assessing the animals.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed there are no certified behavioral experts on staff outside of collective knowledge of the 42 staff members. Decisions about the animals are based on the Code. If the animal has violated the sections of the Code, then it proceeds to an Administrative Hearing to declare it dangerous or dismiss the case.

CHAIR DUERR: Wondered if some shelters or organizations have certified behaviorists.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Felt that the non-profits and humane society places would have those types of staff. Animals that exhibit dangerous behavior are more difficult, and most animal control organizations don't have those systems in place.

CHAIR DUERR: Appreciated all the information.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Is happy to provide statistics on any subject with advanced preparation.

6. OPEN MEETING LAW AND ETHICS TRAINING AND WCRAS ORIENTATION [Non-action Item]

CHAIR DUERR: Wondered if the open meeting law, ethics training and orientation need to be at the Board Meeting, or can it take place off line?

DAA GUSTAFSON: Confirmed it can take place off line, but it is difficult to get everyone together, so trainings are typically offered during a Board Meeting to keep it easy and congregating everyone.

CHAIR DUERR: Advised members that the meeting has to conclude at 12:00 p.m.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed that WCRAS shares the County management Zoom account which is what is probably putting the time constraints on the meeting.

DAA GUSTAFSON: Indicated the open meeting law and ethics training can be pushed to next meeting, if necessary.

CHAIR DUERR: Suggested to put the item at the end. If there isn't time, it will be pushed to the next meeting. Stated that Item 6 would be pushed and moving on to Item 8.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT [Non-Action Item]

DIRECTOR SCHULL: The statistics outlined in this report are statistics from the last quarter of the fiscal year.

Animal intakes for the 4th quarter of last fiscal year are rebounding back. 2,870 last quarter and is up 30%.

Animals impounded that are chipped and helps provide information if microchip program is working.

Free microchip program was resumed on June 1st without an appointment. It is free for all Washoe County residents. Since 2013, over 20,000 animals have been chipped.

Animal outcomes. 4th quarter of last fiscal year. 1% died while at WCRAS. 4% animals that are euthanized, usually for behavioral or health issues. 339 disposed animals. 1,149 animals transferred to rescue. 1,077 animals returned to owners. WCRAS is one of the highest in the country for getting animals returned home. The goal is to increase those that get reunified with their owners.

Animals returned in the field. Provides information on how reunification program is working, how are discussions with community, contact owners immediately. Trying to increase reunification without being impounded.

Animals returned via microchip. 50% of returned animals were returned via microchip. The program is very successful.

Showed photograph of a recent reunification due to a microchip. Fawna is a 12-year old cat, being watched by a pet sitter, and escaped her home. After several months of her owner looking for her. On July 10th a cat was brought to WCRAS and through the microchip reunited cat with her owner.

Welfare calls received. Felt that the staff had been weighed down by some bad cruelty cases. There is an uptick of animal welfare cases. 490 is the highest of the last five years. The work will continue and be voices for the animals. Citation and NCP numbers are also increasing. 145 citations and NCP issued in last quarter being a tremendous increase.

Field service calls. 6,876 calls and is down 7.6% from five fiscal years ago. The number of calls coming in doesn't feel like a decrease because of the way the calls are handled has changed quite a bit.

Discussed specialized training for staff. Often staff is deployed to fires, evacuation situations, etc. Provided photograph of technical large animal rescue training. Work is very technical and a lot of preparation is required. Try to keep staff up to speed to respond to difficult cases.

Some staff brought their own horses and provided hands on training for field and kennel staff in handling, haltering, catching, loading horses. Discussed horse behavior.

Happy Tails. Received a call through Dispatch about a dog stuck in a drain pipe. An Officer was dispatched and on arrival, he could hear the dog barking from down inside the pipe that was underground. Truckee Meadows Fire was called and assisted.

The officer suggested a camera system that could help identify where the dog was in the underground pipe. The officer assisted the fire department with removing debris and digging down to the pipe to see where the dog was. A backhoe dug a hole and Ginger then started coming to the opening of the pipe. The officer was able to place a catch pole around her and rescued her. She was returned to owner.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District did a recognition to Animal Services on April 2nd, and a certificate was received on behalf of the officer's assistance in rescuing the dog from the pipe.

Discussed receiving a call re: a vacant residence and a cat that was hurt inside the residence. The owner had moved out. WCRAS could not access the inside of the residence. Sparks Fire Department was called to assist to retrieve cat who was stuck in the chimney and/or stove portion. (Video was played). Staff located the owner and the cat was chipped to the homeowner's wife who had recently moved.

Also discussed a report of cats in a vehicle in the Cal-Neva parking garage where it had been for several months. The inside of the vehicle was very unsanitary and locked. The window was broken and removed four cats from the vehicle. The owner was cited for unsanitary conditions, endangering, cruelty, and leaving a pet in a vehicle. The disposition hearing occurred on June 15, 2021, and Judge ruled in favor of Animal Services. There is currently a Warrant issued for the owner who did not show up to the hearing.

CHAIR DUERR: Wanted to know if the cats were in a cage in the vehicle.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed they were loose in the vehicle. But once in custody of WCRAS, adult cats were separated. If they are kittens, they will be put together. These particular cats were separated and singly-housed.

Discussed another case re: cats in distress in a 5th wheel trailer which was going to be towed. Living in very unsanitary conditions. The officer removed 12 cats from the trailer and the owner was cited for unsanitary conditions and endangering. After several months, a plea deal was reached and cats were released to WCRAS in June. However, the cats were there almost a year.

The case animals and the length of time they stay at WCRAS really impacts the system because it takes so long to get the cruelty cases processed.

Discussed the Beckworth fire. Requested to assist evacuation and emergency sheltering for evacuees and the process in providing staff and care at the emergency sites, as well as normal operations at the shelter, and field services. Staff stayed at the Livestock Events Center the entire weekend. Slide show was presented as a thank you testimonial. (Audio difficulty).

CHAIR DUERR: Discussed screen share and computer options for audio issues. (Audio fixed and slide show was presented).

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Future topics – to discuss efforts with Animal Services in our regional parks and dealing with animal and people issues. Wants to present to the Board the next meeting on October 22, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

CHAIR DUERR: Appreciated the thorough and terrific Director’s Report.

MEMBER PAYNE: Inquired into fire evacuations and wanted to know about exotic animal process.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Animal Services typically is not involved in the exotic animal side because they are not equipped to handle them. Tries to work with Animal Ark and Sierra Safari Zoo with having an evacuation plan and system in place to get animals out.

MEMBER McMAHON: Discussed the Rabies Post Exposure Management for Veterinary Professionals and wanted to share with Board. Also discussed the prolonged housing of animals in the shelter. Advised when students are in the facility and using Washoe County as the learning platform, and animals that are there for lengthy times, the animals are provided a lot of TLC. Asked what “NCP” means.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Notice of Civil Penalty.

MEMBER McMAHON: Commented on the recognition for the officers and thanked them for doing so. Wanted to know what steps are taken to return animals in the field, and wanted to know what the officers are allowed to do.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Advised all officers have Chameleon, lap tops and smart phones. All lost and found reports are provided to them. Scanners are provided to scan for microchips. Actively looking for internal/external identification and trying to contact owners

the minute the animal is impounded. A photograph is immediately taken and uploaded to the website automatically. Site is updated approximately every 20 minutes. If an owner is located, the officer will drive to the owner, within reason, and try to reunite.

MEMBER PAYNE: Suggested for Member McMahon and Member Brussard to get a tour of Animal Services to observe all the work done.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Agreed to take those members on a tour.

CHAIR DUERR: Commented WCRAS on setting up a booth at Art Paws this year and microchipping was provided. Discussed new staff members working at Art Paws.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Advised that Karen Stark retired and the new Program Manager is Quinn Sweet. Will introduce Quinn Sweet at the appropriate time.

CHAIR DUERR: No further public comment. Item closed.

9. UPDATE AND PRESENTATION ON WCRAS PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT REGIONAL HOMELESS SHELTERS AND PETS
[Non-Action Item]

CHAIR DUERR: Introduced item.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Again introduced Quinn Sweet as new Program Manager and have her discuss partnerships with human shelters in Washoe County.

MS. SWEET: Confirmed she has been in the position for eight weeks and phasing out of training and moving into active outreach.

Began presentation with partner overview and human shelters in Washoe County. Provided list of partners of camps and housing opportunities for the homeless. SAFE Camp is men, couples and women. Our Place is women and families only. CARES Campus is for men and couples.

CHAIR DUERR: Commented that the CARES Campus currently has 60 women at this time. Indicated that women were being turned away at Our Place and protocol was changed at CARES Campus to include single women.

MS. SWEET: The newest partnership is with SAFE Camp which just started. Working on how to work with all partners to make sure that having a pet is not a barrier to

being housed. Pets are provided with free vaccinations and free licensing for those individuals entering shelters with pets. Pet enrichment also provided to properly care for pets. Kits include crate, leash and collar, dog/cat food, bowls, litter box, litter, blankets, toys.

Medical services to the pets are also provided through CARES program. Low cost or no cost vaccinations, microchipping, licensing. If there are other concerns, they work with Options Vet, the non-profit vet, for other services.

Discussed Pets of the Homeless event. They assisted 26 dogs and 8 cats with vaccines, microchips, nail trims, ear cleaning and medications, removing any mats, etc. Discussed Options Vet partnership and services provided with CARES, etc.

CHAIR DUERR: Thanked Ms. Sweet for her efforts. Our Place and CARES Campus now provide for pets and appreciates that for the homeless who won't have barriers for entry because of a pet. Limited time constraints with the vet created problems. The number of pets at the shelter is increasing. Asked Ms. Sweet to discuss issues.

MS. SWEET: Agreed that some issues have been worked out. Standing appointments are blocked off with Options if the vet isn't available, a no cost option is available and an appointment is available with Options. Options is not open on weekends, but a safe hold at the facility is provided until a vet appointment is available. This allows the homeless to enter the shelter and not lose their spot, and the pet can be vaccinated and looked after.

CHAIR DUERR: Commented that was an impressive development that services are now provided 7 days a week. Asked for an example regarding Options.

MS. SWEET: Hours are between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. for CARES referral clients. Anybody that shows up from the CARES program at that time can be seen. If no referrals are sent, walk-ins are allowed.

CHAIR DUERR: Wants to know how the homeless travels to the vet.

MS. SWEET: Confirms that many of the clients don't have an issue getting their pet to be seen. Field staff offers to pick up, if necessary. In general, most are able to make it to Options.

CHAIR DUERR: Advised there was quite a bit of commentary about the CARES Campus at the recent City Council meeting. One point brought up was not having a shuttle available. But if a shuttle was instituted, it would assist in getting people/pets transferred.

She supports the concept of having a shuttle. RTC has a free bus program for people who are unsheltered. Also RTC has a shuttle for medical. Wondering if that program can be expanded for CARES Campus. Maybe Uber vouchers could be provided.

MS. SWEET: Agreed it is all worth looking into.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Wanted to know if RTC let dogs on the bus.

CHAIR DUERR: Dogs aren't allowed on the bus, but possibly the Rapid Shuttle would allow, as well as Uber, if the dogs were in a cage.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Wondered if they would be allowed in if they were vaccinated, but can't get vaccinated if they can't get transportation. How does that get handled?

CHAIR DUERR: Suggested Ms. Sweet provide an updated report on that issue.

MS. SWEET: Confirmed that services are offered to come pick up the pet and bring it out if an individual can't get there.

CHAIR DUERR: Previous report indicated 12 dogs, 2 cats. Animal Wellness Clinic was held on July 12th.

MS. SWEET: Confirmed it was the Pets of the Homeless Clinic held.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked if there was any commentary for Art Paws.

MS. SWEET: Confirmed there was glowing comments from the community at the event. Lots of donations and purchasing of custom tags. Microchipping, vaccination and/or spay/neuter appointments.

CHAIR DUERR: Discussed Art Paws has been going for approximately 15 years. Always a favorite event.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed they had participated in the past. Prior to COVID, there was a lot of other events and needs required. Discussions had how to better facilitate events and extending staff who would have to work overtime. Thinks previous events will resume.

CHAIR DUERR: Congratulated the efforts.

MEMBER McMAHON: Wants to get together with Ms. Sweet re: TMCC vet nursing students and outreach programs.

CHAIR DUERR: Suggested teaming up with Options Vet as well.

11. WCRAS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS [Non-Action Item]

CHAIR DUERR: Asked if there were any agenda items requested for future.

DAA GUSTAFSON: Suggested bringing back dangerous dog code changes. Ordinance is drafted and awaiting final decisions from staff. Wants to get it passed this calendar year and requested final input for the October meeting and present to BOCC in November and/or December.

CHAIR DUERR: Discussed recognition of Board members who are leaving or have left. Suggested possible agenda item for next meeting. It would include Dr. Rink and Al Rogers.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: When is it appropriate to discuss dogs in trucks?

CHAIR DUERR: It would be a legislative change, which has been presented to the Board in the past. Not enough support previously and the legislator changed it. Not sure if it will be fruitful for further discussion. Already discussed and supported a version of it.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed it was on the legislative priority list for the last session. It fell off the list when working with stakeholders and partners in other counties in terms of what areas they wished to address. It wasn't a priority to some of other counties and it fell off the list. Possibly in the future.

CHAIR DUERR: Suggested for next session to get it on an agenda, continue to discuss it.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Felt it could be brought up again, however, majority issues are still remaining. Possibly even adding to the list by next session and a change in priority may be considered.

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed the issue will stay on the list. Legislative Bills have to be in by August 31st or September 1st. Start discussions three meetings ahead of that.

Expect to see the issue in about nine months – or two or three meetings from now.

No other comment on agenda items.

6. OPEN MEETING LAW AND ETHICS TRAINING AND WCRAS ORIENTATION [Non-action Item]

CHAIR DUERR: Offered approximately 20 minutes for presentation.

DAA GUSTAFSON: Indicated that it wasn't enough time, especially to allow for public comment. Recommended open meeting law ethics next meeting. There have been some changes in last legislative session.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Indicated her portion would be brief. Just a general overview for new Board Members to provide an idea of how the department operates and the partnership with Nevada Humane Society. Ten minutes max. Tabled until next meeting.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT [Non-Action Item]

CHAIR DUERR: No final public comment.

13. ADJOURNMENT [Non-Action Item]

MEMBER ANDERSON: Motion to adjourn.

MEMBER PAYNE: Second.

CHAIR DUERR: Motion carried unanimously. Thanked the staff for great information presented.