

# Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board

Friday, April 26, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Washoe County Commission Chambers  
1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Building A, Reno NV  
and available via Zoom webinar

## **Members Present in Chambers:**

Naomi Duerr, Chair  
Paul Anderson, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Mariluz Garcia  
Trudy Brussard  
Diaz Dixon  
Julie McMahon

## **Members Present via Zoom:**

## **Members Absent:**

Jill Fisher

### **1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum [Non-Action Item]**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. and a quorum was present.

### **2. Salute to the Flag [Non-Action Item]**

Member Garcia led all those convened in the pledge of allegiance.

### **3. Instructions for Providing Public Comment via Zoom/Telephone [Non-Action Item]**

Jennifer Gustafson, Deputy District Attorney, provided instructions for members of the public to join the meeting via Zoom or telephone and provided instructions for how members of the public could provide oral public comment via Zoom or telephone.

### **4. Public Comment [Non-Action Item]**

There was no public comment offered at this time.

### **5. Approval of the January 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes [For Possible Action]**

Member Garcia moved to approve the draft minutes of the January 26, 2024 meeting of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board as presented. Member McMahon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by the board with no opposition.

### **6. Community Cats Program Presentation [Non-Action Item]**

Tracy Dean, Director of Community Cats, which is a grassroots 501(c)(3) organization

presented a binder of information highlighting the organization's recent achievements and future goals. Director Dean stated Community Cats was honored with a proclamation of Global Cat Day on October 16. Director Dean discussed the funding they receive goes directly into spay/neuter services and promoting Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR). TNR is a globally recognized method of managing free-roaming cat populations.

Community Cats is an all-volunteer organization. Director Dean expressed the goal was to partner with other groups to educate people on what TNR is and wanted residents to get the help they needed, as well as understand what TNR is. Community Cats has partnered with the SPCA, Options Veterinary Care and Feral at Heart. Director Dean thanked Nevada Humane Society (NHS) for their financial support and showed their appreciation by waiving the fees at NHS' clinic.

Community Cats is "boots-on-the-ground" to fill services not available, usually due to staffing shortages. Director Dean suggested a TNR working group could be created to address the needs of Washoe County. The working group would be made up of the organizations involved. A coordinator could be paid, jointly, from the groups. Director Dean stated a long-term goal would be to collect data to identify future programs, establish collaborative relationships, and develop strategic goals, as well as secure funding to implement the plan.

Director Dean shared a handout that outlines the mission statement of Community Cats. In 2023, 489 cats were assisted in getting into the TNR clinics. 63 kittens or friendly cats were assisted by other agencies. Community Cats helped vets in Dayton to do a TNR event and focus on rural community cats. Director Dean shared that they did a ward 1 pop up pantry. Community Cats worked with Humane Network with goals for coalition building and partnerships. Director Dean shared that they are introducing a 5-10-year project that is a different approach to TNR. Director Dean states the goal will need data and funding. The goal is to get the TNR program back on track with help from the continued help from mentioned partners.

Member McMahon asked Director Dean to clarify the statement of getting the project back to where it used to be. Director Dean did not have the data from that time, but estimates TNR was at its highest in 2014-2016. Director Dean acknowledged that it has been slow, and people did not know that there was a clinic for TNR each week at NHS. Three years ago, Options started offering their TNR clinic. Director Dean suggested it was lack of promotion and organization that led to the decline. Community Cats has a new phone, with the number listed on the Washoe County webpage. Chair Duerr asked for clarity that the TNR clinics are weekly at NHS and Options and Director Dean confirmed. Further, Chair Duerr asked how many cats are treated at those clinics. Director Dean stated Options did 1,771 cats through their clinic in 2023, but did not have the TNR numbers for NHS.

Member Dixon offered a suggestion to reach out to the University of Nevada Small Business Development Office for help in developing a strategic plan to overcome the organization's financial and volunteer challenges. Member Brussard asked

what other obstacles the public presents to Community Cats. Director Dean discussed the controversy surrounding the management of feral cats as there are members of the public who have advocated for killing feral cats vs sterilizing and releasing them. Director Dean agreed with the board that euthanizing healthy cats should not be a solution for healthy cats. She highlighted the challenges in determining whether a cat is a pet or a feral cat and emphasized the importance of checking for microchips to reunite cats with their owners. Chair Duerr expressed this situation occurs in other animal populations, such as horses. Chair Duerr asked what the advisory board can do to assist Community Cats. Director Dean stated this is a great forum that, along with groups/organizations with bigger voices, help to bring these issues up. Cats depend on people to help them. Chair Duerr thanked Director Dean and Community Cats for the work that has been performed for 25 years. Director Dean offered community education. Chair Duerr suggested that Director Dean arrange to have a booth at Art Paws in July. There was no public comment offered on this agenda item.

#### **7. Director's Report [Non-Action Item]**

WCRAS Director Shyanne Shull presented the quarter three report, highlighting the quarterly activities of the department in fiscal year 2024 compared to the past four fiscal years. She noted a decrease in dogs and cats impounded but reported an increase in miscellaneous small animals. It was unclear what the correlation was, but noted that when there are evictions, the small animals are the ones that get left behind. Director Shull noted that the largest makeup of animals brought into the shelter were lost and stray animals, making up 1,439 of the total 2,378 animals impounded in quarter three. The remaining impounds were made up of 358 deceased animals and 260 confiscated animals.

Director Shull discussed the length of stay for dogs and cats, indicated that the length of stay has decreased slightly for dogs by about a day, but the length of stay for cats is still around 6 days. She shared animal outcomes, broken down into euthanasia, other, reunited, transferred, and vet euthanasia. There was a slight increase in animals euthanized at the shelter from 69 to 82. The other category included many different outcomes including going home with staff and relocating animals to other jurisdictions. Reunification was up slightly to 12.5% of all animals and transferred animals was down 24%. There was a question last meeting regarding the definition of vet euthanasia and Director Shull explained that Good Samaritans will bring injured animals into veterinary clinics, and they will be euthanized for quality of life, but there was a decrease from 23 to 18.

Director Shull shared a breakdown of where animals were transferred to, with Nevada Humane Society taking the largest share at 84%. The SPCA took 48 animals, Options Veterinary Care took 11 cats, Pet Network took 3 animals, ResQue took 37 animals, and 73 animals went to other rescue partners.

At the last meeting the Board requested a breakdown of the reasons for euthanasia and Director Shull reminded them that every Thursday WCRAS publishes a "report card" on social media including statistics of how animals

came in and went out with euthanasia spelled out in that report card. She explained the categories for euthanasia being medical severe, behavior, ADL which is the disease laboratory so this is when we need to test the animal for rabies, aggression towards other animals, aggression towards humans, behavior which can accompany a wide variety of reasons including no socialization or self-mutilating behavior, and no interest. The no interest category is the one with the biggest controversy around it and relates to capacity and challenges related to animals not moving through our system rapidly. When we reach out to all of our rescue partners and there is simply no interest that may sometimes occur although the staff tries every avenue not to have to make that euthanasia decision. Director Shull discussed animal reunifications in the field, meaning animals that were picked up and returned in the field without ever coming to the shelter, which were at 41% of total animals picked up in the field. Animals that were brought into the shelter and were then returned to their owners made up 36% of total animals. Director Shull noted that the types of field services calls remained very consistent year over year despite an increase in the population of our community. Types of calls include bite investigation, noise complaints, other types of calls, stray or lost animals, unrestrained animals, and welfare calls. She highlighted that there has been a consistent decrease in welfare cases and calls and then discussed the outcomes of those calls. 87 of the calls were unfounded, but the bulk of the calls fell into the other category meaning that the complaint was resolved which is the desired outcome when it is appropriate for the animal to be kept in the home. This includes education, resources, and tools offered to pet owners to be able to responsibly keep the pets. The final category is the citation or civil penalty approach for those owners who were not compliant, or the crime was just too egregious and there were 54 of them.

Outreach continues to be busy with eight events, 85 cares referrals, 234 seniors helped with pet food, and 1,765 vaccinations administered. These numbers are expected to increase as the weather gets nicer. The Cares program had been growing too large and so there was a need to tighten up that program leading to the slight decrease in those numbers. There was also a slight decrease in seniors served with no real explanation as to why. The number of vaccinations given was way up which is a reason to celebrate since the more animals that are vaccinated then the safer our community is and the less issues we have with communicable diseases amongst our animal population. Chair Duerr asked for clarification regarding who was administered the vaccinations, and Director Shull stated that these numbers refer to vaccinations given by WCRAS staff only. This quarter a free senior vaccination clinic was offered for the first time since 2020, although a new, more appropriate location will need to be found for further clinics. Chair Duer asked for clarification of the vaccination clinic pricing. Director Shull explained that the vaccines are generally offered at \$10 per vaccine, however WCRAS has recently received a grant from PetCo Love Lost to cover parvo/distemper and FVRCP vaccines, so we have been able to offer those vaccinations for free. For our senior services, she wanted to highlight that 37% of homebound services received

some of our services with pet food being left at WC Senior Center to be delivered to them with the meal program. Director Shull shared the organization's increase in social media activity with 814 new followers, 54,200 visits and 91 posts. Each post is carefully thought out and planned to make sure the content is meaningful to the community. Pictures of happy pet owners from our clinics were shared with the Board. For the next quarter the outreach team has planned five vaccination clinics, one microchip clinic, three pet food distribution events, and one scheduled booth at an event.

Director Shull discussed the ongoing partnership between Washoe County Regional Animal Services and the Nevada Humane Society to increase education regarding community cats and TNR. These efforts include social media graphics about ear tipping, a community cats page on the WCRAS website, and a flyer that is in progress that will list all the community partners and resources for the public. WCRAS and NHS have continued to work on their partnership goals during work sessions behind the scenes and hope to be able to share measurables related to those goals at the next board meeting based on a meeting with behavioral professions in July 2024 to help align transferability criteria and animals that are deemed dangerous or not transferable.

Member Brussard asked for clarification regarding no-interest euthanasia and how long they are in the shelter before that decision is made. Director Shull reminded the Board of the update on WCRAS pathway planning provided last fall which outlined a goal of 14 days as the shelter is not set up to be able to hold animals beyond 5 days. Member Brussard also mentioned that in the previous minutes it was stated that if an animal control officer puts their hands on an animal then they must impound it, but asked how that could be true if animals were being reunited in the field and asked if that were a mistake in the minutes. Director Shull said that the officers do not impound every animal that they every animal and that it was likely a mistake in the minutes. \*Noted for clarification. In the minutes from January 26, 2024 "impound" refers to the process of being entered into WCRAS's database and not physically being taken into the shelter and so the minutes were correct as submitted and approved. Chair Duerr asked that the minutes be revisited later in the meeting to address this.

Chair Duerr commented that at the last several meetings the general feeling was quite dire on all fronts and asked what the feeling and morale was like now. Director Shull responded that the level of morale and level of promise that everyone is feeling is that there is a turning point and that things are moving in the right direction. They are focusing on how WCRAS is aligning its processes with the Nevada Humane Society and how to work more harmoniously together, rectifying communication errors, and how to be better from the community. She clarified that WCRAS and NHS staff meet at least every other week and has just had their first quarterly meeting with the same group that worked on the work sessions to update the group on everyone's progress. Chair Duerr pointed out that she had received no letters regarding NHS this quarter and saw that as an indicator that things were settling down.

Chair Duerr commented that she will move along to the next section before opening the floor to questions and comments from the public about both sections.

#### **8. Nevada Humane Society Operational Update Report [Non-Action Item]**

Jerleen Bryant, CEO, and Trent Bingham, Director of Operations, provided an update to the board on the Nevada Humane Society Reno campus' first quarter 2024. CEO Bryant began by discussing capacity. NHS has an established capacity for care at 80% of their total kennels. From mid-February through the first week of March the capacity was between 80-90%. In order to continue to transfer animals from WCRAS, NHS was not able to accept as many owned-animal surrenders and there was additional pressure put on NHS staff, especially the dog staff. CEO Bryant then outlined the five types of intakes they have: transfers from WCRAS, owner/guardian surrenders, Good Samaritan strays which are the unowned puppies and kittens found by members of the community, adoption returns, and other which includes animals born in NHS's care, transfers from other partners, and TNR. She pointed out that Good Samaritan kittens are the most vulnerable population of animals in the community and as they are too young to fend for themselves they are placed into the neonatal kitten foster program.

Intake for dogs in the first quarter was 7% higher than 2022 but 12% lower than the 5-year peak in 2023. Demand for owner/guardian surrenders in 2023 led to long wait times for surrender appointments that were insufficient to meet the needs of the community. Although this year's demand was up 69%, NHS is the contracted owner/guardian surrender facility for Washoe County, so they restructured their program to better match demand and keep appointment times reasonably low. Transfers from WCRAS were down 28%, likely due to a variety of causes including the work WCRAS is doing to reunify pets and their lower length of stay, however NHS still transferred 83% of available animals.

Intake for cats in 2023 was reduced in the second half of 2023 as they were upgrading the cat housing to meet ASV guidelines. There was an overall 14% reduction in capacity, but also a decrease in the length of stay due to healthier and happier cats which got adopted quicker. In preparation for the upcoming kitten season NHS has been purchasing and installing more cat enclosures. Transfers from WCRAS were down 29%, similar to that of dogs. Good Samaritan surrenders were up 29%, likely because kitten season started one month early this year, and that number is expected to increase even more as we enter kitten season.

Trent Bingham, Director of Operations, then discussed outcomes and length of stay. Animals primarily leave NHS through adoptions, returns, and transfers, with adoptions making up 90% of their outcomes. The live release rate for quarter one was 95% for dogs and cats. For dogs, the 5% that were non-live outcomes were broken up into stolen or lost, died in care, or euthanasia. 56% of the non-live outcomes were either died in care or medically necessitated humane euthanasia. Although adoption outcomes for dogs were down 4%, intakes were down 12% which indicates that NHS was able to successfully adopt out some of the longer-stay animals in their care.

Transfers to community partners and the Carson City campus were up 250%. Behavior euthanasia numbers were up, likely driven by increased owner/guardian surrenders and behavior of community animals, but of the 17 dogs that were euthanized for behavior, only three came from WCRAS. Demand for kittens remains high as we enter kitten season. For the first time in a number of years, one of the ringworm rooms was completely empty, indicating that the community has been wonderfully supportive in giving these animals a home.

Operations Director Bingham then discussed length of stay, breaking it into 6 categories: 0 to 7 days, 8 to 14 days, 15 to 30 days, 31 to 60 days, 61 to 90 days, and 90+ days. When the facility on Longley Lane was created, it was with the projection that animals would have a five-to-six-day length of stay at WCRAS and a 14-day length of stay at NHS.

For dogs, the length of stay for the 31-to-60-day category increased from 5% to 7%, but the longest stay dogs, those at the shelter for over 90 days, decreased from 7% to 3%. Overall, 74% of dogs had a length of stay equal to two weeks or less, and eight dogs were transferred the same day they came into the shelter. Chair Duerr asked for clarification on transfers, and Operations Director Bingham explained that NHS transfers both internally to the Carson City campus, and externally to other rescues such as ResQue and Pawsabilities.

For cats, 78% of cat outcomes occurred within two weeks and 12 cats were adopted the same day they came in.

CEO Bryant returned to discuss public services provided by NHS including spay and neuter for community cats and other TNR partners, low-cost vaccination and microchip clinics, TNR, working cat adoptions, and providing pet food to community members in need. Vaccination numbers more than doubled over 2023, with clinics now offered twice a week. NHS also developed a more formalized support program for community cat colony caretakers allowing NHS to directly support an increasing number of cats staying in the community with 15,000 pounds of cat food going directly to colony caretakers or individuals caring for community cats. NHS is also working on ramping up returning cats directly to the field and adopting out working cats which are cats that are not friendly enough to be in a home and don't have an address to be sent back to.

CEO Bryant invited everyone to check out NHS's social media for their "Metrics Monday" which is similar to WCRAS's Report Card Thursday.

Chair Duerr suggested that NHS report their information in a more graphical representation comparing current numbers to previous weeks. CEO Bryant explained why they present the information in the way that they do. Chair Duerr then opened the floor to comments from other Board members.

Trudy Brussard asked why so few spays and neuters were offered. CEO Bryant explained that during COVID services to the public had to be decreased but that providing spay and neuter services to the public is a priority moving forward. NHS is currently seeking funding, additional staff, and an additional veterinarian in order to provide access to affordable spay and neuter services to the community. CEO Bryant confirmed that there is a demand in the community in the thousands.

Chair Duerr asked CEO Bryant to explain NHS's plans for creating a robust spay and neuter program. CEO Bryant reiterated that NHS is currently advertising for a veterinarian as well as vet techs and is actively seeking funding. Chair Duerr clarified that she is asking in order to determine if this need is being met and if not, to see how the Board can help get this need met. Operations Director mentioned that they do try and fit spay/neuter services into their schedule when they can but that it is currently very minimal. Chair Duerr asked again if they were doing any spay and neutering and CEO Bryant responded that it is very minimal and in very urgent one-off situations. Chair Duerr asked when the last time spay and neutering was available to the public and CEO Bryant explained that it all stopped during COVID. Member McMahon brought up the fact that the NHS clinic is a tiny facility and that although they are not serving the public, they are still performing a large number of spay/neuter procedures for all of the animals in their care which also serves the public. CEO Bryant thanked member McMahon and invited the Board to come view the clinic at any time. It is a small area with no place currently to house public animals before and after surgery as that space is housed by NHS animals undergoing surgery and that is another discussion that is happening within NHS. Chair Duerr asked for clarification regarding whether NHS is providing spay/neuter to the animals that are adopted out and CEO Bryant confirmed that they provide spay/neuter services to thousands of animals yearly that come through NHS custody.

Member McMahon asked for an update on remodeling the cat rooms. Operations Director Bingham explained that they are almost finished, and they are doing the final stages of the portalization of the remodel but it is likely to take an additional 6-9 month to be totally finalized but should be up and running within the month. Member McMahon asked CEO Bryant if she had been made permanent as she had initially been hired as an interim CEO. CEO Bryant explained that she had accepted the permanent position last July.

Chair Duerr recognized the terrific Town Hall that was held since the last meeting and asked if there was another one planned. CEO Bryant and WCRAS Director Shull confirmed that the next Town Hall is planned for May 22, 2024, at the same location and the announcement should come out in the next several weeks.

Member Diaz offered that he thought CEO Bryant had done a great job in communication.

Chair Duerr asked WCRAS Director Shull if she had hired a veterinarian yet. Director Shull responded that a veterinarian had been hired and Dr. Slatin started on March 12, 2024, and was starting to help with protocols and acquiring quite a bit of medical equipment and lab items such as an x-ray machine that are needed to be able to fully perform the functions that are needed for the animals in the shelter.

Chair Duerr thanked CEO Bryant and then reiterated that although one of the NHS posts was very helpful with charts, but that the other one was just text and not helpful as there was no context.

Chair Duerr asked WCRAS Shull about the recent dog shooting at Rancho San

Rafael Park and if there was anything that the different governing bodies represented on the Board could do to help prevent this from happening again. Director Shull responded that WCRAS was called out and has concluded their investigation. There was a lack of evidence to suggest animal cruelty and that is the only jurisdiction that WCRAS holds. Both witnesses agreed that the larger dog had the smaller dog in its mouth when the firearm was discharged and so no evidence of cruelty was found. WCRAS along with WC Parks Superintendent and Kelly Bollen will hopefully be working to turn this tragic event into an opportunity to put something positive out into the community with infographic type signage in the parks including how to separate dog fights and recognize animal behavior. Chair Duerr suggested having more than one or two officers respond or coordinate with local law enforcement to engage them to help WCRAS officers. Director Shull explained that they did have three officers respond and that the call was fully debriefed afterwards, and they talked about how to best respond to these types of calls in the future. Chair Duerr mentioned that the incident put a damper on the safety of dog parks in general and asked about how to counter that in the community. Chair Duerr finally mentioned that dogs are considered property according to NRS which is hard for many members of the community to accept and suggested that WCRAS work on changing that. Vice-Chair Anderson mentioned that his understanding was that dogs must remain on leash in dog parks if the handler does not have voice control over the animal. Director Shull clarified that a dog park is a fenced and controlled environment where animals can be off leash, and an off-leash area is not fenced or contained and animals must be on recall. In an off leash area there may be acres where the dog can roam and so the owner may not be directly engaged with the animal. However, in neither of those areas are the animals required to be on leash. Member Garcia mentioned that she appreciated WCRAS's effort in communicating with Parks and Open Space and the Parks team because the messaging and signage is a proactive way to clearly delineate the rules and best practices. DDA Gustofson interjected that she advised against getting into a quorum discussion of dog parks and suggested adding it to the next meeting as an agenda item if desired. Chair Duerr offered that she was not thinking it needed to be an agenda item but was thinking that it would be information that Director Shull provided to the Board. There was no public comment offered on this or the previous agenda item.

#### **9. Washoe County Regional Animal Services Fee Study, Proposed Fee Changes, and Proposed Fee Waivers [For Possible Action]**

WCRAS Assistant Director Tammy Wines-Jennings presented a PowerPoint presentation which summarized the proposed updated fee schedule as initially discussed at the January 26, 2024, meeting. Assistant Director Wines-Jennings discussed the fees that will be increasing more than 100% as requested by the Board at the previous meeting. The fees increasing more than 100% are: cat

impound, livestock boarding, disposal, variance permits, dangerous dog permits, exotic animal permits, breeders permit, and commercial animal welfare permits. The Cat Impound, Livestock Boarding, and Disposal fees are increasing by over 100% but those fees are very low to begin with and so will not need a phased implementation. The Breeders Permit fee and Commercial Animal Welfare Permit fee will need to be put on hold as WCRAS will need to do a business impact statement and that will take a little more time.

The fees that will see a phased increase are the fees for variance permits, dangerous dog permits, and exotic animal permits, and the plan is to increase them in a two-step process over two years. Chair Duerr suggested that there be a fee increase check-in with the Board prior to phase 2 launching to ensure there is concurrence from the board. Vice-Chair Anderson agreed with Chair Duerr on having the check-in to discuss it.

Assistant Director Wines-Jennings discussed the proposed fee waivers. Seven of the fee waivers would be automatic: licensing fees for adoptions, vaccination/licensing fees for those experiencing homelessness, vaccination/licensing fees at senior vaccination clinics, first-time impound/boarding/vaccination fees for those pet owners who pick up their animals within 24 hours provided they leave the shelter with a microchip, and variance permit fees for the owner/operator of rescue organizations who transfer animals from WCRAS, impound/boarding/vaccination fees for victims of disasters, domestic violence, or death of an owner, and finally dangerous/vicious dog surrender fees and boarding fees if the dog is surrendered within five days. The three discretionary fee waivers would be: licensing fees at outreach events, fees for services at special outreach event, and the administrative fee for appointments at outreach events. These waivers would be at the discretion of Director Shull. The next step in this process is to bring this proposal to the Board of County Commissioners in the summer of 2024.

Chair Duerr offered her appreciation for the kindness and compassion of the automatic fee waivers. She also suggested offering one more category to the discretionary fee waivers that would simply be at the Director's discretion. Member Garcia echoed both sentiments shared by Chair Duerr. She further suggested having a funding mechanism in place for those Board members who have discretionary funds through their positions to donate to that discretionary fund to provide additional access to the low-income constituents. Assistant Director Wines-Jennings offered that WCRAS currently has two programs in place to help with situations that do not meet any of the above criteria: the cares program and the injured animal fund. Member Dixon offered his approval of the discretionary piece for people with disabilities to make sure they do not get left out. Chair Duerr asked DDA Gustafson her thoughts and DDA Gustafson offered that she had already shared with WCRAS that she does not advise such a discretionary fee waiver. Vice-chair Anderson offered that he did not recommend the addition of a fourth discretionary fee waiver as it would seem to be overlapping with what the Cares program and Injured Animal Fund already provide. Assistant

Director Wines-Jenning did point out that the Cares program did have certain criteria to qualify so there may be situations that were not covered. Chair Duerr again reiterated that she did not want to hamstring the Director for situations that arise that we have not foreseen. Member Brussard asked about what happened when a pet sitter loses a pet and comes down to pick up the pet. Director Shull explained that this falls into the question of pet ownership and that as long as proper permission is given from the pet owner then the designee is able to pick up the pet. Chair Duerr offered that perhaps this could be an opportunity for education regarding having an alternate in place and Director Shull explained that WCRAS already has a process for alternates in place. There was no public comment offered for this action item.

Member Diaz moved to approve the proposed fee schedule, the proposed fee waivers, and the proposed fee phasing with the noted additions. Vice-Chair Anderson seconded the motion. There were no objections and the proposed fee schedule, the proposed fee waivers, and the proposed fee phasing were approved unanimously with the following additions so noted:

WCRAS will check in with the Board prior to implementation of the second step fee increase.

A fourth discretionary funding category shall be added to give the Director full discretion for a fee waiver.

#### **10. Informational Presentation Regarding Washoe County Regional Animal Service's Receipt of Two New Emergency Animal Evacuation Trailers [Non-Action Item]**

Director Shull announced WCRAS's acquisition of two emergency evacuation trailers for small animals, obtained through a Homeland Security grant, to improve emergency shelter setup in emergencies such as during fire season. She discussed how during previous emergency situations such as the Caldor Fire it was difficult for the region to help accommodate all of the evacuees from various regions and how the facility for the evacuees was not initially allowing animals. This started a conversation regarding how WCRAS could do better and that led to the discovery of evacuation trailers used in southern Nevada. With the assistance of the emergency management team the County applied for and eventually received a grant for two trailers. The new trailers are fully contained with caging, air conditioning, 30 gallons of potable water, a hot water heater, and drainage. They are not large enough for livestock, but they will house cats and dogs wherever we need to go, running for five to eight hours off of a generator that runs on 20 gallons of fuel. Director Shull shared that there was a trailer currently parked outside for anyone to come view at the conclusion of the meeting. She also informed the Board that WCRAS will be hosting a press event regarding the trailers on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Chair Duerr inquired as to the amount of the grant and Director Shull responded that each trailer was approximately \$70,000 and that WCRAS paid to have each

trailer wrapped with the branding.

Director Shull mentioned that CEO Bryant had a correction to an earlier statement that NHS performed 5,200 spay neuter procedures. The actual number was 7,206.

**11. Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board Member and/or Staff Announcements, Requests for Information, and Selection of Topics for Future Agendas [Non-Action Item]**

Chair Duerr requested a motion to reopen the minutes for approval. Member Brussard moved to re-open agenda item #5. Member McMahon seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Member Brussard brought up that there was a typo on page 23 of the January 26, 2024, Animal Services Advisory Board meeting minutes but the actual typo was not stated. Chair Duerr did state there is a typo on page 23 and asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the one typo change. Member Brussard motioned to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2024, meeting of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board with the noted correction. Member McMahon seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the minutes were approved unanimously with the following correction so noted:

Page 23 included the following “Chair Duerr: Asked Member Motion if...”. Minutes will be amended to “Member McMahon”.

Chair Duerr requested that a future agenda include a report by Director Shull on any recommendations and changes in policy or procedure on handling incidents like the one at Rancho San Rafael, as well as any information about things that should be done in both County and Municipal dog parks.

**12. Public Comment [Non-Action Item]**

There was no public comment offered at this time.

**13. Adjournment [Non-Action Item]**

Chair Duerr declared the Animal Services Advisory Board meeting of April 26, 2024, adjourned at 11:25 a.m.