

Washoe County Regional Animal Services

Advisory Board Minutes

Friday, October 17, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.
Washoe County Commission Chambers
1001 E. 9th Street, Building A, Reno NV
and available via Zoom and YouTube

Members Present:

Naomi Duerr, Chair
Trudy Brussard, Vice Chair
Clara Andriola
Diaz Dixon
Jill Fisher
Julie McMahon

Members Present via Zoom:

Joe Rodriguez

Members Absent:

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and a quorum was present.

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

Member Diaz Dixon led all those convened in the pledge of allegiance.

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

Andrew Cobi Burnett, 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 May 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes [For Possible Action]

Member Clara Andriola moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2025, meeting of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board as presented. Vice Chair Trudy Brussard seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by the board with no opposition.

6. Director's Report [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) Director Shyanne Shull, Assistant Director Tammy Jennings, and Program Coordinator Quinn Sweet presented the Fiscal Year 2024 quarter four report. Director Shull began with an overview of the quarter's animal intake. She noted that this past quarter was the smallest total number of animals brought into the shelter when compared to the previous four fiscal years. Additionally, approximately 13% of the cats and 51% of the dogs brought in were already microchipped which was a great celebration and also the highest percentage when compared to the previous four fiscal years.

Next Director Shull discussed the outcomes for animals in the care of WCRAS, with the primary two being reunification, and transfer to a rescue partner. She noted that WCRAS are frequently asked about adoption, however the department does not have an adoption program. The department was designed to work through partnership with the Nevada Humane Society (NHS) who share the campus on Longley Lane and, through a professional service agreement, to facilitate the adoption of animals who are unclaimed from WCRAS. In 2024 WCRAS and NHS came together in a series of work sessions to refine the partnership and put some parameters around what the transfer percentages look like so that WCRAS could have a better understanding of how many animals would be left and would require networking with other rescue partners. The outcome of the work sessions was a goal by NHS to transfer 80% of unclaimed dogs that are made available and 85% of unclaimed cats that are made available. In coming to this agreement, WCRAS was also required to invest in behavior training and to come up with criteria for animals that would be deemed too aggressive to be made available. A report on this work was previously presented to the board by Kelly Bollen. This work has led to a new report that tracks what is being transferred to NHS by species so that WCRAS can plan accordingly for the remaining animals.

Director Shull then presented a breakdown of the dogs and cats that were transferred to other rescue partners. The primary partners are Nevada Humane Society, Pet Network, Res-Que, and SPCA of Northern Nevada. She noted that these, and the more than 30 other rescue partners that WCRAS relies on, are extremely important to the overall outcome for the animals by providing live outcomes. As a token of thanks to those rescue partners, WCRAS has created a dedicated rescue page on their website. This webpage lists approved, vetted rescue partners that WCRAS transfers animals to and will be provided to those members of our community interested in adoption.

Of all the animals picked up by field staff, 280 animals were reunited in the field and never brought into the shelter, and 435 animals were not able to be reunited in the field and were brought into the shelter. For the animals brought into the shelter, 278 animals were reunited with their owners, and 716 animals went unclaimed and had other outcomes. Director Shull next discussed the number of animals, 56 dogs and 41 cats,

that had to be euthanized at the shelter and the reasons why they had to be euthanized.

In the end of August 2025, WCRAS received an emergency call for service in the middle of the night when a horse had fallen through a pool cover and was trapped in a swimming pool. Officers responded shortly after 3:00 a.m. and joined Truckee Meadows Fire and Large Animal Least Resistance Training Concepts in strategizing how to rescue the exhausted animal. Fortunately, the homeowner had a backhoe, and the horse was pulled out of the pool where it made a full recovery and was reunited with its owner after receiving a clean bill of health from Comstock Veterinary Clinic.

During the past quarter, the field service division had four officers on limited duty at some point which led to the division falling below minimum staffing minimums on some days. Despite this, the department was able to handle just over 5,000 field service calls. Director Shull highlighted one specific call for a dog in a hot car. Manager Wooster responded to the vehicle but was unable to locate an owner. He was able to determine the temperature inside the vehicle to be between 109°F and 113°F and, because the car was locked and he was unable to gain entry, he broke the window in order to rescue the dog. By the time the dog arrived at the shelter, after riding in an air-conditioned dog box, her temperature was still at 104.4°F so she was in dire trouble if she had not been rescued when she was. The owner was later cited and found guilty of violating that section of the Nevada Revised Statutes. WCRAS has taken approximately 500 calls for dogs in hot cars, with 500-600 being the average number of calls per year. Overall, the department received a total of 634 animal welfare calls. The trend for these types of calls is moving in a downward direction which is a positive indication that the community is improving in their treatment of animals.

Program Coordinator Sweet then came forward and discussed the outreach programs at WCRAS. The outreach department runs all the social media pages, manages the free microchips and free ID engraving for Washoe County residents, and works with the Human Services Agency department of Washoe County to provide free vaccinations and free spay/neuter for pets staying at local pet-friendly homeless shelters. They also run the lost & found texting program, the public microchip scanning stations, monthly vaccination clinics as well as community vaccination clinics, and monthly free senior pet food distributions. They partner with Res-Que and SPCANN to support the Karma Boxes in the community, and finally they also run the volunteer program at WCRAS.

She noted that there has been huge uptick in the number of seniors that showed up at the pet food distribution, seeing over 100 seniors for the first time since the program started. There was a small decline in the number of vaccines given, but an increase in the number of pets vaccinated. The department also gave several disaster preparedness presentations and had a booth at the Sheriff's Picnic towards the end of the quarter. In addition to these activities, the department relaunched a volunteer program which was paused in 2020, and so far, the newly re-launched program has been a huge success with 10 new volunteers already being onboarded.

Assistant Director Jennings then stepped forward to present the medical report. She highlighted the case of a cat that came in with a severely broken leg. The cat had probably been living with the open fracture for over a month and Dr. Slatin eventually performed a full amputation. The cat was doing wonderfully post-amputation and was later transferred to NHS for adoption. All of the medical programs are flourishing, with increases in the number of TNR surgeries, rescue partner spay/neuter surgeries, CARES vaccinations and spay/neuter surgeries for pets living in the community's homeless shelters, and thankfully only 4 cruelty investigations and 2 necropsies. The department also now has contracted with six outside veterinarians and veterinary technicians to help do more community clinics and to help provide coverage for when Dr. Slatin is attending conferences or otherwise out of the office.

Chair Duerr inquired as to how the department is letting people know about the new volunteer program and whether they've thought about how many total volunteers they would be able to handle. Program Coordinator Sweet explained that they are still feeling out what the capacity will be as they get the program up and running and figure out where volunteers are needed. They are currently recruiting with the idea of having four to six volunteers on site at any given time. They did announce the program and social media, and had a press release ready to go but unfortunately that had to be delayed as there were several other case-related press releases happening at the same time.

Chair Duerr then asked, regarding the hot car call case was previously highlighted, what the penalty was since the owner was found guilty. Director Shull explained that the dog was returned to the owner who was fined \$600, which was largely determined by the court as WCRAS does not have a lot of influence on the fine amounts. She noted that the distinction for these cases is whether the animal suffers irreparable harm in which case they can add cruelty charges to the violation and then hold the animal pending adjudication. Chair Duerr asked if the penalty would go up for repeat offenses. Director Shull explained that the violation would be the same for each occurrence but reminded the board that the fines were set by the Judge and could not speculate on whether they would be increased.

Member Dixon suggested that the outreach division look into the many social service programs that look for volunteer opportunities and offered to meet separately to discuss it further. He also asked for more clarification regarding the operation of the TNR program. Director Shull explained that in February of 2025 WCRAS launched the TNR program as part of a give-back-to-the-community program to help fill the void of spay/neuter resources in the region. The shelter works directly with nonprofit partners to schedule appointments every Tuesday, although currently that is only Community Cats of Reno. They work with the community to trap the cats and bring them in. WCRAS alters them, vaccinates them, and microchips them. The nonprofit then picks them up and releases them back into the community. She noted that they have 20

appointments per week. Member Dixon then asked what the cost of the program was and what would the ideal number of appointments be if funding was not a problem. Assistant Director Jennings explained that the limitation was not entirely based on funding, but largely on staffing, space, and time constraints to make sure that the animals are not rushed through surgery or recovery, and that staff of one veterinarian, one veterinary technician, and one veterinary assistant have time for all the other surgeries and procedures. Member Dixon thanked the Director and Assistant Director and stated that he would be making a \$15,000 donation to that program. After a moment for the board to acknowledge Member Dixon's generosity, Member McMahon pointed out that as far as numbers and volume go, Dr. Slatin is also responsible for all of the animals housed at the shelter which can be hundreds so finding that balance of resources is always a consideration.

Member Andriola offered that she was very encouraged by the volunteer program and echoed Member Dixon's thoughts that it wouldn't be long before volunteers were knocking at the door. She also suggested that perhaps there may be some opportunities through Comstock, other veterinary clinics, or even the university to help with coverage when the medical team may be out of the office. Director Shull clarified that the department has already been exploring some of those sources and has been working with Options Veterinary Care and SPCA-NN but added that they will continue to be exploring these avenues for collaboration.

Chair Duerr then opened up the floor for public comment. Tracy Dean of Community Cats of Reno took the floor to provide a brief update to the board. Community Cats partners with WCRAS as well as other groups in Washoe County to utilize the TNR resources available. To date they have helped over 1,300 cats and kittens compared to the 849 cats and kittens helped in 2024. That includes 197 surgeries through WCRAS and 311 surgeries through NHS. They have also been able to reunite some cats with their owners thanks to the generous gift of a microchip scanner from SPCA-NN. She also noted that 80% of the kittens arriving at the shelters are from these free-roaming cats in our area so they appreciate a real forceful TNR and spay/neuter program in Washoe County.

Chair Duerr asked for any closing comments from the board and Member Diaz added that he was going to put the \$15,000 donation up as a match so that the total donation can be doubled to \$30,000.

7. WCRAS Disaster Response Program [Non-Action Item]

WCRAS Assistant Director Tammy Jennings and Field Manager Robert Wooster presented a report on the department's disaster response program. The department offers community presentations and outreach events for the community whenever requested, both for large animals and small animal communities, disaster preparedness education for pet owners, and evacuation support for large and small animals.

Field Manager Wooster shared that the department is an active part of the Washoe County Emergency Management Team and attends the monthly meetings where they participate in drills, review any updates, and present any programs that the department has developed. These monthly updates are then brought back to the department's internal training programs. The department does tabletop exercises both internally and with the County and have done three in the last year, two for earthquakes and one for a full evacuation of the shelter including evacuating the dispatch center and utilizing the department's Command Center offsite to be able to continue daily operations. The department has also done a full-scale emergency management disaster response in Incline Village where they did a practical for a large fire necessitating a full evacuation of the Incline Village area.

The department also provides staff training, both continuing and onboarding. All officers go through FEMA's incident command system and animals in disasters courses, and receive first responder horse training. They also receive wildfire behavior training which is critical as the officers need to know how to be safe when responding to fires and working inside active fire zones where airplanes are dropping fire retardant, and they receive Traffic Control & Incident Management training to learn how to operate during other types of disasters.

Assistant Director Jennings shared the different types of equipment the department has for use during emergencies, including the Command Center and a variety of evacuation and stock trailers. Along with the equipment needed to fully respond to an emergency, the department has also created an Emergency Manual SOP listing all of the department's emergency response procedures. She shared that the primary sheltering location for large animals is the Reno Sparks Livestock Event Center (RSLEC), with the UNR Equestrian Center utilized when RSLEC is full. After that, any overflow is sheltered at various Washoe Parks locations depending on where the fire is.

Field Manager shared that while fires are the main disaster that the department responds to, they are not the only disaster the department responds to. The department has resources on the website for pet owners including disaster prep guides, supplies checklists, and many other tips and tricks such as habituating your animals to being in a kennel or crate prior to a stressful disaster situation and having alternate access routes to your property.

WCRAS has entered into several agreements for assistance for help in large-scale events. The agreement with Humane World is for help with additional people to care for animals and set up secondary shelter locations. The agreement with ASAR Assist, which is a group of animal control officers across the nation, would provide for additional officers with vehicles and training that could be on site within 48 hours. A third agreement with LRTC, the same group who helped with the horse rescue mentioned during the Director's Report, is being finalized and could help with providing

short-term sheltering for up to an additional 20 horses if needed. The department is also establishing an internal voluntary program to help out and, in the past, has been able to count on the assistance of SPCA-NN for their assistance such as during the Davis Fire.

Assistant Director Jennings then showed the board examples of the flow charts used during a disaster response so that all teams know what they are supposed to be doing and can communicate as efficiently and quickly as possible during an emergency. She concluded by showing the board the new all-black officer uniforms and the new field supervisor vehicles. These upgrades are designed to increase the Department's already high level of professionalism.

Member McMahon asked how the department handled the consumable supplied used in the evacuation trailers. Assistant Director Jennings explained that there are "go bags" that are not kept on the trailers but are listed in the manual so that staff know where to grab them when responding to a disaster, and also how and when to refill them.

Member Fisher related that during the Davis Fire the road to her development was completely blocked off. Many residents had animals still at their homes and they were not aware that they had any alternatives to sneaking in and jumping fences in order to get their animals out. Field Manager Wooster explained that even when access is closed to the public, the department can still usually access the property unless it's unsafe. Officers would love to be able to pick up the animal and bring them to you. Chair Duerr asked if the phone number to contact the department was posted where they block off the roads. Field Manager Wooster explained that they do not post it because they do not know where the roads are going to be blocked off, however an officer is always posted, and they can route people either to the department directly or to 911. Chair Duerr commented that this did not seem to be the situation in Member Fisher's case and asked her for clarification. Member Fisher shared that it seemed as if the officers did not feel that they had time to share information, and she didn't feel like asking questions was okay. Field Manager Wooster stated that he would be happy to bring that subject up in the next monthly emergency management meeting. Member McMahon added that perhaps the department could also utilize social media to reach out and share information as well. Assistant Director Jennings informed the board that part of the department's response includes sharing information on social media and working with the Public Information Officer for Washoe County. Director Shull added that the department is very small and limited in their resources and ability to respond and do the best they can with what they have. She also pointed out that these types of situations are very fluid and can change rapidly, sometimes so rapidly that the officers in the field may not even have the most up-to-date information. Additionally, the department does not have any control over where the checkpoints are and what information is being given out at them. She reiterated Field Manager Wooster's intention to bring the matter up to the emergency management partners. Chair Duerr

suggested that the department utilize volunteers more during disasters to increase the ability to respond. Member McMahon reminded the board that while she appreciated the sentiment of utilizing volunteers, they are public citizen volunteers and for safety reasons there is a limit to who can access those areas. Chair Duerr mentioned that she was particularly thinking of people like the Lease Resistance Concept people who have training and resources.

Chair Duerr moved on to ask about how the department handled the full shelter evacuation drill and how many animals were involved. Field Manager Wooster explained that the shelter was above 60% full when they did the trial. They were very systematic about the evacuation, including which animals to prioritize and how to transport them all. There were over 100 animals at the shelter during the trial and though the cats themselves were not transported because they do not handle that kind of stress well, each kennel was attended as if the animal were being evacuated.

Chair Duerr then asked for clarification regarding securing animals during an emergency. Field Manager Wooster explained that it is not always necessary to remove animals from the property. Instead, the department can secure the animal on the property, meaning to make sure it is safely contained and has food and water. Then, if the situation changes, they can always go back and remove the animal at that time.

Chair Duerr closed by commenting that she really liked the new uniforms.

Chair Duerr then opened the floor to the public for comment. Frank Gibbons of Reno offered public comment via Zoom. He mentioned that during the Davis Fire the CRCCS Shelter in Washoe Valley had to be evacuated but didn't know how many animals had to be evacuated or who was involved in that evacuation. Field Manager Wooster explained that he was aware that they had to evacuate the shelter as WCRAS ended up using their parking lot as a staging area after they had evacuated and believed that the animals had been evacuated to NHS. Assistant Director Jennings added that the staff of CRCCS handled the evacuation of their own animals and that the department works with organizations such as these to help them come up with plans to evacuate their animals in the event of an emergency. Member McMahon clarified that CRCCS is not a shelter but is a private rescue group with their own facility.

8. SPCA of Northern Nevada (SPCA-NN) Free Spay/Neuter Clinic Update.

Jill Vacchina Dobbs, Executive Director of SPCA-NN, gave a presentation to the board regarding a recent three-day free spay/neuter clinic. The clinic was the result of a collaboration between SPCA-NN, WCRAS, and Animal Balance. Executive Director Dobbs shared that there has been a huge need for spay neuter services. SPCA-NN is a small, privately funded organization that serves all of northern Nevada as well as parts of northern California and relies on collaboration with entities such as WCRAS to help provide the largest good to the community. SPCA-NN tackles the problem of pet overpopulation in several ways. They have an internal spay/neuter clinic twice a week

that is pushed to the max. They also have an affordable spay/neuter voucher program based on collaboration with over 20 private practice veterinary clinics across northern Nevada where individuals can apply for a voucher to use at their local veterinary clinic. This voucher program, while much more expensive than the internal clinic, has the ability to make a much larger impact throughout northern Nevada.

This year, SPCA-NN worked with an international organization called Animal Balance and their domestic department, US Aid, to set up a large community free spay/neuter clinic. As a very large MASH-style clinic, finding the right space to host the clinic, and the many requirements for that space, was crucial. WCRAS was able to step up and provide everything that the clinic would need. The intake process started in the parking lot to ensure that the 70 pets per day being fixed did not impact the normal day-to-day activity of WCRAS. In total, 203 pets were fixed for free over three days. Animal Balance flew in three veterinarians, four veterinary aids, four veterinary technicians, and administrative volunteers. WCRAS provided multiple staff members including Assistant Director Jennings who is also a licensed veterinary technician. SPCA-NN provided all of their staff as well.

This was the first time that Animal Balance had a clinic in Nevada, although they have worked in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. As a result of this collaboration and based on the approximations of how much a female cat and a female dog can produce within five years, 1.1 million cats and 1.2 million dogs were humanely prevented from being born. The majority of homeless, unwanted litters end up in shelter systems, so this was a huge impact for three days. In addition, 283 vaccines were given, and 143 pets were microchipped. In addition to the immediate services provided, information was also handed out on all the local resources for pet owners that do exist in Washoe County.

WCRAS Assistant Director Jennings shared that this was one of the best experiences that she has ever had working in the veterinary industry. She then shared positive feedback from other WCRAS staff members who helped make this event such a success.

SPCA-NN Executive Director Dobbs continued by informing the board that of all 203 pets fixed, only one required any follow up care and that was essentially just a warm compress. She continued to share pictures of the event, including clips of the positive press coverage of the event. She made sure to call out Options Veterinary Care for stepping up to provide necessary equipment when the clinic's own equipment failed, before finishing with a short video from Megan Graham, Director of US Aid for Animal Balance where Director Graham expressed her gratitude for being able to collaborate with SPCA-NN and WCRAS and put on such a positive, successful clinic and expressed how excited they are to come back to NV and do it again.

Member Andriola expressed her appreciation for sharing how collaboration and

partnership with the sole purpose of being bound by the love of animals and their benefit to their community and their humans can have a great outcome. She asked when the clinic might be held again and if they would be needing any volunteers because she would love to work with Executive Director Dobbs. Chair Duerr echoed her sentiment and expressed her own gratitude for the service to the community.

9. 2025 Legislative Update [Non-Action Item]

Rebecca Goff, Nevada State Director of Humane World for Animals presented an update to the board regarding the animal-related bills that came out of the 2025 Nevada State Legislative Session. There were six main animal bills introduced and five of them were signed into law.

SB 166 expands on the breed restriction and insurance bill that was previously passed and now includes commercial properties like apartment complexes and requires that certain types of subsidized housing allow tenants to have at least one pet. This means that pet owners can no longer be denied insurance based solely on the breed of the dog and expands the type of insurance that it covers. It also means that building owners and landlords can no longer prevent tenants from owning specific breeds of dogs by claiming an inability to insure the property. The provision about subsidized housing gives people the ability to own a pet regardless of their current financial situation, which is a big step in helping to prevent animal surrenders based solely on housing.

SB 325, also known as Pets for Vets, requires any county- or city-funded shelter to allow veterans, law enforcement officers, and first responders free pet adoptions. The pets must be at least 6 months of age and have been in the shelter for at least 7 days. Chair Duerr asked when that took effect and Director Goff explained that all of the bills are now in effect as the latest ones went into effect on October 1, 2025. Chair Duerr asked if it applied to NHS as they are the adoption partner for WCRAS. Director Goff explained that if they do not receive government funding then they would not be covered by this law.

AB 136 requires business that provide paid human animal interactions such as petting zoos to post a conspicuous sign that must notify the public if they believe there's an animal in danger or suffering cruelty that they can contact local animal control authorities.

AB 418 requires counties and cities to adopt ordinances mandating the completion of training courses for certain pet related businesses such as grooming salons, pet retail shops, and boarding facilities. This training will focus on handling of pets and must be renewed biannually. There are exemptions for veterinarians and staff operating under their supervision, animal shelters, and nonprofit organizations focused on sheltering pets of domestic violence victims. Chair Duerr asked if that meant that WCRAS would be required to provide the training. Director Goff explained that it would be up to Washoe County to create the ordinance. She shared that her organization was not

involved in this bill and so she did not have specific details. Chair Duerr expressed that they should be given more information such as dates of implementation. Director Goff noted that representatives from Washoe County were present at the legislative sessions and would likely have more information. It was then noticed that Washoe County Government Affairs Liaison Cadence Matijovich was in the audience and was invited to come to the podium and speak. She stated that they were present at the hearings for the bill. She shared that the bill was sponsored by a legislator who was contacted by one of her constituents whose dog had unfortunately passed following grooming services. She noted that Clark County already embarked on putting this process in place and that made it difficult for local governments to say that this was going to be overly burdensome or challenging. Washoe County did express that this would take resources that are not currently allocated and could not determine what the direct fiscal impact would be. Ultimately each community is responsible for crafting their own ordinance and Washoe County is in the process of doing that now.

AB 381, also known as Reba's Law, came about because of an incident in Las Vegas during the summer of 2024 where an English bulldog was placed into a plastic tote, sealed, and left in direct sunlight next to a dumpster on a day where the temperature was over 110°F. The dog subsequently died from her injuries and the outraged community put pressure on the local authorities to create stronger laws to help protect these animals. The bill strengthens animal cruelty laws, tightens penalties, and cleans up some administrative language. The main points are around animal seizures and disposition. Now officers can humanely euthanize an animal if they take possession of it if they get a court order to or if a licensed veterinarian or euthanasia technician recommends it. The court is also no longer allowed to order the sale of an animal at auction. There used to be an exemption for any animals on agricultural land, but that exemption has been removed. The bill also increases penalties for animal cruelty. Willful and malicious cruelty causing an animal's death or cruelty done to intimidate or terrorize someone is now a category B felony and can get 1 to 6 years in prison. Cruelty to police animals is also treated as a category B felony now if the animal is killed or totally disabled. Abandonment of animals, regardless of their health, is now prohibited and carries the same penalties including enhancements for specific circumstances.

10. Nevada Humane Society Operational Update Report [Non-Action Item]

Jerleen Bryant, CEO, provided an update to the board on the Nevada Humane Society Reno campus' second quarter 2024. She began by informing the board that, regarding Senate Bill 325, the Nevada Humane Society (NHS) is a private non-profit and so not included in that bill. They do, however, waive all adoption fees for dogs and cats over the age of 8 years old to remove that financial burden from adoption.

CEO Bryant explained that NHS runs an animal help desk which includes a shelter diversion program. They work with pet owner who are experiencing hardship or troubles with their pets to try and find alternatives to surrender, however if there are no

alternatives they are contracted to take surrendered animals and they take that role very seriously. In the last quarter they received over 3,100 requests for help, out of which almost 2,500 of them were requests to surrender their animals. She explained that there are a variety of reasons why an individual may need to give up their animal. Oftentimes, it is circumstances that they have no control over, or something changed in their life. Oftentimes, it is because of the behavior of that animal, or unsafe behavior of that animal, and what it is exhibiting in the home. Or it may be due to medical needs that that animal has. The average response time was 41 hours, and the median wait time for a surrender appointment was 10 days. There was a total of 734 animals coming through our doors, being surrendered to us from the public.

Next CEO Bryant shared the percentage of cats and the percentage of dogs that they transferred from WCRAS, many which needed medical and behavioral support and interventions. Year-to-date 91% of cats that were available for transfer that had not been reclaimed after their 5 days were transferred to NHS and 88% of dogs. NHS refers to kittens that are found in our community as Good Samaritans, they are surrendered by Good Samaritans, people in our community that find them and want to give them the help that they need. Kitten season is pretty intense for us in this community, and certainly for us at NHS. It can start around February or March and ramp up in June and July. It is not uncommon for NHS to have over 500 kittens out into foster care at any given time. It takes quite a high level of coordination between the foster team, medical team, community outreach team, and then, of course, a big shout out to everyone in our community that fosters for NHS, including some of the members on this board. In quarter three, NHS accepted just over 700 Good Samaritan surrenders, and then 1,349 year-to-date. Many of those babies are hours old, or maybe weeks old, many of them have been without their mom for a period of time, so they require different levels of support. For total intake, there were 734 surrenders, 1,115 transfers from WCRAS, 701 Good Samaritan kittens, and then a small variety of others. Year-to-date, NHS has accepted almost 7,000 animals, almost 2,300 from our community, almost 3,000 from WCRAS, and then just over 1,400 of those Good Samaritan babies.

In quarter three, NHS was happy to see almost 2,500 animals adopted into what they hope is their forever homes, and almost 6,000 year-to-date. Those numbers are slightly up from the same period of time, Q3 in 2024, and then year-to-date 2024.

In this last quarter, NHS performed almost 1,300 spay and neuter surgeries for owned animals in the community, 323 dog spay and neuter surgeries, and just over 950 cat spay and neuter surgeries. That is not including shelter animals which are all spayed and neutered, microchipped, vetted, and vaccinated. At the last board meeting CEO Bryant reported on the grant that NHS received from Washoe County, and she shared that they were able to get their team fully up and operational in May. They are now offering surgery 6 days a week and have surgery space available. So yes, there was quite a need in the past. The organizations that were doing spay and neuter surgeries were unable to keep up with the demand. At this moment that isn't the case. NHS has

surgery appointments available for cats as soon as tomorrow, and surgery appointments available for dogs by mid-to-late November. She also shared that in this last quarter, as part of the grant agreement that NHS has with Washoe County, they provided WCRAS with 500 vouchers to be distributed to rescue groups, where, if they transferred an animal out of WCRAS, they could get the animal spayed or neutered at no cost to them. NHS was also just approved for a grant from the Jason Heigl Foundation, where they will do a 2-day waived fee spay and neuter event in the next couple of months.

In addition to spay and neuter services provided to the community, NHS also provides microchips and low-cost vaccines. In the last quarter, over 1,700 animals received a microchip from NHS and they were able to vaccinate over 3,000 owned pets in our community. NHS has a robust volunteer department and team, with about 1,200 individuals coming through the organization, although some of those are with companies or organizations that do volunteer days, and some of that is community service. There is a dedicated base of about 250 volunteers. NHS wouldn't be able to give the care and the support to the animals that they have in our building at the level they are able to give without help from the volunteers. Year to date, over 21,000 volunteer hours were given, which doesn't include foster homes. Speaking of fostering, in quarter three, NHS placed over 1,100 animals into foster.

Another program that NHS provides to our community, as assistance to our community but also as part of our shelter diversion program, is a pet pantry. NHS provides cat and dog food to individuals in the community that are experiencing hardship. In quarter three, over 45,000 pounds of food were distributed, and year-to-date, over 145,000 pounds were distributed. Last year, we ended the year just at 200,000 pounds.

Member McMahon stated that your Reno facility doesn't receive any funding and, knowing that NHS Carson operates as the shelter, she asked if that was separate. CEO Bryan explained in Carson, NHS has a contract with Carson City to provide animal control services. In Reno, of course, NHS doesn't have animal control services. So, NHS is approximately 88% donor-funded in their Reno operations, and the remainder is adoption fees, low-cost clinic fees, or retail store, things like that. Member McMahon then stated that the slides showed that NHS took in approximately 6,800 animals, and approximately 5,800 were adopted. Because that's almost a thousand animal difference, she wondered if they were transferred or something else. CEO Bryant explained that some of the animals are transferred out. The live release rate is approximately the same as it was last year, about 93% to 94%. She pointed out that for those animals that don't leave our organization for a positive outcome, it is not just euthanasia. A big percentage of them are the little neonatal babies that, regardless of the efforts we put into helping them, fail to thrive and they either die on their own, or have to be humanely euthanized. The remaining percentage of non-live outcomes is euthanasia for behavior or quality of life.

Chair Duerr stated that the board knows that NHS is working really hard on a lot of other issues, and some would say it is a thankless job, just the work that both they and WCRAS do, but she stated that she thinks it is a thanked job, because our community appreciates what's happening. We could not operate without the services, WCRAS and NHS services. We wouldn't be the same community whatsoever and we're known as a community that loves animals. There are some informal numbers that show about half of Washoe County residents own at least one animal and that nationally the number hovers around 65%. Chair Duerr expressed that she appreciated the work that NHS does.

11. Establish ASAB Meeting Dates for 2026 [Non-Action Item]

WCRAS Director Shyanne Shull shared a calendar with suggested meeting dates for discussion and possible adoption. Chair Duerr noted that the January meeting was moved to February and expressed that she has a conflict with the new date. She proffered January 16th. Director Shull reminded the board that WCRAS needs time to clean and scrub the data and prepare the reports, and the lead time to prepare our presentations is going to increase. There is going to be an update from WCRAS' legal representative about some change in lead times and preparing materials for these meetings in order to meet the accessibility requirements. So WCRAS is going to push meetings out versus sooner in the month. She shared that if the meeting can't happen on the proposed dates, it needs to go out to the next month so that WCRAS has that time to prepare that quarterly data from the prior quarter.

Chair Duerr then noted some dates are blocked. She assumed that some of those were holidays but pointed almost 2 weeks at the end of January that are not holidays and inquired if that were for staff being away, or something else. Director Shull explained that for the grayed-out areas either the room or staff is unavailable. Chair Duerr then stated that she thought that WRAS was making some changes at their office so that the board could meet there and asked if that room was available or would be available. Director Shull shared that WCRAS has made the upgrades to the AV system in their classroom, however, they lost their business technologist in June who was just on the cusp of going through and testing the room and figuring out how WCRAS could hold public meetings. Director Shull then introduced the new business technologist, Althea Hicks, who was still getting up to speed on running these meetings and dealing with all of the technology in chambers. Director Shull shared that it is going to be a different learning curve to move it back to WCRAS' classroom, because since the last time the meeting was there WCRAS has changed the location of this meeting from in person, to hybrid, to then Zoom during COVID, and then to this location, and so the team is going to have to adapt and test out the room. She proposed at some point in 2026, they will be able to relocate the board meeting back to our education room. Chair Duerr clarified that the long-term plan is to relocate it, but that the team may not be ready in 3 months to run a Zoom out of there. Director Shull agreed that she not certain that we will be, because the business technologist has a lot of learning to do, getting up to speed with both Sparks Justice Court and our department, because her position is shared and is

only a part-time position for WCRAS.

Chair Duerr then asked the board if, instead of February 6th, could they meet on February 13th in the afternoon. She asked the board clerk to look into whether chambers would be available on that date at 1:00 p.m. She noted that the other proposed dates were fine with her and polled the rest of the board for their availability. None of the other board members indicated any conflicts with the other dates.

Chair Naomi Duerr moved to look at February 13th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. for the first meeting, and adopt the other dates as proposed. All board members responded in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

12. 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]

Vice Chair Trudy Brussard shared that there was new dog facility is being established in South Reno to provide dogs for veterans and wondered if there was going to be any collaboration with them, or if they need anything from WCRAS. Chair Duerr asked if the opening date was known as it's been several years in the making. Member Julie McMahon shared that they just met with the Liberty Dogs team at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and their new anticipated open date is March 26th, 2026. They are still working with getting puppies out into foster and working on building their team, including their veterinary team, which is why TMCC collaborated with them to have them come talk to their student club. As far as collaboration with county services, she shared that in the big picture, their intent is to be able to partner and pull animals, but that's probably years in the making. They have a small but mighty team, like many people say. There is intent to move forward with that, that maybe they can help animals get placed and actually train for services for veterans, but right now, their focus is on their breeding program and getting pets out. Chair Duerr expressed that she would like to see if around that time that the board gets invited to the opening and that it would be great for the board to have a tour. She asked if Director Shull might have some connections with their team and could make that happen. Director Shull stated that WCRAS has been in discussions with some of the staff over there about emergency planning, and some of those things in preparation for opening, so she was sure they could reach out to them make that request.

Chair Duerr then reiterates the request for future legislative items to be brought before the board when the right time is for that. Director Shull shared that she has a list already, and some of it is easy because it's carryover from the last two sessions. So, it's just going to be a matter of how quickly WCRAS can incorporate the 2025 legislative session impacts, which have turned out to be relatively significant to the department. After that WCRAS can focus on the next session.

Chair Duerr also stated that she would like some analysis on any legislative, legal, ordinance-type impediments to helping WCRAS respond more quickly when we have a case that's suspected, whether it's animal abuse, animal hoarding, whatever the case may be. She is still probing at Reno and has gotten some preliminary answers. She proposed to them, if it was a child, how would it be handled? Would we wait 2 years because we couldn't see it from the road, that kind of thing? Or would we figure out a way to get law enforcement involved, or how would we handle it? She is trying to make some analogies, knowing that humans and animals are not the same, but nevertheless, if there's a process to deal with humans, there may be a process to deal with animals that we could adopt or amend or follow. This is something that she really wants to pursue.

Deputy District Attorney Coby Burnett shared that, pursuant to federal regulations, as well as the State of Nevada's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, Section 508 specifically which relates to digital accessibility standards that are being implemented countywide, the county is switching some accessibility information and stuff around for our websites and platforms to ideally enhance a better and more cohesive accessibility experience for everyone. For this board, that just means that the way the public and the board will access future agendas, future materials, things like that, will change slightly. It'll look different, and some things will be located in a different area, because sometimes we have to go through and archive old information to make that accessible. There still will be a link on the advisory board website, but changes in copies of materials would be reflected in a different portal. This will most likely take effect by the next board meeting. He wanted to mention, just to prepare, that things are changing, but there's nothing substantive that will change, aside from, as Director Shull mentioned earlier, the guest presentation materials will need to be submitted earlier than they currently are, just to give everyone more heads up and more time to prepare all of those things, given these new accessibility changes. Specifics on that lead time and everything will be relayed at a different date to those guest presenters. These are general changes, but again, all board functions and procedures will remain the same.

13. Public Comment [Non-Action Item]

Humane World for Animals, Nevada State Director Rebecca Goff addressed the board in person. She shared that during the emergency presentation that Humane World for Animals does offer free law enforcement training, and included in that long menu, it's like 3 pages of training subjects that they offer including an emergency preparedness training that is free to municipalities, as is all of their law enforcement training. They just completed a very successful training in Clark County on animal crimes and investigations, and they also did one with the City of Sparks back in June. So, for the elected officials on the board, if they interested in that, it is free. Director Goff would just need to partner with somebody either from the law enforcement side or from the city side to sponsor it and provide a room.

Chair Duerr expressed her interest, enthusiastically, because they've had a number at the city, and it has been problematic to do the investigations, and they don't have a good template, and some have gone to civil and weren't pursued criminally, but they were pursued civilly, and people won, and they have some that are reopened, and people are re-looking at them. So, she was enthusiastically raising her hand and is sure they can provide a room. Director Goff indicated that she would provide Chair Duerr the menu of topics.

14. Adjournment [Non-Action Item]

Chair Duerr declared the Animal Services Advisory Board meeting of October 17, 2025, adjourned at 12:15 p.m.