

LA ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY TASKFORCE MEETING
October 26, 2017
10:00 AM
Veterans Memorial Auditorium
5825 Florida Boulevard, 1st Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Proceeding

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Commissioner Brent Robbins, DVM.

PLEDGE

Ashley Delrie, board member, led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by John Walther, LDAF Assistant Commissioner for Animal Health and Food Safety (LDAF).

COMMISSIONER STRAIN'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM, discussed the statutes that support and govern the state's animal control agency.

Members present:

Deputy Commissioner Brent Robbins, DVM, Chalyn Fayard, DVM, Chip Fitz, Tangipahoa Animal Control Director, Shelly Fontenot, DVM, Ellen Abington, Ashlie Delrie and Hilton Cole, EBR Animal Control Director.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Candy Peavy, Chairman of Robinsons' Rescue, indicated they desperately need the board's help. They have succeeded in doing over 50,000 spay/neuters. They educate the public and, also, have outreach programs. She indicated they do have a decrease in shelter-in-take due to their program.

Julia Breaux, State Director for the U.S. Humane Society introduced herself.

NEW BUSINESS

John Walther:

John Walther explained Title 3:236 to the board members.

Funding for this taskforce is provided through the "operating budget" of the LA Department of Agriculture & Forestry. Any money in the deposits of the whole board will transfer to the LA Pet Overpopulation Commission. The board's mission is to help our local jurisdictions and to offer them resources, guidance, develop training, make some model regulations and other

things that are listed in the law.

Robbie Averett:

Robbie Averett introduced herself to the board as the program manager for the taskforce.

Robbie described the program's responsibilities, and also, indicated the board does not have authority to enforce handling cruelty cases. All parishes received information regarding the board's responsibilities.

Lily Adams Wiley is the program liaison for the board. She will meet with the parish presidents and police juries to inform them that their facilities will be inspected. Robbie identified the objectives of the taskforce.

The LA Animal Control Advisory Taskforce has a website at lcatf.la.gov. Online registry is available.

Shelter Inspection forms are available online, and it follows the guidelines and the minimum standards.

Parishes are required to inspect the shelters twice a year.

There are sixty-two identified shelters in the state. The taskforce will inspect fifteen shelters every quarter, which is five a month. After each inspection, a letter is written to the governing authority advising them of the findings. If needed, a re-inspection will occur.

Since the board does not have authority to handle cruelty cases, our website "Report Cruelty" will include links to the police, sheriff's office, and Louisiana State Police.

Robbie did four pilot inspections within the state.

Hilton Cole expressed the bottom line is money and education to bring facilities up to standards.

Robbie spoke about videos to educate the public, and these videos are free.

Tabitha Gray addressed ethics training and open meeting law. Board members are public servants. Ethics training classes must be taken annually prior to December 31st. It is unethical to have a meeting at a restaurant, etc. Personal email or text is public record. Four members must be present to vote at a meeting. If at least four members are together in public/private,

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they cannot discuss any matter with regard to the taskforce. The board does not have money, so financial reports are not necessary.

LDAF will keep kennels that were loaned from the kennel program. It was suggested that kennels are loaned out for emergencies only. Establish a tracking system for the kennels would be helpful. LDAF will tag the kennels.

Chip Fitz encouraged Lily Adams to ensure workers are communicating within their shelters.

MOTION:

Hilton Cole made a motion for EOC's and local parishes to establish a network for emergencies and to inventory the resources they currently have and tag them. Ashley Dearie seconded the motion. Members of the board approved the motion.

Ashley Dearie discussed identifying grant opportunities. She inquired if data would be captured by our department. Robbie Averett indicated this is voluntary and information will not be captured.

Hilton Cole inquired about grants from Julia Breaux Melancon. Ms. Melancon indicated taskforces have received money from her agency, but it is a little early at this point to ask for any assistance. Dr. Robbins indicated we do not have the authority to accept money. However, the taskforce can assist shelters to access grant money. Robbie Averett stated the taskforce is only an advisory board.

A spring meeting will be set for the next LA Animal Control Taskforce meeting.

Shelly Fontenot, DVM, is a representative for LBMA, and she inquired if there is anything specific that she could pass along at the winter meeting for private practice veterinarians. Hilton Cole asked if she could mention at the meeting that the commission nor this board are in competition with private practice veterinarians for spaying and neutering.

Robbie addressed "educational" pieces that can be placed on the jump drive.

Ashley Delrie suggested including a section on grant writing for the website.

Robbie Averett will contact each board member and get their recommendations for training, so they can do a table of contents. Board members can decide which segment they would like to be responsible for training modules.

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Chip Fitz asked if Lily Adams Wiley would ask directors of shelters if they have grant writers and, also, if this question would be included on inspection forms.

Robbie listed the following modules for training: volunteers, investigative enforcement, sanitation requirements, disease prevention, grant writing, spay/neuter, how to develop and recruit volunteers and have them to develop a contract between them and humane organizations.

Tabitha Gray, attorney for LDAF, advised a motion must be made for Robbie to have authority to make telephone calls to board members and to work on the modulars on behalf of the board members.

Dr. Robbins asked for a motion on this matter. Chip Fitz made the motion, and Ashley Delrie seconded the motion. Dr. Robbins asked for all those in favor to say "I", board members approved, and no one denied the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Robbins asked for a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Ashley Delrie said, "yes", and Dr. Shelly Fontenot seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.