

Louisiana Animal Control Advisory Task Force
LACATF
Meeting
January 9, 2019
10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE

Hilton Cole led the room in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by John Walther, LDAF Assistant Commissioner.

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

Guests Present: Mike Strain, DVM Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry and John Walther, AHFS Assistant Commissioner, Robbie Averett, LACATF Program Manager, Lilly A. Wiley, LDAF Liaison.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM, spoke briefly concerning the new fiscal year, as well as the conclusions of two special sessions. Dr. Strain also spoke concerning the upcoming legislative session. He also touched on the importance of continuing to monitor the conditions of Louisiana animal control. Hilton Cole voiced his concerns about the amount of pit bulls currently in rescues/ animal control facilities and that he felt that the AKC breeders of pure bred dogs would be hard pressed to compete with the ever increasing population of “rescue” dogs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chip Fitz made a motion to approve the minutes of the last task force meeting as the minutes are written. Dr. Fayard seconded the motion. Minutes are approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Robbie also spoke concerning the LACA Shelters Director’s workshop hosted by LACA, Chip Fitz and his group in August 2018. Twenty-five (25) shelter directors from across the state took part in the workshop. The workshop addressed the individual needs, as well as the shortfalls of each shelter. There were many questions posed at the meeting. The table discussions were insightful as other shelters were able to give answers and assist in problem solving.

Robbie then proceeded to report on the shelter inspections. 96 contacts were made of the statewide animal shelters, of those 96 contacts made, 18 confirmed the lack of an animal shelter in their area. Six (6) re-

inspections were performed and of those 6 shelters, five (5) were still non-compliant to state standards. Thirty-three (33) of the seventy-eight (78) shelters inspected met the state's minimum animal shelter standards. Of those inspected, forty-five (45) shelters were non-compliant. These inspections were done by Robbie Averett and Lillie Adams Wiley.

Robbie Averett then went on to report concerns about several facilities that were understaffed, and under-maintained. She also gave a report about the differential of shelters versus holding facilities and the issues each face.

The task force questioned the logistics of two people inspecting every facility in the state, the importance of the quality of care and the possibility of not being favorably received at each facility, to which Robbie replied that they tried to complete 2 facilities per day, and that they are usually well received by the staff at shelter facilities. The task force and Robbie Averett then went further into detail concerning some of the shelter facilities and the parish coordinators needs, training, equipment as well as the shelters' shortcomings.

Hilton Cole talked about the problems of stray pit bulls and dog fighting, as well as the problems the shelters face as well.

Robbie spoke about the free training symposium with LSU School of Veterinary Medicine that was presided by Wendy Wolfson, DVM and Merck. The training seminars were well received and well attended by shelter vets, shelter personnel, as well as shelter directors across the state. All together the symposium hosted 52 attendees. Robbie expressed her feelings that it is something that should continue.

There was information given out by Robbie at the time; a module series concerning the grant programs. These modules were designed to assist shelters with the ins and outs of applying for grant programs. Parasite control was also touched on concerning treatments, vaccinations, animal presenting symptoms, intake procedures, etc.

Robbie then presented a PSA video created by the department with the assistance of Johnette Downing, and other LDAF employees. The video is an attempt to better educate pet owners to "take their pets with them" in the event of a statewide or localized emergency. The video was well received and is approved for use.

OLD BUSINESS

Robbie Averett informed the task force about the free training links for animal control officers, as well as a list of all registered shelters within the state on the Louisiana Animal Control Advisory Task Force website.

Public Comment

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chip Fitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fayard. The meeting was adjourned. The next tentative meeting is scheduled for Sept 11, 2019