



**ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
PRAIRIE PAWS ADOPTION CENTER - 2222 W. WARRIOR TRAIL  
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 AT 6:30 PM**

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**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Turner at 6:32pm with a quorum present.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

*The full agenda has been posted on the city's website, [www.gptx.org](http://www.gptx.org), for those who may want to view this agenda in more detail.*

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Lisa Turner moved to approve the minutes, Madeline Monroe seconded. Motion passed.

2. Animal Services Quarterly Report

Lily explains the GPAS quarterly report and the live release rate compared to the number of animals being taken in. In March, the calculation for live release greatly exceeded 100%; expect this was due to a record-breaking TNR count. Because live release considers live releases compared to intakes, it can result in extreme highs and lows within a month span, so it is critical to also look at the total statistic over the span of a fiscal year for additional context.

3. Operations Update – Disease Control Operations, Pest Update & Recruitment Efforts

Lily Yap reported that we had a confirmed case of 'strep zoo' onsite at the shelter. This is a disease that affects our dog population. To fight the spread of strep zoo we are working to minimize our dog population, deep clean the facility, and test the environment. We have had one positive test for a dog; random sampling for dogs is challenging since it involves swabbing deep in the dogs throat and nose. The University of Wisconsin has a shelter medicine program and is assisting with operational recommendations and testing. We are also waiving adoptions to help with capacity.

Lily Yap revisited information about our rat issue. She explained the Animal Services building was not properly sealed, allowing pest to get in. We are near the end of our infestation and are waiting until the end of the summer to confirm that they are all gone.

Lily Yap updated the committee on the hiring process here at Animal Services. We are working to fill all positions and just hired two new ASOs. Working interviews are helping with figuring out who is a better fit for the organization, so we have a great idea of the individual joining our team. Additionally, the candidate can also have an improved gauge of the work itself.

#### 4. Microchipping Ordinance

Lily Yap proposes a new ordinance to the committee, opening the floor for feedback. With a new microchip ordinance, we are hoping it will help with reuniting animals to their homes. Ms. Yap explains Animal Services have been able to get 44% of dogs back home and 2.1% of cats home, but if the animals had microchips, we believe the percentages would be higher. Field has been able to reunite a number of dogs thanks to microchips. In the ordinance we would want for citizens to be required to have a registered microchip and rabies tag for their animals. Our microchip cost is only \$15, and the registration is included. To help the community, we do Chipmas once a year in the winter for low-cost vaccines and microchipping in our community.

Additional considerations if we do proceed with mandating microchipping would be reducing or waiving reclaim fees for first-offenders within the first day to emphasize that microchipping is not punitive, but a way to reunite families faster and more effectively. Operational considerations include the ordinance mandated stray hold vs extended courtesy hold.

#### 5. TNR Programming – Open Discussion

Lily Yap starts discussion by mentioning the new Community Cat brochure created to help caretakers with resources for after care. Lisa Turner and Madeline Monroe suggested that we should translate for our non-English speaking communities. Ms. Monroe stated that she makes posts around her neighborhood so they can be aware of who the cats in the community are and suggested others do the same. Tracy Ellis had concerns about the outdoor cats in the community, especially for those living in HOAs that don't allow caring for community cats, and feeders that are attracting wild animals (like raccoons) for not setting proper feeding stations. She suggested that GPAS regulates the caretakers on feeding times and locations to lower cross contamination and help with quality of life for all citizens. Board members Don Smarto and Madeline Monroe shared about their feeding/care practices. No resolution reached at this time.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

*Citizens may speak during Citizen Comments for up to five minutes on any item not on the agenda by completing and submitting a speaker card.*

Reja Rajan brought up concerns about an ordinance specifically speaking on roosters and compared them to surrounding cities requirements for ownership of roosters. Living on 2 acres, wanting to start a farm, he is hoping there can be changes made to the ordinance.

Jean Melton stated that Grand Prairie Cat Crew had feeding guidelines when advocating for the program's launch, including restrictions from feeding on porch. She then mentioned that she and others in her community who witnessed a small dog killing are writing complaints about the issue. They're trying to get as many people to follow up and provide statements to Animal Services.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

*Certification*

*In accordance with Chapter 551, Subchapter C of the Government Code, V.T.C.A, the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee agenda was prepared and posted May 15, 2023.*



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*Lily Yap, Animal Services Division Manager*