

ANIMAL SHELTER MEETING

MINUTES

July 25, 2023 – 2:00 PM

PRESENT

Tim Fitzgerald, County Administrator

Mike Hamp, Waynesboro City Manager

Leslie Beauregard, Staunton City Manager

Jon Hilbert, Shelter Director

Candy Hensley, Assistant County Administrator

1. Minutes were presented and approved for the May 23, 2023 meeting.
Motion: Hamp Second: Beauregard Approved
2. Mr. Hilbert gave an update on hiring. The shelter is currently accepting applications for an Operations Manager, an Administrative Assistant, and four part-time Kennel Attendant. There has been a low number of applicants.
3. Mr. Hilbert gave an update on the population report, which is attached.
4. Mr. Hilbert gave an update on the Policy and Procedure Handbook. The Handbook needs formatting and adjustments on the euthanasia policy. The goal is to have it ready to be considered for approval at the August meeting.

During this time, the owners discussed the impoundment fees.

- Mr. Fitzgerald indicated fee structures from other jurisdictions were reviewed.
- There is a need for a consistent fee structure between the owner localities.
- The State Code allows for an impoundment fee.
- A fee structure was suggested indicating the first 24 hours of holding a stray would be \$15 and after that, the charge would be \$35. These are flat fees. Not per day.
- A daily fee could also be assessed if desired, such as \$15 per day.
- If an owner does not pay, a bill could be sent. The intent is not to hold the dog until the amount due is paid.
- It was indicated most stray dogs are picked up within the first 3 days. If dogs stay more than 5 to 10 days (depending on markings) they are then in the custody of the shelter.
- The cities will discuss the fees with their councils. The County will hold on proceeding with a public hearing for an ordinance amendment. The localities will be working towards consistency.

- The goal in the future is for the shelter to collect all fees. There is work to be done to determine the process because each locality functions differently.

5. Mr. Hilbert presented the Director's Report, which is attached.

6. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – August 22, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Shenandoah Valley Animal Services Center
Population Report
7/25/23

CAPACITY
46 Dog Runs
104 Cat Cages

Current Animals On Hand

Dogs: 45	Cats: 89	Other: 3
Foster: 48	Foster: 34	Foster: 4
Court Cases: 41	Court Cases: 16	Court Cases: 6

Year To Date Total Intakes

Dogs:	465	Cats	548	Other:	28	Total:	1041
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Year To Date Euthanasia

		PERCENTAGE (live release)
Dogs:	24	94.90%
Cats:	28	94.84%
Other:	0	100%
Total:	52	
		96.58%

Year To Date Adoptions

Dogs:	202	Cats:	178	Other:	23	Total:	403
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Year To Date Transfers

Dogs:	45	Cats:	299	Other:	15	Total:	359
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Year To Date Return To Owner

Dogs:	168	Cats:	18	Other:	7	Total:	193
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Total Intake By Jurisdiction

	YEAR TO DATE
JURISDICTION	TOTAL PERCENTAGE
Augusta County	675 64.97%
City of Staunton	200 19.25%
City of Waynesboro	157 15.11%

Total Save Rate Year To Date: 96.58%

Director's Report: 7/25/23

The past two months have been unprecedented for the shelter staff and myself as we have been navigating the prolonged Lentz case. I am extremely pleased with the outpouring of support that we have received from the community. 1000s of pounds of food have been donated, cleaning products, toys, treats, and blankets. We have never been without.

I am extremely thankful for the County's Emergency Coordinator who worked with Rockingham County Government to provide a portable heat pump for the emergency shelter which has provided much needed air conditioning as we have moved into the hottest months.

But what I am most proud of is the handful of volunteers have been helping with the seizure since the first week. Renee Kershner, Jody Woodard, Aimee Snyder, and their families plus a handful of other folks, including regular shelter volunteers who help each day with walking and caring for the animals. The inmates are doing an exceptional job cleaning each day, and we have all grown to appreciate their hard work ethic. In fact, we celebrated one inmate's birthday last week with lunch and cupcakes. The jail guard noted: "This is a first in Middle River history."

Several of the pregnant dogs from the case have had puppies over the past two weeks, adding 15 puppies to our care and custody. We have at least one more pregnant dog.

Let's hope we can get through the next three weeks and end the summer with a positive note. And find these animals the loving homes that they all deserve!

Maliah Carroll has embraced her role as Outreach Coordinator and has many exciting events planned for the upcoming months. SVASC informational booths at local breweries. Three adoption events scheduled for August, and we are currently working on another Petco grant. Her staff and pet bios posted on social media are gaining a lot of positive attention from our supporters.

Evan Carberry, a kennel attendant just enrolled in a one-year program to become an animal behaviorist. Evan has had a passion for animals all of his life, and has successfully worked with some of our more difficult and aggressive animals and helped train and condition them into becoming adoptable.