

**Animal Control Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2006 7PM

**Members Attending:** Bud Alexander, Jeanette Everett, Richard Klasen, Joe Kozlowski, Patrick McNulty, Dr. Edin Mehanovic, Jerry Rivard, Lynda Sugasa, Edward Varga

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00PM

Patrick McNulty gave an overview of the Animal Control Division including its structure, responsibilities, reporting relationship, and other informational data. Copies of the presentation were distributed to committee members.

Patrick McNulty reviewed the following short term objectives that were established by the Department:

- Active Animal Advisory Committee in place
- Volunteer Coordinator (Position approved and has been filled, Kara Plonczynski start date 1/23/06)
- Mid Level Management Positions
- Collaborative Efforts (outside organizations) maintain, improve/expand
- Customer Service excellence
- New Animal Control Facility
- Increase Foster Homes
- Public Awareness
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter program (state initiative)

Richard Klasen raised a concern regarding an incident involving a potentially dangerous dog in Marengo. Jerry Rivard updated the committee on AC response and provided an overall review of the procedure followed in conducting an evaluation of an animal to be declared “dangerous”. The committee was also informed that the “Dangerous Dog Task Force Committee is reviewing procedures and will be making recommendations.

Pat McNulty added that the AC department is staffed during non-working hours and emergencies are responded to through use of the “Answer Call” service similar to what Physicians use.

Dr. Mehanovic explained the Dangerous/Vicious definition of animals as defined by Mchenry County ordinance emphasizing that he may require an animal being evaluated see a Veterinary Behaviorist to support the findings.

Pat McNulty provided committee members with a copy of the Animal Advisory Committee Policy. He reviewed membership requirements and ground rules, and responsibilities.

Ed Varga was elected to serve as Chairperson and Bud Alexander as Vice-Chairperson. Chairperson is a one year term.

Pat McNulty circulated a listing of committee members with address information and requested that members indicate their preferred method of contact. (telephone, email)

Ed Varga opened the meeting to public comment.

Jackie Smith (President, Animal Outreach) introduced herself to the committee and asked that the committee continue to help/support the TNR program to ensure its continued success.

Pat McNulty gave an overview of the Dangerous and Vicious Task Force committee recommended changes to county ordinances. The task force, appointed by county board chairman Ken Koehler, has been meeting since early November addressing the incident in Cary involving pitbulls with the intent of ultimately changing legislation to allow for increasing fines, registration fees etc. Task force committee recommended changes were reviewed and summarized as follows:

- It was agreed that a use of a “bright” yellow and black checkered collar be a way to identify a vicious dog rather than an orange collar as suggested by the task force.
- Signs be posted at entry ways to the premises of a vicious dog, possibly front, back or side access. Signs to be “bright yellow” with black lettering approximately 8” h 11” or larger. It was suggested that both the collar and signs be provided by AC and a fee charged at the time of the annual registration of the vicious animal.
- Fines for unregistered dogs should begin at \$200 and raise to \$1000. Discretion to be used in assessing fines, depending on circumstances.
- Fines for an unregistered dog running at large in a school yard or park (except dog parks) should be doubled.
- One year registration fee for an unaltered animal should be \$75 and a three year registration fee for an unaltered dog should be \$150. Pat McNulty stressed that the financial incentive to spay/neuter animals is needed, and that statistics show that spay/neutered animals are significantly less likely to be involved in a bite. Lengthy discussion followed with all members in agreement that some sort of a reduced fee be given to “Legitimate” breeders. Ideas were discussed including breeder litter registration fee with AC and breeder licensing. All members agreed that legitimate breeders should pay a reduced fee. Definition of a legitimate breeder and fee structure needs to be discussed further and should be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

- All animals need to be micro-chipped. Committee members agreed that the idea of all animals being micro-chipped was a good, and provided the needed information to track animals, but may be a financial burden for some owners. Pat McNulty indicated that AC could hold low cost clinics for micro-chipping animals to help increase compliance with this requirement.  
Rich Klasen suggested that since there are three major companies involved in Manufacturing chips, AC should pursue the bid process to get the best pricing for the county.
- Pat McNulty noted the above recommendations when finalized need to be written in ordinance language then approved by the Board of Health, Public Health and Human Services Committee, and then presented to the County Board for approval.
- Ed Varga requested, as a homework assignment, that all members bring three ideas to our next committee meeting to help develop a mission statement.
- It was agreed that future meetings be held on the first Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 1, 2006 at the Animal Control Center. A map/directions to AC should be included in the agenda.
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35PM