

Animal Board Minutes

2nd Quarter Meeting 2009

Meeting began: May 21st 6:35 PM Michigan City Council Chambers City Hall

Members Present:

Assistant Chief Kintzele:	Chairman Animal Board
Phil Jankowski	City Council representative
Alijah Hunter	Animal Control Officer

Three members present constituting a quorum by City Ordinance
Minutes from previous meeting accepted as written

Report given by Animal Control Officer Hunter:

73 dogs impounded

31 Cats

25 bite reports

2 after hour callouts

Euthanized: 1 dog 1cat

Citations issued: 64

Court Cases Pending: 3

Questions on the report:

Mr. Hunter was asked for a definitive breakdown of how many impounded animals were claimed, and how many were returned to owners. He stated that he would provide the numbers at a later date.

Regarding the animal bites none were considered serious

The dog was euthanized because it was mange infested, the cat was severely injured

The majority of the citations related to rabies, running at large, and no tags.

Old Business:

Mr. Hunter asked that the Animal Ordinance be reviewed regarding the definition of animals running at large. He felt the ordinance should require all animals to be restrained if they were not confined by a fence, even if they are on the owner's property such as on a porch, or in a yard.

Mr. Hunter was asked to draft a proposal for the City Council including statistics relating to this issue in Michigan City including complaints, bites dogs roaming free on private property with no owner present. Currently the ordinance states the animal must roam away from the property to be at large. The ordinance has a provision to classify dogs as dangerous if they pose a threat, or nuisance to the general public.

Status of the request for City Animal licenses was: Pending per the Water Department. Mr. Hunter noted several other departments were mailing out information. The Water Department would determine when it was animal Controls turn.

Regarding the status of funds given to Animal Control for building improvements:

A bid was received for a concrete pad and lean-to which will be attached to the current structure. Used fencing was obtained from at no cost for the expansion of the kennel area. They are also exploring expanding the automatic watering system for the animals.

They are shopping for a freezer for the animal carcasses. Currently they use a chest type freezer that will not close when they get too many carcasses in it. They are looking at a walk-in type freezer. He also noted that get a lot of complaints when individuals getting dog houses look in the freezer to see what is inside.

It was suggested that he contact the company that picks up the carcasses and have them pick up the carcasses on a more "regular" basis.

Phil Jankowski noted that there had been some discussion with the City Attorney regarding disposition of funds to the Humane Society as discussed in the Ordinance. Hopefully the issue will be resolved soon. He also stated he would be in contact regarding the New Humane Society appointment to the Animal Board as Mr. Godfrey's appointment will soon expire.

New Business:

Sgt Yagelski has completed several training session for Animal Control regarding the use of case reports and event numbers. Animal Control will generated case reports regarding all citations issued. The Animal Control vehicles still need to have powers supplies installed for computers. Currently they are having issues with the power converters that they have purchased.

Mr. Hunter wondered if they could get a distinctive tag so that it could be determined from a distance that dogs had the current City Tag. He expressed concern that it is difficult to get close to some dogs. It was recommended that he change the color and shape of the tag each year.

Mr. Hunter also noted that he is looking for property to use as a disaster relief site for storage and confinement of animals in case of a disaster. He noted that the Red Cross has no provisions for animals. He stated that he was completing FEMA Certifications on line and educating himself regarding the FEMA requirements for a confinement area.

Meeting Adjourned

DRAFT