

Animal Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 22, 2023
Regular Meeting
Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center

Committee Roll Call:

Susanne Joosten
Jasmine O'Keefe
Patricia Rytlewski
Dr. Betsy Robinson
Stacey Warner

Absent:

Amy Potter Losh
Assistant Chief Cliff Woitena

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

AGENDA:

Jasmine provided a handout with April statistics and the shelter updates. A copy of the handout will be included in the meeting minutes. The committee reviewed and discussed each section of the handout.

Discussion held on:

- Staffing recommendations – Jasmine has asked City Council for additional staffing in the upcoming budget year.
- Upcoming events - Pups & Pints and Shellside Community event.
- Dog transport options to out of state shelters - many are having the same overcrowding problems.
- Committee Goals – Board should get involved, work a shift at the shelter; virtual fostering
- Ideas to increase spay/neuter. Have a designated place in the shelter to perform the procedure; ask local veterinarians to donate 1 procedure per year; look in to obtaining a grant for equipment

Public comment:

Discussion held on Laurel's House contract for spay/neuters.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



LEAGUE CITY
ANIMAL CARE

Monthly Report

April 2023

PREPARED BY
JASMINE O'KEEFE





April Outline



Beginning Animal Count

165

- Canine: 80
- Feline: 30
- Other: 0
- Foster: 55



Intakes

245

- Canine: 117
- Feline: 126
- Other: 2



Outcomes

175

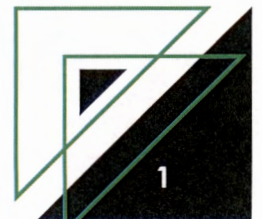
- Total Live Outcomes: 167



Ending Animal Count

234

- Canine: 89
- Feline: 43
- Other: 1
- Foster Care: 101





Current Projects & Accomplishments



Volunteer

- Volunteer scholarship for Best Friends Animal Society Conference
- TOP dog classes have begun
 - Jasmine on every other Tuesday
 - Lynette on every other Thursday
- Monthly newsletter sent out
- 28 Applicants
- 18 Accepted

General

- Got Skillz class on Dog Handling Level 1 completed by all staff
 - Next Class: Customer Service for Animal Shelters by Maddie's Fund
- 19 protocols updated and sent to staff
- Cruelty case; seized 22 cats
- Met with Mara Hartsell to discuss staffing needs and case management study
- Preparing for Case Management Study starting June 1st
- Community Pet Day Event June 17th

Foster/Marketing

- Kitten season has begun!
- Continuing photography
- Best Friends Animal Society partnership event April 29th & 30th
- Bissell Pet Adoptions May 1st-15th; adopted out 30 Dogs & 29 Cats
- Pups & Pints event June 3rd





Requested Information

League City Animal Care Volunteer Program Volunteer Flow

Step 1 - Apply:

- Complete Application
- Community Outreach Coordinator(s) review applications & approve all who meet the required guidelines.
 - Applicants have agreed "Yes" to volunteering at least 2 shifts monthly for at least 6 months.
 - Applicants have answered "Yes" to all four Policy Agreement questions.
 - Applicants are at least 16 years of age or older.
 - Applicants are not volunteering to meet Court Ordered Community Service requirements.
- Approved applicants are moved to "In Process" status and are sent an email welcoming them to the program and informing them of the next steps to get started.

Step 2 – On-boarding Flow for "In Process" Volunteers:

- Complete three required eLearning modules
 - Volunteer Orientation
 - Introduction to Enrichment
 - My Impact Training
- Sign-Up for first Enrichment Shift
- Complete four Enrichment Shifts
- Volunteers are moved to "Accepted" status and are sent an email congratulating them on completing their onboarding and informing them of their current capabilities & next steps.

Step 3- Accepted Volunteers:

- Accepted Volunteers are eligible for the following:
 - Continue to sign up for Enrichment Shifts
 - Sign up for general help shifts such as Laundry/Dishes, Donation Sorting, Foster Prep, and Adoption Center Check-In
- Accepted volunteers may also complete eLearnings to begin working in our Animal Handling Programs – Canine Companions and Feline Friends
 - After completing eLearnings for these programs, volunteers must complete a minimum of one Shadow Shift with an experienced volunteer before signing up for shifts on their own.





Requested Updates

- Spay/neuter appointments
 - Current spay and neuter policy: Animals can be adopted without being sterilized.
 - Rationale: Remove adoption barriers, lower shelter stay duration, and address high shelter population crisis. This can result in a decrease in spay and neuter services as the goal is to minimize the animals length of stay. However the biggest challenge facing shelters today is a lack of low cost veterinary services.
 - Support: Industry leaders like Best Friends Animal Society endorse this policy.
 - Sterilization agreement: Digital record attached to unaltered animals, including surgery date and legal consequences for non-compliance.
 - Waitlist: Animals without scheduled surgery dates are added to a waitlist; staff schedules and communicates surgery dates to adopters.
 - RFP for spay and neuter services: Animal Alliance submitted a single bid of \$191,000, \$91,000 over the original contract.
 - Reason for Animal Alliance's price increase: Inability to subsidize negotiated price beyond the 10% decrease in pricing already offered to shelters.
 - Alternative solution: Laurel's House is open to a contract but cannot guarantee weekly visits due to veterinarian shortage; they can schedule 2-4 visits per month based on availability.
 - Best Friend's article: The paradox of adopting out unaltered animals
 - <https://network.bestfriends.org/proven-strategies/editorials/adopting-out-unaltered-animals>.



Year To Date Summary



Dog Live Release Rate
97%



April Live Release
95%



Cat Live Release Rate
93%

