

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF JUNE, 2024

The Caddo Parish Animal Services Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Thomas, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Blake, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: None (0).

Mr. Jones gave the invocation, and Mr. J. Young led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to expand the agenda and add discussion regarding promoting changes for the spay/neuter ordinance under New Business.*

The Chair opened a public hearing for anyone to speak in favor or against the agenda addition. There being no one to speak either way, the Chair closed the public hearing.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Blake, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lorraine Guerrero came before the Committee and gave the following comment:

The [inaudible] that you have is a shot record that Nova's Heart, a non-profit that takes care of pets of the veterans, homeless, low-income, and disabled—those are our shot records for the last four years. And that's just shot records; that's not people that we actually serve because some people don't bring their animals in for shots. I'm trying to see what I wrote here. I'm Lorraine Guerrero. I run a non-profit called Nova's Heart. Like I told you, we take care of the pets of the veterans, disabled, low-income, and homeless. I live in Southern Hills, by the way. 95% of the people that we serve at Nova's Heart don't know anything about animal ordinances until we educate them, and we always try to educate. I know they're tired of hearing—it's a lot of spay/neuter. If you don't want to have your animal spay/neutered, there's a breeder's license that you have to get. They're tired of hearing that. I also serve on the Animal Services Committee at Caddo Parish Animal Control that meets on aggressive dogs and bite cases. I would be willing to bet you that 99% of the animals that we see on those cases are not spay/neutered, which in itself, presents a problem. There are new shelters all around us, Bossier, Marshall, Longview, Desoto are relatively new shelters. We need to kind of push on into the future instead of living in the back because our shelters are woefully unequipped to handle the 600+ animals that come in May. You know, Animal Control, needs the manpower to enforce the laws that we have on the books; and they need the manpower to properly take care of the laws. I'm not trying to get into religion here, but in Proverbs 12:10 says that the righteous care for the needs of their animals, but even the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. While animals were created for the use of mankind, we also are expected to respect, to care for those animal, and not to abuse them. A wicked person's approach to animals can't be anything more than cruelty even in their mercy of such cases is relatively harsh and abusive. Cruelty in animals as seen today and staged dog fights, starving animals, animal beatings, and then neglecting the proper care of pets and abandoning helpless animals. As the governing authority of animal control, I feel like its your job to help in every way you can to decrease this problem. You can make a difference in our nationwide perception of being "let's kill all the animals we can facility" into a "let's save all the animals we can facility". Spay/neuter is the only thing that's going to stop that overpopulation of animals.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discuss and make recommendations regarding Ordinance No. 6437 of 2024, an ordinance to amend and re-enact "Chapter 8—Animals & Fowl," of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to recommend to the full body Ordinance No. 6437 of 2024, an ordinance to amend and re-enact "Chapter 8—Animals & Fowl," of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

Mr. J. Young went through the ordinance and provided a summary of the changes being recommended to the full body.

At this time, Mr. J. Young's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Blake, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- *Discussion regarding promoting changes for the spay/neuter ordinance*

Mr. Thomas said that spay/neuter will help Caddo receive the status of a less kill shelter.

He would like to look at new and creative ways of getting this information out to the public.

Ms. Beauchamp said that they are doing a multi-faceted approach to make the public aware of the spay/neuter ordinance. She said that they will provide an easy-to-read handout to rescue partners, ACOs, etc. for the public, along static billboards and social media campaign.

Mr. J. Young suggested doing radio ads.

Mr. Jones would like some of the handouts for his townhall meetings.

Mr. Thomas announced that Voucher Assistance Day is tomorrow, June 18, where a citizen could come and provide their information to Animal Services to get their pets fixed for free. Mr. Clark said not to bring the pet tomorrow because they will only be setting appointments tomorrow.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know if there was any type of obedience training available through the Parish for the dogs. Mr. Clark said that Animal Services does not do the training, but they do provide pamphlets to citizens for the animals.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 2:31 p.m.


Assistant to the Commission Clerk