



June 13, 2023

Animal Control Board Members:

Barbara McKenzie
 Myla Chapman
 Kristi Thomas
 Gloria McCain
 Becky Sheffield

Clayton County Police Department:

Captain Turnipseed-Joined later in meeting
 Tiffany Phillips
 India Mitchell-Joined later in meeting

Public

Linda Ingram
 Maria Dorough, PFP
 Judith Davis
 Carey Housen
 Katherine Lowery
 Dianne Betts

Donnalesa Starkey
 Thomas Johnson
 Angela Scarborough
 Jennifer Sutton

- The meeting was called to order by Barbara McKenzie and the board approved the agenda for the meeting. The minutes of the March 14, 2023, meeting was approved.
- The first speaker was from Tiffany Phillips with statistics through May 31, 2023.

TOTAL	Intake PY 2022	YTD 2023	Adopted PY 2022	YTD 2023	Rescue PY 2022	YTD 2023	Reclaim PY 2022	YTD 2023	Euthanized PY 2022	YTD 2023
All	3206	1306	691	290	1573	635	491	155	384*	181**
Dogs	2678	1076	582	235	1235	505	483	152	330	170
Cats	482	202	92	44	329	129	6	3	40	11
Other	34	28	19	1	12	1	2	0	0	0

**Of the 384 animals euthanized in prior year 2022, 257 were in shelter euthanizations and 127 were from road where officer responded to injured animal.*

***Of the 181 animals euthanized YTD in 2023, 86 were in shelter euthanizations and 95 were from road where officer responded to injured animal.*

- Other disclosures:
YTD return for Animals Adopted: 12 Animals. All were dogs.
Owner Surrenders: 95 Animals. 48 dogs, 46 cats, 1 other.
Current Euthanasia Rate: 6.04% in shelter.

Rescue Numbers YTD:

All About the Animals	29	Peachstate Animal	17
Bullywag	19	Poor Paws	136
Dogwood Trails	54	Rescue Cats	21
Clovers in the Ruff	25	Safe Haven Furever	16
Clayton Humane	5	TLC Pet Rescue	15
Fayette Humane	10	Wags & Wiggles	40
Friedas/TNR	41	Wet Noses	27
Furkids	50		
Kitten Corner & Puppies	20		

- Old Business

Board member Gloria McCain asked about the status of credit card machines for animal control facilities.

Tiffany Phillips reported that the credit card machines have arrived at both CCAC locations and should be started into use in 2 to 3 weeks once staff are trained in usage.

- New Business

Becky Sheffield made a statement that the board needs to begin official work sessions on forming a spay and neuter ordinance for Clayton County using the research done by board members and community members over the past few months. "We need to take this information of what seems to work in other counties and cities and form a working spay/neuter guidelines for the county." She also mentioned that there is a wide variance of how other cities and counties enforce these laws. Some are handled all through Animal Control while others are fined through citations and must go to County Court to pay fines. "We need to think about what we think will be the most effective way to reach our goal." She added that she and another board member would be visiting Spalding County Animal Control in the next week to learn more about their Spay/Neuter Ordinance and how it is implemented at their facility.

- The floor was opened for public discussion. Speakers were reminded that they should address the board members and not each other. Also, comments must remain respectful of everyone here and are limited to 3 minutes per person with two questions per topic.
- Katherine Lowery spoke and was concerned about where these dogs are going when they leave the shelter. She mentioned Poor Paws, a rescue that has pulled 136 dogs from Clayton in 5 months and asked if anyone knows where they are really going. She encouraged everyone to watch a movie "Free Puppies" a film about animal rescue in the south and was filmed in Georgia. It is available on

Amazon. She went on to tell us about the poem "Urgent List, turns Pups for Profit!" "Getting a freedom ride is not always freedom to some of these dogs, sometimes they are going to worse situations." She went on to read the poem about a dog rescued shelter only to be contained again in a warehouse full of crates and cages and left with little or no food or water.

- Linda Ingram said that she blames the overcrowding and dogs being euthanized on the people of Clayton County and not the staff. She went on to say that Captain Turnipseed cares and that she and the vet have terrible decisions to make about the euthanasia of these animals.
- Judith Davis said that the county needs to enlist the help of veterinarians for spay and neuter. "Everyone takes their dogs to the vet and these vets know which ones are not altered." She suggested the tracing of tags with vet offices assistance.
- Donna Lesa Starkey suggested that advocates and volunteers march on the State Capital to bring awareness to the animal issues in Clayton County and much of Georgia. She also asked about adoption events and why certain portions of the Ellenwood shelter are not accessible to the public. The reply was that there are offices and staff with personal belongings in those areas.
- Maria Dorough with Partners for Pets asked if CCAC had considered lowering the adoption fee which is currently \$95 for dogs and \$65 for cats. She stated that other counties even have free adoptions from time to time. She offered that whatever the adoption fee is reduced by Partners would pay the difference as an incentive.
She also answered that Poor Paws, the rescue that has pulled 136 dogs in 2023, is out of state but does have a Georgia License and pulls from Clayton to help other rescues that cannot pull because they do not have a license. The rescue then completes a transfer document (Dept of Ag paperwork) to legally transfer the dog to the other rescue. "This rescue gets no money for this and merely does this to help get the dogs out and to other rescues that do have space for them."
- Thomas Johnson spoke that he has volunteered and been part of a youth program through W-Underdogs and that he experienced abuse as part of that program. He provided a lengthy written statement of his experiences with this rescue group and their founder, Grace Hamlin, Copies of the documents were provided to officers.
- Carey Housen said that she had asked about a local trailer park in the past and why CCAC will not pick-up animals there. This is Tara Mobile home park, and it is her understanding now that animals are no longer allowed in the trailers and fears that animals will just be turned loose on their own and CCAC will not pick them up.

She also asked about a trap for the trailer park to help trap the animals. Tiffany Phillips replied that the trailer park is private property, and they must be called by management to come onto the property. The park was previously provided with a trap, and it was lost and not returned to CCAC so another one cannot be issued to them. Ms. Housen asked if she could pay for the trap so that another could be issued to them. The reply was yes from Ms. Phillips.

- Jennifer Sutton spoke next and explained that she often transports dogs from the shelter to rescues and boarding facilities. She stated that there needs to be more transparency of where these dogs are going and that not all rescues are good situations for the dogs. She is concerned and cautions that just because they are leaving the shelter does not always mean they are going to a better place. She also stated that she would like to see rescue advocates work on all the dogs at animal control and everyone needs to work together.
- Another member of the public said that she thought any animal coming into the shelter should be spayed/neutered automatically before they are reclaimed by the owner. "This way we at least know that the ones getting out are getting fixed." Tiffany Phillips commented that this could not be legally done as pets are property in Georgia and the county would not be able to automatically perform a surgery on a dog that belongs to citizen.
- Angela Scarborough mentioned that she volunteered extensively at Heard County last year after the Dogs Rock Rescue raid. She said it is very important to know where the dogs go after they leave shelters. She was positive about future spay/neuter possibilities for the county but said that education on this issue is very important for the public to accept it and to understand the process.
- Comment from Barbara McKenzie: This concluded the business for today's meeting. The next meeting date will be September 12, 2023.
- Meeting Adjourned

Capt. J. Turnipseed _____ Date _____
Animal Control Commander

Major S. Schindler _____ Date _____
Animal Control Commander