

Minutes for the Meeting of the  
**Mayor's Task Force for the Stamford Animal Control Center**  
April 14, 2014, 6:30pm  
Democratic Caucus Room, Government Center

Task Force information including agendas, minutes, and video of meetings can be found at:  
<http://www.stamfordct.gov/animal-control-task-force>

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The meeting was called to order at 6:39pm. In attendance were Chair Eileen Heaphy, Mary Ann Kleinschmitt, New Canaan Animal Control Officer, Theresa Geary Connecticut Humane Society, and Attorney Brenden Leydon. Also in attendance were Corporation Counsel Kathryn Emmett, Assistant Corporation Counsel Michael Toma, SACC Animal Control Manager Tilford Cobb, and SPD Lt. Nick Montagnese.

Chair Eileen Heaphy reviewed the contents of the Mayor's Report, it should have summation, speakers and public, sub group activity – new site, feral cats; ACC Managers report; welfare groups, and ordinance. Eileen reviewed the binder report tabs.

#### Animal Control Officer Report

ACO Tilford Cobb – there were 100 calls for service in March, in April there have been 58 calls already. In March there were 85 visitors, in April there have been 53 visitors so far. Currently have 14 dogs in house, 9 adoptable, 4 cats. 7 total adoptions in March – 2 by rescue groups, 3 cats, 3 dogs and 1 horse. 7 adoptions so far in April – 3 dogs, 3 horses and 1 guinea pig. New program "New Leash on Life" to support unadoptable cases for sponsorship. Volunteer orientation, approx. 30 volunteers, new facebook group, volunteer activities. Pet Food Pantry partnership is near completion (Star Relief) to help families in economic difficulty to get free food for their pets, rather than giving them up. They are working on information web site for ACC.

#### Ordinance Review

White sections have already been approved – review covered colored sections.

11-6.B – Tethering – from State Statute. Mary Ann asked about shelter and water available to a tethered pet – should be available within length of the tether. There was discussion around enforcing and timing/length of tethering.

Vaccination of cats – feline distemper has been an annual requirement by vets. Section C – adding distemper to ferals, too. There will be an added cost. It was decided not to change the wording.

111-10 A-F – Eileen will add feline distemper. Eileen will add Kennel Cough wording and will check with Steve Zeide about the proper wording for the vaccinations.

Rabbits Section – There was agreement to keep age out, Eileen will remove. Regarding rabbits being slaughtered for food, Eileen will work on appropriate way of saying killing should be done “in a manner not to cause alarm or disturbance to neighbors”.

111-11(12) Eileen checking numeration.

Animals in vehicles – Language to prohibit pet’s riding in the driver’s lap riding was added. Public property language was moved. There was discussion around adoption events on public property. Eileen will add language saying “Adoption Events are excepted from prohibition”, or similar language.

Breeding – Permits should be required for each female. Fee should be each year and ACC will be allowed to inspect. Eileen will add the exclusion of livestock or poultry from the breeding section. Litters – amounts added. Tilford said tough to enforce for all animals. Eileen will change to just “dogs, cats and rabbits”. Focused on overpopulating species. So if one gets pregnant by accident, you would pay the fine and get them spayed.

Breeding space – Eileen will add “space appropriate for breed and species”. C-2 – clarify here by adding “yearly inspection”. Eileen will add to Section D-1, time that shelter will hold – 14 days – for breeder to get license. Eileen will add some kind of appeal process to this section. Tilford supports keeping this language in. Eileen will fix and send out for approval, also send to cat group.

Kathy Emmett distributed documents on adoption policy and on the volunteer program for the Mayor’s Report.

Eileen will gather and finalize remaining documents.

Eileen thanked the members for all of their work and time, and thanked the volunteer groups for their input.

Brendan asked about new site status. Eileen reviewed various locations they have visited and will include recommendations in the Mayor’s Report.

Eileen anticipated inviting press and may do an op/ed for the newspaper, when the Mayor’s Report is ready.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Ruther  
Office of Public Safety