

Animal Care and Control Oversight Commission  
Meeting Minutes January 28, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

ACCOC MEMBERS PRESENT: Veronica Dougherty, Ricky Lewis, Mary Rodgers, Lyn Yelton (Chair)

ACCA STAFF: Jen Callahan, Eddie Crick, Jerry Hawkins, and Crystal Literal

COUNTY STAFF: Al Wein (Administrator), Jason Allison (Attorney), Alan McCarthy (Council member)

Meeting began at 7:05 PM

The Commission reviewed minutes from meeting date 11/5/2014. The Commission approved the minutes for publication.

Administrative

The Commission set the next meeting date for Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

Animal Care and Control Authority (ACCA) Quarterly Report Review

A Buddy for Life (ABFL) reviewed the quarterly report with the Oversight Commission. They summarized the Animal Care and Control statistics for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of calendar year 2014. Animal Control handled 333 cases and issued 18 citations, which should have yielded the county \$4,410.00. They responded to 35 calls for assistance from government agencies and issued 96 dog licenses. ABFL took in \$1,420.00 in redemption fees and expenses for the quarter totaled \$178,883.52.

Jen Callahan explained the procedures for evaluating and handling potentially aggressive dogs, which include previous owner interviews, staff interaction with the dog, food aggression testing, temperament testing, and evaluation by an experienced dog trainer (Wendy Young).

Animal Control officer, Jerry Hawkins, explained the process for responding to calls regarding potential animal abuse or neglect. According to Mr. Hawkins, an Animal Control officer conducts a visual inspection of the situation and leaves one or more notices on the door making the property owner aware of the complaint. If the property owner does not respond, a citation may be issued. Mr. Hawkins clarified that in cases of suspected neglect or abuse a veterinarian should examine the animal and confirm that the animal is in danger. If neglect or abuse is confirmed, the Animal Control officer may obtain a search and seizure warrant to remove the animal from the property.

Ms. Callahan reported that they have increased their volunteer program and currently have between 25-30 active volunteers. She also reported that through fundraising efforts and with donations from the VFW, the play-yards will be re-graded to resolve existing drainage issues. In addition, their cat-room walls have received a fresh coat of paint.

Old Business

ABFL completed inspections for all commercial, hobby, and boarding kennels that are known to them, with the exception of one. Ms. Callahan clarified that, in addition to their Officer Hawkins, who conducts their county licensing inspections, ABFL is also inspected on a quarterly basis by other Cecil County representatives and an independent veterinarian from Pennsylvania.

Lyn Yelton noted that animal adoption rates are significantly up since 2013. Mrs. Yelton expressed concern about the cost of care per animal per day. Ms. Callahan explained that these costs cover basic veterinary costs, including vaccinations, parasite testing and treatment, examination by the vet, de-worming, feline leukemia and

