**Prince William County Animal Advisory Committee (AAC) Minutes**

**Oct 21, 2024**

* **Member Attendance**
  + 1. Patti Bright, Chair Present
    2. Ron Crigger Present
    3. Kelly Easterly Present
    4. Melissa Korzuch Present
    5. Eric Fagerholm Present
    6. Anthony Cleveland, Bureau Chief Present
    7. Laura Haufler Present
    8. Emine Rowe Present
    9. Noelle Shott Not Present
    10. Jen Cole Not Present
    11. Olivia LoBalbo Present
    12. Samantha Mir Present

* **Citizens’ Time**
* 6 PWC Shelter Volunteers attended the meeting, introduced themselves and shared the types of activities they participate in at the Shelter (dog walking, fostering, organizing fund raising events).
* **Call to Order** – at 7:05 pm by Chair Bright

* **Approval of Previous Minutes**
  + No Minutes from September, there was not a quorum so no official meeting/discussions took place.
  + Note -minutes from August meeting have not yet been approved. (AAC Members please also review attached August Minutes for approval at next AAC meeting)
* **Old Business**
* AAC Membership
  + Congratulations and welcome to Samantha Mir the new AAC member appointed as pet owner representative by Chair Jefferson.
  + Noted that the at-large Animal Rescue Representative position is still vacant. Kelly will reach out to Virginia Douglas in Supervisor Jefferson’s office to request that a Rescue Representative be appointed. Kelly previously spoke with Ms. Douglas.
  + Committee discussed whether a Foster rep should also be proposed to be added to the AAC. Determined for now that this perspective can be brought to the AAC by the Rescue Rep. Committee may choose to revisit this in the future.
  + Eric mentioned that Chair Jefferson’s Office held a get together to thank At-Large committee members from across the various County Advisory Committees. AAC At- Large members were not aware of the gathering. Need to reach out the Chairs Office to ensure AAC is on the list.
  + Kelly will reach out to the Chairs Office to set up a meeting for the Chair and Vice Chair to meet with Supervisor Jefferson’s staff. Topics: raise awareness of AAC, request assistance in filling the Rescue Rep vacancy, discuss proposed AAC Resolutions including one to update the Mission of the AAC and add 2 additional reps for Livestock and Wildlife), Dog Licensing, and discuss opportunities to collaborate with PWCS and getting info added to the PWCS Strategic plan regarding an animal science CTE Class.
* AERO 10-year Anniversary
  + Congratulations to AERO. The AAC appreciates the benefits AERO provides to county residents and to native wildlife.
* Animal Welfare Updates
  + Noelle was not present; no updates.
  + Note: The following sites provide info on cases; Noelle scans these monthly:
  + Track and report PWC Animal Abuse/ Cruelty Cases:
    - <https://www.pwcva.gov/department/police/arrests>
  + Track Virginia judicial system cases
    - [Virginia Judiciary Online Case Information System (state.va.us)](https://eapps.courts.state.va.us/ocis/search)
* Dog License update
  + Copy of the Resolution (ATTACHMENT 1) is ready to be sent forward to the clerk of the BOCS
* MERCY Program
  + Dr. Joanne Ondrush, the Chair of the Sustainability Committee at UVA Manassas contacted the AAC Chair. Blue towel drapes used for wrapping sterilized surgical equipment are thrown away after 1 use. Dr. Ondrush being sterilized. These are thrown away after one use creating a lot of landfill waste. She has created a protype dog bed using the drapes, was wondering if shelter or rescues groups would be interested.
  + Also discussed supplies the shelter and rehabbers could use if the hospital is getting rid of equipment the AAC has requested an X-ray machine (for the shelter) and a blood lead diagnostic machine for AERO.
  + Patti is preparing a survey to go out to rehabbers to compile their requests. Patti will reach out to new shelter vet to get her input on what the shelter will need for the vet suite.
* Meeting with Chief Newsham on Sept. 4
* Discussed the meeting with Chief Newsham, Major Jacques Poirier,

and Deputy Chief Lt. Col. Kim Chisley-Missouri

* AAC members not in attendance requested that a written summary be provided (ATTACHMENT 2)

VI **New Business**

* Community Cat Coalition.
* In Feb. 2024 the Prince William SPCA distributed a Community Cat Survey. In May a Community Cat Coalition was started; meetings are held on the 4th Wed. of each month. Nancy Tarr from the Prince William County Animal Services Center is involved in this effort. Goal of the Coalition is to break down silos, increase collaboration and facilitate leveraging/sharing of resources among feral cat organizations. The Prince William SPCA supports the Coalition administratively and hosts information on its website.
* The Prince William SPCA, through the Coalition, is currently doing a pilot project in zip code areas 22191 and 22193. SADSAC and Cat Tales of Prince William are participating. Trapped cats are taken to Anicira Veterinary hospital for surgery and chipping. The goal is to sponsor $20,000 in spay/neuter surgeries and collect data to use for additional funding sources, such as grants.
* The Coalition has revisited and advanced the code change request that was discussed at the AAC.
* **Shelter Updates**
  + Annual Open House was held on Sunday Sept. 22nd, 34 animals adopted!
  + Planning to hold a “Black Furday” event for Thanksgiving
  + Dr. Kim Nelson started as the new shelter veterinarian on Sept. 30
  + Shelter in the process of gaining their licensure as a veterinary facility; once obtained spays, neuters etc. can be performed at the shelter.
  + Intakes:
* Live Domestic Intakes – 314
* Adoptions – 210
* Redemptions – 54
* Transfers – 10
* Wildlife euth. – 8
* Adj. Live Release rate – 91%

* **Follow-up Action Items**
* Approval of AAC Minutes from Aug. meeting (attached)
  + Finalize and submit to the Clerk of the BOCS:
* Dog Licensing Resolution
* Zoning Resolution (ATTACHMENT 3)
* AAC Mission and membership update Resolution (ATTACHMENT 4)
  + Follow up on CTE
  + Draft Report of Accomplishments to share with BOCS
  + Chair and Vice-Chair will arrange a time to meet with BOCS Chair to discuss Resolutions, etc.
* **Adjournment**
  + Ms. LoBalbo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Easterly seconded the motion.

Drafted by: Patti Bright

Next Meeting: **December 3, 2024**

***ATTACHMENT 1*** *(Re: Dog Licensing)*

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY**

**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**POLICY RESOLUTION No. 240917**

WHEREAS, the Animal Advisory Committee (“AAC”) is a committee, appointed by the Prince William County Board of Supervisors. It is comprised of 13 members, which include a pet owner from each magisterial district, a pet owner nominated by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, and several At-Large positions including the following representatives: a Veterinarian or Veterinary technician; the Prince William SPCA; an animal rescue organization; the pet retail, grooming and (or) boarding industry, and a County Police Officer or employee of the Prince William County Animal Services Division; and

WHEREAS, the AAC provides advice to the Board of County Supervisors on improving policies, increasing community outreach, seeking outside grant funding for animal welfare initiatives, and supporting requests from Animal Control/Animal Services. The AAC may also make recommendations to the Board of County Supervisors on programs, classes, and special events to further assist Prince William County in providing the best possible animal welfare services to the community: and

WHEREAS, § 4-42 and 43 of the Prince William County Code, imposes a license tax on dogs annually predicated on a valid/current Rabies vaccine. Rabies vaccinations can be valid for up to three years; and

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6530, allows for licensing to be issued equal to the Rabies vaccination effective period, and;

WHEREAS, other counties (e.g., Loudoun County) permit paying the dog license tax in advance for up to a period of three years which provides a benefit to county residents/taxpayers by eliminating the need to pay the tax annually taxpayers save time and potentially money (in terms of annual processing fees); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AAC is requesting a directive be issued by the Board of County Supervisors to County Staff to review and recommend changes to the current County Code to benefit taxpayers and the County, specifically, permitting the issuance of a three-year dog license concurrent with the effective period of a Rabies vaccination.

Signed on Behalf of the Prince William County Animal Advisory Committee:

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Dr. Patti Bright, Chair

***ATTACHMENT 2*** *( Summary of Meeting with Chief Newsham)*

**AAC Meeting with PWC Police Chief and Staff**

**Sept. 4, 2024**

**In Attendance**

* PWC Police Department:

Police Chief Newsham,

Major Jacques Poirier,

Deputy Chief Lt. Col. Kim Chisley-Missouri

* AAC Members**:**

Patti Bright, Chair

Olivia LoBalbo

Kelly Easterly

Melissa Korzuch

Noelle Shott

Eric Fagerholm

Anthony Cleveland, Bureau Chief

Laura Haufler

Emine Rowe

**Topics Discussed**

* Patti and Olivia presented information on secondary poisonings of wildlife and domestic animals due to ingestion of lead shot in carcasses. Requested that the Police Department consider switching to non-lead shot for euthanizing of animals (e.g., deer hit be vehicle) to prevent secondary poisoning in predators and scavengers that feed on carcasses.
* Pet Store Code Changes to allow ACO to perform inspections
* Opportunities for adding additional training for officers re: Animal Cruelty Cases. Attorney Michelle Welch has training courses and materials she can provide. Chief Newsham is interested in an on-line course that they could offer. Also discussed working with Amy Ashworth Office to provide information on what they need to successfully prosecute.
* Additional Training Opportunities:

Laura mentioned Throw Away Dogs provided: Law and Order Seminars

***ATTACHMENT 3*** *(Re: Zoning/ Pet Shop Resolution )*

**Prince William County  
Animal Advisory Committee  
Policy Resolution No. XXXX**

WHEREAS, the Animal Advisory Committee (may be referred to as “AAC”) is an appointed committee, appointed by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors and is composed of 11 members comprising of a pet owner from each magisterial district, a pet owner nominated by the Chair of Supervisors, Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician, and members from the Prince William SPCA, Animal Rescue Organization, a County Resident in Pet Retail, Grooming or Boarding Industry and a County Police Officer or Employee of the Animal Shelter; and

WHEREAS, Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6500[[1]](#footnote-1) Definitions, " “Pet shop” means a retail establishment where companion animals are bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale or exchange to the general public”; and

WHEREAS, Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6511.1[[2]](#footnote-2) Pet shops; procurement of dogs; penalty, “A pet shop shall sell or offer for adoption a dog procured only from a humane society; a private or public animal shelter … pursuant to enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, Code of Virginia, § 3.2-5901.1[[3]](#footnote-3) State Animal Welfare Inspector, will conduct at least one unannounced inspection of each pet shop selling dogs and cats annually. Pet shops are subject to losing or limiting their required registration, or probation, for violations. Local animal police and animal control officers continue to have authority to prosecute for violation of animal care and treatment laws.”; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AAC is requesting a directive be issued by the Board of County Supervisors to County Staff to review and recommend County Code, licensure changes, and / or zoning changes to ensure adequate care is provided for dogs and cats in Pet Shops. This directive and subsequent County Code amendments will support implementation of Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6501.1[[4]](#footnote-4) Regulations for the keeping of certain animals, “by July 1, 2022… adopt comprehensive regulations governing the keeping of dogs and cats by any pet shop.”

Signed on behalf of the Prince William County Animal Advisory Committee:

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Dr. Patricia Bright, AAC Chair Date

***ATTACHMENT 4*** *(Draft Resolution - Updates to ACC Mission and Membership)*

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY**

**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**POLICY RESOLUTION No. XXXX**

* WHEREAS, the Animal Advisory Committee (“AAC”) is a committee, appointed by the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS). It is comprised of 13 members, including seven pet owners (appointed from each magisterial district and by the Chair of the BOCS), four at-large positions (Veterinarian or Veterinary technician; the Prince William SPCA; an animal rescue organization; and the pet retail, grooming and/or boarding industry representative,) and a County Police Officer or employee of the Prince William County Animal Services Division; and
* WHEREAS, the AAC Mission’s is to provide advice to the BOCS on improving policies, increasing community outreach, seeking outside grant funding for animal welfare initiatives, and supporting requests from Prince William County Animal Services. The AAC may also make recommendations to the BOCS on programs, classes, and special events to further assist Prince William County in providing the best possible animal welfare services to the community: and
* WHEREAS, the County has changed dramatically since the AAC’s inception in 2009 having undergone significant changes in population numbers and land-use. Per the 2021 Census, PWC is now the second-most populous locality in the state with 482,200 residents (an increase of 20%, since 2010). Changes are expected to continue, with the County having a predicted population of 569,500 by 2040: and
* WHEREAS, the types of animal welfare related concerns and issues raised by county residents have also evolved in response to these changes. For example, due to the increased development in the County there is a significant increase in the number of interactions between wildlife and people and between wildlife and domestic animals resulting in increased requests from citizens for assistance with injured wildlife: and
* WHEREAS, abiding by the current AAC Mission hinders the AAC from providing relevant timely advice to the BOCS on issues of concern to county residents such as trapping and transport of injured wildlife, reducing feral cat populations via spay/neuters programs, partnering with the Prince William County School system to create educational opportunities to meet the future workforce needs of PWC businesses, improving prosecution of animal cruelty cases, and ensuring livestock owners have a voice at the table regarding both policy and training opportunities: and
* WHEREAS, given the types of issues now being brought to the AAC, Committee members have identified as a gap the lack of perspectives and expertise on the AAC from the wildlife rescue community and from livestock owners.
* THIS NEEDS ADDRESSESD: The AAC does not comment on, or consider matters relating to, farming, livestock, beekeeping, fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife, circuses, zoos, private persons, private property, animal-testing facilities or educational institutions.
* NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AAC is requesting that the BOCS review and approve 1) the proposed changes to the AAC Mission and 2) the addition of two new at-large positions that will represent the interests of the wildlife rehabilitation and livestock owners to better represent and meet the needs of County residents and to better serve the BOCS by providing timely updates and recommendations based on the current needs and concerns of County residents.
* Signed on Behalf of the Prince William County Animal Advisory Committee:

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Dr. Patricia Bright, AAC Chair Date

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1. https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-6500/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title3.2/chapter65/section3.2-6511.1/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5901.1/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-6501.1/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)