AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call


4. Items of Business
   - From Animal Control Committee: Discussion on revised Animal Control Standard Operating Procedures

5. Review Board Action Items

6. Executive Session

7. Public Comment

8. Questions from the Media

9. Adjournment
Kendall County, Illinois
Committee of the Whole

Thursday, December 12, 2013
County Office Building, Board Room 209-210
111 W. Fox Road, Yorkville IL
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order
The Committee of the Whole was called to order by Chair John Shaw at 4:00p.m., who led the
group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call
Members Present: Amy Cesich - here, Lynn Cullick - here, Elizabeth Flowers - present, Judy
Gilmour – here, Dan Koukol - here, Matt Prochaska - here, John Shaw - aye, Jeff Wehrli – here;
John Purcell arrived at 4:10p.m.

Members Absent: Scott Gryder

Others Present: Leslie Johnson, Jim Smiley, Dr. Amaal Tokars, Jeff Wilkins

Items of Business

➢ From Animal Control Committee – Recommend Standard Operating Procedures for
Kendall County Animal Control Department and Rescind Previously Adopted Policies
and Procedures – Anna Payton reviewed the new Standard Operating Procedures and
additions and changes with the Committee.

➢ From Admin HR Committee - Approval for the State’s Attorney’s Office to conduct a
Human Resources Audit including a Formal Review of Job Descriptions – Assistant
State’s Attorney Leslie Johnson, reviewed the reasons for a Human Resources Audit, and
topics to be covered in the audit which would include Management, Hiring, New
Employees, Wages and Hours, Benefits, Employee Relations/Employment Practices,
Safety and Security, Discrimination and Employee Rights, Workers’ Compensation,
Employee Separation, Recordkeeping and Other Documentation, and a review of all Job
Descriptions.

Old Business – None

Review Draft Board Agenda – Mr. Shaw asked the committee to review the draft agenda.

After consulting with Leslie Johnson, Amy Cesich wanted new wording for the Animal Control
item listed on the agenda. The wording should read as “Approval of standard operating
procedures for Kendall County Animal Control Department and rescind Kendall County Animal
Control Policies and Procedures (Revised November 2004)”.

Matthew Prochaska requested that Item 14 – D be removed from the agenda, and that Item 13-B-2
wording be changed to Gjovik’s Ford.
Kendall County, Illinois  
Committee of the Whole

**Action Items for the County Board**

- Approval of standard operating procedures for Kendall County Animal Control Department and rescind Kendall County Animal Control Policies and Procedures (Revised November 2004)

- Approval for the State’s Attorney’s Office to conduct a Human Resources Audit including a Formal Review of Job Descriptions

**Public Comment** - None

**Questions from the Media** - None

**Executive Session** – None needed

**Adjournment** – Member Koukol moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting and the motion was seconded by Member Flowers. There being no objection, the Committee of the Whole, at 5:29 p.m. adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Valarie A. McClain  
Administrative Assistant
October 1, 2013

Anna Payton  
Animal Control Warden  
Kendall County Animal Control  
802 West John Street  
Yorkville, IL 60560

Dear Animal Control Warden Payton,

Thank you for contacting the National Animal Control Association (NACA) with regards to best practices in the animal care and control profession. We support your continuing efforts to improve the lives of animals in your care as well the enhancement of the profession as a whole.

In accordance with NACA guidelines, "Animals should not be held in overcrowded conditions nor held for excessive time periods that may be mentally or physically detrimental to the animal's welfare. NACA recognizes that municipal and privately run facilities must maintain euthanasia practices in order to control overcrowding problems including disease transmission, behavior degeneration, and overall health problems." Furthermore, "NACA recommends that each animal holding facility understand their maximum holding capacity and develop sincere policies to avoid these problems that may be considered inhumane themselves" (National Animal Control Association Guidelines - Animal Facility Capacity Limitations).

Therefore, managing a population based on health, temperament and space is a positive step forward in the overall success of an animal shelter. This can only help to serve the purpose of increasing adoptions while decreasing euthanasia.

I wish you continued success in your endeavors. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Leinberger, Jr.  
Board of Directors  
National Animal Control Association
October 3, 2013

Anna Payton
Kendall County Animal Control
802 W. John St
Yorkville, IL 60560

Dear Ms. Payton,

I am responding on behalf of the Illinois Animal Welfare Federation (IAWF) to the request for support in not enforcing a strict 37 day holding period before euthanizing an animal in your care. The IAWF is a member organization made up of humane societies, animal control departments and breed rescue groups, thus we are aware of the incredible challenges your staff must face each and every day. Having to decide the life and death fate of a living being is horrific, especially for those people who have chosen to work in our field because of the love and respect they have for all living creatures. Enacting a strict time limit on animals in your care not only makes this task that much more difficult, it actually is detrimental to our underlying missions as animal welfare professionals.

In the interest of brevity, I will only give one example of how such a policy could be detrimental to your staff’s efforts of saving as many lives as possible. In this example, there are 2 animals in your care. One is on day 36 and one just entered your shelter. The animal on day 36 is a very friendly animal, with no medical or behavioral problems, but just hasn’t found an adoptive family yet. Animal number two is a highly aggressive animal who is very difficult and dangerous to handle. Because of the holding period to give owners an opportunity to reclaim their pet, you must hold the aggressive animal and, if a strict time policy is enacted, euthanize the friendly animal the next day.

We at the IAWF do not like taking the life of an animal, even if they are aggressive, but in my very real example, two animals will be euthanized instead of one. I am not writing to argue how aggressive animals should be handled and/or whether or not euthanasia is the best policy. In this field we have to be realistic and understand that even though it is heart wrenching to do, some animals must be put to sleep for the good of our communities and/or the animal him/herself.

Instead, I am writing to state that we at the IAWF encourage the Kendall County Board of Trustees to not enact a strict time limit on animals in your care. We understand difficult decisions have to be made and do not envy the Board for having to determine the policies surrounding euthanasia, however; time limits have proven to end the life of animals when it wasn’t necessary when the entire animal population was taken into account.

Sincerely,

Tom Van Winkle; President, Illinois Animal Welfare Federation
Humane Society of the United States

How long are animals held at an animal shelter before being adopted or euthanized? What factors affect those decisions?

Most animal shelters have no set time limit for holding an animal. In the vast majority of shelters, decisions about adoption and euthanasia are based on factors that include the temperament and health of the animal, and the space and resources available to humanely house and properly care for the animal.

Some animal shelters take in strays, and many of those facilities have an established holding period for those animals to allow their owners a chance to find and claim them. This stray holding period is typically set by local or state law, so it will vary from one community to the next. While some variation is understandable, The HSUS recommends that shelters hold stray animals for a minimum of five operating days; that period should include a Saturday to ensure that working owners will have every possible chance to claim their lost pets.

Animal shelters should strive to ensure that their animals remain healthy and are given every opportunity to find new homes. If an animal becomes sick, stressed, or exhibits challenging behavior, the shelter should take steps to treat these conditions, working with available veterinary and behavioral assistance, and using responsible foster homes to get the animal into a less stressful environment.

However, if efforts to treat the illness or behavioral problem fail and the animal is not showing signs of recovery, some shelters may not have the resources to continue treatment and may not have access to a reputable rescue group or foster home. In some of these cases, euthanasia may be warranted.

http://www.humanesociety.org/animal_community/resources/qa/common_questions_on_shelters.html#How_many_animals_enter_animal_shelters_e
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Policy Statement on Euthanasia:
The ASPCA does not support euthanasia as the predominant means of managing the pet overpopulation problem. Every effort should be made to place appropriate animals in safe, responsible homes. Euthanasia should be resorted to only when necessary to spare animals from suffering.
http://www.aspca.org/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/euthanasia
County Animal Controls of Illinois Statement

Animal Facility Population Management -

Animals should not be held in overcrowded conditions or held for excessive time periods that may be mentally or physically detrimental to the animal's welfare. Populations within an animal facility should be managed based on mental and physical health and temperament of the animals as well as space availability within the facility while following required holding periods, with the exception of exigent circumstances.

Gregory W. Largent, B.S.
President
County Animal Controls of Illinois