

Meeting Notes, as submitted by Sean Lavin.  
4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board  
September 23, 2009  
Lakewood City Hall, Jury Room  
Lakewood, OH

Attendees:

Councilman Kevin Butler (Board member)  
Mike Stewart, Lakewood ACO (Board member)  
Sean Lavin (Board member, Chair)  
Dr. Bo Rod (Board member)  
Jennifer Bares (Board member)

Not in attendance:

Juleen Russell (Board member)

Meeting began at 7:00pm

Councilman Butler and Sean Lavin began the meeting with a recap of the September 9, 2009 City Council meeting, wherein Council adopted Councilman Butler's revision to Lakewood Ordinance 506.04.

The Board then continued its discussion on the implementation of a Trap-Neuter-Release ("TNR"). Dr. Rog expressed his belief that local veterinarians and technicians would be willing to lend both their support and time to such a program. Mike Stewart also expressed approval for such a program overall, but expressed concern about implementation of it, i.e., the conflict with Lakewood's nuisance and animals-at-large ordinances. Jennifer mentioned that she has numerous contacts with local rescues and would reach out to them for possible participation. Mike explained that the City cannot look to the animal control officers alone to manage and run such a program. Councilman Butler stated that he, as a member of Council, has recently begun hearing more and more about Lakewood's cat population problems.

The Board agreed that the critical problems facing implementation of a program are 1) cost; 2) finding willing vets/technicians; 3) where to house the cats; and 4) releasing the cats back where they were found.

It was agreed that the Board should seek guidance from groups such as CCLAS. Jennifer expressed a strong interest in helping to organize efforts to educate the community on the issue. Sean suggested perhaps an "adopt-a-cat" type program whereby an individual's donation would cover the costs associated with neutering, shots, etc. The Board agreed that community outreach efforts would be vital to establishing a TNR program in Lakewood.

The Board agreed to continue its discussion of the TNR program to our next Board meeting.

The Board then began discussing changes/revisions to Lakewood's animal cruelty statute, 505.09. Mike explained that the statute is so vague that often times the City must rely on other statutes, or case law, to enforce what should be more easily characterized as cruelty. Mike explained that often ACO's must review the statutes looking for a law to enforce, instead of having a one, more centralized, statute to rely on. Sean handed out an article entitled, "Regarding Cruelty to Animals: What Every Attorney Should Know." which sets forth an overview of Ohio's animal cruelty statutes as a reference for future discussions.

Two topics of cruelty that we discussed were the practice of hoarding animals and tethering. We agreed to review the cruelty to animals' statute and to discuss our suggestions for strengthening the law. Councilman Butler agreed to review the Cleveland law on cruelty to animals and speak with Mike about implementing similar language. The Board agreed to revisit the topic of cruelty to animals at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 7 pm in the jury room.

End of Minutes.