**Sedgwick County Animal Care Advisory Board Meeting**

Animal Control  
*Sedgwick County Health Department*  
1015 Stillwell, Wichita, KS 67213 - www.sedgwickcounty.org - TEL: 316-660-7078 - FAX: 316-383-7553  
  
Nika Orebaugh, Animal Control Supervisor

Program Supervisor

**Of September 9, 2021**

**Attendance:**

**Advisory Board**

**Members**- Susan Erlenwein, Debbie Miller, Simone Ward, Laura Adkins, Shelley Seidl, Patricia Miller and Dr. Julie Evans (joined late). Members attended in person, and by Zoom.

**Absent-** Shanti Leiker

**Public**- None

**Sedgwick County Staff**- Nika Orebaugh and Kirk Sponsel

**1. Old Business:**

**A. Minutes:** Discussion and approval of August 12, 2021 minutes. Moved and second by Simone Ward and Shelley Seidl. Approved by majority vote.

**2.** **New Business:**

**A. Bel Aire Exotic Pet Store –** The city of Bel Aire wishes to enter into a contract with Sedgwick County for Animal Control to provide our services within the Bel Aire city limits. An exception is requested for an existing exotic pet shop to continue its business. At our August meeting the Board approved the following motion:

A motion was made by Simone Ward and seconded by Susan Erlenwein to amend Section 5-227, Exceptions to prohibition, of Sedgwick County Code, to add Exotic Pets, located at 6254 E. 37th St N., suites 100, 110 and 120, Wichita, Kansas, to the exception list. Motion passed with four yes and two no votes.

Kirk Sponsel, Assistant County Counselor, attended tonight’s meeting to ask the Board to consider amending this motion. He reviewed this motion with others in the County and questions were raised about the possibility of large primates and other dangerous animals being covered by this exception if the current business sold in the future to new owners with different values.

Board members had an extensive discussion on how to address this issue. The current operations and animals kept at Exotic Pets was reviewed. The longevity of their alligators, and how the company has other locations to send them to when they reach a certain age was reviewed. The Board discussed their education program and use of exotic pets. It was noted that this store has been very helpful in fostering exotic pets (reptiles) for Animal Control when these pets were removed from hoarding/dangerous environments. It was mentioned that if the business changed operations or sold in the future, the Animal Control staff could bring any issues to the Board and the exception could be rescinded. During these discussions the following motion and substitute motions were made before approving the final motion:

1. A motion was made by Laura Adkins and seconded by Simone Ward to keep the August exception previously approved by the Board, but add a limitation to reptiles only. The motion failed by a vote of 3 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention
2. A motion was made by Shelley Seidle and seconded by Debbie Miller to keep the August exception previously approved by the Board, but add a limitation for the existing two alligators and be a temporary holding facility for inherently dangerous reptiles for Law Enforcement and Animal Control. The motion failed by a vote of 2 yes, 3 no, 1 abstention.
3. A motion was made by Laura Adkins and seconded by Susan Erlenwein to keep the August exception previously approved by the Board, but add a limitation to two permanent alligators and be a temporary holding facility for inherently dangerous reptiles for Animal Control and Law Enforcement. The motion failed by a vote of 3 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention.
4. A motion was made by Laura Adkins and seconded by Simone Ward to keep the August exception previously approved by the Board, but add a limitation to two permanent alligators and be a temporary holding facility for inherently dangerous reptiles for Animal Control and Law Enforcement and limit the exception to 25 years. The motion passed by a vote of 5 yes and 2 no.

The final wording is:

Amend Section 5-227, Exceptions to prohibition, of Sedgwick County Code, to add Exotic Pets, located at 6254 E. 37th St N., suites 100, 110 and 120, Wichita, Kansas. Exotic Pets will be limited to two permanent alligators and can be a temporary holding facility for inherently dangerous animals for Animal Control and Law Enforcement.  This exception is limited to 25 years after its inclusion into Section 5-227.

**B. Dog Breeding Regulation Review -** Susan Erlenwein distributed comments made by Kirk Sponsel on the draft Dog Breeding Regulations. These will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**C. Exotic Animal Regulations –** Susan Erlenwein distributed draft exotic animal regulations for the Board to review for the next meeting.

**D. Staff Update-** Nika Orebaugh advised members of the following activities:

* A semi-truck from Chewy came loaded with pet supplies that Animal Control distributed. Prior to distribution, Animal Control told the County Communications Department about this donation. Unfortunately, Communications made an announcement for the public to call Animal Control for the free food (that was not the plan). The phones rang continuously! They did manage to distribute the food to those who called and others.
* Animal Control will participate in Woof Stock on October 2nd.

**4. Public –**None

**5. Adjournment –** The Board agreed to adjourn at 8:00 PM.