**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 March 9, 2023**

**Attendance:**

**Advisory Board**

 **Members** - Susan Erlenwein, Simone Ward, Shelley Duncan, Janna Hays, Shanti Mikolajczyk and Dr. Julie Evans

 **Absent -** Debbie Miller and Patricia Miller

**Public** - Commissioner Howell, Linda Leatherman, Randy Hazen and Heath Hazen

**Sedgwick County Staff** - Nika Orebaugh, Mitch Waegener, Dina Ingram, Dakota Kidd, Chris Steward and Adrienn Clark

**1.** **New Business:** Due to guests who wanted to address the Board, Susan moved New Business to the start of the meeting to allow the guests to leave prior to Old Business if they wished to do so.

**A.** Susan asked the public to review their concerns concerning a neighbor. Linda Leatherman mentioned that she lives around the corner from a neighbor who lets her dogs run anywhere. The neighbor built a fence, but it is not adequate, and the dogs escape. Her daughter was approached by one of these dogs, and started screaming at the dog because she was afraid it would attack. Linda has complained to Animal Control to have the dogs picked up. The neighbor has seven dogs and Linda wants to know what this Board can do to improve our Code so the animals can be picked up as nuisance animals and taken and given to new homes. Randy Hazen said he is the father of Heath, who is the next door neighbor of the neighbor with the seven dogs. Due to the dogs escaping, Randy has to take Heath’s two dogs to his home to protect them while Heath is away. Randy is concerned about the neighbor and her mental state. She has posted lies on Facebook about Heath. He noted that this is an uprising between neighbors. Heath Hazen said it has been brought to his attention that this Board thinks he is the problem. He has sent photos and videos to Animal Control of the dogs. The neighbor, Donna, has accused him of killing one of her dogs. She has called the cops on him 10 times, accusing him of training her dogs to jump the fence. This is a problem. Commissioner Howell verified some points that the dogs constantly get out and constantly bark. The new fence is not completed and she has received 44 citations from Animal Control in 18 months that total $2,204 in fines, and there is one pending.

Susan asked if this was currently an active court case, and was informed it was. She asked Nika if they had similar cases in the past, and how were they resolved. Nika said they had one in Viola with dogs getting out repeatedly. After 18 citations, the owner could not afford to pay the fines and relinquished the dogs to Animal Control. Susan asked about the current regulations that can be used to address this situation. Nika and Adrienn Clark both confirmed that the current regulations address that if the same animal has three offences, it can be taken from the owner. The problem with this case is that all of the dogs are from the same litter and look alike, so it cannot be proven that the offense is from the same dog. Commissioner Howell suggested that after a dog is picked up, it should receive a microchip, and that in future calls, the dogs be scanned to see if they are repeat offenders. Discussion was held on the reliability of microchips and their movement within the dogs’ body. Susan asked Nika to if she knew of other communities with laws that might address this. Nika said there are some. Susan volunteered to create tables to compare other community regulations on addressing this problem. The tables will be sent out to the Board and attending public for review before the next meeting. We will review this at our next meeting and determine what wording to use in a new regulation for Sedgwick County that will provide the Animal Control officers with the tools to use to help solve these problems. There was a short break to allow the public to leave if they wished to. Linda stayed for the rest of the meeting.

**B.** **Other New Business:** There was no other new business to come before the Board.

**2. Old Business:**

**A. Minutes:** Discussion and approval of February 9, 2023 minutes. Moved and seconded by Simone Ward and Shelley Duncan. Approved by majority vote.

**B. Proposed Sedgwick County Animal Shelter:** Susan handed out a draft that outlines an Animal Control portfolio to show the current situations faced by the County Animal Control Department. She also handed out a draft on a proposed new Shelter, which will positively resolve many of the current problems. Discussions were held on the variety of work performed by the Animal Control staff. Additional information needs to be added to both documents to detail activities. The portfolio needs to include costs associated with staff time, mileage, fees, strays and livestock. The problems with the current shelter being at capacity and if a new animal is accepted, a current animal must be euthanized to make room.

**3. Staff Update-** Nika reviewed some of their recent cases.

**4. Public –**No Comments

**5. Adjournment –** The Board agreed to adjourn at 7:35 PM.