



**MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM

Reading of Open Public Meetings Act Statement

I hereby declare that notice has been given to the Herald Times and posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Building, stating the time and place of the following meeting, as required in P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the State of New Jersey. (Sunshine Law).

Flag Salute

ATTENDANCE: Madelyn McCarroll, Dr. Hirsch, Officer Creamer, Karen Buckingham, Rick Eufrasio, Lizzy Holroyd; Tarin Mason, Chuck Marriner; Jen Modica; Monica Sopuch; Dawn Stimmel,

ABSENT: ACO Candell, Crystal Blackburn.

Guest: Betty Little of Animal Welfare Society

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: MAY 17, 2016

**On Motion By: Jen Modica 2nd By: Dr. Hirsch
Approved by all.**

Madelyn spoke about the chart on the back of the agenda regarding loose dogs. Last year there were 350 calls on loose dogs. Many were returned to their owners, but many were not there when the cops arrived. Biggest problem with dogs getting loose is they end up being killed by cars or injured. Rt 9 and Rt 47, as well as the GSP, are all considered Middle Township. Some of them also never get returned to their home. This needs to be addressed so that it frees up officers time. On occasion, dogs have gotten out in packs.

She also spoke about when the Shelter opened in 2005 that their euthanasia rate was 10% for dogs and 47% for cats. Now it is 5.3% for all animals that enter the Shelter, so it has dropped significantly.

Monica questioned what happens to repeat offenders.

Madelyn explained that the first time, they are given a warning and a lot of times ACO Candell will try to work with the people to help them teach their

dogs not to escape. However, people with loose dogs that have no license, on the first offense are given an application and given so many days to get a license. If they do not get a license within the time period allotted, they are then given a ticket. If the animal is taken to the Shelter, they then also have to pay the shelter fee. All situations are different.

Madelyn also spoke about wanting to get more igloos for the winter season coming up. We have 4 new ones at public works, which would hold a Pit Bull size dog, that were donated by a citizen, but she would like to get more in stock.

Betty Little, from the Animal Welfare Society, said they gave quite a few away last year. The Township actually worked with them on getting the houses and distributing them.

Madelyn spoke about our tabling at various functions. However, at the Free Rabies Clinics we have had trouble getting info out as people are busy handling their animals in the line. Tarin will be doing the tabling at the Harvest Fest where we will have info out regarding cold weather care, first aid items, information on how to identify your cat if or when lost and we are also considering holding a raffle, something we will have to check into. We seem to do well at these types of events.

Dr Hirsch questioned whether we know which areas in the Township have the most problems. Also, are there other areas that we could hold the Free Rabies Clinic rather than the public works garage, such as somewhere in one of the areas that we know there are problems. Also suggested maybe doing sessions with children at the schools along with handing out literature.

Rick advised we did not get the microchipping grant that we had applied for through Subaru. He also stated it is common sense on how to keep your dog from escaping; he has never really given it much thought because of that. His suggestion was to have your dog neutered and that should help.

Dr. Hirsch suggested maybe doing different programs and involve different businesses and also work with the Shelter on some programs.

Madelyn stated that when the Shelter offered free microchipping to all Cape May County residents that in 1 month they only did a total of 50 chips, which is very low for a county our size.

Karen suggested maybe reaching out to some of our other boards to see what we all could do to work together.

Madelyn spoke of Pit Bull puppies that are being sold on Swip Swap and how can we regulate the selling of puppies on these sites. She called the person in charge of the breeding laws at the state, and they had changed department's right before Labor Day, so now she has to find out who took their place and speak with them. We need to educate and inform people of the breeding laws

of our state, county and municipality.

Madelyn stated she has also invited other towns to our meeting as it would be nice for all of the municipalities to get together and everyone get on the same page. Hoped that Shelter would be the entity that would pull all the municipalities together.

Dr. Hirsch inquired as to who was in charge of Animal Control in Lower Township. Was told Shore Animal Control who seems to work independently and maybe we should talk to Lenny DeSiderio who is in charge of the Shelter. Maybe we should send a letter regarding uniformity to all municipalities.

Madelyn feels we need to be more proactive rather than reactive with our Animal Control. Suggested maybe having Bill have treats in the truck, and when he sees someone doing the right thing, like when walking their dog or picking up after their dog, get out of the truck and give the dog a snack and thanking the owner for doing the right thing. Also said we are going to order 10 weather/tip resistant bowls and 2 light weight chains with swivels for Bill to keep in his truck to offer to caregivers of needy dogs. The County Shelter has been good with donating leashes and collars for our free rabies clinics. Also going to be buying a drop trap for Bill with the donation money.

Karen was wondering about putting a donation jar out in some of the businesses....call it "Making a Difference in our Community."

Madelyn said she had mentioned that to Tim at one point and he was not comfortable with it. We had also talked about doing a calendar, but the up front cost would be approximately \$700.

Betty questioned if there was a heavy chain law.

Madelyn said yes, but she does not think it is enforced.

Chuck said he has hay and straw if we need it. Bill can get it at his farm. Vote on accepting bales of hay from Chuck's farm...

On Motion By: Chuck Marriner 2nd By: Dr. Hirsch
All in favor,

It was also suggested to maybe write about people doing the right thing on our FB page. Other suggestions brought up: maybe run a monthly contest on our FB page and win a name tag for your dog; another idea was to have your pet dress up for Halloween and post on FB page and give a prize for that.

Lizzy commented on a letter that was sent from the State Health Department to all of the municipalities regarding South Jersey Animal Control. She said she heard Middle was going to hire them as back up for when our animal control officer was unavailable. Madelyn told her we have a couple of backups that have their licenses from the public works department that fill in.
See Attachment "A" (Only letter received by Municipality-is from County

Health Department.

Meeting adjourned 6:14 PM

On Motion: Jen Modica 2nd: Chuck Marriner All approved.

KRISTINE GABOR
Freeholder

KEVIN L. THOMAS, M.A.
Health Officer
Public Health Coordinator

JOSEPH R. TORDELLA, D.O.
Medical Director

CAPE MAY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

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(609)465-1185 after hours (609) 465-1190
Fax: (609) 465-1188



August 22, 2016

RE: Licensed Animal Control Officer

To All Municipal Clerks, Animal Control, Shelter Operators and Veterinarians,

Let this correspondence serve as notice that wildlife specialists cannot perform the duties of a certified New Jersey Animal Control Officer (ACO). A wildlife specialist can assist an ACO by performing duties not listed in the statutes, such as taking telephone calls, driving vehicles and keeping records but he cannot take dogs or other domestic animals into custody and/or impound them in a pound or shelter. Listed below are the duties of ACOS for the State Statutes below for your reference.

New Jersey Statutes

4:19-15.16a. The certified animal control officer appointed by the governing body of the municipality shall take into custody and impound any animal, to thereafter be euthanized or offered for adoption, as provided in this section:

(1) Any dog off the premises of the owner or of the person charged with the care of the dog, which is reasonably believed to be a stray dog;

(2) Any dog off the premises of the owner or the person charged with the care of the dog without a current registration tag on its collar or elsewhere;

(3) Any female dog in season off the premises of the owner or the person charged with the care of the dog;

(4) Any dog or other animal which is suspected to be rabid; or

(5) Any dog or other animal off the premises of the owner or the person charged with its care that is reported to, or observed by, a certified animal control officer to be ill, injured, or creating a threat to public health, safety, or welfare, or otherwise interfering with the enjoyment of property.

b. If an animal taken into custody and impounded pursuant to subsection a. of this section has a collar or harness with identification of the name and address of any person, or has a registration tag, or has a microchip with an identification number that can be traced to the owner or person charged with the care of the animal, or the owner or the person charged with the care of the animal is otherwise known, the certified animal control officer shall ascertain the name and address of the owner or the person

charged with the care of the animal, and serve to the identified person as soon as practicable, a notice in writing that the animal has been seized and will be liable to be offered for adoption or euthanized if not claimed within seven days after the service of the notice.

c. A notice required pursuant to this section may be served: (1) by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served, or by leaving it at the person's usual or last known place of residence or the address given on the collar, harness, or microchip identification; or (2) by mailing the notice to that person at the person's usual or last known place of residence, or to the address given on the collar, harness or microchip identification.

In addition, ACOs have these powers and authorities:

4:19-15.16c A certified animal control officer authorized pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1983, c.525 (C.4:19-15.16b) shall have the power and authority, within the jurisdiction of the municipality or other entity employing, or contracting for, the animal control officer to:

a. Enforce all laws or ordinances enacted for the protection of animals, including, but not limited to, animal control, animal welfare and animal cruelty laws of the State and ordinances of the municipality;

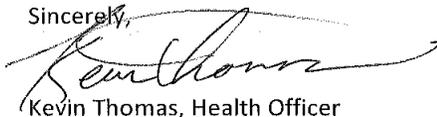
b. Investigate and sign complaints concerning any violation of an animal control, animal welfare or animal cruelty law of the State or ordinance of the municipality; and

c. Act, by virtue of the officer's appointment or employment and in addition to any other power and authority, as an officer for the detection, apprehension and arrest of offenders against the animal control, animal welfare and animal cruelty laws of the State and ordinances of the municipality.

Upon a request for assistance by a municipality or other entity that does not employ, or contract for, the certified animal control officer, a certified animal control officer may, within the jurisdiction of that municipality or other entity making the request, exercise the powers and authority granted pursuant to this section.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation with this notice. Should you find that an unlicensed individual operating within your jurisdiction or have any questions, please contact this Department.

Sincerely,



Kevin Thomas, Health Officer