

Iowa County Humane Society
Board Meeting
September 8, 2014

Board members present: Marcia Thompson, Jan Tabor, Sharon Shea, Lisa Cvengros and Pam Richardson

Staff present: Lisa Thomas, Danielle Rufenacht

Absent: Bonnie Zimmerman

Public present: Terri Davis, Arnette Small

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

The August minutes were submitted and approved.

The Treasurers report was submitted and approved and will be available on the website.

Treasurer Lisa Cvengros noted that overall expenses were up slightly, due to building repairs and property taxes. She cautioned continued vigilance and spending restraint.

The Directors report was given and accepted.

Director Lisa Thomas reports that the new Municipal contracts, containing the new language that eliminates the "dog only" option, will go out soon. Further, she has been in contact with several of the municipalities explaining the update and answering questions.

Lisa T has accepted an invitation to speak to the town of Ridgeway board. She will explain the new contract changes, promote ICCHS services and protocols and answer any questions.

Lisa T will make sure that the Municipalities understand that if they do not contract with ICCHS they will have to provide their own services and facilities to hold stray animals. This is mandated by State law. Jan will check the actual verbage in the law to help make sure that the responsibility of the Municipalities is clearly understood.

Lisa T has been in contact with Family Advocates, Inc to discuss policy and procedures involved when ICCHS takes in a pet due to domestic violence. Even though the individual family is seldom able to pay, this is a very important service to the community. Family Advocates will pursue the availability of grants to help cover our costs but the board agreed that this service is so important to the community that ICCHS should continue to provide space even if funding is not available.

A motion was made to approve the Memorandum of Understanding to provide space for pets referred by Family Advocates, Inc. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Canine Good Citizen classes in October have been designated by AKC as a "Responsible Dog Ownership" event. This is part of AKC's national initiative to reach dog owners and promote training and good manners.

Arnette noted that recently several nearby municipalities have changed their former "breed specific" bans to "vicious dog" ordinances. It was pointed out that Dodgeville currently has an ordinance that prohibits the ownership of pit bulls and pit bull mixes. ICCHS would like to promote changing that ordinance to a more reasonable "vicious dog" ordinance. It was suggested that since Marcia lives in Dodgeville she could approach her representative to ask for support for the ordinance change. ICCHS could help to write the new ordinance to replace the pit bull ban. It will be necessary for ICCHS to be very specific in defining the term "vicious dog". To help with that, Lisa T will check with the AVMA website. AVMA has been working to change these breed specific laws and they have specific suggestions for those working to get the laws changed.

The Kennel Manager is absent but a written report had been submitted and approved and will be on the website.

Marcia stated that she had spoken with Bonnie Z about several cats who are on special diets. The current cost for the special diets is \$360 per year.

Bonnie will be requested to check on the availability of comparable but less costly diets. Lisa T will work with Bonnie to contact the various cat food companies about the possibility of obtaining donated special diet foods.

The problem of the in house FIV testing for the cats was discussed. Apparently the current test gives both false positive and false negative results and it is felt that to be comfortable with the results, multiple tests have to be run. This will increase the expense. The suggestion was made to contact the company who manufactured the equipment and supplies and request that a company rep visit the shelter to make sure that the equipment is being used correctly and to help resolve this issue. Lisa T will talk with Bonnie about contacting the company rep.

The Office Coordinator report was given and accepted.

Danielle has requested that ICHS do a "shout out" to obtain funds for a security camera to be used outside the building. While this would help, it was felt that multiple cameras would be necessary to provide proper security. There is also concern that there is no one in the building at night and currently no way to alert authorities if there were to be a fire or other emergency. These issues will continue to be investigated.

AWE Committee--the next meeting will be on Thursday 9/18/14 at 1 PM at the shelter. It is felt that an afternoon meeting might be easier for members to attend.

The next volunteer orientation is 9/21/14.

Fundraising Committee--The next meeting is 9/9/14.

The RR#1 Popcorn judging was 9/4/14. The President of Rural Route 1 Popcorn along with other company officials attended and the top 5 names were picked. At the next meeting the popcorn names will be ranked 1 through 5. The winning entry will receive \$100 and there will be other prizes and cash for entries 2 through 5.

The winners will be announced at the Furry 5K.

Buildings and Grounds Committee--electrical updates will be done on 9/20 and 9/29.

Buildings and Grounds Committee has determined that while both insulation and furnace replacements are necessary, insulation has been given priority and will be done first.

Personnel Committee--nothing to report.

Email addresses are being changed and there will be an auto-reply message that will remind anyone contacting ICHS to use the new address.

Danielle has noticed that some drivers, especially UPS drivers, are using the ICHS parking lot as a "short cut" and are driving through too fast. Lisa T. will contact UPS to remind them that the parking lot is not a roadway. Lisa T and Sharon will investigate getting some new signage for the parking area to make sure the public understands that the parking lot is private property.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Submitted by Pam Richardson