



Jones County Health Department
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Jones County Animal Control Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Members: April Aycock; Rev. Charlie Dunn, Jr; Wayne Hurley; Patricia Roddy-Jones; Wesley P. Smith, Dr. Steve Stelma

Staff: Melissa Lamb, Accounting Technician III; Ann Pike, Nursing Supervisor I

Others: N/A

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Dr. Steve Stelma, Board of Health Chair.

Old Business

Dr. Stelma called attention to the agenda, and asked everyone to review the minutes from the November meeting. *A motion was made by Patricia Roddy-Jones to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2019 Animal Control Subcommittee Meeting. Rev. Charlie Dunn, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

New Business

Dr. Stelma opened the meeting with discussion on the Animal Control Survey results. Smith informed subcommittee members that the Health Department had received approximately 900 surveys. Dr. Stelma stated the survey was a 50/50 split in the county over the need for an Animal Control Ordinance, which indicates there is not an overwhelming public outcry or demand for an ordinance. Aycock stated she still believed there is a demand in Jones County for the ordinance. She felt that including the wording in question #4 about a licensure fee is what caused so much of an uproar in the county. Members of the subcommittee agreed; however, Dr. Stelma reminded everyone that no decision was ever going to be decided based on the survey. The direction the subcommittee is now proceeding with (no ordinance) is in large part based on the support of the County Commissioners.

Dr. Stelma turned everyone's attention to the Breakdown of Animal-Related Calls to 911 Center. Smith explained to subcommittee members that many of calls into the 911 center are not from county citizens. Per Smith, some of the calls could have come from a local hospital. According to Tom Labuda, all of the calls that did come into the 911 Center were followed up on by the Sherriff's Department. Dr. Stelma inquired if the 911 Center

was the only place for citizens to call about animal complaints. Per Smith, there have been calls into the Health Department, the County Manager's Office, as well as directly to Patricia Roddy-Jones. Both Smith and Jones stated they would be able to gather data on the number of phone calls that were received by them to give a more accurate count for Dr. Stelma. Dr. Stelma stated to the subcommittee that, based on information received, even without an Animal Control Ordinance the county will still incur an expense.

Smith passed out drafts of an updated Rabies Control Program Policy, Rabies Exposure Response Protocol (which is referenced in the Rabies Control Program Policy) and Dangerous/Potentially Dangerous Dog Determination Policy. Hurley inquired if anything was mentioned in any of the policies or protocols that was not based on State law. Smith responded to Hurley's question with a no. Smith highlighted the section in the Rabies Control Program Policy regarding cats and ferrets not wearing a rabies tags, as well as hunting dogs. Per State law cats, dogs and ferrets must wear a rabies tag at all times unless there is a local ordinance that states otherwise. In order for cats, hunting dogs and ferrets to be exempted from wearing the rabies tags at all times, the County Commissioners would have to adopt a local ordinance.

The committee addressed changes needing to be made to both policies presented.

Rabies Control Program Policy:

- Dr. Stelma suggested removing the word hydrophobia on page two (2).
- There was much discussion about #5 under Inoculation Tag and Proof of Vaccination for Dogs and Cats.
- Smith will check on State law for exempting ferrets.
- On page five (5), Dr. Stelma asked to change the wording from "vaccinated for rabies" to "vaccinate against rabies".

Smith reminded subcommittee members that the Rabies Control budget would have to be increased in order for the Health Department to expand what is currently being done under rabies law. Per Smith, he will most likely shift time for him and a couple of administrative staff members from General Health to Rabies Control.

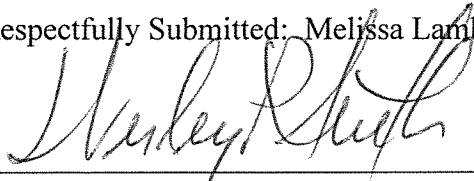
Dangerous/Potentially Dangerous Dog Determination Policy:

- After much discussion it was decided by the committee on page two (2) under Secure Enclosure to remove the sentence, "A home, mobile home, underground fence or separate garage is not secure housing." Dr. Stelma advised to also modify the definition of secure enclosure.
- Aycock pointed out on page three (3) under Confinement and Control of Dangerous Dogs or Potentially Dangerous Dogs #4 references Animal Control. Per Smith, the wording will be changed and updated.
- Smith informed the subcommittee that State law does not require a dangerous dog to be spayed or neutered; therefore, the whole paragraph on page three (3) will be removed.

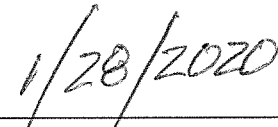
Rev. Dunn requested clarification from the subcommittee on the next step after presenting to the Board of Health. Per Smith, Dr. Stelma will go before the Board of Commissioners on March 2nd to provide an update on the work of the Animal Control Subcommittee and the recommendation of the Board of Health for the Health Department to “expand” enforcement of Rabies Control in Jones County based on State law. Aycock reiterated there is no apparent need to pursue an Animal Control Ordinance at this time.

With this being the final meeting of the Animal Control Subcommittee, Rev. Dunn, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patricia Roddy Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Melissa Lamb, Accounting Technician III



Wesley P. Smith, Health Director



Date