

Jasper County Animal Shelter  
2430 W Clark Street  
Rensselaer, Indiana 47978  
219-866-5756  
Animal Control Board Meeting Minutes  
August 12th, 2024

*MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:05 P.M. CST by Brooke Scheurich.*

The Jasper County Animal Control Board met on this date. The meeting was held at the Jasper County Health Department. The following Board members were present: Holly Eldridge, Shelly Conley, Tammy Burkett, Leda Fedor, Brooke Scheurich and Shelter Director Tori Nuest. The President of the Friends of the Jasper County Animal Shelter were present. There were six Jasper County Residents present in the audience including two current animal shelter employees. Katia Fedor reporting minutes during the meeting.

Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed and reviewed. Brooke made a motion to approve these minutes, Tammy 2nd the motion. The minutes were approved.

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*Director Tori Nuest stated in the month of **June** 11 cats and 14 dogs were taken in. Bringing total animals for the month to 25.*

We adopted out 4 cats and 7 dogs. There were 7 dogs reclaimed and 2 cats. 3 dogs were euthanized due to being deemed dangerous and a threat to public safety. 1 dog was pulled and transported to a senior sanctuary and 3 cats were pulled by Pound to Pillow. This brought our month end total of Animals Out to 27.

Average time in the Shelter is 20 days for cats and 10 days for dogs.

Incidents by Jurisdiction : Rensselaer 62, Wheatfield 37, Demotte 27, Fair Oaks 3, Remington 7 bringin year end to date of 136.

This year we are only 1 microchip away, and we will have chipped 200 animals year to date!

ACO:

- In June we responded to a total of 27 calls ( 3 were after hours) Aggressive dogs running at large.
- 8 dogs running at Large
- 5 JCSD/ISP/DPD/RPD/ Requesting assistance / Pick up/Hold
- 6 Dog Bites
- 2 Neglect
- 3 Stray p/u
- 11 Citations were issued

Volunteer Hours: 8 Volunteer recorded - Dog Walking / Lawn Care/ Animal Socialization

Community Service:

1 hour Community Service. Mowing

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*In the month of **July**, we took in 7 cats and 17 dogs, bringing our total animals in for the month to 24.*

We adopted out 4 cats and 4 dogs. There were 10 dogs reclaimed and 0 cats and 0 dogs Euthanized. This bright total month ends total Animals Out to 18.

ACO:

- In July we responded to a total of 20 calls( 4 were after hours)
- 10 dogs RUnning at Large
- 4 JCSD/ISP/DPD/RPD/ Requesting assistance / Pick up/Hold
- 5 Dog/ Cat Bites
- 2 Neglect
- 4 Wellness Checks
- 10 Citations were issued

Volunteer Hours: 0 hours of Volunteer reported

Community ServiceL: 15 Hours of Community Service record. - Mowing, Chore, Deep Cleaning

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#### NEW BUSINESS:

Tori brought up the idea of removing owner surrender. The board requested to vote on whether "owner surrendered" animals should be discontinued because of the lack of space available at the shelter facility. The board voted and decided to allow the current Officer to have the discrepancy to decide if the shelter is willing to take on an owner's surrender. The board voted that it will not be mandatory to take in owner surrendered animals and the board voted and agreed that if the current officer does decide to take in an owner surrendered the Officer can charge a fee. The board deems the fee to be charged as much or as little to an amount averaging \$125 to cover the expenses of that animal staying at the shelter facility, veterinary servicing, and utilizing shelter facility supplies. Tammy motion to approve the \$125 animal surrender fee and Brooke Second, Holy Third. Ordinance SOP discussion: Local ordinances propose discrepancies to the shelter in regards to the lack of details involved with the current ordinances. Tori proposed an example: What is a proper outside tie out for a dog? Tori goes on to explain that the current local ordinances about outside dog ties do not explain in detail what a proper tie out is. Another example brought up by Tori " what considers a dog aggressive? She explains that she would like a very detailed definition of what demean a dog aggressive so that the shelter officers can take action in good faith to the board. The lack of detail involved with the current ordinances also brings up controversies when the Animal Control Officers are on duty ,

upholding the ordinances among the public. A commissioner who stood in the public audience spoke up and told the board that he would recommend that the board compile a list of well defined ordinances of proper legal language and bring the list to the next commissioners meeting. He explains that the commissioners can help record that the Shelter Board is actively looking to update ordinances. Tori brought up that there is some sort of water leak at the shelter facility causing the water bill to be abnormally high. This issue will be further investigated by professionals. Pound to Pillow donated a camera surveillance system only accessible by the current shelter officer in position, but was asked to cancel the (donated) monthly subscription. Subscription has been canceled. Tori was asked to ask the commissioners for approval to continue this monthly camera surveillance system and to get this monthly expense approved by the commissioners so that the shelter can maintain this expense independently. Tammy brought up that all animals going to and from the vet office need to be muzzled as a protection protocol for the shelter officers themselves and anyone near. It is imperative that all dogs brought into a vet clinic, groomer, or facility other than the Jasper County Animal Shelter be muzzled for officer protection and public protection. Tammy also said Pound to Pillow, local Jasper County rescue, is to be a first resource for all cats that cannot stay at the shelter due to overcrowding or if they are deemed a candidate to be euthanized. A member from the audience, a current employee of the animal control raised their hand and asked if Pound to Pillow will reimburse the shelter if the shelter calls Pound to Pillow to pull an animal. Leda, President of Pound to Pillow responded by saying no and asking "Does the Jasper Co. Animal Control charge other rescues for pulling animals?" Responded no. The Shelter Officers network and ask other rescues to pull animals from the facility if the animal is struggling to get adopted, to avoid that animal from deteriorating due to environmental stress, and becoming aggressive due to stress.

6 Jasper County Residents were in attendance including: Commissioner Reen stood in audience as well as Current Owner of Park Your Paws Boarding Kennel. Public comment made "Has the new sign been installed?" Tori responded no. A citizen asked how can the public get involved with the shelter and genuinely help. Can volunteers from the community help initiate projects if they donate and purchase the supplies to do so. The same citizen also asked if the Shelter Officer has functioning body cameras. Tammy responded that if the officer purchases products deemed necessary by board, Amazon will bill County Gov for this expense.

#### Old Business:

Shelter Open House this weekend. Tori asked all businesses participating to bring their raffle baskets beforehand or the morning of the open house so they can set the baskets up. Tickets for the raffle ticket are \$3/1 ticket and \$5/2 tickets.

Brooke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tammy witnessed the adjournment and approved it. Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Jasper County Animal Shelter, Next meeting is scheduled:

Monday, September 9, 2024

6pm Central Time

Jasper County Health Department

910 S Sparling Ave #1  
Rensselaer, Indiana 47978  
219-866-4917