

## **Friends of the Georgetown Animal Shelter Board Meeting Minutes- Tuesday, April 6, 2021 Via Zoom**

The president, Diane Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00. All in attendance except Sharon Vitti and Susan Jelmini-Haynes. A quorum is present.

### **Special Guest- Melissa Sheldon:**

This is the first of quarterly presentations on shelter workings. Melissa Sheldon works as Animal Care Supervisor for the shelter. She has been with the shelter since 2019. Her experience is in small animal medicine and equine medicine. She has a degree in Animal Science from Texas A&M. Melissa's presentation takes us through what an animal experiences from coming into the shelter until being adopted.

There are three types of intakes. The first is owner surrender. During this intake the owner is asked to fill out paperwork describing the animal and its history. This helps the staff get to know the animal and gives them an idea what sort of home would be best. The shelter only accept animals from within the city limits. The owner must prove residency. Strays make up the second type of intake. The finder is asked to fill out paperwork as to where they found the animal and any special circumstances regarding the animal. If no microchip is found in the animal they are placed on a 3 day hold. If a microchip is found the hold is for 7 days. The shelter then contacts the microchip company to get the owner's information in order to try to reunite them. The shelter also has to confiscate animals at times. These animals are brought in by police or animal control. The hold time for these animals is 14 days. The hold time can be longer if there is a pending investigation. If animal control brings in an animal for rabies suspicion the animal is held in quarantine for 10 days.

After intake the animal goes through triage. They will be vaccinated for common diseases, weighed, and dewormed. The staff checks for medical issues and assesses age and breed. This information helps the staff sift through lost reports and in creating a description when the animal is placed for adoption.

Once an animal is shelter property they must be spayed or neutered before being released. During this surgery a microchip is placed, disease testing is done on cats, and feral cats get ear tipped.

After surgery a behavioral assessment is done. During this assessment the staff is testing animal limits. Does the animal show food bowl aggression? Can the staff touch their feet and ears? Do they tolerate their tail being pulled? This information helps the staff make their best forever placement. Heartworm testing is done and rabies vaccines are given at this time. It is harder to assess cats as they don't tolerate shelter life as well as dogs. The staff will monitor them in the community cat room to determine the best type of home for them. Each cat is FIV tested before being placed in the community room.

Enrichment is very important to alleviate stress and anxiety in shelter animals. Dogs get walked twice a day either by staff or volunteers. Playgroups are a time for dogs to be dogs. The animals get socialized while staff stay close to ensure there is no fighting. Shy animals respond well to playgroups. Cats have the opportunity for socialization in the community cat room. They are offered different toys, elevated surfaces, scratching areas, and places to hide.

A "meet and greet" is done before each adoption is finalized. The prospective owner comes to meet animal and may bring pets along. This is done to make sure the animals will get along at home and can eliminate problems in the future. During the meeting the staff can gauge if the placement is a good fit.

If a pressing medical issue comes up during the hold period it will be addressed. If the owner reclaims animal after this they will be responsible for the cost of treatment.

The staff encourages followup communications but can't call all adopters after placement.

If the shelter is too full it relies on breed rescues to take animals. APA takes cats if they have ringworm or are FIV positive.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Nigel made a motion to approve March 2021's minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Naomi and approved by the board.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

JoAnna Greene presented the financial records for March 2021. Our March income was \$6,192.74. The ending balance in our checking account was \$36,471.05. The ending balance in our savings account was \$80,032.96. Our Facebook account had \$25.00. JoAnne was pleased to see that Amplify Austin brought in a large amount of income. She commented that many web based expenses were paid this month and our Vanguard increased slightly. Sharon made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Naomi seconded the motion and it was approved by the board.

### **Shelter Update:**

April reports that the shelter is fully open to the public now. There were 103 intakes in March. This is an overall increase of 24%. Owner surrenders increased 93% from February. This month 27 animals were returned, 54 were adopted, and 24 animals went out to foster. The shelter saw the biggest increase in dog per day since March of 2020. April requested that new martingale collars be purchased. They are in need of 55 small cloth, 65 medium chain, and 5 large chain collars for a total expense of \$969.43. Sharon made a motion to approve the purchase. JoAnna seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. The candidate for the part time vet position comes Friday to tour the shelter. April is hoping to extend an offer soon after. The city approved a 16 hour work week for the position.

## **Long Range Plan:**

There are two upcoming fundraisers:

On April 8 a Spa Drive By will be hosted by Laser Lounge Med Spa from 3:00-6:00.

On April 10 and April 11 Kendra Scott Jewelry will be giving 20% of their sales back to FOGAS. The code buyers need for the discount is GIVEBACK-1EN7

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Fundraising:**

Naomi reports that the Rensch fundraiser will be Saturday September 25, 2021.

The committee would like to make this a celebratory event. Members will be invited as a way to recognize them. Items for baskets are currently being gathered. Naomi is focusing on making the baskets/items experience based (tickets to events, etc.).

Board members are asked to contribute to the baskets. There will be cat and dog trivia and a Puppy Pale Ale will be featured. Rensch will organize a food truck. An area will be set aside to use for recruitment.

### **New Business:**

We are in need of 2 new board members. A suggestion is made to change the bylaws that state board members must be shelter volunteers. Diane will email the proposed changes to current board members and a vote will occur next meeting.

Nigel reports he is currently working on a subscription button for the newsletter.

Naomi moves to adjourn the meeting. The motion is seconded by Nigel and is approved by the board.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Hinds, Secretary