

Commission on Animal Care & Control
Minutes of July 20, 2023, Commission Meeting
Approved at the September 28, 2023 meeting

Commissioners Attending (6 of 9)

Cynthia Bathurst, Chair, private citizen
Ramona Griffin, private citizen
Heather Owen, private citizen
Tonette Dugar, Department of Streets & Sanitation
Dr. Janna Kerins, Chicago Health Department Member
Paula Fasseas, Humane Society Member (virtual)

Commissioners Absent (2 of 9)

Thomas Beazley, Lieutenant, Chicago Police Department Member
Charleen Propsom, private citizen

Commissioners Vacant (1 of 9)

VACANT - Veterinarian Member

Also Attending

Susan Cappello, Acting Executive Director, CACC
Members of the public – via livestream

Agenda Item #1: Determination of Quorum and Call to Order

C. Bathurst performed roll call, determined a quorum, and called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment

Public Comment Requests are to be emailed to askcacc@cityofchicago.org in advance of the meeting.

- One comment sent in:
 - I have contacted CACC staff twice regarding the use of humane traps in February and again in May. I was told it would be discussed and haven't heard anything since. It is known that ACO's cannot use traps unless it's a "special situation". Permission to use a trap is needed by a Supervisor/Manager. Have traps been considered as an every day tool? It would be a better use of manpower to use a trap on the spot and secure a dog rather than get the same call for the same dog day after day, sometimes going on for months being unable to secure that dog. Not every dog allows leashing or a catch pole especially if the area is not enclosed. There are collapsible traps that will fit in every truck if the size of the ones CACC purchased is an issue. A collapsible trap was offered to CACC to test. The offer has not been accepted or declined. Does anybody keep stats or will you compile stats regarding the animal control officer success rate at securing strays "at large" (not including animals that are contained) with using their current tools? There are service requests that are being canceled. Who cancels the calls and under what circumstances is a call canceled without ACO's responding to that request? Some have been canceled injured animal requests where the animal is found deceased a day later. Once a stray is brought to CACC does someone go through service requests in that area to close them out if the descriptions match? ACO's are being sent to service calls when the dog is already at CACC. Recently 21 dogs were discovered in the backs of truck trailers on S. Damen. The ACO's that responded did a great job. 19 dogs were surrendered and 3 were left with the owner. Why was the owner allowed to keep any? They were unvaccinated, unaltered, dirty, matted dogs. Those 3 lives are just as valuable. Since the issue in Chicago is overpopulation, is there a way Chicago

ACC can offer free spay/neuter day? Vaccines are great but it doesn't help the over population issue. The municipal code was changed years ago to allow owners to contest what used to be mandatory spay/neuter if an animal was impounded. Is anyone trying reverse this by speaking with the Mayor and City Council? Is there a way to nominate someone to be considered for the board as the CPD liaison? Someone in Patrol, which is the backbone of CPD, would be best for this position. If so, how? Thanks, Cindy Purtell

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the May 18, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously. Minor correction of mayoral election.

Agenda Item #4: Report of Chairperson

C. Bathurst reported on follow up on initiatives for microchip scanners at Police Stations, intake and euthanasia rates have not been like this since 2016, moving the next meeting from 9/21 to 9/28 with the location to be determined, continue to pull together reports from all Commissioners for an annual report.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Director

S. Cappello reported on budget season including roundtable sessions, population, events and advertising for the events, Rabbit virus, vaccine clinics, shelter stats, volunteer program, Doggie Day Out program, HB Rescue Program participants, field stats (including cruelty/hoarding cases) and hiring report. Shelter and Field stats were provided via email. R Griffin asked for reasons of why animals are coming in and where they are coming from at the next meeting. R Griffin asked if she can make phone calls to the rescue groups and those volunteers who have not been at CACC.

Agenda Item #6: City Agency Reports

- J. Kerins (Health) – Rabbit Disease Virus found in pet and wild rabbits, first time in Illinois July 13th in a domestic rabbit, only affects rabbits not human or other domestic pets, a vaccine is available for emergency use for rabbits. The USDA has a fact sheet regarding the RDV.
- T. Duggar (Streets & Sanitation) –Still working with 2 scanners and a 3rd truck during the summer for non-domestic animal pick up. C. Bathurst asked if a 3rd scanner would help. H Owen asked what is the procedure when scanning the animal. R Griffin asked if it can be tracked by type of animal. T Duggar just picks up the animal.
- T. Beazley (Police) - No report.

Agenda Item #7: Commissioner Reports

- R. Griffin – Looking at the community at CACC and some ways to help. Nationally, we know everyone is in crisis mode. Thanks all the CACC Volunteers for stepping up so asking all Commissioners to step up. Possibly host a family day with tables set up to explain what we all do. Visit your Alderman and encourage them to help advertise CACC. Invite the rescues over on pavilion out days or on playgroup days to see the dogs out.
- H. Owen – One Tail at a Time Rep, taking in a lot of dogs, can collect data on where the groups have gone. Groups have a hard time when the animals don't have access to regular enrichment, volunteers are key and hiring is key to working with CACC. CRISP (4 groups) is at CACC on Saturdays from 12-5p and get referrals via CACC staff.
- C. Propsom – No report.
- P. Fasseas – PAWS provided spay/neuter to over 9000 animals, set up a mobile vaccine clinic and are setting up additional spay/neuter especially to large dogs. Added an additional day to clinic to staff 5 days per week. Diversion with CACC on cruelty animals. Focused on CACC more than any other place, no more animals out of state. Free spay/neuter for rescues who pull large animals from CACC. C.

Bathurst asked how do rescues know about this? P. Fasseas said that this is referred directly through CACC.

- C. Bathurst – Safe Humane Court Advocates works closely with the Operations Manager on cruelty cases. Encourage more Foster Homes for these animals.

Agenda Item #8: Other Business

A motion to move the next meeting of the Commission from September 21, 2023 to September 28, 2023 was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

Commissioners created a list of categories to discuss:

- More Homeward Bound Rescues – establish who is a current partner, call those who dropped off the list, Commissioners can call those.
- More Fosters/Adopters – CACC does not have a foster program, FCACC has a foster program and foster programs through other rescues.
- Media Contacts to talk about adoptions and fosters and connecting with City Council Members. J Kerins asked if CACC has a contact for City Council members. H Owens asked if the Mayors Office rep who works with CACC should be at the Commission meetings. H Owens would like to get an update on the vacant position of the Executive Director or the Veterinary Medical Manager.
- Where is the marketing at on the CTA buses.

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is September 28, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in person with the location to be determined.