

MINUTES

BRENHAM ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

February 25, 2025

A regular meeting of the City of Brenham's Animal Services Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, beginning at 11:01 a.m. at the Brenham Animal Services Center Conference Room, 1804 Longwood Drive, Brenham, Texas.

Board Members Present:

Megan Gray, Jeana Bellinger, Erin Christian, Carol Doersom, Dr. Christine Rockey, Sharon Guelker

Board Members Absent:

Lori Sladek

City of Brenham Staff Present:

Morgan Koehn

Citizens/Others Present:

None

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Citizen and Visitor Comments

None were heard.

3. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Minutes from the October 8th, 2024, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Sharon Guelker and seconded by Carol Doersom to approve the Minutes from the Brenham Animal Services Advisory Board Meeting that occurred on October 8, 2024.

4. Discussion and Presentation on the Purpose and Scope of Brenham Animal Services and Shelter Statistics as of January 31st, 2025.

The shelter statistics as of January 31st, 2025 were presented by Manager Gray. Erin Christian asked what the reasons for behavioral euthanasia would be. Manager Gray explained that all aspects of the animal's behavior are taken into consideration. Some animals are human aggressive, and some are aggressive to other animals. Animals that are euthanized due to them being a danger to other animals or humans are categorized as "euthanized for behavior."

Erin Christian also asked what the protocol is for animal cruelty/welfare cases as she has seen lots of talk on Facebook about animals in the cold and other welfare issues. Manager Gray informed her that animals must have access to water and covered shelter at all times. There were a couple of specific welfare cases mentioned. Animal Control Officers had been to both cases and there were no further calls after the ACO had made contact with the owner. Brenham Animal Services will follow up on all welfare calls, but sometimes people post on Facebook instead of calling the shelter with issues. The shelter needs to be informed of any welfare issues to be able to respond.

Carol Doersom asked how the wait/appointment process works for surrenders to the shelter. Manager Gray explained that City of Brenham animals are first priority and Washington County animals are secondary. The wait for surrenders depends on if it is a stray or owner surrender. The wait varies from about one week to 5 weeks depending on the location of the animal and type of surrender. Manager Gray will make a chart stating the differences and estimated wait time for an appointment.

Manager Gray also recommended citizens call the non-emergency line for Washington County dispatch regarding animal control related calls as dispatch will contact the ACO directly.

5. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Future Meeting Dates

The following dates were presented and unanimously approved for the Animal Services Advisory Board meetings for the remainder of 2025:

- **April 15th, 2025**
- **July 8th, 2025**
- **October 14th, 2025**

6. Administration Updates

Dr. Charles Mohr will be the new vet on staff at Brenham Animal Services. He has 30+ years of experience and will be doing spays and neuters in-house as well as rounds for all the animals in the care of the shelter.

An air conditioned adoption van will be in the budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. This will provide more options for adoption events any time of year or at any location.

- **Doggy Day Out Update**

As of January 15, 2025, 12 dogs have been taken out through the Doggy Day Out program. It has been successful and is enriching for the animals as well as informative for the staff. The behavior of the dogs while out and about can be used to help advertise them to prospective adopters.

- **SNAP Update**

There have been 7 applications approved for the Spay/Neuter Assistance Program as of January 15, 2025. This program is currently only open to citizens of the City of Brenham. Jeana Bellinger said the mayor gave her approval to reach out to county officials about the possibility of extending the SNAP program to county residents with some funding from the county.

Dr. Rockey and others advised putting SNAP fliers in lower income areas of town. Some recommendations were: WIC, Brenham Housing Authority, grocery markets in town, mailboxes at low-income apartment complexes, Blinn College, HUD, and the Boys & Girls Club.

- **Upcoming Events**

- Petsmart adoption events have been moved to the 3rd Friday of each month.
- Brenham Animal Services is now participating in the Bellville Market the 1st Saturday of the month.
- Bluebonnet Festival April 12-13, 2025
- Animal Friends Dog park adoption event on March 12, 2025 at 4 p. m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Megan Gray

Chairman

ATTEST:

Morgan Koehn

Staff Liaison