



Protectors of Animals, Inc.
Board Meeting – July 17, 2012

Board Members present: Denise Harned, Stacey Doan, Jody Macrina, Ron Plante, Jordan Price, Greg Simpson, Linda Williams, Debbie Nichols, Mark Pandolfo, Sara Taylor, JoAnn Azzara

Guests present: Cathy DeMarco and Kerry Bartoletti from H.O.P.E. Spay/Neuter Clinic; Linda Denton to present Humane Education Program

1. **President's Call to Order:** J. Macrina called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. **HOPE Updates:** C. DeMarco and K. Bartoletti were present at the meeting to give an update on HOPE. HOPE is now on a 4-day per week surgical schedule instead of a 5-day per week schedule. HOPE can schedule up to 20-22 dogs per day for spay/neuter. K. Bartoletti circulated an update showing the first 6 months of 2012 vs. the first 6 months of 2011. Revenue has increased significantly (\$217,514.00 in 2012 vs. \$186,205.00 in 2011). Dog deposits have decreased no-shows, as have confirmation calls from Bob and Stacey Doan. Dr. Patrice is able to do 40+ surgeries in a day, which offsets cat no-shows. The staff is working more as a team now. C. DeMarco discussed the Transport Program, which is going well so far. Two large transports had been completed with the HOPE van, one on July 6th with 12 animals and the second on July 13th with 14 animals. The immediate goal is to do at least one transport per week, and possibly increase to two per week in the near future.
3. **Presentation of Humane Education Program by Linda Denton:** L. Denton presented the manual that she has developed on the Humane Education Program. There are different protocols for different age groups and lesson plans in the manual. She discussed possible future volunteer training because currently she is the only one. She is working toward her Certified Humane Educator credential. At least one school presentation is already in the works, and J. Macrina suggested contacting the schools that donate to POA. L. Denton left the manual with Board members and asked Board members to review it.
4. **Minutes of the June 12, 2012 Board of Directors meeting.** The Minutes were read by the Secretary. Secretary noted one correction.

J. Macrina made a motion to accept the minutes as modified; D. Harned seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

In an effort to create more efficient Board of Directors meetings, S. Doan asked Board members to read the Minutes of the prior month's meeting before Board of Directors meetings so that the Secretary will not need to read the Minutes aloud.

S. Doan made a motion to change the procedure such that the Secretary will no longer read the Minutes aloud but will instead ask if there are any questions or changes to the Minutes before entertaining a motion to accept the Minutes as written (or, if applicable, as modified); D. Harned seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

5. President's Report:

- J. Macrina presented the Financial Statement. The VCA clinics are costlier than privately-owned vet clinics, so POA should focus on using privately-owned vet clinics wherever possible.
- The audit is in the process of being completed and is scheduled to be finished this week.
- The extension of telephone lines in the East Hartford shelter has been completed.
- The “Hoof & Woof” event raised \$300 for POA; the plan is to do another big fundraiser for POA at a horse show. There was a discussion about having the “Hoof & Woof” fundraiser benefit HOPE.
- J. Macrina also discussed a matter in which a 17-year-old girl brought her dog to POA on a Saturday adoption day because the dog had ingested rat poison and her parents refused to pay for medical treatment for the dog. POA’s policy is to obtain medical care only for animals that belong to POA, so the girl was asked to sign a waiver. The girl’s grandmother was also consulted by phone, and she also agreed to waive rights to the dog. The dog was brought to the vet for treatment and is now in a foster home. Now the girl and her family are claiming that they can pay for the medical care and want the dog back. There was a general discussion around this issue and it was agreed that, in considering the best interests of the dog, the dog should remain in the foster home rather than return to a family that was willing to let the dog die rather than pay for medical treatment.

6. Denise Harned

- D. Harned initiated a discussion about the East Hartford cat shelter’s occupancy limit. She proposed limiting occupancy to a total of 32 cats. There was a lengthy discussion around the pros and cons of limiting occupancy. The Town of East Hartford’s approval for the shelter was based on the assumption that the cat room would house “longer term” resident cats and the front/kitten room would be a transition area for intake and for adoption days. The concern of limiting occupancy often collides with the POA’s mission of taking in stray, abused and abandoned animals and the fact that there are so many animals that fit into this category.
- This topic led to a discussion regarding the Intake/Placement Team and the need for the Team to be split into two teams – the Intake/Foster Team, which would be led by Martha Murray, and the Placement Team, which would be led by Sushama Dhakite. J. Macrina agreed to discuss this reorganization with Martha and Sushama following the Board meeting.

7. Greg Simpson

- G. Simpson reported that most teams are at full capacity.

8. Jordan Price

- Due to time constraints, discussion of the 2013 Budget was tabled until the August 2012 Board of Directors meeting.

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:55 p.m. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled on August 21, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at 144 Main Street, Unit N, East Hartford, Connecticut.

Submitted by: Sara Taylor, Secretary