



Protectors of Animals, Inc.
Board Meeting Agenda – April 16, 2019
6:30 p.m. – 144 Main Street, POA Spay! Clinic
East Hartford, CT

Board Members Present: Jody Macrina, James Breen, Leslie Wetstone, Jeff Greenblat, Jess Sokol, Jim Byrne, Jess Sokol, and Sara Saucier.

Board Members Absent: Bryan Carmel, Jessica Aniskoff

Non-Board Members Present – Kerry Bartoletti, Kelly Rossitto, Janette Sullivan

1. Call to Order 6:32pm
2. Consent Agenda J. Breen motioned to pass, Z. Stewart seconded, motion passes unanimously.
 - a. Minutes of the March 19, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting
 - b. Clinic Report
 - c. Grant Report
3. Presentation by Janette Sullivan on Trap Neuter Release.
 - a. Janette Sullivan discussed TNR and shelter operations with the board. Her words and actions are a powerful representation of our volunteer community. Rather than distill her message, I have included her provided notes in their entirety at the end of these minutes. Thank you, Janette.
 - b. J. Breen to disseminate information regarding volunteers contacting board, meeting with board, and board transparency.
4. Fundraising subcommittee update
 - a. J. Breen presented on Birdies for Charity – POA is registered with the Travelers Championship Birdies for Charity event. Birdies for Charity is a giving platform where donors can give to the charity of their choice and Travelers will pay for all administrative fees, and event sponsors will donate an additional 15% on top of donations received. For example, if POA is donated \$1,000 during the event we will receive \$1,150 total at the end of the event (June 23rd).
 - b. J. Sokol presented on Yard Goats – POA receives \$2 per ticket sold with increasing levels of promotion for more tickets sold (throw first pitch, time on yard goats radio, on field presentation, etc).

- i. Planning for Friday, August 9 Yard Goats vs. Rumble Ponies.
 - ii. Investigating ways to increase proceeds from this event, but this event will primarily serve as awareness and a well-deserved night out for volunteers.
 - c. Labyrinth Brewery – received \$1,000 from the Knights of the Imperial Stout brew that was created to raise funds for POA. They put together a fun event to recognize the contribution and it was well attended by POA volunteers.
 - d. Large Fundraiser – Booked, Saturday, November 2nd.
 - i. Dinner and dancing with Fred Astaire (unconfirmed) at Villa Louisa in Bolton.
 - ii. Will have silent auction items
5. Finance subcommittee updates – Z. Stewart
 - a. Discussion held around the clinic’s spay/neuter goals and profitability.
 - b. The clinic budget is built on the presumption of 380 surgeries per month, but the actual sustained average is closer to 300 per month. A discussion was held on the factors involved in the difference.
 - c. Discussion held on audit timing, with the board determining to hold the audit earlier in the year to better synchronize with board needs.
 - d. J. Byrne performed a preliminary analysis of banking returns to determine the potential value in adjusting our holdings into a higher interest bank. The preliminary analysis demonstrated potential for a positive impact and J. Byrne will investigate specific bank interest rate and fee structures to deliver a full report on comparability and recommendations.
6. Website– J. Breen & K. Bartoletti
 - a. The POA website has been updated to reflect the Birdies for Charity giving platform that is currently underway with donors able to direct their donations as they choose.
7. Clean & Feed– J. Greenblat
 - a. C&F staffing has improved with an increase in applications received and processed.
8. New Business
 - a. Event planning for Project Gratitude postponed to August/September timeline
 - b. Executive Session held
 - i. J. Breen to complete action item for next meeting.
9. Adjournment

To BoD Members,

I want to begin by saying that I do not expect you to understand why I do what I do, or to offer any suggestions to try to make my workload lighter. This is not a complaint – merely a glimpse into what happens on a daily basis at the cat adoption center. Hopefully, this will help to you to develop a connection with many of the volunteers.

Here are some of my recent observations and experiences:

- We received a phone call on a Sunday morning from a young man home on leave from military service reporting that he found a cat locked in a carrier behind Buckley High School in Hartford. I met the young man and picked up the cat. He happened to be a young man who went to school with my son. Cat was filthy – covered in feces and urine – and extremely underweight. We were able to get the cat (very friendly young male) into a cage and give him food and water. Dr. Ayotte and the med team examined him that afternoon. He was sedated, bathed, shaved, tested, weighed, and received some shots. He is a 2 year-old male, left in that carrier to die. He weighed less than 5 pounds. He was named Mitchell after the young man who saved him. Mitch spent 2 weeks with me and gained 2 ½ pounds. He was scheduled for his neuter and then returned to foster until we had cage space here in the shelter. Mitchell was adopted by a young couple who love him.
- A stray cat was observed in the parking lot behind POA. Volunteers set up a feeding schedule and were able to trap the cat using a box trap. Riley was socialized in a foster home, has all necessary medical care and is currently looking for her family.
- At a trapping project in East Hartford a litter of 4 kittens was finally trapped. Three kittens were healthy, but one was barely alive. Kittens were brought to the shelter and Wendy was able to help assess the condition of the sickest little one. This was an interruption to her very busy schedule, but she handled that kitty with a gentle compassion – wrapping him in a soft towel and listening for a heartbeat with the stethoscope, all the while speaking to him in a soothing tone. It appeared the kitty had passed, but I took the kitty to VCA for confirmation. The other 3 kittens went to a foster home for socialization and were adopted. These kittens are the last litter born to a feral mom that we have been trying to trap for 2 years. She finally went into a trap and has been spayed and returned to her warehouse. After 2 years, this TNR project is complete – for the time being.

These stories are not unique – we respond to these situations on a regular basis. Our shelter is always full to capacity. We currently have 22 cats on our wait list. Since April 1 we have received 15 calls asking for help with stray cats and 26 calls from people wanting to re-home their pets. We also received 3 calls asking for help with TNR. One of these calls involves a warehouse in Manchester where the manager will kill the cats if they cannot be controlled. I am currently working with 2 other employees on a plan for trapping.

We have two volunteers who participate in TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release). Judy spends every day trapping cats, transporting them to local vets, and returning them to their colonies when they have been neutered. I am currently working on a project in Windsor. So far in this colony we have neutered and returned 4 adult males, 1 adult female, 1 female kitten. One adult male was friendly and has been adopted. Eight kittens were trapped, socialized, and adopted. One adult female was trapped in October and is still with me in foster. She needed her eye removed. She is friendly, but very shy. She had lived outside for four years. How many cats are left there? A conservative estimate would be 10 adults, 15 young adults, and 5 older kittens. I have starting trapping there again now that the weather is warm

I am the Team Leader for the phone team. The phone team is a very challenging and frustrating job. It is very difficult to explain to callers that we simply cannot help everyone. Our capacity is limited, there are many calls, and sometimes we just need to say, "no".

I am also a Team Leader for the placement team and I have the joy of seeing the cats and kittens find their homes. We are there every Saturday working with adopters and helping them to find the right cat for their family. We open at 10:30, but people start lining up before 8:00 if they want a kitten. We have a sign-in sheet and do not allow them to sign in before 9:00 now. Sometimes people wait for several hours after we open to get in to see the cats. Again, our space is limited and people tend to come with large groups. During the week, the placement team leaders are answering emails and reviewing applications.

I am a foster home – usually for adults who need socialization, short-term quarantine or kittens who have come from a feral colony. Many foster homes always have mom cats and kittens in their homes. They make great sacrifices to provide the cats/kittens with loving and safe homes. Without these dedicated foster homes, many of these cats would not have survived.

I do TNR trapping. This enables me to get to know the people in our community who are caring for feral cats. We develop a relationship that goes beyond the mechanics of trapping. These people are very thankful for our help. I trap in yards, in warehouses, in parking lots, and wherever community cats are found. TNR is vital to controlling the feral cat population. The POA Spay Clinic is very helpful in providing weekly appointments for our POA ferals. The challenge of TNR is arranging for spay/neuter appointments because we have no guarantee that the cats will co-operate by going into the traps.

Our volunteers at the cat shelter are dedicated to ensuring that every POA cat receives the best care possible and the best opportunity to find a home. They work every day doing clean & feed, giving out meds, transporting cats to vet appointments, working with shy or scared cats, returning phone calls and emails, helping adopters find the right cat, planning fund-raising or outreach events, and doing whatever else is necessary. Our foster homes offer a safe haven for moms and kittens until they are ready for adoption. We do this for the animals. I always say, "You could not pay me enough to do this. It is only a labor of love".

Janette Sullivan