

**OCTOBER 1, 2020-SEPTEMBER 2021 ANIMAL REPORT REGARDING
KILLEEN ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PREPARED FOR THE PRESENTATION TO KILLEEN CITY COUNCIL**

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Killeen Animal Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as “Committee”) is to oversee all rules, regulations, ordinances, and laws of the City of Killeen, TX (hereinafter referred to as “Killeen”) pertaining to all animals including livestock (hereinafter referred to as “animal(s)”, to implement policies regarding any animal issues within Killeen, and to coordinate with the Killeen City Council (hereinafter referred to as “Council”) and the Killeen Staff to provide input focusing on improving the Killeen Animal Services (hereinafter referred to as “Services”) and the Killeen Animal Shelter (hereinafter referred to as “Shelter”) operations and policies to benefit all animals and citizens of Killeen and advocate for the highest degree of humane treatment of all animals relating to Services and Shelter.

WHO ARE WE:

The Committee is comprised of eleven (11) members who are chosen by the Council and which includes seven (7) citizen members, at least one (1) licensed Veterinarian, one (1) Killeen City Official, one (1) person whose duties include the daily operation of the Shelter, and one (1) representative of an animal welfare organization or humane society all working together to monitor and help all animals in Killeen and the greater Killeen area. Among the eleven (11) members on the Committee, we have several members who are actively involved in animal rescue, TNR programs, animal transportation and animal welfare. The Committee is the only Texas State mandated board consisting of at least one (1) Veterinarian, seven (7) appointed citizens and Killeen officials.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTION:

It is the purpose and function of the Committee to advise and make recommendations to Killeen on any existing or new issues concerning Services and Shelter on all subjects pertaining to all animal care and welfare, animal rescue, Shelter standards, training of Shelter personnel, long range plans, general policies, Shelter activities, Shelter programs and services (including euthanasia) that have been assigned to the Committee by the Council. Additionally, Committee advises Council regarding revisions to the Animal Ordinances of Killeen, animal related resolutions, and policies, including but not limited to, companion animals in Killeen and other issues required by Chapter 823 of the Health and Safety Code. Also, the Committee provides recommendations to Council regarding its compliance with the Texas Rabies Control Act, may recommend ways to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of Services and Shelter animal control programs. In addition, the Committee provides Council with the names of recommended potential new members to be appointed to the Committee.

STATE MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICER POSITIONS:

Vicky Duke – Chairman
Linda Marzi – Vice chairman
Michael Joyner, DVM
Shirley Del Conte
Dirk Davis

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Chris Thomas
Pete Stanonik
Jann Holladay
Jessica Dunagan
Anca Neagu

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS WE HAVE HAD DURING OCTOBER 1, 2020
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021:**

October 8, 2020 (rescheduled from October 1, 2020)	June 17, 2021
October 15, 2020	July 12, 2021
November 12, 2020	August 9, 2021
January 21, 2021	August 26, 2021
March 18, 2021	September 2, 2021
May 20, 2021	September 16, 2021

**INITIATIVES WE HAVE WORKED ON AND/OR PROVIDED
INSIGHT AND INPUT THIS FISCAL YEAR:**

This past fiscal year (October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020) the Committee has been reviewing, discussing, and revising our Committee Bylaws, Chapter 6 of the Killeen Ordinances pertaining to all aspects of all animals in the jurisdiction of Killeen. We commenced this endeavor the fall of 2018.

The Committee asked for information through Agenda Items discussions held during our Committee meetings pertaining to rules, regulations, policies and procedures of Services and Shelter.

The Committee discussed with the Shelter Agenda Items at our meetings requesting that the Shelter implement a highly successful, well-planned, and functioning TNR (Trap/Neuter/Release) Program, a Working Cat Program, a Pit Bull and Bully dog Program, a Large Dog Program, a Volunteer Program, and a Foster Program.

The Committee also suggested that the Shelter have a Volunteer available to counsel potential adopters as to the type of dog or cat they wanted to adopt and their residence situation. Helping potential adopters by answering their questions regarding different types of dogs or cats providing information so as to inform the potential adopters as to the dogs and cats who would best suit being a member of their family would reduce the number of adopted animals that are returned to the Shelter.

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The Committee has discussed with the Shelter the idea of a Shelter animal return rate of ninety percent (90%) goal is attainable. The ninety percent (90%) return rate can be achieved and maintained at the Shelter by making sure that animals leave the Shelter fully vetted - either leave the Shelter by adoption, rescues, and/or transfers to "no-kill" facilities.

We have also discussed for the Shelter to share a Program with the KISD which would be mutually beneficial to both parties. The younger KISD children can practice their new reading skills by reading to the animals and the older KISD students who are enrolled in a Certified Veterinary Assistant Program/License Veterinary Assistant Program could actively be involved with the Services and the Shelter.

We as a Committee, have proposed an idea to the Shelter about the Shelter partnering with a large corporation that sells puppy and dog food, kitten and cat food, and cat litter. Several large corporations donate these items to Shelters so the Shelters can gift new adopters with these products. If the Shelter participates in this type of program on a regular basis, it would make for very happy adopters, great publicity for the Shelter, and the Shelter will save money.

The Committee has requested that Services and the Shelter provide the Committee with legible copies of any and all inspections that are done at the Shelter, including but not limited to legible copies of inspections performed by the Federal Government, the State of Texas, Bell County, and Killeen. We asked that they provide the legible copies to us within ten (10) days of their receipt of said inspections so that the Committee members will have ample time to study the legible copies of inspections before the next Committee meeting.

We have suggested that the Shelter and the Committee work together on a program to increase Shelter awareness in the community and citizen involvement in activities to benefit the Shelter animals and the operation of the Shelter. We can accomplish this goal by using social media.

The Committee and the Shelter must work together to improve the transparency of the Shelter and the Shelter could strive to improve sufficiency in all phases of their operations and provide strong guidelines in an effort to reduce Shelter personnel turnover and improve continuity.

At one time, a program was developed and endorsed by a local Veterinarian who wanted to volunteer and work with the Shelter on spaying, neutering, and rabies shots for all animals adopted from the Shelter. There were negotiations; but, they could not come to a compromise and the idea was put aside. Perhaps this is the time to reach out to any Veterinarians who would like to volunteer at the Shelter and see what develops.

Currently, the Committee is holding our meetings at the City Utilities Building in downtown Killeen. The Committee would like to keep this arrangement and we have informed Killeen of our wanting to continue with this arrangement. Having our meetings at a downtown location enables people to attend our meetings on their lunch hours.

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The Committee has had discussions with Killeen regarding their working with legitimate rescue organizations, rescuers, transporters and “no kill” organizations to promote the saving of animal lives. Any time a Shelter utilizes volunteers, fosters, and “no-kill” rescue organizations, rescuers, and transporters, the Shelter wins – the animal wins – and the rescuers win. Cooperation is a definite WIN – WIN situation when it comes to saving the lives of animals.

The Committee has discussed with Killeen in our Committee meetings that when the Shelter employs a new “Vet Tech” to fill the employee vacancy, it would be a great benefit to the Shelter if the selected person was a Certified Veterinary Assistant with legitimate and certified credentials.

An experienced, volunteer Veterinarian would be able to instruct the appropriate personnel as to how to perform a correct euthanasia to make sure that the animal experiences the least amount of pain and suffering. We have also discussed with the Shelter their possible use of the first shot that makes the animal sleepy and totally relaxed and then they give the animal the second shot for the euthanasia. Practicing Veterinarians use the “two shot method” which reduces the anxiety and pain in the animal.

The Committee would like to and we have discussed it with Killeen at our Committee meetings that our wish is that all animals adopted from the Shelter are fully vetted with a minimum of a health exam, a spay or neuter, a rabies shot, and a “chip” before they leave the premises.

The Committee has asked the Shelter to inform the Committee as to the decision making process regarding behavioral euthanasia.

Committee members did have a Committee meeting discussion regarding the fact that a Shelter employee told the Council during a Workshop Council meeting that cats were the No. 1 transmitter of rabies to humans. When the Committee had the opportunity, we provided information to the Shelter employee that, in fact, feral cats are definitely not the No. 1 source spreading rabies to humans. In fact, feral cats are WAY DOWN THE LIST of animals transmitting rabies to humans.

The Committee has discussed with the Shelter positive financial input typically seen in cities that implement “no-kill” strategies.

During our Committee meetings, we have requested our receiving information regarding applying for grants, an explanation of the application process, and information as to how the grant money was spent.

The Committee has also discussed with Shelter and requested information regarding animals who died in care at the Shelter, animals sick in care at the Shelter, animals that got lost during care at the Shelter, why the number of feral cats being euthanized is such a high number, and how behavioral assessments play a part in the euthanasia process.

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The Committee has discussed with the Shelter the criteria used for transferring Shelter animals to other shelters and rescues.

We, as a Committee, have discussed the importance of the Shelter being willing to take medical advice from Committee Veterinarians.

The Committee has discussed with the Shelter the importance of ways to address an early Intervention Program to help citizens with animal issues in order to prevent a confiscation situation. Perhaps it would be best if the Shelter focuses on intervention rather than punishing in a majority of the confiscation cases.

We, as a Committee, have discussed with the Shelter at Committee meetings the benefits that feral cats provide to Killeen and the Shelter. There are so many ways that feral cats help the residents and the Shelter.

The Committee will continue to prepare, vote on and abide by the Rules, Regulations, Procedures and Responsibilities (hereinafter referred to as "Bylaws").

The Committee will continue to research and investigate existing rules, policies and procedures regarding feral cats and stray dogs. Feral cats and stray dogs have rights.

THE COUNCIL REQUESTED THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND REVISE CHAPTER 6 OF THE KILLEEN ORDINANCES. THE COMMITTEE'S MAIN GOAL FOR OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 2022 IS THAT THE COMMITTEE DEFINITELY INTENDS TO REVIEW AND REVISE CHAPTER 6 IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE SHELTER IN BECOMING MORE TRANSPARENT AND HELP THE ANIMALS IN THE SHELTER AND IN THE GREATER KILLEEN AREA IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. THIS PROJECT WILL BE A LABOR INTENSIVE PROCESS WHICH WILL REQUIRE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO RESEARCH SIMILAR LAWS IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES AS WELL AS OPTIMUM PRACTICES IN ANIMAL WELFARE.

PREPARED OCTOBER 1, 2021

KILLEEN ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE