

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Canita Hardnett-Johnson
Division Manager

AGENDA

Introduction

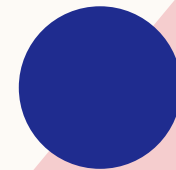
Animal Control Audit

Recommendation Updates

Statistical Data

Vision of Animal Control

Summary



INTRODUCTION

An Audit of Animal Care and Control of Columbus (ACCC) was requested by City Councilor John House and was approved by City Council on August 9, 2022. The audit began August 15, 2022 and concluded January 10, 2023.

The scope of the audit included all aspects of the operation to include:

- Field Operations
- Front Desk Operations
- Shelter Operations
- Advisory Board
- Division Manager



FIELD OPERATIONS

AUDITOR OVERVIEW

Animal Control Field Officers are responsible for taking dispatched calls from Muscogee County citizens. Dispatched calls are received from the Front Desk Operations at ACCC during normal business hours (Monday -Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm). E-911 dispatches calls to ACCC Officers on weekdays from 6:00 am until 8:00 am and after 5:00 pm. On weekends, E-911 dispatches calls from Friday at 5:00 pm until 8:00 am Monday mornings.

Findings & Recommendations

Field Operations	Fully Staffed	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Special Enforc Supr	1	1	1	0	1	1
Animal Control Officer I	7	6	6	7	4	4
Animal Control Officer II	2	2	2	2	0	0
	10	9	9	9	5	5



**FRONT DESK
OPERATIONS**

AUDITOR OVERVIEW

Front Desk staff is responsible for assisting citizens at the front counter during office hours of 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday; 10:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday and dispatching calls to the Field Officers from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Findings & Recommendations

Staffing, through October 2022, is reflected below.

Desk Operations	Fully Staffed	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Comm Officer	3	2	1	3	3	2

AUDITOR OVERVIEW

Office of Interim Division Manager

Findings & Recommendations

Staffing, through October 2022, is reflected below.

Interim Division Manager	Fully Staffed	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Veterinarian	1	1	1	1	0	0
Division Manager	1	0	0	0	0	0
Admin Coord	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	3	2	2	2	1	1



**SHELTER
OPERATIONS**

AUDITOR OVERVIEW

Shelter Operations is responsible for all aspects of the animals once they are brought in by the Field Officers for impoundment. Responsibilities include scanning for microchips, administering intake vaccines, entering the animals into the ACCC software system, taking pictures of the animals and updating the website for citizens searching for missing dogs, cats or hoping to adopt. The intake process must be completed within 24 hours of impoundment.

ACCC's capacity levels:

- 40 regular runs for dogs
 - +6 runs for dogs quarantine
 - +6 runs for dogs in isolation
 - +6 runs for dogs in holding
- = 58 dog capacity
- houses both adoptable and those waiting the end of 5-day hold
- houses biting dogs for 10 days; Non-adoptable dogs, most have owners and are undergoing rabies observations by the Health Department
- houses sick, injured dogs or those recovering from medical treatment
- house the most recently impounded dogs awaiting intake process

AUDITOR OVERVIEW

ACCC also has a kitten room that houses the following:

- a minimum of 25 kittens and cats,
- cat quarantine has capacity for 11 cats
- puppy room has a capacity for 8 puppies or small dogs

Volunteer Coordinator

ACCC's Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for all aspects related to volunteers donating their time; oversight and administration of offsite adoption events and helps administrative staff with daily operations.



**ANIMAL CARE AND
CONTROL
ADVISORY BOARD**

AUDITOR OVERVIEW

According to Columbus' city ordinances, the board has three main objectives:

1. Monitor the operations of Animal Control and Care division and render guidance and assistance as deemed appropriate encouraging responsible pet ownership.
2. Review of the annual proposed budget
3. Make decisions regarding the classification of dangerous or vicious dogs and cats.

Findings

Frustrations regarding board responsibilities, board involvement, number of board meetings and a general ineffectiveness of the board expressed by the board members.

Meetings of focus

1. Dangerous dog hearings
2. Proposed ordinance changes
3. Potential projects for volunteers



**AUDIT
RECOMMENDATIONS
AND UPDATES**

STAFFING

Since the completion of the audit the following positions have been filled:

- 4 Animal Control Officers
- 1 Maintenance Worker
- Division Manager

Effective May 1, 2023 shelter hours of operation will change from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm back to 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday.

STAFFING

Field Operations	Fully Staffed	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Special Enforc Supr	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Animal Control Officer I	7	6	6	7	4	4	5
Animal Control Officer II	2	2	2	2	0	0	2
	10	9	9	9	5	5	8

STAFFING

Shelter Staff	Fully Staffed	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Animal Res Ctr Sup	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maintenance Worker I	1	1	1	0	0	0
Animal Control Officer I	3	2	3	2	2	2
Volunteer Coordinator	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	6	5	6	4	4	4

ADVISORY BOARD

A review of 2020, 2021 and 2022 board minutes found successes:

1. The introduction of the Community Based Instruction (CBI) group from the Muscogee County School District
2. Joint efforts with PAWS to get animals altered
3. Donation of 500 microchips (received 250 to date)
4. Joint effort with PAWS helping consult owners about alternatives to surrendering their pets

Board Meeting discussion regarding tethering ordinance.

1. The Advisory Board discussed the tethering ordinance for Muscogee County.
2. The discussion to change the verbiage of the ordinance was voted on twice.
3. The decision to leave the ordinance as written was upheld twice by a majority vote of the board.
4. Dr. McDermott, who is a sitting board member and practicing veterinarian in Columbus, Ga, responded to the ordinance with a written statement.

ADVISORY BOARD

Contreana,

I will not be able to attend the meeting this week, but did have a few thoughts to share with the board.

The last meeting focused on possibly rewording the existing ordinance to "only allowing a pet to be placed on a trolley system while under direct supervision."

After reviewing the call-logs you provided (and I must be honest, they were quite long and I started to skim through rather than read in detail toward the end) it can be concluded that:

1. Animal Control is taxed with calls
2. The bulk of calls are about animals improperly chained/tethered or animals without adequate food/water
3. Animals being left unattended for prolonged periods of time on a trolley system, or being left on a system without proper shelter or nutrition were not a concern.

As the law stands now, all animals are considered property. The Animal Control Advisory Board's sole obligation is to ensure that pets are not suffering from neglect and any proposed ordinance changes must focus exclusively on that obligation. We are not a governing body that has latitude to decide who should own a pet. Nor can we push to remove the right of others to own animals by proposing ordinance changes that do not fall under our guidelines.

The existing ordinance (Sec. 5-7.2) on restraint is clear and concise. Any addition to the ordinance that would require direct supervision would be an overreach by the board. Please accept this as my proxy vote against any such proposed ordinance change.

As much as I, and many other board members, would like to see every dog live in a house with HVAC and a fenced in yard, realistically we know this will never occur. If it is our goal to improve the quality of life of these dogs, our efforts will likely be better served by focusing on educational programs, city grants and financial assistance to citizens.

Respectfully

Dr. McDermott



**ANIMAL CARE AND
CONTROL
STATISTICS**

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL STATISTICS

**These statistics are for the
period beginning January 1,
2023 through March 31, 2023:**

- **Total
Intake/Impoundments:
January 274
February 308
March 307**

TOTAL = 889

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL STATISTICS

ADOPTIONS

January

- DOGS: 18
- CATS : 9

February

- DOGS: 34
- CATS : 9

March

- DOGS: 26
- CATS : 2



ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL STATISTICS

PLACEMENTS WITH RESCUE PARTNERS

	January	February	March
	Dogs Cats	Dogs Cats	Dogs Cats
Animal Ark	47 1	17 4	20 5
Animal SOS	31 0	50 4	23 4
PAWS Humane	54 13	51 24	40 7
TOTAL	132 14	118 32	83 16

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL STATISTICS

Euthanasia Report

	January	February	March
	Dogs Cats	Dogs Cats	Dogs Cats
Sick/Contagious	0 0	0 0	0 1
Aggressive	2 0	0 0	3 0
Vet Recommended	0 2	4 3	0 5
Capacity	10 0	4 0	22 0
Owner Requested	6 1	9 0	12 1
Capacity Euthanasia %	4%	1%	8%



**ANIMAL CARE AND
CONTROL VISION**

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL STAFFING VISION

- Cruelty Investigator
- Foster Coordinator
- PR / Marketing Professional
- Full-Time Veterinarian
- 8 Additional Animal Control Officers
 - NACA certification



ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL SERVICES VISION

- Fostering Service
- Adoption Counseling
- Owner Support Services
 - Military Family PCS
 - Citizen's hospitalizations
 - Emergency Placement
- Educational Tutorials
- Partner in Education
- Spay/Neuter Service



ON THE HORIZON



**ANIMAL
CONTROL
CENTER**

Critter Mapping Tool

Adoption Trailer

Horse Trailer **

Website Upgrade

Adoption Event

QUESTIONS ?





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THANK YOU

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