

-Nevada Humane Society
Community Advisory Meeting
February 4, 2008

Meeting Agenda

- Brief introduction from Diane and announcement
- Review pending issues from last meeting, list additional concerns
- Attendees each vote for top two to discuss
- Discussion
- Next Steps – will e-mail attendees with next meeting dates for 2008 and post notes on NHS website.

Next Meeting: March 4, Tuesday, 5:30 to 7 PM at the Education Room, NHS/WCRAS Shelter at 2825 Longley Lane, Reno, NV

Announcements:

Maddie's Fund Spay/Neuter Project: Tom Jacobs of the No. NV SPCA announced that the Maddie's Fund in Nevada Spay/Neuter Project would be kicked off on February 15. The program will serve people who have Medicaid or Nevada Check-up cards. More information may be obtained on this website: www.maddieinnevada.org

Nevada's Week for the Animals will be April 6 – 12. The event is in conjunction with Best Friends Animal Society. A Super-Adoption event will be held here in Reno involving all the humane organizations and rescue groups on April 12 at the Livestock Events Center. The goal is to find homes for 100 animals that day.

Pit-Bull Task Force: This committee was initiated at the January Community Advisory Meeting. The goal is to help keep pit bulls out of area shelters – get them reunited with their families and get them adopted. The first meeting was held on February 13 at NHS. Raluca Duncan is the point of contact for these meetings and she may be reached via e-mail at rduncan@nevadahumanesociety.org.

Attendee comments, number of votes, ranking of topics for discussion

- Outreach for the Humane Society, pictures of pets available for adoption, and how to help (held over from prior meeting) – 3 votes
- #3) Animal Help Desk – recording or person (held over from prior meeting) – 7 votes
- Anti-breeding legislation, what is Humane Society's approach? (held over from prior meeting) – 2 votes
- Home checks for adopted animals, only for pitbulls? (held over from prior meeting) – 0 votes
- #1) Washoe County Animal Services Advisory Board – 12 votes
- #2) How to get more people to attend these meetings – 9 votes

Topics Discussed

1) Washoe County Animal Services Advisory Board

Discussed:

- Pros, cons and challenges of an advisory board for animal services.
- How to make it happen

Suggestions:

- Scope of such a board: advisory not legal
- Possible expansion of current board from exotics and permits
- Getting right people on board
- Providing a place for people to go with concerns
- Next steps. Focus on getting more people to these meetings

2.) How to get more people to attend these meetings

Discussed:

- Target audience, awareness in the community.
- Change night of the meeting to Wednesday or Thursday (meeting room is unavailable – booked by the county on those nights.)
- Find a burning topic/issue. Group selected pet abandonment as the topic for the next meeting. (Discussed upcoming planned feral cat meetings and pit bull task force. Other future topics suggested: puppy mills and pet stores, pets and kids.)
- Include a call to action, something simple but specific to do in each meeting, even if we are just asking people to forward e-mail information to 5 friends.
- Institute educational meetings for the public about adoption, feral cats, dog training, other pet retention topics (panel of experts), and public awareness about donating for animals “Brother can you spare a dime?”

Attendance

14 people in attendance (some fall into more than one category)

Volunteers 4

Representatives of other organizations 5

Employees 5

Concerned citizens 2

Also attended last meeting: 7