

**FINAL - MINUTES
OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eric Trager at 6:00pm

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Eric Trager Present, Sarah Hammond Present, Dr. Anna Robinson present, ELizabeth Gooden present, Robert Blythin present and Bryan RUiz Present

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the 7-27-2022 Animal Services Advisory Board were introduced by Chair Eric Trager. Sarah Hammomd motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Anna Robinson made a motion to second the approval of the minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

No citizens spoke

This is a time for attendees to speak on general items of their personal concern that are NOT on this agenda. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act the Board cannot answer questions or discuss items brought up during Citizens' Communications. Comments regarding agenda items should be brought up when those items are considered by the Board.

5. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A) Presentation and recommendation regarding amending the city's ordinance requiring rabies vaccinations for domesticated pets from once a year to either once or three times a year.

Senior Animal Welfare & Rescue Officer Allison Scheffel gave the rabies presentation giving an overview of general rabies information as well as looking at data from benchmark cities and their rabies vaccination requirements.

Board member Bryan Ruiz shared data stating in 2017 there were 2 positive cases of rabies in domesticated animals both were cats, the rest of the positive cases were in wildlife. Board member Bryan Ruiz shared a graph titled "Total of City Rabies Exposure Cases vs. Positive Cases in the City". The graph showed that many vets agree with a

3-year rabies vaccine. Discussion about changing the draft ordinance began.

The rabies control policy from the city ordinance was discussed. Board member Eric Traeger expressed concern that a 3-year rabies vaccine would not be as strong. Board member Dr. Ana Robinson stated that the 3-year rabies vaccine is reliable for that long and animals are not at risk for over vaccinating.

After discussion all board members agreed that a 3 year rabies vaccine would be approved.

B) Discussion and possible recommendation regarding Feral Cat Colony management

Senior Animal Welfare & Rescue Officer Allison Scheffel went over the proposed amendments. She defined what a feral cat is and what is a cat colony is. Board member Bryan Ruiz stated it would be beneficial to have the cat colonies registered with a sponsor in order to collect data.

Board member Sarah Hammond stated it is hard to track the number of cat colonies/managers but her concern is there could be pushback over requirements for stricter registration/tracking and could deter people from doing so resulting in the cat population exploding again. Board members Sarah Hammond and Eric Traeger stated there were too many pending questions and more time to research was needed.

Citizen Glen Wenzel made a comment stating that due to cat dumping a cat colony in his neighborhood grew resulting in an increase in cat population. He expressed his concern over the possibility of rabies in these feral cats and how neighbors feeding the feral cats continue to contribute to the increase of cats. Board members agreed more research, investigation and discussion is needed on this subject.

No Motion was passed.

6. Chair Eric Trager adjourned at 710pm

By: _____
ERIC TRAGER CHAIR

Attest:

SAMANTHA CALDER BOARD LIAISON