

Commission on Animal Care & Control
Minutes of November 17, 2022 Commission Meeting
Approved at the January 19, 2023 meeting

Commissioners Attending (7 of 9)

Cynthia Bathurst, Chair, private citizen
Tonette Duggar, Chicago Department of Streets & Sanitation Member
Heather Owen, private citizen
Ramona Griffin, private citizen
JB Bruederle, Veterinarian Member
Charleen Propsom, private citizen
Janna Kerins, Chicago Health Department Member

Commissioners Absent (2 of 9)

Thomas Beazley, Lieutenant, Chicago Police Department Member
Paula Fasseas, Humane Society Member

Also Attending

Mamadou Diakhate, Executive Director
Susan Cappello, Deputy Director, CACC
Arthur Hamilton, Shelter Manager, CACC
Angela Rayburn, Operations Manager, CACC
Armando Tejada, Executive Administrative Asst, CACC
Members of the public – via livestream

Agenda Item #1: Determination of Quorum and Call to Order

R. Griffin performed roll call and determined a quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment

J. Joyce – *For Deputy Cruz or her designee- When will Streets and San begin taking photos of deceased animals and adding them to the Dead Dog Book long kept by CACC ? Many lost dog connections are being accomplished quickly w volunteer help and once S & S takes the pets body, dog owners are left not knowing if it was their pet. A simple photo may give many owners the closure they need. Can this please be accomplished before the next Board meeting? For Lt Beasley - Can a substitute representative from CPD be present when Lt.Beasley cannot be?*

Katie Campbell – *I was never sent a link for comment... yet again. Feel free to read my questions. I don't know why I keep wasting my time. Good Morning Few questions: **Lt. Beazley** • Thank you for the memo sent to the department last month about microchipping. • What happened to the Animal Crimes Team? What area of the Department are Animal Crimes being referred to now? **Josie from DSS** • How can you state that your employees are scanning all domestic deceased animals for microchips when many have been witnessed not doing so and there are days when said employees do not even have a chip scanner on their trucks? • Out of the 1070 deceased animals picked up by DSS in October 2022, how many of those animals had microchips? **CACC Admin and Staff-** • You are Chicago Animal Care and Control. Not Chicago Dog Care and Control. People continue to be refused intake for cats, which is against the city ordinance. How are you addressing this? • Why is CACC closing out stray cat calls stating "CACC does not apprehend community/feral cats or kittens"? Who gives dispatch permission to close out/cancel calls? • Rumor has it that ACOs are going to be doubling up in their trucks for shifts and their shift hours are going to change. Is this true? • How many hours does the Operations Manager spend in the field per week? • Staff is still not signing emails when responding to the visitcacc@cityofchicago.org emails • Why*

*aren't all microchips of stray animals picked up by ACOs being researched while in the field instead of waiting until they get to the shelter? **Commission** • Why does it take 2 months to get answers when I'm the only person writing/calling in? • Why again is it hard to communicate sending a link to call in? • Why are commissioners allowed to miss several meetings a year when you only meet once every 2 months? • Why are these meetings still not being held in person? Thanks, Katie Campbell*

Public Comment Requests are to be emailed to askcacc@cityofchicago.org in advance of the meeting. S. Cappello added that this is the portion of the meeting for public comment, not question time. Questions to both the department and the Commissioners can be send to the askcacc email at any and responses may be sent out by the appropriate party.

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the July 15, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. The minutes from the September 15, 2022 minutes were reviewed with the answers to public comments attached, R. Griffin opposed the approval, motion to defer the approval of the minutes to January 19, 2023.

Agenda Item #4: Report of Chairperson

C. Bathurst reported that she asked each commissioner to reach out to their Police Districts to see what they needed.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Director

M. Diakhate thanked everyone for attending, reported on events and upcoming events and thanked the volunteers who have stepped up to help with adoption events, social media and PetFinder. S. Cappello reported on hiring, vacancies, budget and introduced Armando Tejada as the new Executive Administrative Assistant and his role. A. Hamilton reported on statistics. H. Owen asked if data is being collected on euthanasia per owner requests, if information can be shared with the public and if there is a policy on how you counsel owner requested euthanasia and a policy on how the EPO's are assessed. R Griffin asked if CACC is tracking diversion. A. Rayburn reported on field statistics, supplies ie microchip scanners and 2023 change of shifts for field staff. H Owen added that they use ShelterLove database to track information. R Griffin suggested that CACC reach out to Chameleon to build out the system to track the need. S Cappello reported on the spotlighted dogs and cats throughout the year.

Agenda Item #6: City Agency Reports

- T. Duggar (Streets & Sanitation) – No report. Still actively using the two scanners that they were provided.
- J. Kerins (Health) – No report.
- T. Beazley (Police) – No report.

Agenda Item #7: Commissioner Reports

- R. Griffin – Will write up a year end report. Has attended several conferences in 2022 and would like to see more CACC staff attending. Thanked the department for increasing the Doggie Day Out program and thanked Bosleys Backyard and Mutt Jackson on Montrose Harbor for use of their space. Thank you to FCACC, Rescue Chicago, all rescues and CACC staff.
- H. Owen – CRISP helped 176 animals in the program with less then 20% are direct referrals from CACC and other 80% from animal hospitals. Will be doing a training for CACC staff on who to refer to CRISP.
- C. Propsom – Reason for Friends is to call attention to the good things at CACC. Been successful with donations, purchased a new washer and dryer, working on repairing some scanners, participated in vaccine clinics, off-site adoption events, foster program to help CACC, After Hours Crisis Care Program. M Diakhate thanked Charlie from FCACC for the money and time she puts into the After Hours Crisis Care Program. FCACC is also supplying the funding of a Volunteer Coordinator for the shelter.

- JB. Bruederle – Veterinary clinics across Chicago are booked. Reaching out to see if help with vaccinating dogs is needed.
- C. Bathurst – Safe Humane Chicago has been involved with manners classes for the dogs, corporate volunteer days & Illinois Youth Center Programming.
- P. Fasseas – No report.

Agenda Item #8: Other Business

None.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

Establish meetings for 2023. Third Thursday of every other month: January 19, 2023, March 16, 2023, May 18, 2023, July 20, 2023, September 21, 2023 & November 16, 2023. Approved unanimously with at least one 2023 meeting being in person.

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

Meetings will continue to be virtual. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next virtual meeting is January 19, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Response to Public Comment:

Dear Ms Campbell,

Below are the responses to your questions from the Nov 17th Commission meeting. Please note that the Public Comment portion of the Commission meeting is for public comment on agenda items for that meeting, not for department specific questions. CACC is working on making that more clear on our website. In the future, specific department questions can be asked at any time by emailing askcacc@cityofchicago.org. The department will attempt to answer questions or address situations as they are asked.

CACC Admin and Staff-

- You are Chicago Animal Care and Control. Not Chicago Dog Care and Control. People continue to be refused intake for cats, which is against the city ordinance. How are you addressing this?

CACC does not turn away cat intakes. We do provide alternatives to clients who bring cats to the facility. In fact, for the year of 2022, CACC took in a total of 5,336 cats. Of the 5,336 cats, at least 4,102 were taken in at the front desk, of the 4,102 cats taken in at the front desk, at least 3,063 were stray cats.

- Why is CACC closing out stray cat calls stating “CACC does not apprehend community/feral cats or kittens”? Who gives dispatch permission to close out/cancel calls?

Please provide examples of these calls so we may investigate.

- Rumor has it that ACOs are going to be doubling up in their trucks for shifts and their shift hours are going to change. Is this true?

CACC does not respond to rumors.

- How many hours does the Operations Manager spend in the field per week?

Attached is the job description of the Operations Manager – Animal Control. This position is not required to go into the field.

- Staff is still not signing emails when responding to the visitcacc@cityofchicago.org emails

Please provide recent examples as all staff with access to that email have been advised to sign the emails.

- Why aren't all microchips of stray animals picked up by ACOs being researched while in the field instead of waiting until they get to the shelter?

There are times when we don't have staff available to perform the microchip research or microchips are missed, in these cases, the research will be done at the shelter. Additionally, we are in the process of upgrading our scanners and are looking forward to returning more animals in the field.

Best regards,

Sue Cappello, Deputy Director
Chicago Animal Care and Control
2741 South Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60608
312.747.1382 (p) / 312.747.1409 (f)
Susan.cappello@cityofchicago.org

Happy New Year, Katie!

Here are Commission responses to your comments and questions for the Commission.

Submitted for Commission-

Note: Comments and questions submitted for Commissioners Lt Beazley and Jodie Cruz (S&S) are being sent to them with a request to address them at the January 2023 meeting as part of their report. Note that in answer to a similar question to S&S prior to the November 2022 meeting, Ms Cruz reported that DOA animals from S&S are not counted unless the animal has a microchip.

- Why does it take 2 months to get answers when I'm the only person writing/calling in?

From the Commission Chair:

- I don't know that you are the only person writing/calling in.
- NOTE: We have said in the past that responses could be expected no later than the next regular meeting following the submission of comments to askcacc.

- Why again is it hard to communicate sending a link to call in?

From the Commission Chair:

- The Department responds to comments for the Department emailed to askcacc. Since the COVID-19 emergency, the Department has taken on sending out the link to call in to a virtual meeting to those who email askcacc within the guidelines stated on the website.

- Why are commissioners allowed to miss several meetings a year when you only meet once every 2 months?

From the Commission Chair:

- There is no set number or sequence of meetings that Commissioners must attend. We neither allow nor not allow attendance at meetings. Commissioners are expected to attend every meeting.

- Why are these meetings still not being held in person?

The Commission resolved at the November 2022 meeting to meet in person at least once a year.