



# **Spay and Neuter Grant Program Advisory Board**

## **Meeting Agenda**

November 17, 2016

11:00 AM-2:00PM

**Type of Meeting:** The Spay and Neuter Advisory Board will meet Thursday November 17, from 11:00AM to 2:00PM at the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis – Room 206.

**Meeting Facilitator:** Jane Mallory

Invitees: Amy Hanigan, Dr. Amy Carney (Veterinarian), Robin Catlett (Anne Arundel County Animal Control), Tami Santelli (Humane Society of US-Interim Chair), Caroline Griffin, Steve Connelly (MDA), Mark Powell (MDA) Craig Nielsen (MDA) Vanessa Orlando (MDA), and public.

### **Introductions**

#### **I. Minutes Approval for October 26 2016 meeting (T. Santelli)**

##### **Program Business (T. Santelli)**

**Continuation of program improvements focusing on the Feral Cat Application and guidelines.**

**Other topics to be covered as time permits:**

##### **b. New Business**

#### **II. Public Comments/questions if any**

#### **III. Choosing possible dates for next meeting date for February 2017.**

#### **IV. Adjournment**



## Spay and Neuter Advisory Board Meeting Minutes For November 17 2016

Spay/Neuter Advisory Board Minutes of Meeting held on November 17, 2016, 11:00 a.m., at the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Advisory Board Members present:

Amy Carney- AC  
Amy Hanigan-AH  
Steve Connelly (MDA)-SC  
Tami Santelli (HSUS-Chair)-TS  
Robin Catlett (Anne Arundel Co Animal Control)-RC

Board Members not present: Caroline Griffin & Pet Food Industry Rep (vacant)  
Additional Attendees: Emily Hovermale (HSUS) & Chloe Waterman (ASPCA)

Staff Support Spay/Neuter Program: Jane Mallory (MDA) -JM

### **Introduction:**

Meeting called to order by Chair T. Santelli (Chair). TS- Defer approving minutes of October meeting minutes until next meeting. Continue update of feral cat-related materials based on recommendations forwarded by the subcommittee.

### **Discussion regarding s feral subcommittee recommendations:**

**Re: Targeting:** Recommend emphasizing mass trapping (i.e. whole colony) in short period of time will be recommended and will be given priority, with language in guidelines to emphasize this. AC-must not be a requirement which might end up excluding smaller groups or other areas of the state, based on manpower availability. All agreed this will be a recommendation, not a requirement.

**Re: Period of Performance:** All agreed to limit to 12 months with time extensions granted on a case by case basis and at the discretion of MDA and will update guidance language.

**Re: Update on existing projects:** JM agreed to provide updates to Board regarding project performance, especially for any projects that are experiencing difficulties or posing problems for the department.

**Re: Trap bank:** All agreed to defer discussion until later meeting after we hear from guest speaker from Laurel Cats who runs a trap bank.

**Re: Altering Kittens:** Agreed to language that all cats must be vaccinated for rabies before being returned to their colonies. Kittens must be 12 weeks or older to be vaccinated. JM agreed to include in guidelines. Agreed age of kitten will be determined by the vet and project managers.

**Re: Requirement to target 100% of colony:** All agreed this should be a requirement and stated as such in the in the guidelines.



**Re: Transporting vs using local vets to build capacity:** Agreed program should encourage use of local vets when practicable to increase capacity, but not a requirement. Let applicants use the new section Budget Justifications section to explain why they are choosing either to transport to cheaper clinic or use local vets where cost may be higher. All agreed to update of application and guidelines detailing this.

**Re: More strongly emphasizing Best Management Practices:** AH explained how the subcommittee summarized chapter 4 of Bryan Kortis' TNR publication regarding BMPs. Agreed these are not requirements but should be considered while formulating project.

**Re: Feral projects be allowed to use a % of their funds for pets in poverty:** Agreed that up to 25% of the surgeries can be used for owned cats in poverty (indoor or outdoor) in the target area and guidelines revised to include this.

**Re: Should feral projects be asked to assess the likely source of the stray cats, and how those owners might be reached:** Agreed to add question on guidelines for applicants to consider as a discussion point in their target section and outreach section.

**Re: Allowing complaint-driven feral projects:** AC gave summary of statistics from BARCS after changing TNR program from targeting areas (such as zip codes) to complaint-driven. Agreed to allow this kind of TNR project but to tweak guidelines to clarify that targeting specific known colonies is preferred and proven to be most effective. We will consider complaint based projects on a case-by-case basis but the applicant must demonstrate the capacity to do the necessary follow up on the rest of the cats in the area. Agreed text on page 15 of revised guidelines is approved.

**Re: TNR Training Videos:** Talked about looking for and adding links on website to various training videos. SC agreed this would be OK with MDA. Subcommittee recommended adding a link to Neighborhood Cats.org video regarding mass trapping.

**Re: Standards of Care Requirement:** JM mentioned the new law requiring county facilities including private facilities funded by MDA to meet requirements of law including posting of plan and statistics. Agreed this would be included on application with info in guidelines and on the webpage. This will be a part of due diligence.

**Re: Special Training:** AC requested a wording change that states applicants with this training or asking for training will be given special consideration instead of may be given special consideration.

TS: Remainder of time will be used to discuss tickler file items that would directly impact applications and guidelines for the next RFP.

**Re: Should we only fund shelters that spay/neuter prior to adoption:** JM- Pat McMillan opposed this as he did not want the department to dictate policy to the counties. RC also commented that some facilities may not be physically or financially equipped to meet this requirement. All agreed not to adopt this.

**Re: Identifying type of shelter applying:** Board talked about how to identify the type of shelter (private, county or county contracted). Agreed to revise check boxes on application so that applicants could better identify what type of shelter they are if they shelter animals.



**Re: Humane education for schools:** AC- strong support of this type of education. Board decided not to allow education to schools because it is beyond the scope of the program. If the Board wanted to fund or promote these kinds of projects in the future, may require subcommittee to explore this, including curriculum development. Board endorses rather than individual Humane Education projects, the program itself developing a marketing program to educate the public about spay/neuter and the availability of funded projects.

### **III. New Business:**

**Re: Using some program money to implement a marketing/outreach effort for the state.** SC- Marketing busy and not ready at this time to get any type of RFP and campaign within the next 6 months. AH- CG may be able to help in this. SC-offered to talk with Mark Powell of MDA Marketing about this. AH: motion to recommend the Secretary allow for \$50,000 of FY16 program funds be used for state wide community education and outreach for spay and neuter. RC-seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Passed.

Comments on documents due to JM from Board by end of year.

### **IV. Public Comments:**

None.

### **V. Next Meeting Date:**

Next meeting will be after RFP goes out. JM will coordinate with TS about next meeting and then send doodle poll to board for a date.

### **VI. Adjourned.**

RC- Motion to adjourn. AH-seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.