

## **Annual Report To The Mayor And Council**

FROM: Animal Welfare Committee

By: Suzie Bellamy and Kathy Rodeffer , Co- Chairs

DATE: October 8, 2020

### **I. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BOARD? (As stated in the City Code or establishing Resolution):**

This committee addresses issues related to domestic and wild animals in the City of College Park; works with the City Animal Control Officer to plan activities and initiatives to promote animal welfare; educates the community about responsible pet ownership, wildlife management and pest control; advises the Mayor and Council on animal welfare related issues; coordinates with animal welfare and rescue organizations; assist the City's Animal Control Officer in providing care for sheltered animals and in promoting and facilitating adoptions.

The majority of the committee's activities center on assisting the Animal Control Officer in providing care for the animals in the city's care (both at the shelter, in Petco, and in foster), advertising/promoting animals available for adoption, and advancing the work of the committee through fundraisers and being present at city events.

### **II. LIST AND BRIEFLY DESCRIBE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY THE BOARD DURING THE PAST YEAR IN SUPPORT OF THIS PURPOSE:**

The committee members assisted in caring for cats at Petco awaiting adoption. The City and Petco have a partnership that allows cats and kittens to be in a habitat until they are adopted. Committee members visit at least once every day to feed, clean, and provide socialization to the cats there. We also review adoption applications and facilitate the adoptions.

Committee members also assist at the Shelter when there are animals there and the ACO is not working. Because of some issues at the shelter prior to the renovation and then the pandemic, there have not been many animals kept there in the last year. With the hiring of the new ACO and the wonderfully renovated building, it is our hope that our shelter can return to being a place for animals awaiting vetting and then adoption.

Along with the Animal Control Officer, we hosted one microchip and rabies shot clinic. The intention had been to do two of these however the pandemic would not allow the second one to take place.

As part of our commitment to educating the community, the committee provided articles on topics related to animals and their care to the Municipal Scene each month.

The major part of our energy went into revising the City Code section 102. The last revision was done in 2012 and we wanted to update it to bring it into compliance with the newest Prince George's County animal regulations.

### **III. LIST AND BRIEFLY DESCRIBE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR IN SUPPORT OF THIS PURPOSE:**

The committee looks forward to working with the new ACO to restore the very successful Petco adoption program.

The committee plans to assist the Animal Control Officer at the Microchip and Rabies vaccination clinic.

The Municipal Scene will continue to be a means of educating the community especially when the City Code section 102 is approved. There are important changes in regards to shelter, tethering and keeping animals in that will need to be shared.

**IV. PLEASE IDENTIFY ANY ISSUES OR PROBLEMS THAT YOU WANT TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL:**

Clarification is needed on the process for having volunteers for the shelter outside of committee members. Sometimes, people are interested in helping at the shelter and but have no interest in joining the committee. Currently, there are only 3 volunteers that work the shelter and we are in need of developing a pool of potential "care givers" that may not be members of the committee.