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ACC Board Meeting
January 22, 2016
Location: 125 Worth Street, 2nd Floor Auditorium
New York, NY

Board Members and Officers present:

Patrick Nolan, Chair
Dr. Jay Kuhlman, Secretary
Elaine Keane, Treasurer
Dan Kass
Yonaton Aronoff
Mike Dockett
Captain Joseph Kersting
Caren Fleit
Linda Chinn
Howard Hollander
Louise Cohen
Risa Weinstock, Executive director

The meeting commenced at 10:37am. Patrick Nolan welcomed everyone to the Board meeting. He noted the progress of ACC over the past year and the commitment of the Board and the Mayor's office to the future goals of ACC. Noting there were over 20 members of the public who had signed up for the public comment session, the public was advised to also submit their statements to ACC's info account, if they didn't have the opportunity to speak.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Appointment of Chairperson

Upon motion Patrick Nolan was reappointed as Chairperson.

Approval of Financial Audit

Gina Manente from Rosenberg and Manente presented an overview of the Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2015. Upon motion the audit was approved.

Executive Director's Report

Risa Weinstock, Executive Director thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for supporting ACC.

A review of calendar year 2015 revealed a slight increase in intake of dogs and cats in comparison to the previous year, and an increase in the number of rabbit intakes. Over 1,000 animals were prevented from entering the shelter system as a result of ACC's newly created Admissions Department and surrender prevention efforts. Live release for dogs improved 5% over the previous year. Although cat intake remains high, the live release rate for cats was 4% better than the previous year.

Reducing euthanasia remains a top priority for ACC; euthanasia was down 27% from 2014. The main reasons for euthanasia are health and behavior, or a combination of both. Several action plans are in place to mitigate illness in the shelters including administering the canine influenza vaccine upon intake, improvement of PPE process, isolation restrictions, and revision of cleaning protocols.

The shelters are always busy which causes stress on the animals; the new facilities when completed will alleviate this problem. In the meantime ACC has introduced several programs to enrich the lives of the animals, making them better candidates for adoption.

ACC continues to focus on challenges such as length of stay; intake volume and traffic flow, and continues its fundraising for more diagnostic equipment for the medical department. For example, the Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer donated capital funds for the digital x-ray now in use at the Manhattan Care Center. The top priorities for the next three years will be reducing intakes, reducing illness and euthanasia, increasing adoptions and building awareness.

With respect to placement ACC has increased adoptions to the public by more than 1,000 by participating in over 150 offsite adoption events throughout NYC; 'Clear the Shelter 2015' an event hosted by NBC and Telemundo; corporate partnerships; and piloting an Adoption Ambassadors program that enables fosters to promote adoption of the dog or cat they are fostering. ACC has increased awareness in 2015 with its "Easy As ACC" ad campaigns, social media outreach and an adoption app for Apple and Android phones.

ACC's Community Dogs Program Coordinator, Ken Foster gave a presentation on ACC's Community Pet Program, which was made possible through a generous grant from State Senator Jeffrey Klein and is designed to help reduce owner surrenders. The Community Dog Program is based in the Bronx and consists of a food pantry, free basic dog obedience training and free vaccination clinics. The food pantry provides food to registered households and has served a total of 50 dogs and 71 cats in just a few months; 8 families participated in free dog behavior training programs; and 76 dogs received free vaccines at the first vaccination clinic held in November 2015. Additionally, while interacting with clients at the vaccination clinics ACC can gather information that will help identify needed resources for the community. ACC will hold an orientation for volunteers interested in this program in the Bronx on February 1st.

DOHMH Update

Mario Merlino, Assistant Commissioner presented the capital plans for renovation and improvements to ACC facilities. He explained the scope of work for each location, the agencies responsible and timelines. The Staten Island facility will be replaced, Brooklyn facility will receive

facility improvements, including an HVAC replacement, the Manhattan garage will be turned into a new adoption center, and the Bronx and Queens will have full service shelters.

Public Comment

Public comment was heard from 11:53 am to 12:28 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.