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**LISTENING SESSION MINUTES**

Meeting of August 22, 2013 – 6:00pm  
Meeting held at:  
Anderson Municipal Building/Lake Tower  
4001 S. 6th St. – 3rd Floor  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

**Present:**

Mr. Don Schaewe, City of Milwaukee  
Ms. Karen Sparapani, Executive Director (MADACC)  
Ms. Lorraine Sweeney, Shelter Supervisor (MADACC)  
Ms. Jessica Huber, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator (MADACC)

**1. Submitted Questions/Responses**

Is each animal getting evaluated? When are they done and which staff member performs them? What method is used for dogs?

MADACC is currently using the most up to date and progressive behavior evaluations that are industry approved (SAFER and the test from Cornell University Veterinary School). We only have one person allowed to do the testing at MADACC to ensure consistency and fairness. Our Shelter Supervisor has had intensive training and still attends behavior seminars and other educational opportunities to ensure she is getting the best results from these evaluations.

Usually the behavior evaluations are being done between day 4 and day 8 of their stay. Every single dog is being given a behavior evaluation if they are not claimed by an owner.

MADACC serves municipalities affected by breed-specific legislation. How are animals at MADACC affected by these types of ordinances? Would a repeal of this type of legislation help?

There honestly is no day to day affect on the animals at MADACC because of these municipal ordinances. I think the only time I have seen a problem is if there is a potential adopter interested in a pitbull that we cannot allow an adoption for because of the rules if their municipality does not allow it. Otherwise, we do not see any problems.

Is there now a policy in place to prevent adoptable animals from being killed if a rescue wants them? For example, if an animal is on the kill list that morning and a rescue calls first thing to place a hold, coming to pick the animal up that morning, will the hold be honored and the animal removed from the list?

We have revamped the system here so that should no longer be a problem. We have not had any issue like that since I started. Because the shelters and rescues want temperament tests done before considering taking an animal now, the system seems to be working just fine.

Will MADACC release an updated Board of Directors list with contact information? If yes, how will it be made available to the public?

Yes, I have copies available with me. If someone needs a copy, they can request one from MADACC.

If a MADACC adoptable gets returned for behavioral problems, what happens? In the past they were killed, even if the behavior was a minor fixable problem, has this practice changed under the new leadership?

If an animal gets returned for biting a person or attacking another animal, they will not be made available for adoption, and that is pretty much an industry wide standard. I cannot speak about what happened the past, but I have had a few animals returned for behavior issues since I have been here, like Adele and her separation anxiety, and she was returned twice, and then she was transferred to a rescue and was just adopted out by them. There is no such thing as a perfect animal, and what bugs one person can be endearing to another.

Karen made EBHS our area's first No Kill shelter. MADACC supporters were so excited to hear the board had made such a great choice in hiring someone with that exact experience. But since starting at MADACC, she's said publicly that she's 'not necessarily No Kill'. The sudden change in tune is quite surprising and extremely disappointing. EBHS and MADACC are different shelters, but why not have the same goals in place and work towards No Kill? It would most definitely set MADACC ahead of the pack here in Milwaukee.

I have always been very clear that I do not identify myself as "No-Kill". My shelter (EBHS) absolutely was, and it got that way not because I was a part of the "No-Kill" nation. It became that way because I feel that every single animal needs to be judged individually. I would often ask the staff at EBHS "What would you do if this was your animal?" That is how we decided how to move forward with an animal with medical or behavior problems.

This is not a sudden change at all. I have NEVER said that I was personally "No-Kill". I do not like the label. I do not think it is conducive to building relationships in animal welfare to go around saying that I am better than you because I had a 90% plus live release rate.

But, I assure all of you that MADACC is working toward reducing euthanasia in our facility. We have a long way to go, but we are putting in place the relationships that will create the resources to do so much more for the animals in Milwaukee County.

Does Madacc accept owner surrenders? I thought they didn't but on the FB page it sometimes lists animals as that, what's the deal?

We always encourage owners to take surrenders to WHS or another shelter or rescue. Part of the MADACC agreement provides surrender services to our communities when an owner needs to surrender an animal due to personal circumstances.

Please note that we endeavor to transfer these animals upon intake so that they do not have to spend time in our facility as they are not required to be held for the 7 day stray hold period.

Why are there so few animal care attendants working at Madacc? They take care of the basic needs of the animals and there should be at least double what there is now. Is this a money issue?

We currently do have enough staff to meet the needs of the animals each day. Since I started I changed some of the duties between the care staff and the medical staff to give them more time to better perform their duties and

to make sure each department was handling what they were trained to do. I think we actually talked about maybe budgeting for an additional part time care person, but in the end, thought that we had things covered pretty well.

Does any animal care facility have enough staff? I have not been to one that would not love to have more staff. For now, with our current responsibilities and population, we are just right.

Are there any plans to buy another washer and dryer? What about dishwashers?

A new washer/dryer, to serve along with our current units, has already been discussed and approved. We are in the process of working out the mechanicals and having them installed with the least amount of down time.

We have never discussed a dishwasher, and I have seen very few of them in a shelter. I am not sure with all of the other things we would like that a dishwasher is high on the list (sadly for the intrepid volunteers who are washing the dishes). Maybe someday, but not in the near future.

The article in the Milwaukee Magazine refers to the reinstatement of banned volunteers and banned rescues. When will the banned volunteers and rescues be reinstated?

The only statement about banned volunteers/rescues contained in Milwaukee Magazine article was:

“She’s already reinstated some barred volunteers and mended some strained relationships.”

In fact, no “barred” volunteers were reinstated, and there are no plans to bring those volunteers back. There are only three volunteers who can no longer participate in the volunteer program or access the non-public areas of the building through volunteer service with another group.

There was only one rescue that was dropped from the transfer program and there are no plans to bring that group back into the program, either.