

Washoe County Regional Animal Services

Advisory Board

Friday, October 18, 2024, @ 2:00 p.m.
Washoe County Commission Chambers
1001 E. 9th Street, Building A, Reno NV
and available via Zoom and YouTube

Members Present:

Naomi Duerr, Chair
Paul Anderson, Vice-Chair
Trudy Brussard
Diaz Dixon
Mariluz Garcia
Jill Fisher
Julie McMahan

Members Present via Zoom:

Members Absent:

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum [Non-Action Item]

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. and a quorum was present.

2. Salute to the Flag [Non-Action Item]

Jill Fisher led all those convened in the pledge of allegiance.

3. Instruction for Providing Public Comment via Zoom/Telephone [Non-Action Item]

Trenton Ross, Deputy District Attorney, provided instructions for members of the public to join the meeting via Zoom or telephone and provided instructions for how members of the public could provide oral public comment via Zoom or telephone.

4. Public Comment [Non-Action Item]

Frank Gibbons addressed the board via Zoom. He shared that he has adopted from and volunteered with the Nevada Humane Society. He expressed that over the past 15-20 years not only is the facility aging, but there have been many changes in the demographics of Washoe County as well as changes to animal services best practices. He suggested that the stakeholders come together, if they haven't already, to look at how both agencies are meeting those changing needs. He shared that in a previous position with the Kitzap Humane Society in Washington they had brought in technical advisors to help reimagine how they were addressing the changing best practices, and they were of great assistance. Chair Duerr asked that Mr. Gibbons reach out to the staff

of Washoe County Regional Animal Services and to the Nevada Humane Society with further ideas and suggestions.

5. Approval of July 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes [For Possible Action]

Member Julie McMahon moved to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2024 meeting of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board as presented. Member Trudy Brussard seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by the board with no opposition.

6. Director's Report [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) Director Shyanne Shull presented the Fiscal Year 2025 quarter one report. She shared that WCRAS has only six Caretakers, one Lead Caretaker, and the Shelter Supervisor to take care of all the animals that come into our facility as well as handling the public that comes in to redeem their animals and/or microchipping their animals upon request. Last quarter saw a decrease in cat intakes by 15% and an increase in dog intakes by approximately 5%. There was a significant jump in the number of miscellaneous animals brought into the shelter, including a tank of 100 guppies that had been abandoned which skewed the number much higher than in previous quarters.

The length of stay for dogs has decreased by 34.4% for an average of 7.5 days. The cat length of stay decreased by 15.9% for an average of 5.7 days. decreasing the length of stay for both cats and dogs is of the utmost priority for the shelter since every day past 5 days creates a burden for the shelter and impacts the ability to take in new animals.

Of the 1,139 cats impounded in quarter one, 12% were already microchipped which is an increase over the past several years. Of the 1,577 dogs impounded in quarter one, 48% were already microchipped with is similar to the last several years. WCRAS will continue efforts to increase microchipping by offering free clinics and further marketing to members of the public. Previously the board had asked for statistics regarding the differences in length of stay for microchipped animals versus non-microchipped animals. For the 2023 calendar year the average length of stay for dogs with no chip was 6.58 days versus 2.41 days for dogs with a microchip, which is a significant increase in the efficiency of getting those animals back home if they are already microchipped. For cats the average length of stay was 5.9 days without a microchip and 4.52 days with a microchip so not as significant an increase in efficiency. This remains an area that WCRAS is working on with further education and marketing. In addition to reporting on the difference in length of stay, Director Shull also included the approximate cost savings for animals with a microchip. For dogs the approximate cost savings was \$162 per dog that was microchipped and for cats it was \$21 per cat for a total of over \$170,000 in savings over calendar year 2023 making the \$8,000 spent on microchips over the same time frame a great investment. Director Shull also shared the story of a dog that had gone missing over the Fourth of July and was brought into the shelter several months later. Fortunately, the dog was microchipped and staff was able

to contact the owner who came down immediately to redeem their pet.

36% of all animals that were picked up were reunited in the field and not brought into the shelter over the last quarter saving the department quite a bit of money by not having to impound them. Of the 999 animals brought into the shelter, either by staff or by the public, 33% were returned to their owners. 1,371 animals were transferred to rescue partners last quarter, with 88.0% going to the Nevada Humane Society. Chair Duerr inquired as to whether Pet Network was still taking animals as their number was zero this quarter. Director Shull informed the board that Pet Network was still taking both cats and dogs, they were simply not as consistent as some of the other rescue partners.

42 cats and 67 dogs were euthanized over the last quarter. The outcome codes had been changed slightly to be more in sync with the Nevada Humane Society for whether an animal is behaviorally sound or not. The codes now used are ADL (animal disease laboratory to be tested for rabies), behavior (aggression), declared dangerous (owner has not been able to come into compliance with the code requirements), medical (injury or quality of life), owner requested (done when an animal comes to us already sick or injured and the owner opts to allow us to euthanize the animal), quality of life (for animals that are not adoption candidates due to health or behavior issues that are not able to be rehabilitated), and finally space which fortunately has not had to be done this quarter. The final category was no rescue resources. These are animals that are not aggressive but are not able to adjust to either kennel life or life in a home surrounded by humans. These animals require major resources to support them through the adoption process and many times those resources are unfortunately not available. Chair Duerr asked how this was different from behavior and Director Shull explained that behavior is specifically used for animal or human aggression. Examples of no rescue resources would be animals that are so maladapted to living in a kennel even for a short time that they are self-mutilating or animals that are not socialized to humans. These animals would spend so long in a kennel before they even had a chance to be adopted that it's not humane. Member McMahan offered that the longer these animals are in a kennel the more they spiral down into a situation where it becomes more and more intangible for them to bond or even become part of society anymore.

WCRAS has 18 total field officers and field supervisors to cover the entire county 365 days a year from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. There were two vacancies last quarter that have since been filled, but it will be several more months before the new officers will be on their own. Summertime is by far the busiest time of the year with a higher call volume so when vacancies hit during summertime it really hurts the department's ability to respond. 5,345 total calls for service came in last quarter with the largest being stray calls as it usually is. Member Brussard mentioned the high number of fires that WCRAS responded to in the last quarter and expressed her thanks. Director Shull acknowledged that emergency responses were high this quarter and would be talking about it a little later. Of the 726 total welfare calls for service, 98 were unfounded, 545

reached other outcomes meaning they were able to resolve the issue through education or helping them access resources and fix minor problems, and 83 resulted in a Citation or Notice of Civil Penalty. Hot Car calls are included in this category. Director Shull shared the new heat map of calls that the department has been working on. Staff is still trying to figure out how to zoom in on the different districts without losing information and other features that will be included in future versions.

As mentioned, the department was busy last quarter with fires and responded to four different fires (Sullivan, Trail, Quilicy/Gold Ranch, and Davis), housing 135 animals total. The Davis Fire was the longest and most labor-intensive. WCRAS operates two separate shelters, one for livestock and one for small animals, as well as having field teams helping with the evacuations adding to the increasingly difficult workload. The small animal shelter is usually set up wherever the Red Cross is and the large animal shelter is dependent on where there is space available, such as the Livestock Event Center or UNR. This summer approximately 922 staff hours were committed to the four fires. The department only has 47 employees and some of them are administrative employees that are not trained to handle animals which makes it increasingly challenging to keep up with the needs for the longer-term fires. The department is working on an agreement with the Humane Society of the United States to have them come and help during the larger, longer-term disasters with volunteers to help take care of the emergency shelters. Chair Duerr asked how the two new trailers that the department received from the Department of Homeland Security were working out. Director Shull advised the board that, although staff was skeptical at first, the trailers have been wonderful as they are self-contained and do not require loading/unloading each time and so are able to respond much faster. They are not meant for long-term housing so the department is working on protocols for when a fire goes on for more than 48 hours and the animals need to be transported back to the shelter on Longely. Member Brussard inquired as to where the Human Society of America volunteers will come from and if they will be recruiting locally. Director Shull advised the board that they are currently deployed to the hurricane areas so the agreement is on pause at the moment, but it is anticipated that all of those details will be spelled out and that the community will have the opportunity to get involved if they so choose. Member McMahon shared that Washoe County had a lot of social media requests for support, so it was as easy as just responding to a quick email or social media post. In her case she spent time at the shelter while WCRAS staff was out in the field and she had students who came to the livestock emergency shelter to muck out stalls.

Outreach services will be pulling back a little as there was a vacancy in the team of two, and the other is getting ready to go on maternity leave. The vitally important services and programs are still being maintained and it is anticipated that full scale outreach efforts will resume in February 2025. CARES support program referrals have decreased due to staffing which was expected. Pet food for seniors is a program considered vitally important but there is a tremendous amount of work that goes into it and volunteers for re-bagging the food are welcome to come help on the third Tuesday of every month

from 8:30 a.m. until supplies run out. Last quarter 239 seniors and 581 pets were served through that program. Vaccinations are another program considered vitally important for community pets to prevent disease. In addition to the monthly vaccine clinics, the department is also participating in joint clinics such as the very large free vaccine clinic hosted by the SPCA recently where staff microchipped well over 400 pets. Last quarter 684 vaccines were given to 340 pets during the monthly clinics which happen on the first Wednesday of the month from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Other outreach events included sending an officer to the kid's career camp at the SPCA who talked about what it was like to be an animal control officer and showed them all the equipment and vehicles, and participate at Art Paws where staff provided 148 free personal ID tags to pet owners. Chair Duerr expressed that she was glad that WCRAS was able to participate and that she understood that it was one of the most popular booths. She further inquired whether microchipping was offered at these types of events. Director Shull responded that microchipping is offered if qualified staff are available to attend the event and provide those services. She also reminded the board that Washoe County residents can bring their pets to the shelter any time where it will be microchipped for free. Director Shull shared that the vacancy has been filled and the new program assistant is on week two. The new program assistant will be working on overhauling the volunteer program, structuring the training and onboarding, to cast a wide net for all of the programs that could benefit from volunteer support, as well as helping with all of the other outreach programs. Lastly, volunteers donated 79.5 hours of their time to emergencies like the Davis Fire as well as to the regular programs.

Global Cat Day was October 16th. This year the department recognized the efforts being made in our community to support feral cats, the cats in our shelters, and all of the spay and neuter efforts that are happening. Part of the global movement to protect and improve the lives of cats is to challenge the attitude towards cats and help reform life-saving policies and implement systemic change in shelters to end the senseless euthanasia of cats. So far this year WCRAS has provided shelter and care for 2,592 cats so far this year with 2,161 transferred to rescue partners including NHS, SPCA, and Options Veterinary Care and 280 cats being reclaimed by their owners for a 95% live release rate. In addition to the TNR programs already established in our community, SPCA and Options Veterinary Care have partnered together to provide TNR services for the community and to date, from January through September, they have spayed or neutered 1264 cats. NHS has provided over 700 spay or neuter surgeries through their TNR program and also took over a thousand kittens from WCRAS that were too young to survive on their own and would have been euthanized in a traditional shelter system. Community Cats assisted 521 cats in our community, providing spay and neuter, transportation and release, and community education. WCRAS has been sharing cat-related messaging on all of their social media pages all week in addition to our lost and found. Chair Duerr asked if there was an estimate of how many feral cats were located in our community. Director Shull did not have an estimate of that number but advised that there were standard calculations that were used to determine how many dogs and cats live in a community based on population size and that she could bring that

estimate back to the board but she wasn't sure how accurate that was for feral cats. Chair Duerr mentioned that perhaps Community Cats might have an idea and that some nonprofits that deal with feral cats do have population estimates and can determine how TNR is working in those populations. Director Shull opined that in those programs where they are specifically honed in on an area that has a specific problem, using heat mapping and other data to look at where the animals are coming in from and where the neonate kittens are coming in from, those programs are very concise and would be the most accurate at mitigating unwanted birth versus offering spay and neuter services to the whole community. Chair Duerr offered that this might be a way to prioritize things as we expand spay and neuter services, specifically prioritizing in areas where we're seeing these population growths. Director Shull agreed that focusing on those areas would be good but that the biggest challenge for the grassroots groups in our community doing the work is that they are already struggling to meet the need for providing services. If there were more resources and availability of TNR programs then it would definitely be helpful and allow for focusing on specific areas of need based on intake and where the calls for service are coming from.

Member Garcia shared that, as a Washoe County Commissioner, she had a constituent in rural Sun Valley whose mobility was limited and was concerned with her ability to hook up a trailer in case of an emergency or evacuation. On behalf of her constituents she asked if assistance with those types of situations was available and, if so, what would be the best way to ask for help. Director Shull responded that the best way would be to contact the department directly as dispatchers are kept on staff for the duration of the emergency to be able to funnel those types of calls to the Incident Command Staff who will dispatch officers out to those locations and that they can also call 911 if the need is dire.

Member McMahon asked how many of the 48% of dogs and 12% of cats that are microchipped have chips that are successfully registered to the current owner and not still with the implant facility or previous owner. Director Shull shared that the data is not available to provide specifics, but that there are a lot of dead-end microchips where people do not keep their information up to date. That is another area where efforts are being made to education the community about the importance of keeping your information up to date, even if just with WCRAS, so that if we scan an animal we will have that information regardless of whether or not the national registries are kept up to date. She also shared that when WCRAS microchips an animal it is automatically uploaded to the national registry but there are many different microchip companies and sometimes they may charge pet owners to update a chip with new information.

Member McMahon recalled that it was reported that there were six animal caretakers as well as two leadership positions but previously it had been seven staff members. Director Shull shared that the number has actually increased as the total shelter staff includes the medical staff of a veterinarian, vet assistant, and vet technician, but that the medical staff members are not involved in the direct day-to-day animal care such

as cleaning kennels or feeding and watering the animals. WCRAS has requested an additional Animal Services Assistant which will be added to the back intake office to help free up the medical staff to provide medical care and surgery if necessary. Member McMahan shared that she has heard a great deal of community feedback on how wonderful it has been to have Dr. Slatin on staff at WCRAS and what an impact it has had on NHS to have animals transferred to them who have already had their medical needs met. Director Shull explained that WCRAS is in the process of training and onboarding the vet assistant and developing protocols and trainings for staff. Additionally, one of the core purposes of having a full-time vet on staff was to be able to take care of our in-house animals and provide diagnostic screening for disease and quality of life. Previously animals were sent to NHS that unfortunately then had to be euthanized for quality of life and now WCRAS is able to screen animals upon intake and provide medical treatment immediately.

7. Nevada Humane Society Operational Update Report [Non-Action Item]

Jerleen Bryant, CEO, and Trent Bingham, Director of Operations, provided an update to the board on the Nevada Humane Society Reno campus' second quarter 2024. CEO Bryant was proud to declare that NHS is a much different agency than in years past with a team of dedicated animal welfare professionals who strive every day to meet the needs of our community and the animals in their care using best industry practice including ASV guidelines. NHS has begun implementation of a behavior and transfer department, hiring Dr. Shelley Volch to lead the program in August and adding three behavior and transfer coordinators to her team. Among other things, the program will educate staff, volunteers, and the community in proper handling techniques and humane training methods.

Director of Operations Bingham shared information from the third quarter of calendar year 2024. NHS has 142 kennels broken into kennels reserved for emergency surrenders and other situations, occupied kennels, available kennels, and emergency kennels. During June and July NHS was consistently above the 80% capacity for care with an increase in intakes and a decrease in adoptions. Owner/guardian surrender demand was, and continues to be, very high. Diaz Dixon asked for clarification regarding capacity for care and whether it was based on current staffing and therefore fluctuated as staffing fluctuated. Director of Operations Bingham explained that it was based on the number of kennels and staff positions, not current staffing availability, and so was not a dynamic number and instead remained fixed. There are approximately 25 kennels reserved for emergencies. These reserved emergency kennels allowed NHS to be able to respond to CRCCS K9 Rehabilitation Center during the Davis Fire and accept all their animals.

The Reno NHS campus receives animals from five different sources: WCRAS, owner/guardian surrenders, Good Samaritan strays (animals under 8 weeks of age who would not survive on their own), returns, and other (born in care, transfers, etc.). In the

last quarter 60% of dog intakes came from WCRAS, 29% were owner/guardian surrenders, and 7% were returns. For cats 51% came from WCRAS, 15% were owner/guardian surrender, and 26% were the Good Samaritan neonate kittens. Overall the intake for dogs was up 8% over previous years with owner/guardian surrenders also increasing in the past two years as NHS re-evaluated their procedures and removing some of the barriers that had been in place. Member McMahon reflected that Director Shyanne had mentioned that the percentage of animals NHS had taken from WCRAS was down from previous years when it was in the mid-90s and asked if they would be able to reach those levels again. Director of Operations Bingham shared that NHS tries to maximize the number of animals that come over, however they have to be cogent of the kind of animal that does well in a shelter environment and that was not always a focus in previous years under previous leadership.

Member McMahon shared that she and the TMCC Vet Tech students visit WCRAS weekly and work with a lot of the animals that NHS has determined don't fit the criteria for transfer due to their Fear, Anxiety and Stress (FAS) score, but when her team works with the animals outside of the kennel they see a totally different animal. She asked if NHS had a procedure for reassessment. Director of Operations Bingham replied that they do a multi-level assessment and will work with the animals to see them outside of the kennel, when possible, if they are not responding well in the kennel. The ones that NHS is passing on are the ones that show high on the aggression score, showing behaviors that preclude NHS from being able to take them out on a leash and see what they are like outside of the kennel. They are also looking at the behavior notes created by WCRAS staff to see if there is variation in their behavior or more affiliation. They will also check back later in an animal's stay to do another evaluation. He noted that if an animal is showing high FAS at WCRAS they will likely show high FAS at NHS as well and would likely do better in a foster situation with an organization such as Res-Que. Member Dixon mentioned that many shelters only measure FAS in a kennel and asked if NHS only measures FAS in the kennel. He pointed out that a dog in a kennel is a very different dog than one outside of a kennel and that evidence-based practices are to make sure that the evaluation is not done in a kennel. Director of Operations Bingham reassured the board that they do take the dogs out of the kennel for evaluation in multiple environments.

Member Fisher noted that there was a huge difference in owner/guardian surrender in the past two years and asked if that was indicative of something going on in the community or if it was due to removing barriers to surrender. Director of Operations Bingham explained that it was a bit of both. He noted that the community was struggling with signs of economic anxiety as indicated by an increase in the demand for their pet pantry program. He opined that it also may be related to the housing challenges such as breed restrictions, weight restrictions, and increased fees.

NHS' primary purpose is to find homes for the animals in their care. Outcomes for the animals are broken down into adoption, returns, transfers, stolen/lost, died in care, and euthanasia. 89% of the dogs in quarter three were adopted and there was a 92% live release rate in total. Euthanasia for behavior reflects an increase in owner/guardian surrenders for dogs that would be a risk if released back into the community. 87% of the cats in quarter three were adopted out with a live release rate of 93%. Overall, there was a significant increase in the total number of outcomes for dogs and a somewhat lesser but still noticeable increase in total number of outcomes for cats.

Length of Stay (LOS) is a key metric used by shelters and NHS was built with the presumption of a 14-day LOS. For dogs the 8-14 day LOS increased while the 0-7 day LOS decreased, possibly due to a decrease in adopter demand. For cats the 0-7 day LOS increased which is what NHS strives for, and an decrease in the 31-60 day LOS.

CEO Bryant discussed the public services that NHS provides: TNR for community partners, low-cost vaccine clinics, a pet pantry providing pet food for families experiencing hardship, their working cat program for cats that have no colony or address to go back to but would not do well in a home, and support for local community cat organizations. The NHS public clinic also offers some spay and neuter services for the public in addition to vaccinations and microchipping. They have added a second clinic per week for vaccines/microchipping and are working on expanding their public spay and neuter program for the public. Over 55,000 pounds of food was distributed to the community helping an average of 1,230 owned animals per month and 278 colony cats per month.

CEO Bryant finished her report by sharing the story of Jenny, a good Samaritan surrender at 2 months old with a severe neurological condition. She was at NHS for 70 days, receiving intensive care to accommodate her needs for feeding and drinking stability, and has finally been adopted into a loving home.

Member McMahon wondered if the increase in owner/guardian surrenders may be correlated to a decrease in the number of abandoned pets brought to WCRAS. Director Shull mentioned that data to support that was not available but that there had been a decrease in the number of animals coming in the last several months and that could possibly be attributed to the ability for pet owners to surrender animals at NHS. CEO Bryant supported Director Shull's comments.

Chair Duerr asked if NHS had shared their euthanasia outcomes. Director of Operations Bingham referred back to a previous slide where the non-live outcomes were broken down into died in care, medical euthanasia, and behavior euthanasia. Chair Duerr asked if the number were trending up or down. For dogs there was a definite upward trend in behavior euthanasia, going from 13 in 2023 to 37 in 2024. Chair Duerr asked what was driving this trend. CEO Bryant offered that there was a correlation with the higher number of owner/guardian surrenders,

oftentimes which are being surrendered for behavior where the pet owners do not feel safe with the animal and the animal is not an adoption candidate. Member Dixon asked if the decision to euthanize was done by a panel. Director of Operations Bingham explained that the decision is made according to the ASV guidelines and gathers information from a number of sources, including the behavior specialist, to create a pathway planning document that identifies whether the animal would be an adoption candidate and areas of risk. The final decision is made by consensus of the cat/dog team manager, the behavior manager, and Director of Operations Bingham. Chair Duerr asked again if something was happening in the community that could explain the jump in numbers. CEO Bryant shared that across the country shelters are seeing a definite increase in the number of dogs with concerning behavior, so the problem is not just local. In addition, prior to CEO Bryant's arrival at NHS, they were actively adopting out animals with bite histories with perhaps less concern for the community. She ended by reiterating that there is a direct correlation between the number of owner/guardian surrenders and the increase in euthanasia for behavior. Member McMahon offered that during COVID there was a significant decrease in animal intakes and shelters were emptying during that time. That led to dogs that are now four or five years old who were consistently isolated and we are seeing some of the repercussions associated with that. Member Dixon shared that by paying attention to when the numbers shift then maybe that would change how we can educate the community. CEO agreed that there has been a change in practices and most significantly they are not placing dangerous animals back out into the community.

Member McMahon noted an increase in the number of cat spay and neuters and asked if that was correlated to the TNR programs. CEO Bryant offered that it was a combination of TNR and owned animals. Member McMahon asked how NHS was doing regarding being able to expand spay and neuter services for the public. CEO Bryant explained that they have increased their ability to provide services for cats but that they are still lacking in space for pre- and post-surgery dogs so are still unable to offer that to the public.

8. Animal Services Report of Calls for Animals in Hot Vehicles [For Possible Action]

Director Shull shared a heat map for the location of hot car calls per the board's request at the last meeting. The highest numbers were seen at the large retail/box stores such as Costco and Walmart. Hot car season starts in May, or April if there is a warm spring, and lasts all the way through the end of fall as temperatures can reach over 100 degrees inside a car even if it is only 70 degrees outside. WCRAS has partnered with both SPCA and NHS on a marketing campaign. WCRAS has also developed posters and placards for businesses to display in addition to marketing on the social media pages. Resources have not been available to plan or execute more than that and Director Shull shared that the department is open to suggestions and support in the areas of how to reach the larger businesses for permanent signage in

parking lots and casinos. There were approximately 437 hot car calls in 2024 with one fatality. Director Shull shared now was the time to plan for next year and expressed that the department was open to comments and suggestions from the board.

Chair Duerr asked for clarification regarding notice of violation versus notice of civil penalty versus verbal warning. Director Shull explained that a notice of violation was a written warning and the notice of civil penalty was a fine. Chair Duerr asked if the officers have had to break any windows and Director Shull shared that they do have to break windows every year.

Chair Duerr asked for input from the board regarding putting up a sign near the door of the facilities with the largest numbers of hot call cars. Director Shull shared that any kind of signage could be helpful but that the poster approach has not been successful in the past as the smaller stores may not have space that is easily visible and that larger corporate stores generally do not allow for flyers and posters. She added that if there were some way to add permanent signage in parking lots or at the doors to the facilities explaining that people could be charged for animal cruelty it would be helpful. Chair Duerr added that perhaps store employees who go out into the parking lots to collect carts, etc. could report seeing animals left in hot cars. Director Shull agreed that it would be helpful if the businesses were amenable and added that another area of concern was the casinos where people are not allowed to bring their pets inside and so they are left in the car. Member Fisher expressed her concern that businesses will not follow through upon reports made to them and shared previous encounters where concerns were reported and nothing was done.

Member McMahon expressed that this type of endeavor would be a full-time job and that it's a lofty idea but is something that needs to be considered in the big picture of whether the resources are available to execute the plan. Vice-Chair Anderson agreed but thought that perhaps the top two locations, Costco in Reno and Costco in Sparks, and give it a shot. He shared that recently he had a positive experience with Smith's in Sparks where there was a conversation asking them to help out and be good neighbors that resulted in them making a change that likely cost tens of thousands of dollars. He offered that it was worth a shot to try and see if there's a way to coordinate with WCRAS and maybe the local representatives and see if it could make a difference. Member Garcia asked if an organized campaign had ever been done in the past. Director Shull expressed that the most that had been done was essentially poster and billboard development with SPCA carrying the lion share of the weight due to greater resource availability. In addition, every summer the news outlets send reporters to do a ride-along to hopefully capture an interaction on camera and are very interested in the subject. This summer there was a pet-owner that was willing to talk on camera and expressed his remorse. Member Garcia suggesting partnering with a corporate entity to sponsor a more consistent news segment in the summer of 2025, such as partnering with Pet Station for microchipping stations, and also to see if the board can leverage the interest of the community in other ways without putting anymore burden on WCRAS

staff. Member Dixon added that they could perhaps reach out to HVAC companies as well as reaching out to partners in Pheonix or Arizona where it's very hot and see what they have done. Member Brussard agreed with reaching out to other partners across the country to see if they had a solution. Chair Duerr asked to bring the topic back in January to see if any progress had been made based on this first brainstorming session.

9. Establish ASAB Meeting Dates for 2025 [For Possible Action]

Director Shyanne Shull proposed the dates of January 24, 2025, April 25, 2025, July 25, 2025, and October 24, 2025, for the following year's meeting of the Animal Services Advisory Board. Chair Duerr suggested adopting this calendar tentatively and asked those present to email the clerk of the board all standing conflicts so that a meeting calendar can be finalized.

Member Jill Fisher moved to approve the tentative dates of January 24th, April 25th, July 25th, and October 24th as presented. Member Diaz Dixon seconded the motion. The tentative schedule was approved unanimously by the board with no opposition.

10. Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board Member and/or Staff Announcements, Requests for Information, and Selection of Topics for Future Agendas [Non-Action Item]

Chairperson Naomi Duerr proffered the following for future agenda items:

- a. State of the facility and 5-year capital improvement plan with input from both WCRAS and NHS.
- b. WCRAS euthanasia policy and procedure

11. Public Comment [Non-Action Item]

Frank Gibbons addressed the board via Zoom. He offered to call the corporate headquarters for Costco on Monday and talk to the president about what's been happening in their parking lots. He also shared that he was glad that there was a record of decision for euthanasia but that while there was a lot of discussion regarding the decision-making process for euthanasia at NHS there was not a discussion about the decision-making process at WCRAS. Chair Duerr mentioned that they discussed the conditions in which animals at WCRAS were euthanized. Director Shull mentioned that the decision-making process had been shared with the board in the previous year and that it was similar to that of NHS in that there is a committee review, pathway planning, and risk assessment. As WCRAS and NHS continues to work together the department will be working to mirror their process and determinations for dangerous animals more than has been done in the past.

12. Adjournment [Non-Action Item]

Chair Duerr declared the Animal Services Advisory Board meeting of October 18, 2024, adjourned at 4:31 p.m.