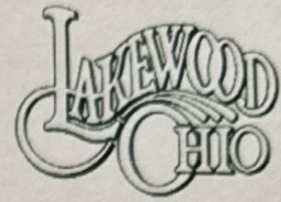


**APPROVED BY**  
*Erin MacDonald*



**Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board**

February 26th, 2025 Meeting

Location: East Conference Room

*Present:* Board Members: Erin MacDonald, Emily Christescu, Scott MacDonald, Nancy Binder, Nancy McDonnell, Phyllis Dykes, ACO Gary Crumley

*Not present:* Kate Coghlan, Emily Petro, Juleen Russell, Councilperson Marx

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**Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Meeting**

**Minutes Wednesday February 26th, 2025**

- I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Board chair MacDonald. 6 voting members are present.
- II. Approval of January Meeting Minutes - Board
  - a. Unanimous verbal vote in favor of motion to waive formal reading of the minutes. No discussion on minutes as presented. Motion passes to approve the minutes.
- III. Lakewood Animal Control Update
  - a. ACO Crumley passes out a printed report. He explains that the new shelter has epoxy flooring and cabinet bases being installed. He anticipates the shelter will open sometime in July. Two cats are up for adoption at this time: Zorro and Sammy, the 12-year-old cat with intestinal issues. He is still interviewing candidates for the vacant ACO position. ACO Mazor is continuing to work part time until a full-time candidate is hired.
  - b. TNR policies - The Public Safety meeting is Monday, March 10th and the TNR recommendation will be brought back to the committee with the law department's input. Board Chair MacDonald asks ACO Crumley if he has more thoughts on the TNR recommendation and asks about the Davis Court situation. He explains that he is in touch with the resident on Davis Court to help prevent any future cat issues. He asks if we can add an exception to the ear-tipped cat return instruction that will allow for ACO discretion in nuisance scenarios. The Board and ACO Crumley discuss how to approach hoarding situations like Davis Court. The Board believes the recommended instruction to return any trapped cats that are already ear tipped to where they came from ensures the community cat's safety and would avoid difficulties from the vacuum effect of removing community cats from their colony. ACO Crumley explains that he doesn't want Animal Control to be restricted by an ear tip if there is a hoarding situation. Board Chair

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MacDonald discusses adjusting the recommendation to make a distinction between people doing TNR and Animal Control regarding the ear tipped cat return. After further discussion, the board prefers to wait until the Public Safety Committee shares their feedback to make any potential edits to clarify nuisance trapping versus TNR trapping and the procedure of returning ear tipped cats in the recommendation.

- c. Dog-at-large policy / penalty - ACO Crumley says right now a dog off leash is a misdemeanor of the 4th degree (like disrupting a public meeting, disorderly conduct, criminal trespass, indecency, first domestic violence, alcohol in a motor vehicle, etc.). He believes a dog off leash shouldn't be an M4, which could result in 30 days in jail with penalties. He'd like to see it as a minor misdemeanor offense, where if the person walking the dog off leash pushes back, he can give them a ticket and they pay a fine (but they would not be required to go to court). In a case where the dog is out of control and causes injury, he would like the ACO to have the opportunity to raise it to the level of M4 at the officer's discretion. He feels that the ACO can decide if it is a minor misdemeanor or an M4. Board Chair MacDonald brings up the previous work with the prior ACO officers that requested the dog off leash offense to be an escalating offense, as the board believes our recommendation was submitted to the city and council. Board Chair MacDonald will find the Board's previous recommendation and see if it made it through council and into law.
- d. ACO Crumley mentions a resident asking about bird feeders and the bird flu. He mentions an injured hawk and a sick pigeon. Board Member Binder asks if the city has a formal statement on bird flu. The Board discusses if the city can share informational social media posts if necessary.
- e. Immobilization equipment - ACO Crumley has asked the board to discuss the equipment and training for animal control and if in agreement, share a recommendation to the city.
  - i. ACO Crumley explains chemical capture is something they may only use sparingly, but it is a tranquilizer dart shot at a sick or injured animal rather than using a firearm. He explains that the officers will have to be able to safely track the animal. This tool would sedate the animal and then Animal Control could euthanize the animal if necessary. Animal Control previously discussed the roaming coyotes with mange as a situation where they couldn't safely help the animals, partially because of the close proximity of homes and that firing a gun to euthanize the animal in this space would be too dangerous. There was also an incident where a deer got stuck in a soccer net; the animal was too rambunctious for officers to safely help it, and a tranquilizer would have been the best option. Board Member Christescu asks if wildlife would be the main target of this tool? ACO Crumley explains the main purpose would be to use it on wildlife, but it could be used if a dangerous dog was loose, and public safety was a concern.
  - ii. The shelter has an old weapon with compressed air. An expert at the San Diego Zoo in California says it could be reconditioned but because that weapon is nearly 20 years old, he recommends new equipment. The

police department has a tranquilizer .22 rifle which doesn't use compressed air; if that weapon is functional, they may not have to buy something else. Board Chair MacDonald asks if the expert in San Diego could tell him if the police department's tranquilizer rifle is a good option. ACO Crumley says a new gun could cost 6 to 10 thousand including the gun and darts.

- iii. ACO Crumley contacted some other municipalities, and they do not have similar equipment. Board Chair MacDonald believes Lakewood is a good candidate for this but asks the board what other concerns there might be if the animal gets an energy burst and gets into traffic or another dangerous situation. She would like to reach out to other nearby communities to confirm they do not have this tool.
- iv. ACO Crumley is attending the chemical immobilization training in Columbus this year, but he would like all Animal Control officers to be trained as well. Board Member MacDonald states his opinion that all ACOs should be trained on how to use this tool. Board Chair MacDonald makes a motion that the board creates a brief recommendation stating the Board supports this tool and also emphasize the importance that all officers receive training. The Board can send this recommendation to the Chief of Police or anyone else that ACO Crumley suggests. Motion seconded, motion passes.

#### IV. CCLAS Update

- a. CCLAS is placing raffle baskets during the month of March at Lakewood Animal Hospital. Board Member Dykes explains that Ms. Kara Lasher is stepping down from the CCLAS President position and the board is shuffling to accommodate the board without a president. She also mentions CCLAS is hoping to host more educational experiences for the public and do more outreach.

#### V. Committees & Initiatives

- a. Wildlife
- b. Ordinances/Admin
- c. Community Events
  - i. LCSC Pet Food Drive - Board Member Russell will have a date and flyer soon.
- d. Spay/Neuter
  - i. PetFix Event - Board Member Binder reports that she is waiting for Spring slots to become available and will update the board at the next meeting.

#### VI. Communications – Social Media Posts / Articles

#### VII. Public Comment

Motion is made to adjourn; motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.