

APPROVED BY

Nancy De Binder



Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board

May 21st, 2025 Meeting

Location: East Conference Room

Present: Board Members: Erin MacDonald, Emily Christescu, Scott MacDonald, Emily Petro, Juleen Russell, Nancy Binder, Kate Coghlan, Councilperson Marx, ACO Gary Crumley

Not present: Nancy McDonnell, Phyllis Dykes

Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes Wednesday May 21st, 2025

- I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Board chair MacDonald. 7 voting members present.
- II. Approval of April 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. TNR Policy Discussion
 - a. Assistant Law Director Jennifer Swallow joins the board via video. Ms. Swallow walks through the TNR document while discussing changes the law department made or where LASWAB recommendations were accepted.
 - b. Section 505.02 Dogs and Other Animals Running at Large
 - i. Merging subsection (b) with subsection (a) per recommendations LASWAB made.
 - ii. Subsection (d) updated to include the term "cat".
 - iii. ACO Crumley confirms that animal control would like to have the opportunity to issue minor misdemeanor citations for animals at large.
 - c. Section 505.03 Impounding and Disposition; Records
 - i. Subsection (a) include microchip language and include adoption to a person or transfer to an animal rescue or shelter.
 - ii. Subsection (b) includes updated information about microchips and ear tips, as well as the updated information about adoption to a person or transfer to an animal rescue or shelter.
 - iii. Subsection (c) this is a new section about cats running at large. The board discusses the using the term "return" not release.
 - iv. Subsection (d) insert the term "animal", and add adopted to a person, animal rescue or shelter, or dispose.

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- v. Subsection (f) any person who has found or trapped a dog or cat not wearing an identification tag or is not an eartipped cat, shall have the animal scanned for a microchip. If the person cannot promptly identify the owner or keeper of the animal, they shall report such animal to Animal Control for impoundment. Ms. Lasher asks if subsection (f) could include "cats at large" per the LASWAB suggestion as a protection for residents doing TNR when the at-large cat is assumed unowned and unharbored. Ms. Swallow replies that it is covered in the section about TNR.
- d. 505.12 Specific Animal Nuisance Conditions Prohibited
 - i. Subsection (b) pulled the term "urinates" as that is difficult to control. Added a line about reasonable control of the animal.
- e. New Section 505.25 Trap, Neuter and Return of Community Cats of the Lakewood Codified Ordinances
 - i. Added definitions (1) through (4) directly from the LASWAB recommendation.
 - ii. Based on feedback from the last meeting with the Public Safety Committee, Ms. Swallow changed subsection (b) Permitted Acts. Community Cat and TNR Advocate Megan Galaida would like to discuss the difficulty of training and putting that into the ordinance, for example the Community Cat Podcast currently offers a virtual training once a month that lasts 2.5 hours and costs \$10. Because that training may not always be available, she asks who else may provide training and then who decides which training is sufficient? The Board discusses the training aspect and whether that should be included in the legislation. Ms. Swallow mentions the bees and hens in Lakewood training. Board Member Binder asks if animal control officers can offer training. Board Member Russell suggests LASWAB comes up with a basic manual of procedures and trappers have to sign and agree to the terms. ACO Crumley mentions recording a training that is available online. Board Chair MacDonald believes that the current suggested Community Cats Podcast training, although thorough and full of good information, is not offered frequently enough. ACO Crumley reiterates that he prefers the training/registration to be required in the law. Board Chair MacDonald suggests the board revisits the training portion, and explains that she wants to find a middle point for CCLAS' experience following the required training and documents and Animal Control's needs. Ms. Swallow agrees to send the latest version to Board Chair MacDonald and offers a future joint meeting with the Public Safety Committee to continue the discussion.

IV. K-9 Vest Initiative

- a. Councilperson Marx introduces Julie Ferrara, owner of Wags and Whiskers. Ms. Ferrara attended the city's citizens police academy and was inspired to support the two Lakewood K-9 officers by fundraising for ballistic bullet proof vests. Ms. Ferrara has raised \$1,300 so far, explaining that each vest costs \$3,000. The non-profit fundraising partner is Spike's K-9. Board Member Christescus asks if the board can make a recommendation to the city to put the vests in their future budget if the fundraiser does not raise the total amount. Ms. Ferrara notes that

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the fundraiser ends in late June. Councilperson Marx plans to share the fundraiser with the Chamber of Commerce.

V. Lakewood Animal Control Update

- a. Dog-at-large policy / penalty recommendation – ACO Crumley is satisfied with the results.
- b. Immobilization equipment recommendation - Police Chief Fischer replied that if they were able to get another ACO on staff to cover at the shelter, they would be able to send both ACO Crumley and ACO Kerr to the conference. ACO Crumley is still interviewing for the open position. ACO McManamon is working part time to assist.
- c. ACO Crumley shares that a new Animal Control truck will be arriving soon. He notes the new shelter is coming along. He provides a printed monthly report. Board Member Christescu asks about the high number of opossums and ACO Crumley says several adult female opossums had babies that also were euthanized, adding to the count. He notes microchips were added to the report and some residents are bringing in their pets. The cost is \$20 for Lakewood residents.

VI. CCLAS Update

- a. CCLAS member Christescu explains they are preparing for Arts Fest in August, and currently looking for a President to join the board.

VII. Officer election plans

- a. Board Chair MacDonald recommends the board hold an election at the next meeting. She notes the importance of the President and Secretary positions and hopes members will step up, even if temporarily, to fill the positions. It is noted that the next council meeting is June 2nd where potential appointees could be formally appointed. If not, the next meeting will have a quorum with 4 of 7 members present.

VIII. Special recognition

- a. Councilperson Marx is requesting Board Member Nancy Binder's presence at the June 2nd Council meeting to be acknowledged for work she's done with the spay/neuter events helping over 500 cats.

IX. Committees & Initiatives

- a. Wildlife
- b. Ordinances/Admin
- c. Community Events - Board Member Russell thanks everyone for helping with the Pet Food Drive. Donations totaled 1,300 pounds. The board discusses contacting pet food companies for future donations. The board sets October for the next drive and mentions donation boxes at businesses to collect food in advance. It is noted the county shelter sometimes has excess food they may be able to donate.
- d. Spay/Neuter - Board Member Binder explains \$500 in funds remain at PetFix. The board is due to ask for future funding; the usual request is \$1,600.

X. Communications – Social Media Posts / Articles

XI. Public Comment

Motion is made to adjourn; motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.