

APPROVED BY
Erin MacDonald



Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board

March 19th, 2025 Meeting

Location: East Conference Room

Present: Board Members: Erin MacDonald, Emily Christescu, Scott MacDonald, Nancy McDonnell, Emily Petro, Juleen Russell, Phyllis Dykes, ACO Gary Crumley

Not present: Nancy Binder, Kate Coghlan, Councilperson Marx

Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes Wednesday March 19th, 2025

- I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Board Chair MacDonald. 7 voting members present.
- II. Approval of February 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. LASWAB Meeting Schedule
 - a. Board Chair MacDonald explains that the April board meeting is scheduled for April 16th, but she would like to move to April 23rd due to scheduling conflicts; the board agrees to the change.
- IV. Lakewood Animal Control Update
 - a. ACO Crumley distributes a printed report. He states the new shelter build is moving along and should open this summer. ACO Crumley mentions holding a grand opening event and scheduling it for a Saturday so more people can attend. The board discusses small items to give away at the grand opening - FAQ handouts, stickers, dog license applications, fridge magnets with shelter info, dog poo bag holders, etc. ACO Crumley mentions Davis court and that animal control is still working with the resident to help fix her pet cats with CCLAS' financial support. Animal Control is interviewing for the open ACO position.
 - b. Dog-at-large policy / penalty recommendation - Board Chair MacDonald looked at the minutes from when the board met with the law department and former ACO Crawford two years ago. The board wrote the recommendation to make an escalation for barking but then it fell off and was not presented to the city for updating the ordinance. ACO Crawford prefers the animal control officers to have the discretion to ticket for a minor misdemeanor (resident pays a fine) or to issue a ticket for an M4 (resident is required to appear in court) and the board agrees

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the officer should have the discretion to ticket either way. ACO Crawford thinks a resident with a dog off-leash shouldn't have to go to court for their first instance but maybe a repeat offender or perhaps for a dog that was off-leash and attacked/injured someone could incur an M4. The board discusses officers having the discretion to charge for either on the first offense (and not requiring escalation of offenses/ticketing). Board Chair MacDonald mentions section 505.02 and recommends that it is updated to allow animal control to charge for a minor misdemeanor or M4 for the offense at the officer's discretion. Board Chair MacDonald makes a motion to submit that recommendation, seconded, motion passes.

- c. Immobilization equipment recommendation - Board Chair explains the discussion that took place last month regarding the immobilization equipment. She wrote a draft recommendation and the board discusses edits. Board Chair will finalize the edits and share with ACO Crumley first, and then Councilperson Marx and Chief Fischer. Board Chair makes a motion to complete a final draft in support of this recommendation, seconded, motion passes.
- d. TNR policy discussion - Board Chair mentions last month's discussion where ACO Crumley does not want the ordinance to allow for ear tipped cats to be returned with his concerns for another hoarding situation like Davis Court. The Public Safety Committee has not met to share an update on our recommendation yet because their meeting was postponed. Board Chair MacDonald suggests we wait to see what the Committee comes back with before we debate this specific verbiage. ACO Crumley explains the Davis Court situation and he believes neighbors would be upset if an ear tipped cat was returned. Because of this he wants discretion for ACOs to not be held to that rule which prevents him from doing his job. He reiterates that he supports residents doing TNR work.

V. CCLAS Update

- a. Board Member Christescu mentions the raffle baskets at Lakewood Animal Hospital through March and asks the board to share the social media posts. She mentions President Lasher stepping down and the board divvying up her responsibilities.

VI. Committees & Initiatives

- a. Wildlife
- b. Ordinances/Admin
- c. Community Events
 - i. LCSC Pet Food Drive - Board Member Russell - the spring drive is scheduled for April 26th Saturday at Marc's plaza. The board discusses online donations and suggests donors go directly to the LCSC website and Board Member Russell mentions using the QR code again. Board Member Petro will ask her vendors for donations.
- d. Spay/Neuter
 - i. PetFix Event - the next van is scheduled for April 15th.

VII. Communications – Social Media Posts / Articles

VIII. Public Comment

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