

## **MCAS Community Advisory Committee**

### **Notes from Meeting on November 10, 2014**

**In Attendance: CAC:** Jeff Gosda, Linda Caradine, Tonia Wagner, Karol Dietrich, Kara Kerpan, Glenda Hughes, Aaron Ray, Marci Jo Carlton **MCAS:** Ann Potter, Mike Oswald, Gail Wilson, Stephanie Collingsworth **Others:** Sue Dicile, facilitator

#### **The meeting convened at 6:30**

Minutes from the October 13, 2014 meeting were approved.

#### **Updates and Announcements**

- MCAS's live release rate for dogs is above 90%
- 202,000 flyers were sent out in the property tax bills from MCAS
- Sunday Oregonian article on pit bulls
  - There was discussion on the apparent slant being put forward by the newspaper and how MCAS might go about supplying accurate information. Mike Oswald noted that the reporter had met with MCAS and was scheduled to do so again before an anticipated second article. Discussion topics included:
    - ◆ How determinations are made between community values (e.g. thousands of owners and fans of pit bull-type dogs) and public safety.
    - ◆ Focus on breed when the problem is irresponsible pet owners.
    - ◆ Misunderstanding about "breed" – people thinking "pit bull" is a "breed". The book "Pit Bull Placebo" was referenced.
    - ◆ How MCAS of the CAC might induce the newspaper to include more balanced stories about pit bulls and accurate statistics.

#### **Discussion: CAC "voice" on issues related to animal and public welfare/safety**

There was discussion about the possibility of the CAC weighing in on issues, and specifically the current news article on pit bulls. Re the recent article it was noted any CAC perspective should include the following points:

- Responsible dog ownership
- Raising awareness
- Accurate information and alternative perspective

#### **Shelter Review Overview Part II – Handouts: Dr. Ian Dunbar's Dog Bite Scale, Three case studies, Stephanie Collingsworth Curriculum Vitae**

Prior to examining case studies the following was noted:

- MCAS Shelter Review Committee is able to review every dog before euthanasia
- MCAS Shelter Review Committee includes the Dunbar Dog Bite Scale in their assessments and potentially dangerous dog classifications. There is an assessment of the severity of a bite based on an evaluation of wound pathology. Levels 3-6 are serious.

- The Shelter Review Committee always considers the question “If this dog gets out what is the likelihood it will cause harm.” They also consider resources available to the dog and quality of life for the dog.

**Case Study 1:** Based on the case study the CAC discussed the following points.

- Potential for an advocacy group to take the dog to offer the dog “a chance to prove” it could be controlled and not adversely impact public safety.
- Issues related to dog ownership affecting the dog’s behavior, e.g. the dog was adopted at 5 weeks old which could be the basis of the problem.
- Public safety implications of the dog’s aggression to people and animals.
- The expert opinion stated that with the dog’s history it could only be work with safely in “some” homes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.