

Cat Care/Health and Wellness Meeting
6-20-13

Present: S. Trekles, M. Rukavina, P. Gonzalez, R. Jocius, J. Lindmark, J. Goralczyk, J. Mott, C. Abshire

- **Hill's Food Program:** papers are signed by not sent in
 - Possible issues with price increases? Judy provided information that a price increase was forthcoming of about 3.9% (some individual items; she will investigate what is and is not increasing)
 - Roberta will put this on hold and attempt to contact Hill's again tomorrow
 - Also concern about a possible "fine" incident at Fried's – we are attempting to investigate by contacting Sandy
- Marti introduced a "**Cats and Kittens Needing Homes**" book – when we take calls we should enter info into the book and then when someone is looking for a certain cat we may be able to help make a connection; we won't foster or broker those adoptions, just pass information along, and offer NO hope for any specific outcome
- We also **have grants that we can help with food and spay/neuter** - \$2000 for each through a recent grant
 - Suggested to consult a lawyer about handling of the money – who is responsible if something happens to a cat we help through funding? Joanne Lohmeyer and Joann Eldridge? We need to figure out who is paying for what and get clear records to ensure that all monies are accounted for, especially grants, as well as record-keeping for getting more grants – we can go through the admissions sheets from January 2010 and up and see how many were spayed/neutered to ensure that records are up to date
- Idea – **Facebook** admins should be a regular committee with responsibilities: different people post certain things on a regular basis – Becca?
 - Printed stuff is still important – why aren't our cats in the pet area in the newspaper?
- **Kibble Kitchen? Best Buddies?** Can we get an agreement going with them somehow? Will follow up with Cate
- **Tetanus policy:** We made some changes to the policy to shorten it and clarify points regarding how tetanus can be gotten at the shelter (see attached)
- **Linda Moore's foster:** asked about her ailing 19 year-old cat having a dental; our recommendation is to follow the vets' advice and not to bring the cat in for a dental; instead, seek medication for managing pain and improving mouth behavior
- **Fosters and vet care:** Some fosters (Sue O., Gale C.) are not particularly interested in complying with the policy after being notified; the letter does not say that you cannot go to another vet but you need prior approval through Jackie and a vet care form
 - Recommendation: because Gale already had the appointment and just found out about the policy, we will work with her – she may wind up paying her own bill anyhow
 - Marti ultimately is responsible for fosters and will be the "front line" for these issues as long as board supports her decisions
- The shelter will be sending **Dr. Olsen** a retirement card to thank her for her many years of service (*who will initiate this?*)

- We can also send **thank-you letters** to those fosters who always pay for their own bills
- **Corky**: Marti recommends Feliway diffuser (see <http://pet-supplies.drsofostersmith.com/search?af=type%3Aproduct&view=grid&w=feliway%20diffuser&visitorID=&cartcount=0&wishcount=0&subtotal=0.00&division=>) to be placed in the room; it was noted that most of the cats in that room do not use the box consistently so there may be more problems than just Nellie; Marti also recommends urinalysis although Dr. Brooke felt it was more shelter stress than anything else; there is some bullying that happens in that room. Something definitely needs to be done
 - Conclusion: Jackie will get a urinalysis done
 - Some of this is a maintenance and cleaning issue and we agree that the carpeted items should be removed
 - We will also look into getting a Feliway diffuser for the room
 - Jackie will consider what other rooms Corky might adapt to and work on possibly integrating him elsewhere
- Other report items from **Dr. Brooke visit** (attachment from Jackie): Blackjack may need to have his thyroid removed because the medications daily are stressing him terribly
 - Sunny had a great deal of trouble during blood draw
- Finance committee wants to investigate the **fee structure for McAfee** to understand it better – Becca will be given this task
- We should add covered litterboxes in each room, at least a few, to reduce stress issues
- **Day of Caring?** Can we still set this up? We may be able to sign up through the United Way (*who will investigate this?*)
- **Foster procedures**: two single kittens were fostered out over this weekend – Marti needs to be contacted for admissions prior to taking in cats from anywhere, including Gary Animal Control; this is also true when cats come in during the weekend – counselors don't have the authorization to take cats in; Marti is concerned about Gary Animal Control and pulling from them, and apparently our bylaws used to say that we do not pull from other shelters – is this no longer the policy?
 - Procedures are procedures – pulling from animal control has to be an admissions involved thing
 - What can we do to increase adoptions so that we CAN help more of these cats in these situations? Our population is so high already and to take in more is very difficult
 - What about cooperating more with other rescues such as **Lakeshore PAWS**, which does not normally work with cats that much? We can investigate this;
 - Jeanne Sommer, a realtor, started Lakeshore PAWS and may know of storefronts or other areas where our cats can be seen in the community; also, Lifestyles in Valpo, getting out on 421 somewhere?
- We also need to follow up with the **Times** (contact Sharon) and see why they're not getting our cat pictures into the paper
- **Movement of FIV cats?** Peanut is very laid back, Paulette recommends acclimating Peanut and Gray to Disco as it is now rather than moving large amounts of cats; others on the committee agreed
- **Next meeting?** Next third Thursday is July 18; we can request the library/Christopher Center again for next time

McAfee Visit – Dr. Brooke – June 10, 2013

(Blood results were relayed by Dr. Jenny)

Lily – follow up from ER visit (chronic URI)

- Lily is still very congested & mouth ulcers still present. Dr. Brooke suggests trying Orbax (antibiotic), lysine, sucralfate (for ulcers – McAfee refilled prescription), and dexasporin drops for Lily's nose. Will continue to nebulize 3x daily. Follow-up call with Dr. Brooke in 2 weeks.

Sunny – BLOOD WORK: recheck thyroid levels (been on new dose for a couple months). Recheck fluid amount. Check mouth.

- Extremely stressed during examination. Blood results show that thyroid levels are now too low – decreasing methimazole (5mg) dose from 1 ½ tablets twice a day to 1 ¼ tablets twice a day. Will need to be rechecked in a month. Anemia is slightly improved from last time. WBC still elevated – could be from mouth (did not get a good look). Dr. Jenny suggests a dental based off the blood work (bring in day before surgery to be started on IV fluids). If WBC does not go down after dental, will need to look in to other causes. (Followed up with Dr. Brooke since she saw Sunny in person and she thinks it would be very risky doing a dental on Sunny – does not recommend).

Miley – BLOOD WORK: recheck kidney levels. Recheck fluid amount. Check mouth.

- Bad mouth – dental dependent on kidney values. Blood work shows renal values are much worse than last time. Very difficult to get Miley to eat any of the renal diets & she has never been a big fan of canned food. Dr. Jenny recommends changing fluids to 100ml twice daily (skip a dose if previous fluids not absorbed). Also recommends rechecking urine culture.

Rollo – any suggestions to help gain weight? Last blood panel Jan 2013 came back OK. Chronic on/off diarrhea

- Previous blood work said liver values were slightly increased but ok. Dr. Brooke suggested rechecking blood work to ensure that liver values hadn't gotten worse. Dr. Jenny said liver values are now back in the normal range. Nothing significant about Rollo's blood work. Rollo was started on probiotics, Dr. Jenny said to give it at least a month to be fully effective.

Sterling – changes noticed in bad eye– anything to be concerned about?

- Needs eye removed. Dr. Brooke said his lens is floating, which is why the eye looks different now. She also said this is very painful. Surgery scheduled with Dr. Steve at McAfee Tuesday, June 18th. UPDATE (6/19): Surgery completed – a pellet was found behind Sterling's eye when they removed it.

Dorothy – warts on side?

- Dr. Brooke is a little concerned about the appearance. Wants to try treating with tresaderm. Follow-up call with Dr. Brooke in 2 weeks.

Corky – urinalysis?

- Discussed Corky's peeing issues with Dr. Brooke. Explained that there were recently unspayed females in the room, some issues with bullying, and other cats not using the litter box. Dr. Brooke agreed that it sounded behavioral and also agreed that it is a common problem found in crowded shelters. Since there have been no notes of blood in the urine or straining in the litter box, I (Jackie) decided not to go through with the urinalysis.

Callie – BLOOD WORK (if possible). Semi-feral, sedate & pull sample at shelter?

- Unable to sedate – will mess with blood work results. However, we were able to get a blood sample. Everything normal except for high lymph count. However, it was noted that lymphs appear normal. No treatment needed.

Sigfried – Check mouth if possible, stomatitis? (semi-feral.. treatment options?)

- Dr. Brooke confirmed stomatitis. Since we will be unable to administer antibiotics, she took him back to the clinic for a convenia injection (long-lasting antibiotic injection). Sigfried bit one of the techs at the clinic.

Blackjack – BLOOD WORK: skinny

- Blood work results show hyperthyroidism. Start on methimazole (5mg) twice daily. Recheck in one month. Difficult to handle. Dr. Jenny offered suggestions of transdermal gel (rubbed onto ears) if easier. Or Y/D thyroid diet. Diet would have to be STRICTLY maintained – any other food getting into his system would immediately counteract the Y/D food so this option is not very feasible for him while at the shelter.

Pumba – Had x-rays taken at McAfee (around 5/1) – please look at x-rays and give us a second opinion (possible spine deformity?)

- Still waiting to hear back

Kit – Not doing well (on meds/fluids: hyperthyroid & renal failure)

- Dr. Brooke agreed that it is about time to make a decision to euthanize Kit. Does not have to be immediate – discuss with other Cat Care members. UPDATE: Kit was euthanized 6/14/13 (OK'd by Jackie, Jeanne, Paulette, Marti)

Check mouths: Bjork, Shadow, Taffy, ~~Elise~~

- Bjork – needs a dental but not top priority
- Shadow – recommends a dental

- Taffy – recommends extracting the rest of Taffy’s teeth (3)

Rabies

- Another mass group of 3 year rabies came up due 6/8/13. Only had time to do 14. Dr. Brooke will call to set up a day when she is available again to finish the rest (~50)