

Cat Care 5-20-13
Agenda

- 1) Revised Cat Care protocols - any more additions or changes?
- 2) Managing and treating feral cats
- 3) Foster care protocols - revisit vet care policies

Minutes – Cat Care Committee 5-20-13

Present: Marti, Diana, Staci, Jackie

- Jackie's report – presented some points about food and updates about cats with concerns
 - Friskies food is found to be “junk food” by most standards
 - Some of our cats are “old nibblers” at the shelter and they go “crazy” for the junk food
 - Jackie sees no problem with mixing the Friskies into the grain-free diet if it helps them eat
 - We are only down to Nutrience food now for the most part, so to give some variety that might help
 - They are also going through the dry food quite a bit
 - Jackie feeds Merrick food available at Petco for her own cats (wet) and Earthborn (dry); Staci also uses Earthborn
 - Hill's Food: we can get grain-free or any prescription diets we need at wholesale prices – they would not share the wholesale prices at this time – a retailer can tell us what wholesale would be; the person in charge of the program was very accommodating to our questions, and noted that they would prefer our cats eat the Science Diet but if they wouldn't eat another food then it would theoretically be ok to mix it with something else; it's tough to make a decision without knowing full costs but we can give 30-day notice and opt out whenever we wish; coupons and free food will also be provided for adopters – adopters can also opt-out of getting more coupons by email
 - Judy L had priced out the different foods including the Hill's deal and we would have a significant savings with kitten food
 - There is no delivery charge and we can order each week
 - Fried's and Munster were both using the program at one time, Munster still uses it – they liked the program but found that some cats didn't like the food and there was some fussiness; Purina also has a similar program that we had applied for but it has not come through yet
 - Cost is per bag – can be adjusted anytime; wet food is ordered separately through the wholesale distributor – it is not part of the Shelter Plan
 - Roberta thinks there would be no problem with mixing foods with what we currently have to judge whether the food will work out
 - What is the difference between grain free and other food in terms of cost? Jackie is concerned about this but otherwise is interested in checking out the program to see how it goes
 - **Recommendation from Cat Care** – those present were interested in moving forward – there are still some questions and we were given more time; Roberta will call again, and the recommendation will go to the Board

- At this time, no emergency vet necessities at this time
- Cat Care Protocols book – standing orders for common treatments at shelter may nullify some of the points made in the book, Judy Dean was also working on procedures for prescription drugs, etc. and dispensing meds
- PetPoint – Jackie is entering medical information and provided a sample report; she is currently working about 2 hours a day on data entry – matching up vet care forms to distinguish between shelter diagnosis and vet diagnosis of historical Hx
- Foster contracts: automatic adoptions after 1 year would not be retroactive but would start now, with the new kittens and new fosters only
- Letter for costs and vet care – fosters need to get preapproval (see attached letter); Sue Ogg had previously given us a \$1200 bill with multiple animals on it, all recent and we had no knowledge of this happening until we got the bill
- Mr Kitty – still doing poorly, Dr. Rachel does not have appointments open, Dr. Brooke will be asked to look at him next time she is in because he is clearly in pain – it is not fair to make him wait for treatment
- To review foster cases, the Cat Care committee will have to review on a case by case basis for the most part; people can call or email the shelter
- Pam Price, Sue Ogg, Jen Stall, and a few other select fosters will receive this notice
- For Pam Price, Unity Foundation money should be used to pay for those bills; Roberta will need to make a Unity report soon; plus we also received a \$2000 Bissell grant to help families with low-income if they need help with food or vet care
- Feral cats – Alley Cat Allies has not returned our calls yet but Jackie has inquired. Judy Dean has also inquired at Reins for Life, a horse-related charity; the barn would have to be relatively safe
- Concern is the cats in Scruffy and some other “untouchables” (Beau, Chloe, etc) won’t let us treat them when they have problems, like Callie currently in early renal failure; Sharla and some of the others also have potential mouth issues – how can we handle these issues when they refuse to allow us to treat them effectively?
- We are the caretakers when we have a responsibility to care for them; very controversial issue, but we have to consider these on a case by case basis and do our best
- If we could find a good barn in a good location that would give food and water, cage them, etc this might be a good option, but it would have to be assured that it is safe, away from busy roads, and the cats are fed on a routine basis
- Dr. Reed will take the ferals in a trap only to do vaccinations, etc – only vet in the area so far to suggest that he will deal with ferals in any way
- REMC newsletter – can post an ad for responsible barn owners
- Alley Cat Allies, 4H may be other avenues – Linda Moore advertised a Chicago conference event from Alley Cat Allies in the past
- Admissions – we need medical records from all admitted cats from households
- Feeding during adoption hours – there are still problems with this with two volunteers (primarily) – it is inappropriate, breaks adoption counselor concentration, interferes with business
- **During Adoption Hours:**
 - We should have no cats “out” in the hall – we cannot have potential threats from cats scratching or biting people, getting underfoot.

- We should NOT be feeding cats outside of designated times when the medicators are there – the cats are already fed twice per day on weekends and have dry food throughout the day at all times
- We are only open 9 hours on the weekend, it's our one shot in the week to be businesslike and we really have to work together to make it count.
- Undermining behavior and untrusting behavior cannot be tolerated; we must work together, and trust each other to work toward making the best decisions possible for our cats.
- The cats are “not eating” during medicator shifts on the weekends because they've already eaten when volunteers are feeding them during the day, and this wastes food
- We need to be working for the same team, we need to put on our best foot forward when the public is invited in
- These are the expectations of all volunteers and you must follow them in order to continue volunteering with us
- Signs have been placed at the shelter to inform volunteers of the need to restrict food and treats given during adoption times

Next Meeting: Thursdays - Next third Thursday will be June 20

ROOM MOM MEETING
 SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2013
 4 PM
 ICS GIFT SHOP

MINUTES

Members present: Beth Hayden, Bonnie Zosso, Brandy Coleman, Carol Abshire, Carol Albrecht, Cindy McGuire, Deb Walsh, Diana Foster, Jeanne Mott, JoAnn Palko. Sharon Fitzsimmons joined part of the time.

NOTIFYING ROOM MOMS

- Dorothy will send Status Sheets to all room moms each week, so they will be aware of cats adopted
- They will also be sent vet reports, & when a new cat is added to the main shelter
- Room moms would like notice IF POSSIBLE before one of their cats is to be euthanized, so they can be there if they wish.
- Updates on adopted cats will be forwarded to room moms.

HALL CATS

- Need more exercise. After ringworm is cleared up, alternately let hall cats out to roam the hall .
 Gradually socialize with other cats.
- Cover bottom of Playpen door to protect hall cats, if ringworm isn't cleared up soon.
- Bonnie Z suggested the use of Melaluca (tea tree oil) for ringworm and other skin problems. Check with Jackie & vet regarding safety of use on cats.

CLEANLINESS OF ROOM

- Room moms would like opportunity to deep clean rooms periodically. Possibly before or after adoption

hours on Sunday.

- Litter boxes need to be scooped a minimum of 2 X per day.
- Friday night cleaner to do extra cleaning (walls, chairs, windows, scooping), so shelter is cleaner for the weekend. Brett said it was affordable, Joan said no. ??
- Sharon, Jeanne, & Deb have offered to come in on various evenings to scoop litter, & spend time with cats, etc. Other room moms could come in from time to time, as well. Why were Sharon, Jeanne & Deb turned down? It had been brought up that it was a concern that the cats were alone for such a long period of time at night.
- Sharon brought up that the same litter boxes should stay in rooms to avoid passing diseases from room to room. Tried this and failed in the past. Can this be worked out? Volunteers and members could be asked to contribute new litter boxes when needed.
- Room moms opinions and feelings need to be respected by the board, medicators, & cleaners.

PAINT/REDECORATING

- Okayed by room moms present to finish painting halls turquoise.
- Ask Joan if she would like Chris to repair/paint doors where needed. A few room moms may want to do their own. Door will be coordinating multicolor according to each room moms wishes. (Behr high quality, low V.O.C. or comparable paint.)
- Inside rooms could be decorated by room moms as they wish.
- Need to consider making rooms more germ free & easy to clean, but keeping charm and comfort for cats.
- Stencil quotes/paw prints?
- JoAnn mentioned a catalog she found that has outdoor runs that can be attached to windows for the rooms in front of the shelter who never get to go outside. Check feasibility of doing this. Consult Sharon regarding keeping the flower beds. Room moms/volunteers would pay for them.