

Attended:

Myra Austin- Orange County Aging Services
Tenille Fox- Orange County Animal Services
Bob Marotto- Orange County Animal Services
Corey Root- Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness
Sarah Schmidt- Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness & IFC

***Action items in bold**

Overall, the goal of the Pets & Homelessness Task Force is to:

- 1) Prevent people from having to surrender or neglect their pets when experiencing homelessness or crisis.
- 2) Increase the number of people returning to permanent housing quickly by reducing the barrier that finding housing with pets may present.

The overall Task Force has broken up into four subcommittees. The purpose of the Foster/Temporary Care Subcommittee is to:

- 1) Explore options for housing animals on a temporary basis that may exist in the community
- 2) Secure resources if possible

The Subcommittee explored options for different lengths of stay for the pets

- 1) Just a few nights, or White Flag Nights (very cold weather), less than one week
 - a. Pets may be housed by Orange County Animal Services
 - b. Collocation- in the future could explore the possibility of housing pets and people at the same location
- 2) One-Two Weeks
 - a. A limited number of pets may be housed at the shelter
 - b. Explore options for mid-term housing
 - i. Boarding Centers
 - ii. Web based services like Rover or Good Boy
 1. **Sarah will research these services and report at next meeting**
- 3) Longer Term Care
 - a. **Bob will contact existing foster groups to see if any are interested in fostering for people experiencing homelessness**
 - b. If not, this group could set parameters of what a new foster group specifically for this purpose could look like
 - i. Scope of work

- ii. # homes needed
- iii. Training and other materials needed to address the unique concerns associated with this type of fostering

The group considered other related issues

Pets housed by boarding facilities or foster homes will likely need veterinary care. Could there be a way to provide this care in advance of the night it's needed?

Ideally we can offer a three step process.

- 1) Animal services- short term housing, establish ownership, provide rabies vaccination
- 2) Outside veterinary clinic- provide low cost or pro bono checkups and care necessary for boarding (flea medication, Bordatella and parvo vaccinations)
 - a. Consider protocols for pets with more severe health issues
- 3) Boarding Facility/ Foster Home- provide care until owner is prepared to regain custody of pets.

Future of the Project

- 1) Advocacy if needed
- 2) Translation of resources into other languages

For the next meeting

- 1) Bob will discuss foster group involvement with Pamela Vasilind and Mary Dow**
- 2) Tenille will continue to locate vets willing to provide free or low cost services**
- 3) Corey will discuss pets in the context of White Flag Nights with IFC staff**
- 4) Corey will consider adding a question regarding pets to the Point in Time Count**
- 5) Sarah will research Navigation Centers that provide shelter for people and pets (San Francisco)**
- 6) Sarah will research Good Boy and Rover**

Next Meeting February 6, 1:30-2:45