

City of West Branch, IA – Animal Control Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 10th, 2024 – 6:30 PM – West Branch City Council Chambers

Present: Alen Beyer, DVM (Chair), Amy Lynch (Vice-Chair), Leesa Johnson, Ashley Wildman, Nate Bartz (Secretary), Officer Cathy Steen (WB Police), Angela Kessler (WB dog owner)

Absent: N/A

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 – 6:30 PM – West Branch City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order – Dr. Beyer

2. Roll Call – Dr. Beyer

3. Announcements

- None

4. Discussion

Old Business:

- Minutes from 6/11 meeting – Amy made motion to approve. Ashley seconded. Motion carried.
- Bethany Lutheran Church – Service Day held at Dog Park. Group did some cleanup and added new mulch.
- Dog Fair – Will be held on 9/21. Wrapping up final planning and getting volunteers. Discussed looping in WBPD to help with some events.
- Discussed topic of getting more awareness around Dog Licensing and Dog Park permits. Discussed no Dog Park or License reminders went out this year. Discussed doing some outreach to local dog-related businesses (Groom Station, Two Sisters Kennels, Veterinarians, etc.). Nate will look into a flyer to post/posting a QR code at the Dog Park. Will also follow up with city office after the beginning of the new year (early 2025) regarding reminders.

New Business:

- Police Report:
 - Officer Cathy Steen reported that there have been a few animal bit incidents since our last meeting.
 - Angela Kessler (dog owner) was at the meeting to discuss incident her and her dog were involved in on 7/18. Angela was walking her dog (leashed) on a public sidewalk, when an unleashed dog left its yard and attacked her dog. Her dog ended up with lacerations and other injuries.

Reported to WBPD. According to city regulations, this dog is now classified as a level 3 offender (requires a sign to notify others of dangerous dog, adequate fencing, annual dog registration, and is required to be microchipped).

Officer Steen followed up with the dog owner and received some pushback on these requirements. The owner can appeal these requirements/classification, otherwise owner must ensure these requirements are met.

- There was another incident in August involving a dog biting a child. Child received some lacerations on their hand/arm. Dog was euthanized voluntarily by owner after this incident.
- There was also an incident on Scott Drive with a weed control person and a dog, but no additional information was provided.

5. Call to Adjourn Meeting

- Amy moved to adjourn; Ashley seconded. Motion carried.