

**TENTATIVE MINUTES (PENDING COMMISSION APPROVAL)
IN-PERSON MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

**DECEMBER 18, 2024 10:00 A.M.
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
VETERANS' MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806**

NOTE: THESE ARE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2024, MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY TASK FORCE. A FINAL VERSION OF THESE MINUTES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AFTER APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION AT ITS NEXT, REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order by Dr. Ashley Prejean at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Ashley Prejean, D.V.M.

Members present: Robbie Averett, Chalyn Fayard, DVM., Joe Stark, DVM, Chip Fitz, and Shelly Liles Fontenot, DVM.

Members absent: Jena Troxler, DVM, Daniel Myrick DVM

A quorum was present.

Other LDAF employees present: Amy McInnis, General Counsel, Doug Mckean

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Dr. Fayard made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2024, meeting with a change made to one of the comments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Averett and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Prejean discussed the current quantifiable numbers (i.e. number of open shelters, inspections completed) for the task force.

Dr. Prejean discussed the final letter that Commissioner Strain will sign for an in-person meeting and presented it for approval from the board. A motion was made for acceptance by Dr. Prejean, the motion was seconded by Robbie.

Dr. Prejean updated the board on the ACO training. Discussed doing the training via zoom that will be recorded. Robbie suggested that we put the old training on the website and distribute to all the ACOs as needed. Robbie suggested that we do some of the presentations at LACCA. Chip agreed that LACCA would be a good educational outreach event. Chip discussed that LACCA does have pretty good attendance. Dr. Fontenot discussed that we should also target veterinarians that are working at the shelters.

Robbie discussed that it would be helpful to have a veterinarian go to the shelters to provide insight. Dr. Fayard agreed that she would like to help visit shelters if she can.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Prejean discussed the shelters that are needed in person meetings at this time. Dr. Fayard stated that she would also like to be at some of the in-person meetings.

Dr. Stark discussed the AVMA fix by five cat sterilization movement and how to get that approved in the state with the LA veterinary board.

Dr. Stark would like to have fear-free training distributed and added to the LACATF training working group.

Chip asked how we can get state legislature involved in requiring basic training for ACOs. Dr. Fayard said it may be easier to accomplish that task parish by parish. The regulatory requirement was discussed regarding ACO training RS 3:2463. The task force has no enforcement ability.

Chip discussed the fact that each parish is required to have an animal facility for dogs seized on this part (Seizure of dogs running at large and trespassing on property) except some parishes.

Robbie asked if the task force could compile recommendations and shelter self-assessment to every shelter and parish officials to kick start the year as a big packet. Dr. Prejean suggested maybe doing that in an email instead.

Dr. Fontenot discussed her concerns with DCI prison. Dr. Prejean discussed that with future prison system shelters there should be serious oversight to prevent the issues at DCI at this time.

Robbie discussed the emergency response agreement with the Department of Corrections not Pen Pals. Robbie explained that LACATF is only involved in the shelter inspection, and then emergency response is the function of LDAF.

Dr. Fayard discussed the new parish ordinance that would require spay and neuter for dogs and cats which may be a great movement forward for other parishes to use as an example.

Dr. Stark discussed the sea-can shipping container that they are going to place in Rayne and Opelousas to perform spays and neuters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Liz Harris discussed the equipment involved for fear-free practices and the liability that arises with handling animals. Discussion ensued on the responsible party for payment of the equipment either NGOs or municipalities.

Chip discussed the issue with governmental disconnect and the varying budgets of municipalities and the sensitive nature of the inspections regarding differing resources.

Dr. Liz Harris discussed her concerns with Dixon Correctional Institute as the veterinarian on record.

Dr. Liz then asked Dr. Prejean about the nature of the inspections and what the task force can do regarding enforcement. Dr. Prejean discussed the objective vs. subjective nature of the inspections.

Robbie discussed that Dr. Liz should go to the Warden and discuss her concerns regarding DCI. It was discussed that DCI is not an animal control facility for East Feliciana, but they do take in animals from the East Feliciana police.

Doug Mckean stated that as soon as Hurricane Ida in 2021, DCI was used for two dogs and that the dogs were treated and taken care of very well. Doug reiterated the fact that the two topics should be separate regarding the shelter inspection and the emergency SOP.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

TBD- Possibly June 4, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Dr. Prejean moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Robbie and was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.