



## County Canine Conference

October 29, 2009

1. Welcome & Introductions – Jan Shabro
2. Remarks & Power Point Presentation: Tim Anderson, Animal Services Supervisor
3. Information about Pet Licenses: Jill Munns, Lead Licensing Dept.
4. Summary of Canine Advisory Panel Meetings: Carol Cain, Animal Rescue Volunteer
5. Questions & Answers

Presented by Jan Shabro Pierce County Auditor

Please note - additional comments may be added to the back of your survey.

## 2009 County Canine Conference

1. Welcome & Introductions – Jan Shabro, Auditor (start approximately 7:10 p.m.)
  - a. Jan welcomed all who attended and introduced herself, Deputy Auditor Deryl McCarty, Animal Control Supervisor Tim Anderson, Licensing Lead Jill Munns, Animal Control Extra Hire Janette Stephenson, and Assistant Kim Yohn.
  - b. Pierce County and Snohomish County are currently the only counties where Animal Control is located within the Auditor’s Office.
  - c. The purpose of this meeting is to be **Proactive** not **Reactive**.
2. Remarks & Power Point Presentation – Tim Anderson, Animal Control Supervisor
  - a. Tim’s power point presentation included pictures from various calls including hoarding, neglect, dog fighting, and staff with their own pets.
  - b. Call statistics: In 2007 we received 5, 422 calls (included inspections), in 2008 we received 4,483 calls and in 2009 we have received approximately 4, 500 calls.
  - c. Pierce County Animal Control Officers receive various forms of training. They attend the Academy for a total of 80 hours, Cruelty Investigation School for a total of 40 hours, Equine Cruelty Investigation School and the Police Reserves for a total of 240 hours.
  - d. On October 29, 2009 Officer Tim Anderson went on call with the A&E show “Hoarders” who was filming in our area. Not only does this show help place the animals elsewhere, they also help the owners with the cost of cleanup and offer counseling.
  - e. Animal Control staff participated in a number of Public Events throughout the year. They offered information to those interested, pet license applications and also a few give a ways.
3. Information about Pet Licenses – Jill Munns, Licensing Lead
  - a. Currently we contract with South Prairie and Wilkeson for Animal Control and Pet Licensing.
  - b. Information is the key when trying to get someone to license their pet.
  - c. For added convenience, Pet License Renewals will be offered online at our website starting in 2010. This should increase revenue and the total number of pets licensed.
  - d. We have been talking with other possible vendors like our Vehicle/Vessel Licensing Subagents. We are looking for other avenues as well.
  - e. We will be switching to a permanent, stainless steel tag in 2010. An animal owner would still receive their renewal notice but once paid, they would retain the same tag.
  - f. In 2009 the Auditor’s Office purchased a customized tag machine. Currently we are preparing a change in our ordinance to offer a customized tag. This will allow an animal owner to purchase a vanity tag for their pet as well. We are also hoping to expand on that, these vanity tags can be used as key chains and luggage tags. The fee would be \$6.00 for the smaller tags and \$8.00 for the larger tags.

4. Summary of Canine Advisory Panel Meetings – Carol Cain
  - a. The Canine Advisory Panel will be preparing a report to the Auditor’s Office with suggestions, criticisms’ and ideas. The goal is to increase revenue, promote education for safety and help crack down on illegal activities.
  - b. Carol recently went on a Ride-A-Long with Animal Control Officer Jody Page.
  - c. Carol is an animal rescue volunteer.
  - d. Promoting safety, rescue, and revenue is important. We need to look at other areas to get new ideas.
  - e. Legislation is needed to make serious changes. No one calls their legislators to complain, so they are not aware that there is a problem.
  - f. While Animal Control holds the animals at the shelter, the county is responsible to the cost.
  - g. Anyone with concerns or ideas should contact the members of the Canine Advisory Panel.
5. Questions & Answers –
  - a. What is the current number of Dangerous Dogs (DD) and Potentially Dangerous Dogs (PDD) in Pierce County? Currently there are approximately 34 PDD’s and 3 DD’s.
  - b. Why is that number so low? Due to changes in the County Code last May, it is far more difficult to own a DD or PDD in Pierce County therefore, more owners are just signing over their pets. There are now insurance requirements, large fees and containment criteria that must be met.
  - c. What happens if you don’t like the outcome of your DD or PDD declaration? The first step is the Appeal hearing. That is done in the Auditor’s Office with an Administrative Review Judge (pro tem judge). If you don’t like that ruling, you can file an appeal at the Hearing Examiner Level (additional fees apply). If you are still unsatisfied with that result, you may file an appeal with the Superior Court (additional fees apply).
  - d. Does Animal Control ever recoup any monies? If restitution is awarded to the Auditor’s Office, the dollar amount is usually minimal.
  - e. During the DD or PDD process, where is the animal held? Usually the animal is held by the animal owner as long as they can meet the minimal requirements for confinement.
  - f. Where is and animal held in quarantine if they bite and break the skin? Quarantine is done in the animal owners home at the owners cost.
  - g. Where does the funding come from for the Humane Society? 51% is contract services, the rest is fees for impound and boarding. The Humane Society is a 501 C3 non-profit. 99% of the time they are on the same page working together with the county and cities.
6. Discussion Items –
  - a. There needs to be more compliance checks for kennels, groomers and daycares.
  - b. Animal owners need to help alert Animal Control to things they see in their community.
  - c. Clarification is needed on whether or not a doggie daycare can offer boarding services but only be licensed as a daycare.
  - d. Zoning affects what kind of business license can be obtained.

- e. They would like to see a list of licensed groomer, kennels, daycares and pet shops available to the public possibly on our website. Maybe people would only use those listed instead of using an unlicensed service.
  - f. How can we issue fines for those who do not comply?
7. Thank you all for coming – Adjourn (approximately 8:45 p.m.)

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	Rate 1-5 (with 5 best)	Comments:
Location/Facility:	1   2   3   4   5	1 #3 5 #4's 6 #5's
Day/Time:	1   2   3   4   5	1 #3 5 #4's 5 #5's
Value to you:	1   2   3   4   5	1 #1 1 #2 1 #3 6 #4's 3 #5's
Are you likely to participate in a future conference or event?	1   2   3   4   5	1 #1 5 #4's 6 #5's
Other comments:		See additional sheet below



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- This was info we can give to our clients, accurate info. License-we can give them the paperwork to fill out and they can mail it or bring it to Pierce County.
- Follow up on Non-licensed facilities.
- Go after businesses that do not comply.
- It would be nice to have contact information for those on the Advisory Panel.
- Name tags for folks to write their affiliation would be nice.
- In regards to Day/Time: Weekday evenings are good, maybe at a earlier time.
- In regards to Location/Facility: Good Parking.
- Need to focus more.
- No point, didn't really get anything out of this meeting.