



Eastham Dog Owners' Association October 15, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

About forty people attended our annual meeting this evening, including all current board members, former board members, Chief Kulhawik, Officer Back, our ARL guests Jack Bakker and ARL volunteer Denise, as well as candidates elected to the board at tonight's meeting. We also had a special canine guest, Maizy, a 5 ½ month old dog who is available for adoption from ARL of Brewster. She got a lot of attention this evening and gave out a lot of kisses.

Outgoing President Ed Daniels conducted the meeting as his last official duty.

Chief Kulhawik and Officer Back presented information about dog-related activity in the last year. In general, the department has 1-2 habitual violators each year. These are individuals who have multiple tickets for by-law violations and either don't pay the summons or pay and continue to violate. These are usually dogs off leash or dogs barking issues. Although most are resolved with a follow-up letter regarding consequences of continuing violations, those consequences could involve referral to Eastham's Animal Advisory Committee, referral to the Board of Selectmen, and/or a subpoena to court. Officer Back presented summaries Dog Related Calls for Service for the last two years. Numbers can be reviewed below but two items drew attention: there was a 150% increase in the number of dogs quarantined for biting, and there has been great improvement in the number of unlicensed dogs in town. Chief Kulhawik ended the presentations by saying that we should not hesitate to call his office with any concerns.

Dog Related Calls For Service Oct 1, 2014 – Sept 30, 2015

Month	Loose Dogs	Dogs on Beach	Barking Dogs	Unlicensed Dogs	Misc Calls*	Bites Dog/Human	Bites Dog/Dog
Oct	5		1			1	
Nov	10		2		2		
Dec	5			1		1	2
Jan	11		1				
Feb	6		1		1		
Mar	17		1		1		
Apr	15			4		1	
May	15		2			3	1
Jun	13	1	2		2	5	2
Jul	24	7	8	7	6	5	1
Aug	14	6	5	1	7	1	3
Sept	15	1	4		6	1	

Dog Related Calls For Service Oct 1, 2013 – Sept 30, 2014

Month	Loose Dogs	Dogs on Beach	Barking Dogs	Unlicensed Dogs	Misc Calls*	Bites Dog/Human	Bites Dog/Dog
Oct	12				2		
Nov	12					1	
Dec	11				3		
Jan	11		1		2	2	
Feb	8					1	
Mar	8		2		2		
Apr	5		2				
May	9		1		2	2	1
Jun	10		2		2	1	
Jul	18	1	3		6	2	
Aug	19	5	10	29	6		
Sept	11		3			1	

*Misc Calls: Failure To Wear Dog Tags, Disobey Dog Order, Failure to Vaccinate, Alleged Abuse/neglect, Miscellaneous Services

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ruth Bentsen reported our monthly and year-to-date income and expenses. Our bank balance is \$14,704.24 (\$12,303.79 checking, \$2037.26 CD, \$363.19 PayPal).



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NOMINATING COMMITTEE and ELECTIONS

- Two board members recently resigned their positions mid-term (terms are 2-years). EDOA bylaws allow for the board to appoint a replacement for vacancies when terms have not expired. As such, at last month's board meeting, Per Bentsen was appointed to replace Ed Daniels as President, and Cindy Blum was appointed to take Larry DiBona's board seat. Their terms will expire in October 2016.
- A committee recently solicited interest from EDOA members in filling the four positions open on the board because of expiring terms. Each candidate was asked to write a short summary about why they were interested in joining/rejoining the board. The slate and those comments were distributed to tonight's attendees prior to the discussion and election. That slate includes: Vice President – Vicky Anderson, Treasurer – Ruth Bentsen (incumbent), Board Members – Dianne Cullen (incumbent), Kimberly Inman, Barbara Komins, and Susan Williams.
 - *Motion to accept the slate of candidates and elect them to the board by Cindy Nicholson, Joanne Baldauf 2nd, passed.*

Ed then presented an overview of some of EDOA's activities during the past year:

- Membership – our goal for 2015 was to reach 200 members. We got our 183rd member at tonight's meeting.
- Merchandise – thanks to Claire Bransfield for storing, stacking, selling, and inventorying our merchandise. Claire also sends card of condolence to members whose dogs have died, and she also manages our Wiley Park poop pickup parties.
- Lost Dog Network – we have trained searchers and coordinators (the liaison between the dog owner and EDOA searchers). Tracey Plantier leads LDN and Larry DiBona is our primary coordinator, although others are being trained to assist with the coordinator role. This year we had 6 lost dog alerts, a significant drop from prior years.
- Buddy Scholarship – our annual goal is to award a \$1000 scholarship to an Eastham resident or Nauset High student or graduate who is pursuing their education to work with animals. In the past three years, we have awarded \$2500 on scholarships. 100% of donations to the Buddy Scholarship are earmarked for this purpose.
- Lower Cape Animal Shelter Team (LCAST) – we deployed on January 26th for three days at the Nauset High School emergency shelter during "Snowmagedden". We only had 1 dog and 1 cat at the shelter, but those owners would have had no place to shelter with their pets without LCAST's dedicated volunteers.
 - **REMINDER: LCAST TRAINING is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th** from 10-11 a.m. at Wellfleet Fire Department, Route 6 in Wellfleet. This will be a refresher to prepare our current volunteers for the upcoming winter season and will give those interested in joining LCAST a chance to learn more about our activities. This notice is also published on the EDOA website.
- EDOA events (some we sponsor and others we participate in) – Bow Wow Bash, Paws for Celebration, Hands on the Arts, Windmill Weekend, Poop Pickup Parties, Turnip Festival, Keeping the Supply of Poop Pickup Bags in dispensers throughout town (thanks to Claire Bransfield, Al Sette and Ellen Murray).
 - Poop is the #1 complaint we hear from non-dog owners. Thanks to all of you responsible dog owners who pick up after your dog!

Special messages from Outgoing Officers – both Ed Daniels (outgoing President) and Cindy Nicholson (outgoing Vice President) had the opportunity to say a few parting words. These two have been switching off responsibilities for a number of years and have guided EDOA to where we are today. Ed particularly wanted to thank the board members who have been reliable, efficient and energetic partners in EDOA. Cindy recalled that it was 9 years ago that initial discussions began about forming what has become EDOA. Her message was that we must get more involved in town committees, including Open Space, since many of these committees discuss issues that impact dog owners.

- Karie Miller and Cindy Blum presented Ed and Cindy with a token of our appreciation.



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Special Messages from Incoming Officers – Vicky Anderson (newly elected Vice President) stressed that we have to work to keep Eastham animal friendly and to educate/encourage responsible pet ownership. Per Bentsen (newly appointed President) is humbled by the task, but is counting on board members, EDOA members, and the continuing assistance from Ed Daniels and Cindy Nicholson to assist him in this new position.

GUEST SPEAKER – Jack Bakker, Volunteer Coordinator, Animal Rescue League (ARL) of Brewster.

- Jack provided an overview of the Animal Rescue League of Boston, an organization begun in 1899. ARL has been on Cape Cod since 1921, built its first shelter in Provincetown in 1956, and built the current shelter on Route 6A in Brewster in 1967. ARL has three physical locations – Boston, Dedham and Brewster. In 2014, over 15,000 animals went through the ARL system, including dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and even deer, snakes, iguanas and an alligator. Boston has a 5-person rescue team (paid staff), and Jack provided several slides showing that team in action rescuing a wide variety of animals (i.e., cats in trees, a deer in a swimming pool, a dog with a plastic cup stuck on its head, a snake caught in a fence, a goose caught in fishing gear).
- ARL undertakes a variety of activities.
 - They have a mobile spay wagon that travels around Greater Boston, the South Shore, and occasionally to Cape Cod. Dogs up to 50 pounds in weight and cats are the clients, but because of the stigma associated with pit bulls, they will spay or neuter them in the mobile wagon without applying the weight limit.
 - They get involved in law enforcement – hoarding, blood sports, neglect, and abuse cases. Conviction for the 1st offense of animal cruelty results in a 7-year prison term and a 10-year term for subsequent offense.
 - They are seeking to ease conditions for certain farm animals and hope to get a bill onto the ballot in Massachusetts that would change conditions for those animals.
 - They offer their pet behavior and enrichment program with 1-on-1 behavior programs to allow an animal in their care to become adoptable to a loving family.
 - They provide medical attention to all animals in their care.
 - They have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities: adoption assistant, canine companion, feline friend, small animal amigos, kennel caretakers, animal transport, etc.
 - ARL Volunteer Denise was asked to say a few words about her volunteer activities at the Brewster Shelter. She is an admitted “animal fanatic” who derives great satisfaction from working in a variety of roles at the shelter. She made a simple but poignant point when she asked two questions: “How many of you volunteer?” Many hands in the room went up. Then she asked “How many of you get kisses when you volunteer?” Those same people smiled and understood exactly what she meant.
 - Denise also mentioned ARL’s Paws in the Park celebration that takes place each June. This year’s event attracted over 800 people with nearly 400 dogs, and there was not one incident all day long. EDOA participates in this annual event.
 - To learn more about volunteer opportunities, go to <http://www.arlboston.org/> and click on Get Involved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vicky Anderson, Cindy Blum 2nd, passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.
NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 19th at 6 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herrick, Secretary