



**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

In Attendance:

Michael Cahill  
Cary Payton  
Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore  
Kara Holmquist  
David Feldman  
Ray West  
Laura Marwell  
Allie Blanck

**I. Fund Totals and Expenditures**

The Fund's Revenue Document was distributed to attendees.

Cary went over Fund totals. Total intake for donations in CY19 was \$342,533.78 representing the highest calendar year for donations. Revenue for CY19 was up \$7,543.44 compared to CY18. Current numbers reflect that the FY20 is \$1,482.92 down from where we were this time in FY19. Breakdown of revenue to date shows 83% of all donations come during tax season. Currently there is \$218,757.42 unexpended in the Fund.

An Income and Expenditures Balance sheet was distributed to attendees.

Cary explained that the balance sheet illustrated all income and expenditures of the Mass Animal Fund since the beginning of the program in 2013. The balance sheet also contains the proposed spending for CY20. In CY19 the Fund received a total of \$442,533.78 in revenue (including the \$100,000 budget line item) and spent \$534,099.17, utilizing \$91,565.39 from surplus. The CY19 spending was in the following distributions: 78% for veterinary services, 3% for ACO training, 19% for administration, <1% for marketing, and 22% surplus.

Based on a projected budget of \$490,000, which includes \$390,000 from donations and \$100,000 from line item, the following allocations were proposed: 67% for veterinary services, 2% for ACO training, 30% for administration, <1% for marketing and 0% towards surplus. The increase in administration allocation is due to the second FTE position.

**II. BUDGET LINE ITEM**

The Fund received a \$100,000 line item in the FY20 state budget. The Fund spent the \$100,000 budget line item funding 650 spay/neuter surgeries, which were completed over the course of 5 months.

A Progress Report draft was distributed to attendees for feedback.

**III. SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM**

The Mass Animal Fund Spay/Neuter Voucher and Emergency Fund Total Sheet was distributed to attendees.

Since the Voucher Program's inception 17, 057 vouchers /assistance have been issued.

In 2019, \$396,750.00 was spent on spay/neuter to help 2,463 dogs and cats across the Commonwealth. 21% of surgeries completed were for animals in priority and emergency situations such as hoarding cases, relinquishment prevention, and medically urgent conditions. 32 vouchers have been issued so far in 2020 all of which have been for ACO animals and high priority situations.

As of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the fund has 780 animals on the waitlist equaling approximately \$132,590. This is the largest wait list since the start of the program. The approximate wait time for new requests is around 6-7 months. Additionally, we are currently in a slow issue period as we wait for tax donations to come in.

Current unexpired vouchers are roughly 312, equaling \$47,650.00.

The Fund completed 43 Voucher Days in 2019. This represented 46% of completed surgeries and likely contributed to the high redemption rate (78%) of vouchers.

29 current veterinary provider locations with the recent addition of MSPCA Angell at Essex.

Municipal Partnership Program will launch today. RFR will be posted on Commbuys and Sheri and Cary will work to get word out to ACOs that their municipalities can sign up. Question from attendees about how much the program will be used and if it will overwhelm the program. Proposal to target outreach for program.

#### **IV. PROMOTIONS/EVENTS**

Over 120 MassDOT billboards were approved and artwork has been delivered.

Mailed Fund posters to municipalities and personalized posters to providers to encourage promoting the fund.

Laura presented the idea of a check off on the real estate tax bill as a new idea for promotion.

#### **V. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER PROGRAM UPDATES**

An ACO Training handout was distributed to all attendees.

73 officers attended Core Competencies Classes in 2019, 6 of which passed with distinction. The cost was \$66 per ACO for training.

Annual ACO designation forms were mailed out and are due February 1<sup>st</sup>. Once forms are received we will know how many new officers need training. Planning to do 3 training sessions in 2020.

ACO supervisors are receiving letters on CEU compliance by ACOs this month. 280 officers are fully in compliance with CEUs.

#### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 14th, 2020**  
**10:00 AM- 12:00 PM**  
**Conference Room**  
**251 Causeway Street Suite 500**  
**Boston, MA 02114**