

**Minutes from Pit Bull Committee Meeting on October 26, 2010
at Town Lake Animal Center**

ITEM 1: Selection of Note Taker

Brad will take notes:

ITEM 2: Breed Identification Program by Tara

Tara provided an update and power point visual identification demonstration (along with public handout) on different breeds to prevent misidentification of bully breeds at TLAC. Tara will use this breed identification demonstration to teach TLAC staff how to better identify breeds of dogs that come into the shelter.

This program should help reduce the number of dogs at the shelter that are labeled as pit bull----when in fact they are mixed breed dogs or breeds entirely other than pit bull. This should result in more accurate bite statistics and increase live outcomes at TLAC.

As part of the Breed Identification Program, the Committee is waiting for Amber to confirm that a “mixed breed” designation is permitted in the new up-grade for the software system used by the city to track breeds.

Tara will provide training to TLAC staff and volunteers. Lydia suggested that Tara also provide training to Veterinarian Schools and the local Veterinary Association so they can help with the breed identification problems in the Austin community.

Tara has already scheduled training for other shelters on December 5th. Anyone wishing to participate in training should RSVP to myheart4k9s@aol.com.

ITEM 3: Adult Foster Program

This committee in conjunction with Sarah on TLAC staff is beginning a pilot program to expand foster opportunities for pit bulls at TLAC. The program is designed to get pit bulls out of the shelter and into home environments with fosters who are familiar with the breed. This should increase live outcomes for pit bulls and provide needed space at TLAC to prevent the needless killing of animals to do lack of cage space.

Working with Sarah, TLAC volunteers will identify dogs over 2 months of age showing nipping and general shelter stress for this program. Jae picked the top 5 candidates for October and sent the list to Sarah for consideration. Dogs identified for the program need to demonstrate the ability to get along with other dogs since many fosters have other pit bulls in their homes.

Coco was the first dog selected for the program. Committee believes TLAC must open their foster program to pit bulls and recruit more fosters specifically designated for fostering bully breeds.

Jae will coordinate a foster sign-up initiative at Pit Bull Awareness Day on November 7. Jae and volunteers equipped with clip boards will walk through the crowd signing up new fosters for pit bulls at TLAC.

ITEM 4: Pit Bull Awareness Day

November 7 is the big day. Rescue Ink and Shorty the Pit Boss (along with Hercules) will be special guests at this event. Parade line up will begin at 11:30 a.m. The Fun Festival is from 1 to 5p.m. Vendors need to set up by 10am.

Please go to www.love-a-bull.org for more information. Flyer will be updated for distribution.

Tara will hand out a brochure on proper K9 greets. Volunteers are needed to be “pittie police” to monitor meet and greets.

Volunteers can contact info@love-a-bull.org if they want to assist.

ITEM 5: New Item

More rescue groups for Pit Bulls. Marnie would like to expand the number of mix breed rescues to take more pit bulls from TLAC. Marnie suggested a subcommittee be created to for this issue.

Marnie was selected to lead a new subcommittee to work with the Rescue Committee subcommittee that is creating a marketing program that will encourage more mixed breed rescues and fostering within mixed breed rescues.

Marnie announced a pit bull adoption event along with trick training and agility at South Paws Play School on South Lamar. Dogs for adoption. Costume contest. 12 to 4 at South Paws Play School.

ITEM 6: Housing:

City needs to compile a list of apartment complexes that allow bully breeds.

Effort needs to be made to reach out to area apartment managers. Specifically, the city should promote ambassador dogs that have attained canine good citizen classification to the local apartment management community.

Encourage apartment managers not to look at the breed, but instead to see if the dog has been spayed/neutered and if it has been through training. The Breed Identification Program should also be used educate property management personal.

Efforts should begin by identifying sympathetic realtors and apartment association members and ask for their assistance as an entry into the entire Austin market.

ITEM 7: Future Agenda Items

Additional methods for foster recruitment

More rescue recruitment

Encourage members of the public to join Love-a-bull. Love-a-bull will spay/neuter your bully breed dog for free if you join.

Provide Love-a-bull marketing materials for committee members at the next meeting---- such as business cards and brochures

East side focus group project update by Tara. Community education agenda item— trailer to travel on east side and promote education about bully breeds and unneutered dogs. Tara will provide leashes, treat bags, treats, collars, This program should be part of a gang prevention initiative.

Certified dogs program into AISD schools

“Paws in Prison” type program with gang members in prison working with dogs.

Community announcement opportunities

Breed specific legislation petition, still collecting signatures.

Turn in list of items for Public Awareness calendar 24 months messaging schedule and also for the 2011 year of the companion animal.

NEXT MEETING is Tuesday, November 23

December meeting date to be determined at November meeting.