

**Circle D Animal Policy Committee Meeting
(Representing CDCA Circle D Country Acres)**

Meeting Minutes 7/12/18

Meeting was called to order 6:34pm by committee chairman Theol Jackman, at 146 N. Buckhorn Dr., Bastrop, Texas.

Present:

Theol Jackman, Carol Shumacher, Suzanne Mohme, Sue Van Wagoner, Suzannah Amable, Jonathan Radcliff, Doug Marousek, Kyra Holm, Terrell Matlock, Anna Corley, Sue Pardue, Donna Nelson, Susan Green.

Unable to attend: April Tinajero, Lyn Ewert, Joan Swanson, Rebeca Martin

Introduction of each committee member and their sections.

Group discussion – members had received email informing the number of animals (specifically horses) per acre. Suzannah Amable will send a copy of the email she received at her closing. She was told 1 large animal per acre. Other members confirmed they had that same understanding. Jonathan said that is the purpose of this committee ... to clarify the number of animals per acre.

Previous meeting minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Theol went over the Animal Policy Committee Charter bullet points to familiarize each member of the purpose of the committee.

Old Business:

Anna Corley gave a report on her research findings. She was assigned Bastrop County as her research. She said the data she was directed to was published 2007. She said the Ordinances are nebulous (unclear, vague, or ill-defined).

Anna's contact person was Clara Beckett who referenced her to the "state law".

Everything at the county level is mandated from the state.

Anna said there is no barking or nuisance law in the City Bastrop.

Horses, mules, Jacks and Jennys are all allowed to run at large and the owner is not responsible for any damages caused by them. (If you hit one with your car you are at fault)

Anna will scan the info she gathered to the group and send it to Theol.

Kyra was assigned the Bastrop City ordinances – (she printed County ordinances which did not match what Anna found) The city requires all dogs to have current Rabies tags (good for 3 years). They must be registered with the City and wear a collar. Chickens are not allowed within 50 feet of neighbors.

*Terrell interjected according to barking dog ordinance – there must be 2 complaints within a certain period of time. It is not against the law for a dog to kill livestock so owners cannot be punished. (This is a civil issue)

Kyra continued – chaining and tethering is prohibited unless the owner is in a visual the entire time the dog is tethered.

Bastrop City dogs must be leashed at all times outside the property fence.

Susan Green reported on Austin Polo Club and City of Taylor. Did not speak to anyone but got info on-line. Chickens, pigs, etc. are not considered domestic.

Leash law for all domestic animals.

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There is a “reasonable” amount of noise allowed with animals and they must be kept in a CLEAN, SANITARY, FREE OF INSECTS and WASTE environment. Must be kept in a closed, fenced area.

Taylor City - Maximum 6 dogs and 6 cats (doesn't apply to inside small pets such as cats, small birds and fish)

Kennels must be 20' from other residential structures (house)

Zero commercial use without permit.

Animals unit = 1000 LB animal per 15,000-29,999sq/ft – each additional animals for each 3,000 sq/ft up to 43,560 sq/ft. (43,569 sq/ft = an acre)

Zero pit bulls.

Susannah Amable questions the restrictions on animals getting out and the complaints. How is this monitored?

The board can only limit # of animals but is there a way to ENFORCE the offenders?

Doug Marousek interjected – do we have any fining authority? He recommend we check it out.

Theol Jackman the committee discussed last meeting and may recommend the HOA track complaints. This discussion is adding “What consequences are there if violating the restrictions?” Carol Shumacher volunteered to research this topic.

Terrell – coming from a law enforcement angle, said if fined we are not have a court system to support that action.

Jonathon – there is a process on levying a fine. There can be a civil suit.

“All lots should be adequately fenced ...” (this is in our covenants. It is not clearly defined that there is a consequence.) We need to research the ability for consequences. The charter states we may will get feedback from our attorney about enforcement.

Susan Green emphasized we need to TRACK COMPLAINTS – what are the circumstances of the complaints. Who should you contact for noise law? Susan recommended we publish the phone numbers for the references of residences and create a spreadsheet for those complaints. Is the complaint a COUNTY problem or an HOA problem?

NEW BUSINESS:

Doug – brought up lot size VS # of Animals

Some lots are smaller than 1 acre.

X lot size = Cow

X lot size = horse

Susan Green – 1 animal grazing = 1/acre

animals stabled = ? / acre

Donna – difficult to collect fines. The cost to collect can be more in legal fees than what it's worth.

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Doug – 1st explain the rules and people will follow. 2nd threat legal consequences – some WON'T cooperate no matter what you require then the Board has to decide how to pursue it.
If a resident feels they are being singled out or harassed they could file suit against HOA.

Suzanne Mohme – From past experience – don't threaten legal action or there is greater contention and risk of having to follow through.

Recommend a fine – not legal action

Support a flow chart and for to use for complaints.

Theol – brought back to point of order. Invited everyone to come to the scheduled Board meeting and bring up further concerns.

End of New Business

Questions – no questions

REVIEW – Susan Green waiting further info

Anna – waiting to talk to the commissioner

Kyra – sending out a copy of her findings

Carol – Research for the group the ability to put in place recourse for violators

Suzanne – will do a flow chart of who you can call for specific violations

Donna – asked if there are close HOA to compare policy

Tahitian, KC (no HOA), Blue Bonnet Acres (not HOA)

Theol – After group discussion, summarized comments as no one is aware of a similar HOA near us

Susan Green – Question Household pets include dogs kept outside?

Theol – only info we have is what she read from the City of Taylor previously noted in this meeting.

Doug – if we want to break down the species we can discuss that at a later meeting.

Next meeting Thursday July 26 6:30 pm at 146 N. Buckhorn Dr., Bastrop, Texas.

Donna motioned the meeting adjourn

Sue Purdue seconded

Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted by Sue Van Wagoner, committee secretary