

Allegan County Board of Commissioners



County Services Building
3283 – 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-0203 Main Office
269-686-5331 Main Fax
<http://www.allegancounty.org>

Steve McNeal, Chairman
Don Black, Vice Chairman

DISTRICT 1
Terry Burns
616-403-0427
tburns@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 2
Steve McNeal
269-751-7271
smcneal@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 3
Paul VanEck
616-688-5619
pvaneck@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 4
Mark DeYoung
616-681-9413
mdeyoung@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 5
Dean Kapenga
269-751-8586
dkapenga@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 6
Max R. Thiele
269-673-4514
mthiele@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 7
Don Black
269-792-6446
dblack@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 8
Tom Jessup
269-637-3374
tjessup@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 9
Fritz Spreitzer
269-673-4131
fspreitzer@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 10
Jon C. Campbell
269-694-4632
jcampbell@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 11
Larry "Casey" Jones
269-664-5362
lcjones@
allegancounty.org

ANIMAL SHELTER TASK FORCE MEETING - Draft Minutes Thursday, April 17, 2008 - 7:30 A.M. Nederveld Room - County Services Building

CALL TO ORDER:

DKapenga called the meeting to order 7:35 AM.

ROLL CALL:

See attendance sheet attached.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Staffing Needs - full case study including a list of prioritized concerns. Went through raw data supplied by THalstead. Figures from 1990 - 1998 were generated from paper. In 2001, went computerized mid-year and not all the calls went in. These were all calls that came into the shelter or dispatch. He'll get the numbers from the road patrol to add to it. Time involved in each call is not tracked.

- Incident Claim Report - reports on cats from same owner (37 calls).
- Animals per month (2002 and 2007) - animals that are physically picked up and brought in to shelter (caged).
- Number of complaints - shows busier in summer; just shows how many calls come in. In last four years, do not take care of animals that are seen running loose - just respond to calls that come in (obligated calls) which is the way it has been for the last 4-5 years. Prevention doesn't take place.
- 2007 report tracking response to calls - how many complaints were brought in, how late they were in answering and the percentage. The calls vary from dog bites, dogs running, dog pick ups. DKapenga feels this is very important in showing how we are not serving our public the way we should.
- Tickets - got figures from the courts. There were 3 full-time and a couple part-time working at shelter in 1998. Tickets for no license are \$50 each. JHull, it helps with enforcement generally when one person gets a ticket, the rest of their neighborhood start to comply. The dog census shows the population and dog population is going up, but fewer tickets are given out.

Mission Statement

"The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop, and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper"

- Dog licenses sold - THalstead said his policy on license enforcement; first offense he gives a copy of the law and gives a warning; the second time he issues a ticket. There are funds being lost now, but the census - shows how many do the census, what money was brought in, how many tickets were issued. The census helped animal control with their job; it got people to get their animals licensed.
- Complaints tracked on our system after 1995.
- Also data on number of complaints within cities.
- Also, brief on online articles and Petfinder - Kalamazoo County going to build a shelter (\$4 to \$6 million - county run facility). Info on Kent County also. He gave examples and figures on Petfinder - March 17 to March 23 we had 2,922 people look at the dogs on the website. From March 24 to March 30 we had 2,095 people. If these people decide to call, there is no one in the office to answer the calls. Even if one quarter of these hits were answered, it is quite a lot of people. It shows Petfinder is doing the job, but we are not able to serve them.
- Also spoke of a call from Ottawa, raising their licenses, and they also charge for doing kennel licenses. We don't. Kalamazoo kennel inspection fees 1-10 animals \$40, 11-30 animals \$65, 31+ dogs - \$105, just for their time to do the inspections.
- The instance mentioned earlier where the house was visited 37 times for cat pick up - there are no laws about cats. Ferrell cats, yes. Some humane groups neuter them and put them back out into the wild. He feels this is abandonment - Saugatuck and Sandy Pines have been doing this. He said they must feed and shelter them if they do this. If they let them loose, it is abandonment - any animal. Cats there are no rules and regulations. In Kent they have to license cats.

JHull - two ways to do staffing, how much money, or what you really want out of service - expectations. Could do an exercise with the Board to see what their expectations are. Bottom line is do they want to pay for it. What would this workgroup's expectations be to handle these complaints?

MLarsen - average is a 24 day response time on complaints. Dog bites and vicious dogs law enforcement handles. A cruiser is sent out to take the complaint. They may or may not call animal control. THalstead said 80 percent of calls come from the hospital.

JConnell - also makes calls to the sheriff when he encounters a torn up dog. Bites and vicious should be in minutes. THalstead - feels a call for a running dog should be taken care of right now. He said it also depends if it's the first call or if it is a repeat runner (repeats might go to the bottom of the pile); these might take a few days to respond to.

Animal abuse - should be a same day response, but THalstead said that it takes more than one day to investigate and collect evidence. When someone captures a stray, they will try and get those the same day. Animals that have been trapped need attention as quickly as possible since we do not want to be charged with animal cruelty. Animal control is only out on the road 3 hours a day. If there is a license on an animal picked up, they call that night. If animal has a chip, they usually call the next day. The law says they have to make contact within 24 hours. If not a call, a letter has to be sent out.

JConnell - chips have only been available about three years now. THalstead - Trustees scan animals twice a week. The scanners don't hit the chip each time. Dogs picked up are not necessarily fined because they are too busy. It would be nice to have someone able to give tickets when they pick the animal up.

Other expectations

- The dog census is not a money-maker, but a work-maker. They could put money in their budget to do the census, but the follow-up is what takes time and money. It all boils into population control.
- Do we want to attempt to control; but are not doing anything about it right now due to lack of staff.
- Percent of adoption vs. euthanasia - they used to do a better job. It is a philosophical matter. Nicer dogs would be adopted out. THalstead - when he first started, they just put animals down after 4 days. Eventually, they moved more to trying to adopt, up until the last 4 years because of lack of staff. Moved now to trying the Petfinder route, but still moving backwards.

Miscellaneous

- # tickets - population control
- Shelter disease - shelter issue
- City complaints - City don't have anyone to do animal control for them; they rely on the County. All cities pay same as county residents in taxes. The cities pay extra for the law enforcement - extra mills paid by city residents, but townships receive the same service as cities.

Discussion on how to present to the Board. Right now, we might lack a little on demonstrating the fact of how road patrol is being used for the lack of shelter staff. Need to demonstrate that in time. As far as new or old shelter, need to know if we need to continue doing all this or not. Feels the philosophy is important. THalstead has never done strictly animal control; much time is eaten up with shelter management. If they were able to give him eight hours on the road, doesn't know how it would impact. His priority would be to get the animal shelter manager. Just having someone there 40 hours per week answering the phones would help alleviate his time. Eventually, volunteers could run a lot of the duties.

DKapenga - we have to put our best foot forward; give them the facts and do a good job demonstrating it. The direction we're headed to is giving a presentation on the shelter's track record for last 5 years. We'll do same with the road patrol side of it, and give our recommendation from staffing at this same meeting.

Consensus is there should be a shelter manager vs. another animal control person. It has to be a county employee, cannot do a contractual person. It should be regardless of whether we have a new building or just repair the old. We still have to keep the thought in mind that we are still out of compliance and the state will only wait so long to alleviate our problems. Dr. Osmond is still in charge of our county, but because they have special issues at the state level she has not been able to join the meetings.

WRAP UP:

- DKapenga - will relate to the board chairman and make sure our time frame works. He would like our next task meeting to be next week to make sure we have ducks in row for a presentation.

- We could do the presentation after the tour of the animal shelter on May 1 at the Board's planning session following at 9:30 AM. Need to hone in on the expectations - what we're able to do now and what we'd recommend. He'd like JConnell to do some presenting also on the expectation aspect.
- MLarsen will work on road patrol information and will work with others at sheriff department to get this to task force members before their next meeting.
- Should also present how fundraising could help with the staffing.
- Next shelter meeting 28th at 7:30 AM and have draft presentation ready for task force to critique; with expectations of a presentation to the Board at the 5/1 planning session.
- Moshers - unable to continue task force involvement due to other commitments after today. They have asked another volunteer who could possibly get involved. She is a county employee and needs to get permission from her supervisor. If this person cannot take their place for the 5/1 presentation, they will be available for that.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 AM. Next task force meeting April 28, 2008 at 7:30 AM in the Board Conference Room (unless notified otherwise).

Minutes submitted by Denise Wilson, Executive Assistant, Administration.

ALLEGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT ANIMAL CONTROL
INCIDENT/COMPLAINT REPORT FORM

Date: 04/08/2008

User: THALSTEAD

Page: 1

Case Description:

Case Number: 2007-00001086

Trapped

Primary Victim: NONE

Date/Time Reported: 07/16/07 9:16 Hrs. Dispatch Incident Type:
Date/Time Occurred: 07/16/07 0:00 Hrs. anim trap
Date/Time Between : 07/16/07 0:00 Hrs.
Location Occurred : 791 109TH AV
Nature of Call . : CAT TRAP. 2 IF AVAILABLE.
Area: Southeast Section: Gun Plain Grid:

Case Status: Closed Disposition: Disp. Date:

report K3
07/16/2007
Dropped off trap and demo same..

08/09/2007 Picked up owners cat.

report K3
07/17/2007
Picked up farrow cat.

report K3
07/18/2007
Picked up cat.

report K3
07/19/2007
Cat escaped.

report K3
07/20/2007
Picked up cat.

report K3
07/23/2007

Picxked up two cats.

report K3
07/24/2007

Picked up cat.

report K3
25/2007

Picked up cat. Picked up another cat on 07/26/2007.
8-1-07 picked up cat
7-27-07 picked up 2 cats
7-31-07 picked up cat
08/10/2007 Picked up cat.

Case Description:

Case Number: 2007-00001086

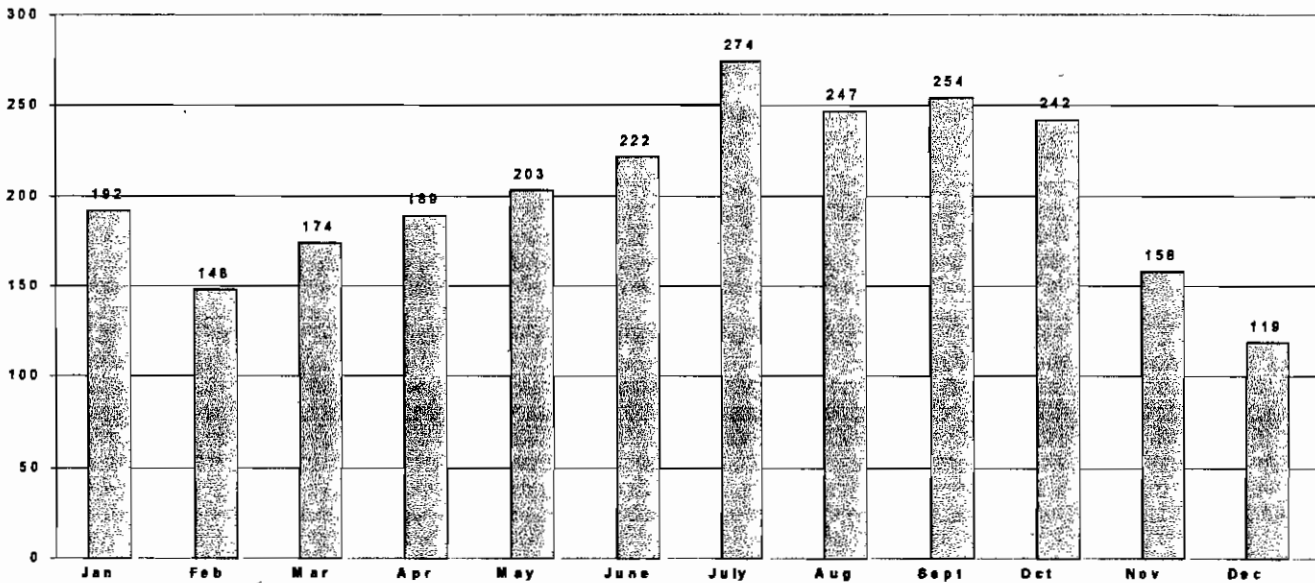
Trapped

08/13/2007 Picked up cat.
08/14/2007 Picked up 2 cats.
08/15/2007 Picked up a cat.
08/17/2007 Picked up a cat.
k1 8-21-2007 picked up cat
k1 8-27-07 picked up cat
k1 8-28-07 picked up 2 kittens
k1 8-29-07 picked up 2 kittens
k1 8-30-07 no cat in trap
k1 8-31-07 picked up cat
k1 9-5-07 picked up cat
k1 9-6-07 picked up cat
k1 9-7-07 picked up cat
k1 9-10-07 picked up cat
k1 9-11-07 picked up 2 cats
k1 9-12-07 picked up cat
k1 9-13-07 picked up cat
k1 9-14-07 picked up cat
k1 9-17-07 picked up kitten
k1 9-18-07 picked up cat
k1 9-24-07 picked up trap

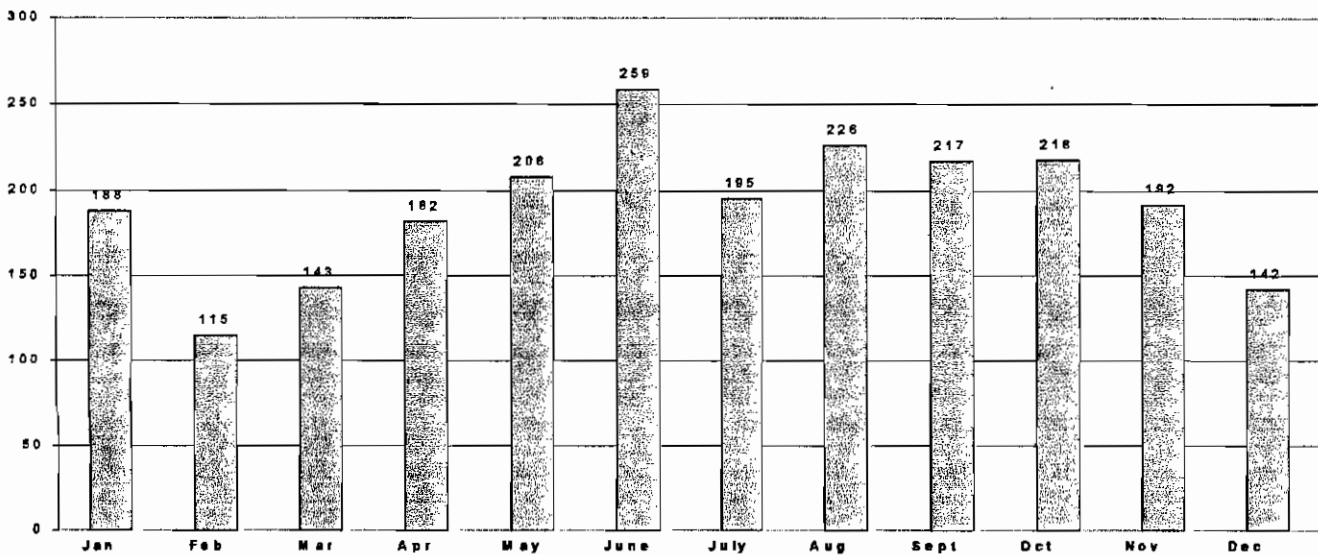
Number of Animals by Month

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Jan	192	154	88	120	125	188
Feb	148	147	154	84	105	115
Mar	174	176	111	156	107	143
Apr	189	135	96	171	171	182
May	203	164	177	137	169	208
June	222	136	197	191	161	259
July	274	141	210	171	167	195
Aug	247	104	171	177	237	226
Sept	254	198	182	132	216	217
Oct	242	190	170	170	193	218
Nov	158	136	127	209	156	192
Dec	119	101	116	127	140	142

2002 Number of Animals by Month



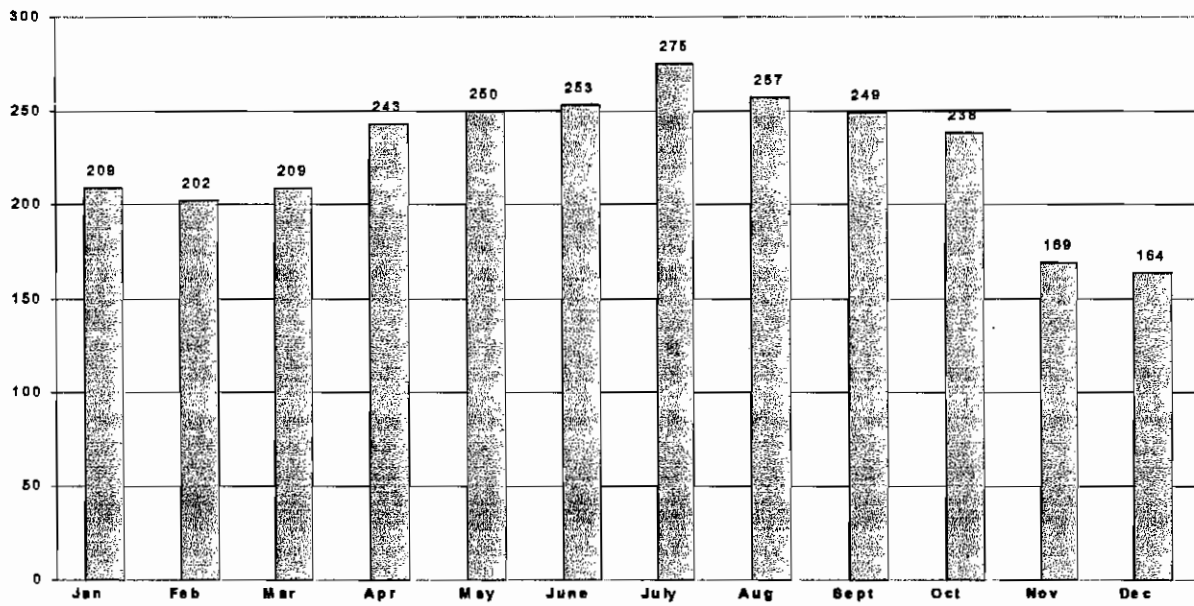
2007 Number of Animals by Month



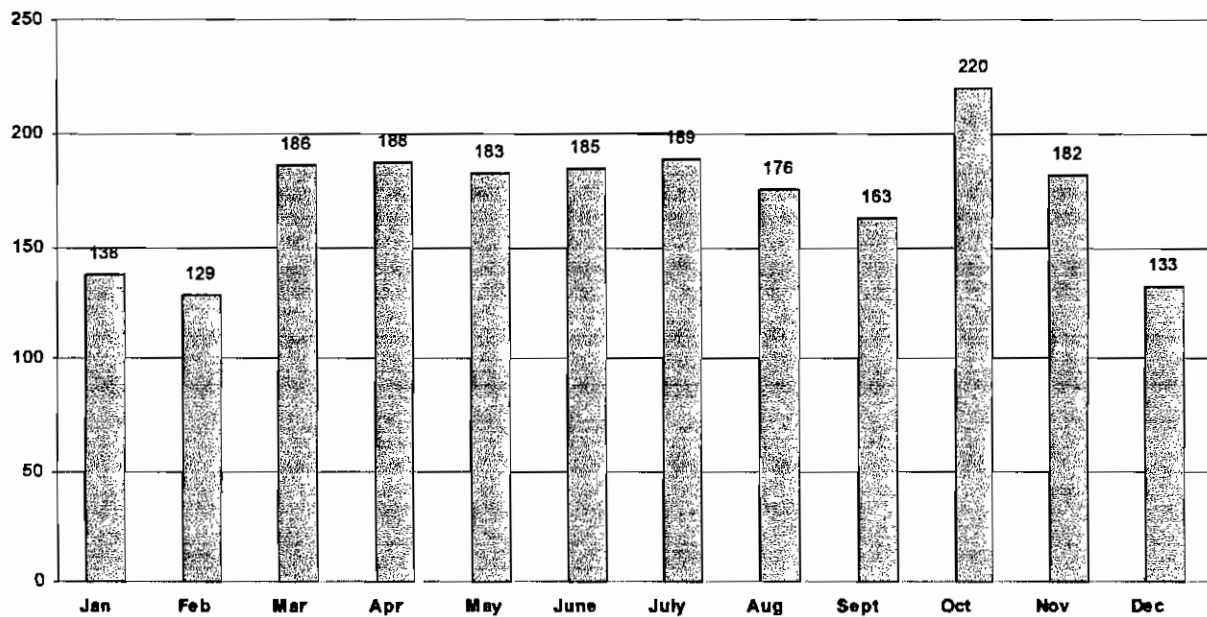
Number of Complaints by Month

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Jan	209	196	153	115	156	138
Feb	202	194	165	119	124	129
Mar	209	210	199	175	169	186
Apr	243	157	194	212	158	188
May	250	170	186	195	168	183
June	253	183	213	170	206	185
July	275	231	166	160	160	189
Aug	257	117	185	199	195	176
Sept	249	217	146	173	160	163
Oct	238	161	165	142	177	220
Nov	169	124	145	169	139	182
Dec	164	118	93	111	147	133

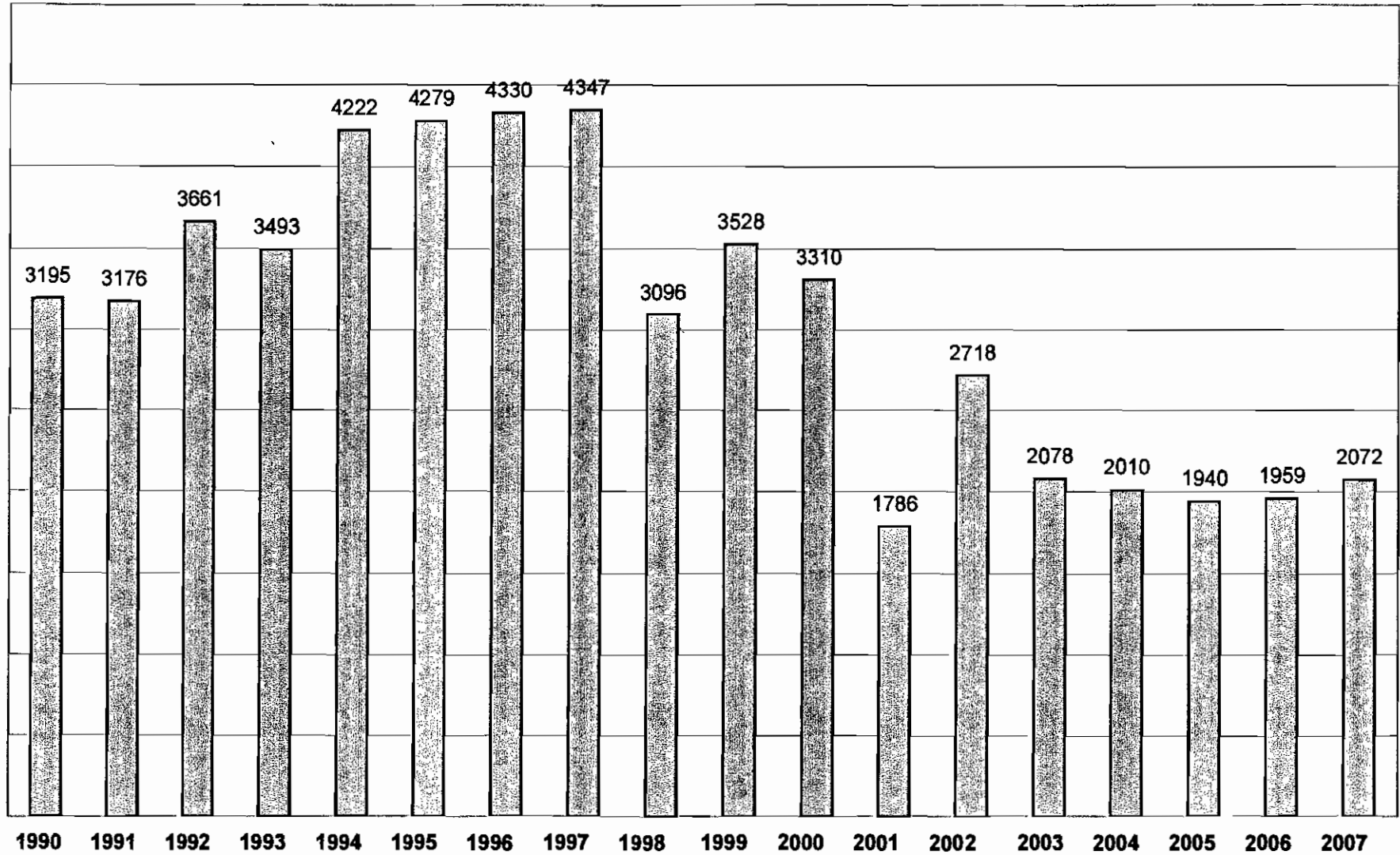
2002 Number of Complaints by Month



2007 Number of Complaints by Month



Total Number of Complaints



2007

January had 138 complaints and 38 or 27% of the complaints were up to 16 days late.

February had 129 complaints and 31 or 24% of the complaints were up to 14 days late.

March had 186 complaints and 40 or 21% of the complaints were up to 23 days late.

April had 188 complaints and 49 or 26% of the complaints were up to 24 days late.

May had 183 complaints and 33 or 18% of the complaints were up to 34 days late.

June had 185 complaints and 40 or 22% of the complaints were up to 12 days late.

July had 189 complaints and 59 or 31% of the complaints were up to 26 days late.

August had 176 complaints and 62 or 35% of the complaints were up to 43 days late.

September had 163 complaints and 69 or 42% of the complaints were up to 24 days late.

October had 220 complaints and 76 or 35% of the complaints were up to 17 days late.

November had 182 complaints and 53 or 29% of the complaints were up to 24 days late.

December had 133 complaints and 29 or 21% of the complaints were up to 31 days late.

In 1998 Animal Control wrote 286 tickets.

In 2006 Animal Control wrote 120 tickets.

In 2007 Animal Control wrote 137 tickets.

Allegan County Dog Census Statistics by Year

1986:

3 people doing the dog census

Total money brought in from sales of overdue dog licenses: \$11,237.50

72 tickets issued for no dog license

Out of 1,349 people that had dogs, 560 had licenses

1987:

10 people doing the dog census (most of the census done by 5 out of the 10 people)

Total money brought in from sales of overdue dog licenses: \$4,545.00

100 tickets issued for no dog license

Out of 234 people that had dogs, 97 had dog licenses

1988:

4 people doing the dog census

Total money brought in from sales of overdue licenses: \$3,975.00

Out of 235 people that had dogs, 97 had dog licenses.

1989:

5 people doing the dog census

Total money brought in from sales of overdue licenses: \$7,365.00

20 tickets issued for no dog license

Out of 556 people that had dogs, 162 had licenses

1990:

2 people doing the dog census

Total money brought in from sales of overdue licenses: \$3,597.00

Out of 361 people that had dogs, 134 had licenses

1994:

5 people doing the dog census

273 tickets issued for no dog license

1998:

286 tickets issued for no dog license

2006:

100 tickets issued for no dog license

2007:

98 tickets issued for no dog license

- For a no dog license ticket, the fine is \$50.00.
- From 2005-2007, on average we transferred 225 dogs and 75 cats per year. If we would adopt out these animals, we would have revenue of \$9,000.00 per year.

Allegan County - DOG LICENSES SOLD

Year	1 Year	3 Year	Kennel	Total
1986	5887			5887
1987	6412			6412
1988	5077	538		5615
1989	4651	623		5274
1990	4708	747		5455
1991	5256	815		6071
1992				6244
1993				5893
1994				5499
1995	3872	1910	144	5926
1996	3703	1998	144	5845
1997	3324	1957	144	5425
1998	3176	2126	100	5402
1999	3258	2099	90	5447
2000			84	5641
2001			84	84
2002			84	84
2003	3493	2429	15	5937
2004	3361	2539	68	5968
2005	2709	2596	78	5383
2006	2597	2134	39	4770
2007	2350	2391	18	4759

Notes:

2004 was the last year we had more than 1 full-time animal control officer.

The number of dog licenses has dropped in 2007 to the lowest number of licensed dogs. This could be a \$15,000 loss in revenue.

Licenses:

- 1 yr. license if dog is spayed or neutered - \$5.00
- 3 yr. license if dog is spayed or neutered - \$12.00
- 1 yr. license if dog is NOT spayed or neutered - \$10.00
- 3 yr. license if dog is NOT spayed or neutered - \$25.00

Before 1995n there are no records of complaints in the computer system. The animal complaints that came in to the Animal Shelter and Central Dispatch were put on pieces of paper.

From 1995 to the year 2000, Central Dispatch was authorized to enter the after hour calls into their system. During the time from 1990 to 2000 the Animal Shelter put all complaints on paper.

In 2001 the Animal Shelter became computerized. This allowed us to enter the complaints into the same system Central Dispatch was using. This was started part way through the year. That is why there is a low number of complaints for that year.

In 2002 we changed the way we entered complaints. When we set a trap, we would continue to use the same complaint number every time we emptied the trap. This in turn lowered the total number of complaints.

The total number of complaints reflect the number of complaints called in. These numbers are not the number of complaints that were completed. The complaints that are being completed are animal pick ups and animal bites.

Mike Larsen

From: Tim Halstead

Sent: Friday, April 11, 2008 9:50 AM

To: Jim Hull; Mike Larsen

Complaints within City

Allegan City	109 complaints
Fennville	28 complaints
Holland city	5 complaints
Hopkins	8 complaints
Otsego	85 complaints
Plainwell	32 complaints
Saug/Douglas	17 complaints
Wayland	34 complaints
Total	318 complaints

Animal Control Task Force

**EXPECTED RESPONSE TO ANIMAL CONTROL REQUEST FOR SERVICE IN
TERMS OF MINUTES, HOURS OR DAYS**

Dog bites
Vicious dogs
Dogs Running
Animal abuse
Pick up Strays
Stray complaints

OTHER ANIMAL CONTROL EXPECTATIONS:

Dog census
Population control
Dog License enforcement
Percent of adoptions Vs Euthanized

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

Number of tickets issued
Shelter Disease control
City Complaints
Complaints Vs County population Trend

Animal Shelter Task Force
 Sign in Sheet
 Thursday, April 17, 2008 @ 7:30 AM
 Nederveld Room – County Services Building

Members	Phone	Email	Signature
Rob Sarro, Allegan County Administrator	269-673-0239	rsarro@allegancounty.org	<i>excused</i>
Dean Kapenga, Commissioner	269-751-8586	dkapenga@allegancounty.org	<i>Dean Kapenga</i>
Jim Hull, Undersheriff	269-673-0420	jhull@allegancounty.org	<i>Jim Hull</i>
Tim Halstead, Animal Control	269-673-0519	thalstead@allegancounty.org	<i>Tim Halstead</i>
William Hinz, Environmental Health Officer – Health Department	269-673-5411	whinz@allegancounty.org	<i>excused</i>
Nancy Manchip, Volunteer	616-878-3416	nmanchip@netscape.net	
Dr. Jim Connell, Town & Country, Vet. Michelle cmbeeman@btc-bci.com	(269) 673-5654	drjim1@verizon.net	<i>[Signature]</i>
*Dr. Wendy Osman, Dept. of Agr. Rep.	616-446-1784	Osmanw@michigan.gov	
Denise Wilson	269-673-0239	dwilson@allegancounty.org	<i>Denise Wilson</i>
Janet & Ken Mosher (alternate volunteers)	269-751-8964	Kmosher567@netzero.com	<i>Janet & Ken Mosher</i>
Bob Wakeman, Facilities Management Director	269-673-0220	bwakeman@allegancounty.org	<i>Bob Wakeman</i>
Mike Larsen, Lt.	269-673-0550 ext 4520	mlarsen@allegancounty.org	<i>Mike Larsen</i>