

March 4, 2022

To: Mayor James Mueller and the South Bend Common Council Members

From: South Bend Animal Welfare Commission (SBAWC)

Re: March 2021 - February 2022 Annual Report

Over the last year we have heard numerous cases regarding habitual animal offenders and dangerous dog designations. Since the beginning of the pandemic our work outside the realm of cases has really ground to a halt. Right before the pandemic the SBAWC had finished its review of the proposed changes to Chapter 5 and we are eager to get that ball rolling again and move that bill forward before the city council this year. We are also looking into ways that we as a commission can be more proactive, both in supporting animal welfare in general and SBARC specifically through community outreach. We are working on putting together continuing education for the prosecuting attorneys and the police department in regards to the importance of animal welfare cases and safety for both human and animals during police interactions. And we hope to help grow the support for the shelter among SB residents. We look forward to the commission being a more active group rather than just listening to the reports of the shelter and hearing cases.

We would like to invite all government officials from the city council and the mayor's office to both participate in our animal welfare commission meetings/ hearings as well as be active in the shelter itself. Seeing what happens on a daily basis with regards to the continual influx of animals in need would be very helpful in boosting morale of the shelter workers, who are city employees, as well as help you see the valuable services to the city that they provide.

Thank you,

Mariah Covey

Mariah Covey, DVM, KPA-CTP
Chair SB Animal Welfare Commission