

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COLLIER COUNTY
DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Naples, Florida, January 18, 2011

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, that the Collier County Domestic Animal Services Advisory Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 6:30 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at Domestic Animal Services Resource Training Room, Davis Blvd., East Naples, Florida with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Michele Antonia
VICE CHAIRMAN: Marcia Breithaupt
Sergeant David Estes
Dr. Ruth Eisele (excused)
Tom Kepp, Jr.
Dan Martin
Jim Rich

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director, DAS
Kathlene Drew, Volunteer Coordinator, DAS
Ekna Guevara, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michele Antonia called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

II. Attendance – Establish a Quorum

Attendance was taken and a quorum established.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Sgt. David Estes moved to approve the agenda. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes: December 7, 2010

Change in spelling of name: Ekna Guevara (not Guavera) - Page 1

Dan Martin moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2010, as amended. Second by Marcia Breithaupt. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

V. Old Business:

A. Director's Report (handouts)

Amanda Townsend reported on the following news from DAS:

- Due to Nan Gerhardt's absence, she has been both Director and "acting shelter operations manager" for a week or so.
- This time of the year evidenced an increase in pet related events and outreach activities. Kathlene Drew assisted in these events.
- Two low-cost vaccination clinics were held:
 1. Dec. 18, resulted in 97 pet vaccinations and 34 microchips in a 3 hour time span.
 2. Jan. 15 resulted in 37 pet vaccinations and 6 microchips.
- Re-doubling of efforts in advertising planned for Feb. & March clinics
- Improved reporting methods utilizing the opportunity to obtain a survey of citizen's opinion on service options and other animal related issues to determine what is most important to the public
- Participation in the MLK Day Parade. Parades provided a great marketing opportunity to showcase animals and required minimal staffing.
- Looking for a donated parade float for future use in parade participation.
- Drainage project was completed though some corrections to outfall still needed.
- Re: clinics – Amanda met with the District Manager of Paws Plus, recently bought out by NIG who owns Petco, was prepared to offer DAS a 12 month contract for weekly vaccination clinics with 10% going to DAS. Contract had not yet been received. If approved, the DASAB would eventually receive the particulars to vote on their recommendations to the BCC. Question of whether public solicitation for competitive bidding or just acceptance as a solicited donation would have to be determined before moving forward. Also, budget cuts might be a concern. She will keep the Board updated.

- A new PetSupermarket opened at Collier & Davis and have asked if DAS would place adoptable cats there. An interested volunteer offered to handle the task. They will also do a weekly Donation Drive to benefit DAS; just waiting for go ahead from DAS. Accounting issues still need to be checked out.
- An Emergency Management meeting with representatives from the State was attended by Amanda and Kathlene Drew. They reported on the vast amount of resources in place for emergency situations. They will also attend the SART conference in February enabling them to network with those contacts who will provide assistance and equipment necessary to DAS in disaster and emergency events.
- **Kathlene Drew** noted it was good to know agencies have equipment “ready to go” in emergencies and would be there to help out.

B. FY 2011 First Quarter Departmental Statistics

Amanda Townsend reviewed the statistical information with the Board Members, viewing the charts and graphs projected on the overhead screen for the benefit of all, including members of the public that were present.

Comments and questions arose on several of the statistics shown. The Board requested staff to re-check some of the figures and table discussion until next month’s meeting.

Jim Rich moved to table the review of the First Quarter Statistics Report until the next DASAB meeting. Second by Tom Kepp. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

C. Expanded Usage of Donation Trust Fund (handout)

Amanda Townsend provided copies of the Resolution No. 2006-26, which declares “A PUBLIC PURPOSE FOR THE SOLICITATION, RECEIPT, AND EXPENDITURE OF DONATIONS TO COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING CREATION OF A TRUST ACCOUNT.

Discussion followed on the interpretation of some of the verbiage in the Resolution and on some of the preferred uses of the Donation Trust Fund (DTF) monies.

The consensus of the Board Members was to prioritize ideas on ways to spend fund monies in ways that would be financially sustainable with accountability to the donors. Input from the community via a donor survey was encouraged. This item will be put on the next meeting’s Agenda for further discussion.

VI. New Business

A. DAS Response to complaints regarding Feral Cat colonies (handout)

Chairman Michele Antonia provided copies of an e-mail received from Dana Alger, Animal Control Supervisor regarding the protocol for the maintenance of feral cat colonies by citizens electing to do so.

Interpretation of the e-mail caused concern and needed clarification.

Amanda Townsend will address the proper protocol at the upcoming All Officer staff meeting and conduct re-training, if necessary.

B. Demonstration of Chameleon/Google Earth interface

Administrative Assistant, Ekna Guevara provided a Power Point projection of Chameleon data maps superimposed over Google Earth that will allow visual pinpointing of neighborhoods where activity calls originate, types of calls, numbers and kinds of animals. It will provide a history and an indication of where education may be needed. The process, will soon be fully integrated.

VII. Public Comment Topic

A. TBA (open discussion)

This month's chosen topic: **Money to Spruce up Entrance; and Lobby for Turn Lane**

Stephen Wright asked if monies could be budgeted to:

- remove obstructions to the sign
- spruce up the sign itself and the entrance to DAS
- create easier access to DAS with a turn lane off Davis Blvd.

Discussion followed with several suggestions to improve the entrance.

Amanda Townsend stated the DAS logo had been incorporated into the sign face in the next budget. She will follow up on sign change and bush trimming to alleviate sight obstruction. Since portions of Davis Blvd. are a State road, a turn lane may be out of County Transportation's jurisdiction and/or there may not be enough traffic to warrant it. She will check that also.

B. Individual Comments - None

VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments:

Vice Chairman Marcia Breithaupt inquired if Donation Trust Funds could be expended for the donor survey.

Amanda stated they could. It will be handled when the prioritized ideas are put in survey form and sent out.

Sergeant Estes cited the first step would be to get the Resolution wording clarified and changed; then to use the funds accordingly, for things such as hurricane preparation.

Tom Kepp complimented the Animal Control Officer for doing a great job handling a neighborhood stray dog situation. He also commented on an interview with Amanda Townsend in a local newspaper. In his opinion, there was a missed opportunity to cite irresponsible pet owners as the reason for most euthanasia statistics, along with the other reasons given in the interview.

Jim Rich asked if perspective adoptees are shown around, given personal attention and informed of services available to them. He had the opportunity, at another location, to assist

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with 9 adoptions by offering personal service. He suggested volunteers could be utilized. *Amanda responded the ideal would be to see staff or volunteer to promote and accompany people to the adoption room and provide more personal service to make a good match; the way they do with return to owner customers. The need was to find those volunteers who want to interact with the people as well as the animals.*

Jim Rich offered to provide training for any interested volunteers.

Chairman Michele Antonia commended DAS on honestly apprising the public that the outcome of animals being turned in to DAS could result in their being euthanized. She stated people may choose other options for adoption of their animals.

Amanda Townsend related a story of a skittish dog that also had heartworm; but, a couple wanted it regardless. They signed all waivers, loved the dog and gave it all needed treatments. She cited this as an example of the constant decisions by DAS of “what is the best thing you can do for this pet, today”.

Tom Kepp noted the story also was an example that not always was medical and behavior problems cause for euthanization.

The next meeting of the DAS Advisory Board is February 15, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 8:00 P.M.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

Chairman Michele Antonia

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on _____ as presented _____ or as amended _____.

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