

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

Naples, Florida, July 19, 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 PM in REGULAR SESSION at Domestic Animal Services Training Room, Davis Blvd., East Naples, Florida with the following members present:

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

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

**I. Call to Order**

**Chairman Marcia Breithaupt** called the meeting to order at 6:31 P. M.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and a quorum established.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*Jim Rich moved to approve the agenda. Second by Dan Martin.*

*ADD: to Old Business: Item C. Legislation re: Sale of Mill-Bred Cats and Dogs.*

*Jim Rich revised his motion to approve the Agenda, adding item C. Legislation Regarding the Sale of Mill-Bred Cats and Dogs. Revised Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 5-0.*

**IV. Approval of Minutes: June 21, 2011**

*Dr. Ruth Eisele moved to approve the Minutes of June 21, 2011, as presented. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 5-0.*

**V. Old Business**

**A. Director's Report**

**Amanda Townsend** provided a summary of the happenings at DAS since the last meeting:

- Take a Dog to Work Day: County and City employees participated. Six shelter dogs were taken to work, resulting in two being adopted.
- Employee evaluations, multi-page detailed reports for each employee, consumed most of the past three weeks.
- Three qualified Animal Control Officers were hired; training to begin by August 8, 2011.
- At DASAB's request, Attorney Colleen Greene agreed to attend the September meeting. Questions for her are to be sent to her by the end of August to allow time for any necessary research.
- FWC Cats in the House brochures are being included in adoption packets.
- Meeting with Collier County Veterinarian Association to renew compliance information and State requirements to forward rabies certificates to DAS. The Association expressed interest in Emergency Preparedness participation.
- FAC upcoming meeting agenda item will address legislation regarding the use a five dollar surcharge on citations for spay and neuter as well as ACO training.
- Continued partnership with DAS's dog adoption kennel at Humane Society
- Public Information Specialist position interviews will take place next week.
- Acknowledged Stephen Wright for working with the FDOT regarding a possible curb cut into DAS when Davis Blvd. is four-laned.
- Photographer sessions were being explored through a referral by Teri Licastro.
- Fencing plans will move forward due to cost savings in the budget for two

holding pens and the pasture; and security gates in adoption kennels.  
*Everyone was invited-- July 27 at 5pm at Fred's Diner--Animal Welfare Professionals networking event will meet, coordinated by Amanda Townsend and Pallas Dias.*

**Nan Gerhardt** talked about:

1. Attending the Lee County Cell Dog graduation program with Kathlene Drew. A Canine Good Citizen Test took place. Representatives from the Collier County Sheriff's Office attended and were interested in starting the same program in Collier County.
2. At the Shelter, still seeking a home for the mare and 2 pigmy goats. One Macaw and 5 cats were adopted.
3. A complete soaking of the whole shelter area for ticks as the worst ever infestation had appeared this year. Preventic Collars and Vectra were discussed. The County Entomologist may need to be consulted.

**Kathlene Drew** noted:

1. Volunteer Orientation took place with many students in the Bright Futures Scholarship program using the opportunity to add to their 75 hours of community service requirement.
2. Monthly volunteer newsletters will be e-mailed the first part of each month.
3. "Tank", a badly injured dog, was adopted after 8 weeks convalescing with 4 more weeks to go. Both DAS staff and the new owners were extremely pleased with the outcome.

**1. Mandatory Spay and Neuter Laws (handout)**

**Amanda Townsend** reported speaking to Brenda Barnett, Director of the Los Angeles Animal Services, where mandatory spay & neuter laws had been enacted. In Ms Barnett's opinion they were not the most enforceable laws; but, the benefit of that type of legislation was its educational value. **Jim Rich** had researched the topic and provided copies of the ASPCA's Position Statement, which basically supported Ms Barnett's opinion. Both concluded intake and euthanasia numbers were not significantly reduced under mandatory spay and neuter laws. Jim read excerpts from the Position Statement for the record.

*A lengthy, lively discussion followed on community involvement, enforcement issues and affordable spay and neuter programs.*

**Jim Rich moved to table further discussion on Mandatory Spay and Neuter Laws until the next meeting. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele.**

*Discussion ensued*

**Dan Martin** expressed the need for DASAB to make a stand for a law.

**Dr. Ruth Eisele** disagreed stating most people want to spay & neuter, but cannot afford the cost and saw the Cat Coalition program was working.

**Tom Kepp** stated no law works without an enforcement mechanism in place.

**Marcia Breithaupt** preferred a free spay & neuter program.

**The motion carried 4 to 1, Dan Martin voting against.**

## 2. DTF Survey Responses

**Amanda Townsend** noted a correction in prior statements regarding air conditioning in the shelter. Research was done and a new system of constantly returning *fresh-air* circulation was checked out.

**Nan Gerhardt** had spoken to the architect who designed the shelter. The cost from design to finish, at \$40 per square foot, would be \$538,400. Discussion followed on ways to fund the project including DTF, Grants and local group fundraising campaigns.

## VI. New Business

### A. Refocusing on our Mission (Jim Rich)

**Jim Rich** spoke about defining one's role on the DASAB, quoting the job description and expressing concern over the slow progress in accomplishing goals. He put forth several questions. (What is our purpose? How does the public view us? How can we improve?). His concern was the lack of progress and inability to speak or work with fellow Board Members between meetings due to the Sunshine Laws. Items he would like to see the Board to take action on:

- Illegal to drive with animals in open pick-up trucks or on a driver's lap
- Stricter penalties and consequences--existing laws enforced
- Spay and neuter free for limited income people
- Lobby the County to stop a private community from ignoring existing laws
- Address backyard breeder problem – breeder registration
- Non registered breeders must spay/neuter prior to adoption
- Handling of micro-chipped animals when owner can't be found

He urged the DASAB to pick something to tackle and to work on it until it was accomplished. He suggested each Board Member submit a list of their choice of items to work on to DAS. At the September meeting the Board will vote on prioritizing the listed items for implementation.

*Amanda Townsend announced the DASAB had basically accomplished 8 of the 10 items on the last Projected Projects List.*

*She stated a workshop or sub-committees to address specific issues such as - breeding and spay/neuter issues was an option. She mentioned the Florida Animal Friend Grant license plates and networking with working groups to strategize on ways to bring funds into the county for spay/neuter assistance.*

### B. Maddie Shelter Fund Program

*This item was moved to the September meeting's Directors Report.*

### C. Legislation on Sale of Mill-Bred Cats and Dogs (handout)

**Amanda Townsend** reviewed with the DASAB her conversation with Ms Barnett regarding Los Angeles City Councilman's direction to draft new policies regarding the prohibition of mill-bred pet operations. A few obstacles noted were:

Definitions of "mill-bred"; interference with small businesses; enforcement and banning may encourage reverting to the internet.

**Marcia Breithaupt** read excerpts from similar statutes in El Paso and Albuquerque.

Comments and discussion re: breeding and spay/neuter issues followed.

- VII. **Public Comment – NONE**  
VIII. **(A) Topic (TBA (open Discussion) NONE**

IX. **(B) Individual Comments**

**Michele Antonia** offered the following for consideration:

- Immokalee Interagency maintains lists of many non-profits and suggested getting on their e-mail list
- Recent news advertisement regarding free solar panels for non-profits (she will locate and send to DAS)
- Naples Photography Club offers free photos to non-profits
- Taking care to determine true abandonment; avoid “he said she said” scenario
- Backyard Breeders need health certificate and vaccines. Call ads in paper and check that out to initiate contact.
- She offered, for those who cannot afford spay/neuter fee, Animal Compassion will pay for one dog a month. Other groups also could do one a month. She asked to be contacted if needed and she will coordinate with that group.
- She appealed for heat for the Immokalee shelter and to work on building a new shelter, for which, she would join in on any fundraising efforts.

*Amanda responded clear panels were being priced. She noted the land was there and a state-of-the-art shelter could be built for approximately one million dollars.*

X. **Advisory Board Member Comments**

**Dr. Ruth Eisele** will drop off two information articles to DAS on items discussed. She agreed with Jim’s objective in setting up a list of goal to work toward.

**Dan Martin** had two points to mention:

1. He cautioned DAS to consider monthly electrical costs in budgeting for the A/C project; and questioned if the County would go along with it.
2. He also spoke about tying fines to car and boat licenses and had written to the legislature on the subject. The response from one was-- a Collier County staff member deemed it too complicated, unenforceable and not a good idea--. He stated that was an example of needing a mind-set change. He noted the difficulty in dealing with the County whose attitude seemed to be- “We can’t do anything.”

**Tom Kepp** agreed with Dan. His main concern - cut the euthanasia rate which, he stated, had barely changed. He stressed enforcement or free spay and neuter was the only way to end the cycle.

**Jim Rich** pointed out the entire Board going after an issue and presenting recommendations to the BCC would have more clout. He encouraged the Members to send their list by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Chairman Marcia Breithaupt** announced *Animal Magnetism* in the Mall was closing. She asked for discussion of having a Workshop on the September agenda. *Amanda responded she would help facilitate subcommittee formations, following the Board’s direction, once the project list was developed.*

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**There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 8:30 P.M.**

*The next meeting of the DAS Advisory Board is scheduled for September 20, 2011.*

**Collier County Domestic Animal Services**

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**Chairman Marcia Breithaupt**

These minutes were approved by the Board/Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ as presented, or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.