

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

Naples, Florida, November 15, 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
Dr. Ruth Eisele
Sergeant David Estes
Tom Kepp, Jr.
Dan Martin (excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director DAS
Nan Gerhardt, Shelter Operations Manager
Kathleen Drew, Volunteer Coordinator
Dana Alger, Animal Control Officer Supervisor, DAS
Daniel Christenbury, Public Relations Coordinator, DAS
Ekna Guevara, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

II. Attendance – Establish a Quorum:

The roll was called and a quorum established.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Dr. Ruth Eisele moved to approve the agenda. Second by Tom Kepp. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes: – October 18, 2011

Jim Rich moved to approve the minutes of October 18, 2011, as presented. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

V. Old Business:

A. Director's Report

Amanda Townsend summarized the past month's activity at DAS. She noted the 2011 4th quarter statistics would be discussed under New Business.

She announced an upcoming multiple-agency event will be held on Saturday, December 10 at the Shops at Vanderbilt; similar to, but a replacement of, the annual Howl-a-Day Jubilee.

Daniel Christenbury, the Public Relations Coordinator spoke on his efforts to promote adoptions. Planned are:

- Senior Adopt a Pet night
- Teaming with retirement and assisted living residences to offer free adoptions
- Monthly Raffles

He announced Facebook and Twitter pages were up and running

B. Do Not Adopt (handout of Draft)

Amanda Townsend reviewed the Policy draft with the DAS Advisory Board. An extended discussion followed on several of the policies; clarification of some and re-wording of others. Items 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.9, 1.14, 1.15, 1.16 and 1.17 were mentioned.

Jim Rich moved to recommend approval to change Policy numbers 1.4 and 1.5 to read "The customer had (has) surrendered one or more..." in place of "three", as stated in the "Do Not Adopt Policies" Draft. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Carried 5-1. Marjorie Bloom opposed.

Amanda Townsend suggested the Board package all changes to the Policies,

and make one recommendation to cover all, rather than piece by piece. The Board agreed and will review and make the changes for formal approval at the next meeting.

VI. New Business:

A. 4th Quarter Statistical Report

Amanda Townsend briefly reviewed the 4th Quarter Statistical Report, explaining items for Board Members and attending public citizens. Several statistics were briefly discussed.

B. Ratification of decisions from Workshop

Following discussion and comments, the 10-item DAS Priority list compiled during the October workshop was further narrowed to 8 items.

Tom Kepp suggested a change to Item 2 regarding Backyard Breeders; further defining “Breeder” as ...”any person who has had 1 litter or more...”

Item 9 regarding the Immokalee Shelter was changed from... “Explore the feasibility of improving the conditions...” to “Build a new building; meanwhile, improve the conditions...”

Amanda Townsend cited the possibility of building a new Immokalee shelter in a new location for under one million dollars, if a push for funding started from now up to 2014. The Advisory Board favored pursuing that goal.

Immediate concerns at the present shelter would be addressed in the meantime.

Dr. Ruth Eisele agreed to edit the Priority List changes, refining the wording. It will be presented at the next meeting for final Board Member ratification.

C. Establishment of Subcommittees

Two subcommittees were established.

1. Immokalee Project – work on long term improvements
Marjorie Bloom, Marcia Breithaupt and Jim Rich volunteered.
2. Animal Control Ordinance – work on revision (must meet soon)
Tom Kepp and Dan Martin volunteered. Jim Rich will assist.
Dr. Ruth Eisele was amenable to work on either Committee, depending on meeting dates and times.

Amanda Townsend stated the Ordinance Subcommittee will be working with the County Attorney’s office and would need to meet at least every 2 weeks. She noted subcommittee meetings were advertised, required minutes and were conducted the same as regular meetings.

D. Animal Photos and Identification Matching (Dan Martin)

This item was moved to the next meeting for Mr. Martin’s presentation.

E. Frances Avenue Chihuahuas (Marcia Breithaupt) (handout)

Marcia Breithaupt requested and update on the 10 Chihuahuas remaining in the home. (of 25 Chihuahuas, 15 were voluntarily surrendered to DAS.)

Amanda Townsend responded the son of the owner was not in compliance nor were the dogs spayed or neutered at the present time. The legalities involved and the use of DTF for spay/neuter were brought up by Dr. Ruth Eisele and Tom Kepp.

F. Cell Dog Program (Marcia Breithaupt) (handout)

Marcia Breithaupt inquired if DAS was involved in the Cell Dog Project shown in a recent news article.

Nan Gerhardt responded DAS, who initiated the Project, was very much involved, along with several other animal groups, in collaboration with the Sheriff's office and committed professional trainers; one of whom was provided by the Humane Society.

G. Report of Assessment Team on Review of Enforcement Operations (Dave Estes) (handout)

Sgt. David Estes provided an extensive report on the Animal Control Assessment Meeting held on October 13, 2011. He pointed out several areas of the Animal Control Officer's procedures, duties and responsibilities that were assessed; along with recommendations for developing, re-evaluating and revising to improve upon the Department's services. He summarized the meeting's activities, answering questions from the DASAB and from the attending public citizens.

Belen Briscoe, a Certified ACO, and member of the Assessment Team spoke about handling of anonymous calls, policies in effect, ACO discretion and policy & guidelines mirroring the Ordinance.

Jack Sullivan, an ACO and member of the Assessment Team, spoke about the effects of the recommendations: accountability, better documentation, providing more information to produce better outcomes at a lower cost while trying to take owners and DAS into consideration.

Dana Alger, Animal Control Officer Supervisor provided a rough draft of a daily log of an ACO. Her attendance at the Florida Animal Control Association Conference generated many ideas on helping the Department make better decisions. Many were already being implemented.

H. DAS Policies and Procedures for the Enforcement Section

Amanda Townsend noted this document is in the process of being re-written. It will be presented upon completion.

I. Report of Citation Collection and/or Consequences for Nonpayment (Handout of correspondence with the County Attorney's office)

Amanda Townsend had requested the County Attorney's Office to assist in researching information on collection and enforcement procedures used by other Florida Counties; with the goal of streamlining Collier County DAS procedures.

County Attorney, Jeff Wright had provided informational research from many counties. Using a combination of Miami-Dade and Alachua County verbiage, he had drafted wording for a possible Ordinance Amendment. The Ordinance Subcommittee will utilize that and the research information.

J. December Meeting Schedule

After a brief discussion, the consensus of the DASAB was to meet in January and *not* meet in December; affording time to prepare changes to the Ordinance for DASAB approval before the BCC agenda deadline in January.

Sgt. David Estes moved to forgo the December 20, 2011 meeting and hold a special meeting on January 10, 2012 to formalize the changes to the Animal Control Ordinance. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

VII. Public Comments:

A. Open Discussion – No topic Chosen

B. Individual Comments

Allen McCormick spoke about an incident at his home which resulted in his dog being killed by a neighbor's pit bull, even though his yard was fenced. His concern was that the pit bulls were not licensed or vaccinated and were not removed from the owner by Animal Control.

Amanda Townsend responded she would meet with the McCormicks following the meeting, obtain the ACO reports on the incident, follow up and resolve the issue.

Teri Licastro sought elaboration of the statistics report, questioning the number of euthanasias performed for *behavioral problems* and for *medical reasons*.

Nan Gerhardt and Dana Alger spoke of the criteria used and the various circumstances involved with those decisions.

Belen Briscoe spoke about the Medical Foster Program, which she is involved in; how it was working and being funded. She also asked if the DASAB agenda was put on the website.

Response was "yes"; and, the entire packet was available upon request.

Nancy Woodberry had concerns about the Do Not Adopt Policy, regarding who makes the decision and how the policy was implemented.

Amanda Townsend responded the policies were created to aid in assuring animals were placed in permanent, loving homes. Provisions were also in place to provide various levels of approval to remove the obstacle to adoption, if and when required criteria were met, for the benefit of the animals.

Colleen MacAlister pointed out a correction to item 1.10 in the Do Not Adopt policies Draft. The second line should read "...where the *plaintiff* (not *prosecution*) prevailed...."

She also noted item 1.2, 1.13 and 1.14 could be challenged if not in writing.

She opposed spay and neuter and micro-chipping requirements as depriving owners of their property rights.

Other items mentioned were:

- identifying non-serious infractions; giving warnings before giving citations
- 30 day to comply -- okay for licenses; but too long for rabies vaccinations

VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments:

Dr. Ruth Eisele stated the licensing of responsible breeders would alleviate many of the problems mentioned.

Tom Kepp encouraged the Animal Control officers to continue to focus on the important cases.

Sgt. Dave Estes noted the challenge of the complex and dynamic issues to be solved.

Marjorie Bloom commented on the productive meeting and was pleased at the attendance of so many interested members of the public.

Jim Rich identified with the frustration of several meeting attendees, explaining that much had been accomplished during his time on the Board and more will be done. He stated it will take time to solve problems. If one way doesn't work the DASAB will try another, with the community's support.

Marcia Breithaupt commented on laws in Toronto, Canada that only allow pets to be sold through shelters. She stated that would also be good for Collier County.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the Chair at 8:33 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:30 PM.

(No meeting in December)

COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt

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