

January 10, 2012

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

Naples, Florida, January 10, 2012

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

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

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I. Call to Order:

Vice Chairman Jim Rich called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

II. Attendance:

Roll call was taken and a quorum established.

Vice Chairman Jim Rich moved to approve Marcia Breithaupt's attendance via speaker phone. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 5-0.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Dr. Ruth Eisele moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

A. DASAB - November 15, 2011

Marjorie Bloom moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2011, as presented. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Carried, 5-1. Dan Martin abstained. (He was not present at that meeting.)

B. Ordinance Revision Subcommittee – December 20, 2011

Vice Chairman Jim Rich handed the meeting over to Dan Martin, Chairman of the Ordinance Revision Subcommittee.

Jim Rich moved to approve the minutes of the Ordinance Revision Subcommittee meeting on December 20, 2011. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 3-0.

Dan Martin then handed the meeting back over to Vice Chairman Jim Rich, who continued with the DASAB meeting.

V. Old Business

A. Directors Report

Amanda Townsend:

- provided an update on the shelter activity over the holidays, noting that the DAS shelter was a 7-day, 24 hour operation, including holidays.
- commended both staff and volunteers for their dedicated service; especially mentioning Paul Morris, who worked unceasingly 8 to 9 hours *on Christmas Day*.
- touched on the Immokalee Project, noting that the Sub-Committee will begin working on that with her.
- commented on the Workshop Priority List, cautioning the list was to be a presentation of the DASAB's overall goals over the next few years; not a detailed worded document such as in the proposed Ordinance.
- asked the Board, in the revision process of the Policies and Procedures, to consolidate topics and present all revision items and wording at one

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time so presentation to the BCC would be one comprehensive package, affording the attorney's a complete package to work on.

- will assign incorporation of the policies to Nan Gerhardt as they're worked through.
- discussed briefly the Do Not Adopt Policy voted on by DASAB

Nan Gerhardt provided an update on new animals at the shelter and the various activities going on there; especially a good news story regarding a horse brought in to the shelter that had been freeze branded. Its history was backtracked and the owner found. The owner had the horse as a baby and was excited to get it back.

Amanda Townsend explained that the horse would have been auctioned had ownership not been established.

Dana Alger stated she had interviewed for two ACO positions and will be training three new officers. The three selected met the specialized requirements.

Amanda Townsend explained the application and selection process to the DASAB and the public citizens present, noting the rigorous standards to be met prior to being hired as an ACO officer.

Kathy Drew spoke about the two volunteers who had taken on a project of featuring animals at various adoption locations around town. In two and a half months, 13 adoptions resulted from their efforts.

She also thanked the "Christmas Volunteers" who gave up their time when the shelter was closed to the public.

Daniel Christenbury reported:

- *Home for the Holidays* event on December 10th raised approximately \$300 for the Donation Trust Fund and several pets were adopted. The event was covered by Fox news.
- Naples Daily News did a story piece on "Tess", a Donation Trust Fund recipient, which showed the importance of, and benefits derived from, the Donation Trust Fund (DTF)
- Two February events—
 1. Spay Day – working with local veterinarians to provide low cost spay/neuter services
 2. A DTF fundraiser at Beacon Bowl
- Pet of the Week website host was being sought

Dr. Ruth Eisele read a "Letter from Hank" acknowledging the story of how the Donation Trust Fund had helped "Tess." Hank, a 14 year old poodle, and client of Dr. Eisele's veterinary practice, had his "parents" donate monies to the Donation Trust Fund based on that Naples Daily News story.

Dr. Eisele noted, before the story was published, Hanks owners knew nothing about the Donation Trust Fund.

B. Ratification of Decisions from Top Ten Projects Workshop (October 2011)

Amanda Townsend reviewed the background of what had transpired at the

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last meeting and Dr. Eisele's offer to pull together the wording of the Board's wishes in defining the items in the Top Ten Projects list (reduced to the Top Eight Projects at the November meeting)

A question arose on whether item #2 (regulate breeders) would be acceptable as presented; its wording being too specific; more like Ordinance language and not as a general goal DASAB wanted to accomplish.

Following discussion and clarification, the Board agreed that ratification of the eight goals decided on at the November meeting was the first step. Fine tuning the wording would be accomplished as each project was worked through.

Jim Rich moved to recommend ratification and adoption of the Ten Priority Projects List as presented at the October 18, 2011 workshop; reduced to Eight Priority Projects (by combining numbers 1 and 7 and 2 and 3) at the November 15, 2011 meeting. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Carried 4 to 1. Tom Kepp voted no. Marcia Breithaupt abstained. (The phone connection was disrupted.)

C. DAS Policies and Procedures for the Enforcement Section

Background: The Ordinance Sub-Committee had requested the draft of the Animal Control Services portion of the Policies and Procedures document be put on the agenda for Board discussion. The draft was previously presented but little discussion had ensued. The document provides step by step policy and procedure on the criteria for Animal Control Officers to follow while also meeting the expectations of the public. Some policies and procedures had already been changed. ▼

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Tom Kepp commented on the existing Policy and Procedures Manual, reading several excerpts relating to breeders. He stressed all that was needed was for DAS to 'just enforce what is already there in the Manual.' He cited an example of the owner of the multiple Chihuahuas who still had made no effort to spay and neuter, even when freely offered. Also of a breeder selling dogs for \$900 in an area not allowed for that purpose. He questioned why was nothing done to enforce current laws.

Amanda Townsend responded some of the issues involved were:

- *The procedure that is required by law i.e. complaint, citation, time to comply, court appearance, compliance with court order, appeals, hearings to the Special Magistrate, etc. all take time.*
- *No one can be forced to spay and neuter their animals.*
- *Doors go unanswered; citations ignored as well as requests for mandatory appearance to Special Magistrate.*
- *She was trying to work through the Clerk of Courts on what happens with a non-compliant person.*
- *DAS can only write civil citations and fine no more than \$500.*
- *Cases not bundled, cause ACO's hours in court to collect low fees.*
- *On an Order to show cause, a legitimate defense can be an inability to afford to pay the citation.*

Several Board Members agreed on raising the amounts of citations, taking the worst offenders to task, making an example of them and publishing it.

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The Draft document of the Policies and Procedures was reviewed and discussed.

Dan Martin brought forth 4 items to be approved for changes:

Section 100.310 5. a. i. Change the word “and” to “or”

Section 100.601 1. Move to General Violations

Section 100.601 1. b. Change to “15” days (would need Ordinance change).

Section 100.601 4. b. Change to Citation “for every occurrence”

Amanda Townsend responded if the Ordinance changes, the above items will change with it. Also, it was preferable to keep vaccinations and licensing together, rather than moving to the General Violations section.

Dr. Ruth Eisele sought consideration that some animals were medically left intact by veterinarians.

Marcia Breithaupt suggested licenses on line as something to look into.

Amanda Townsend welcomed the Board Members’ feedback in providing a document to guide operations. She will work with Dana Alger and Nan Gerhardt to implement the suggestions that will not require BCC approval. She will consult with a USDA inspector and with Occupational License on the scope of regulation of breeders. Representatives of both agencies will be invited to attend the February DASAB meeting.

Tom Kepp informed the staff about the Hog Hunter television show, which will encourage more dogs breed for hog hunting. He noted some bulldogs were being used for that in Naples Park and requested someone go out there to investigate before a serious issue evolves.

Jim Rich concurred, urging DAS to take some action with the bulldog and the Chihuahua situations.

VI. New Business:

A. Presentation of Proposed Executive Summary to the BCC on Ordinance Changes

Amanda Townsend stated the draft was an incomplete document. Six or seven other persons will review and make changes before it gets onto the BCC agenda. Attorney recommendations, Advisory Board recommendations and Staff recommendation will be considered. The scope, costs and size of the changes will be determined.

She pointed out statistics on her research of the number of homes in Collier County with multiple unsterilized animals showed 305 households had licensed multiple unsterilized animals; 148 of them were male/female. A lengthy discussion followed. The consensus of the DASAB was the Executive Summary was not ready to present to the BCC until the Ordinance Sub-Committee holds further discussions and revised wording of any changes has been accepted. DAS staff was encouraged to focus on:

- Addressing the more egregious cases and worst offenders
- Letting the public know enforcement will be done
- Having fines that reflect an amount of what it costs to enforce
- Creating revenue by following through on collections

Tom Kepp moved to recommend tabling the Executive Summary,

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continuing to work on strengthening the Ordinances, Policies and Procedure. In addition, DAS will immediately begin making a stronger effort to enforce the Policies, Procedures and Ordinances currently in effect. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 6-0

B. Meeting Schedule for Immokalee Project Sub-Committee

Following a brief discussion by the Sub-Committee members, Marjorie Bloom, Marcia Breithaupt and Jim Rich, it was agreed they will meet at the Immokalee Shelter on February 1, 2012 at 1:00 pm.

C. 1st Quarter Statistical Report

Amanda Townsend reviewed with the DASAB, several items in the First Quarter Statistics Report.

Discussion revolved around what defined “behavior” in the euthanasia statistics. Some attendees were of the opinion the animals were frightened, ill or shy in strange surroundings and could be turned around in a few days.

Jim Rich stated a Foster Program could help solve the problem.

Nan Gerhardt, Shelter Manager, explained the various conditions present to determine behavior problems. Home and Shelter behavior, in mass housing, was very different. Staff was well trained to make proper determinations.

Marjorie Bloom, a shelter volunteer as well as a DASAB member who had often viewed animal’s actions, confirmed that not all can be turned around and biting was not uncommon.

Tom Kepp stated the statistical category should be changed to avoid the perception that most euthanasias were because of bad animals, rather than the true reasons, - owner irresponsibility and overpopulation.

D. County Support for Cat Coalition (Jim Rich)

Vice Chairman Jim Rich spoke about the Collier Community Cat Coalition,

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managers of the TNR program for the County. He was seeking support for their work, which saves the County time and money because they care for the feral and abandoned cats. Hundreds of cats are trapped neutered and released through their program; more than they ever had anticipated. He sought recommendations from the DASAB to find funds or out-sourcing ideas. He inquired if Dr. Brown and other veterinarians could help with occasional free neuter services in order to help the two women who run the program from having to go out of business.

Amanda Townsend responded she will put feelers out and explore a few avenues. Phone contact with Marcia Breithaupt was lost.

VII. Public Comments

A. Topic TBA (open discussion)

Though no specific topic was drawn, those who chose to speak reverted to the behavior subject.

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Amanda Townsend suggested a discussion leader be appointed to identify the speakers and to keep discussions moving along.

Terri Licastro asked for clarification on fixing dogs on first or second offense. *Dan Martin Replied there was no offense involved. If an unfixd dog was picked up, it will be fixed as contemplated in the ordinance. All had agreed on*

revising the policy document to disallow return of unsterilized animals in the field.

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Terri Licastro further asked how the behavior specialist was selected.

Amanda Townsend responded the judgment of any staff member was reliable because every one of them handle thousands of animals a year and are highly experienced with a variety of animals and situations. A euthanasia policy, approved by the DASAB in 2005, is followed.

Discussion of various aspects of time and space issues and medical situations followed.

Amanda will add an item to the next agenda to solicit suggestions from the public in two categories and define the list.

Terri Licastro then informed DAS about a caged distressed dog situation which Dana Alger will follow up on.

B. Individual Comments

Karen Acquard spoke about her work in the shelter and related stories of the caring and love of animals by their caretakers; and the lengths staff goes through to keep the animals comfortable. Some, though, were just mean dogs.

Kelly Fox expressed her opinion that:

- behavior analysts should determine behavior and re-trainability of animals, not staff.
- most animals could be retrained and some just have medical issues and should not be categorized as “behavior”
- The Board should not have to tell DAS what to do in enforcing
- kennel changes could be made so animals don’t face each other.
- changes were needed at DAS; not doing their job

She offered heaters for Immokalee Shelter, if DAS had a use for them.

Amanda responded an assessment will be made on what was needed.

Stephen Wright referred to the Executive Summary number 1, suggesting items a. and c. language revisions, to provide for mandatory spay and neuter and mandatory micro-chipping. If it was the law more people would have it done, especially if low-cost opportunities were available. To his question regarding scanning at DAS, Amanda Townsend stated scanning was done all the animals, at all phases of their shelter stay. Many are found during surgery by Dr. Brown. Micro-chips were chased down as far as possible.

the **Lori Piper**, President of the Collier Community Cat Coalition spoke about

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organization, what it involved and what it takes to run it. They do micro-chipping with great success. However, costs have been over \$5,000. She stated their need for funding, asking for help with donating time, for

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Grant writing, investigating and finding funds. They were open to ideas and suggestions. They have a website and are on Facebook. She thanked DAS and DASAB for their support and the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

VIII. Advisory Board Members Comments

Tom Kepp requested DAS to check the records on the dog sent from the Humane Society to DAS to euthanize. If it were so, he requested the circumstances surrounding the instance. He stated his big issue was with enforcement.

Dr. Ruth Eisele brought up two points:

1. No comparison could be made between the Humane Society and DAS.
2. Defended comments regarding DAS staff as uncaring, stating “no one goes into that job for the money” but for the love of the animals. Euthanasia was a needed service provided to the community.

Marjorie Bloom stated her focus in volunteering was all about the animals. She commented on the caring people at DAS. She also commented on the turnover of volunteers.

Dan Martin noted that animal activism was a fight and he treats it like a job, working for change. DAS needs people to report on incidences.

Jim Rich commented on the Board and the Sub-Committee, stating everyone didn't always share the same opinion; but, they usually had the same goals, which made for a great Board. He invited those in attendance to get involved and make a difference by serving on the DASAB.

The next meeting of the Domestic Animal Advisory Board is February 21, 2012.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 9:38 P.M.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

Vice Chairman Jim Rich

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