

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

Naples, Florida, February 21, 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 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 (excused)
Sergeant David Estes (excused)
Tom Kepp, Jr.
Dan Martin

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director of DAS
Nan Gerhardt, Shelter Operations Manager, DAS
Kathlene Drew, Volunteer Coordinator, DAS
Daniel Christenbury, Public Relations Coordinator, DAS
Ekna Guevara, Administrative Assistant, DAS

I. Call to Order

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

II. Attendance

A quorum was established.

III. Approval of Agenda

Jim Rich moved to approve the agenda. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 5-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes: January 10, 2012

Corrections:

Page 4 Item C. Background: is to read:

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 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.

Page 6 Item D. line 2- Collier Community (not County) Cat Coalition

Page 7 Item A. Topic TBA – Dan Martin’s reply to Terry Licastro was:

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.

Page 7 Item B. Individual Comments – Lori Piper, President of the Collier Community (not County) Cat Coalition

Jim Rich moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2012, as amended. Second by Marjorie Bloom. Carried unanimously, 5-0.

V. Old Business

A. Director’s Report

Amanda Townsend reported on the following:

1. Two new Animal Control Officers were hired and a Shelter Tech, replacing a customer service vacancy, will be hired.
2. Reorganization of the three main components of Domestic Animal Services – Enforcement, Customer Service and Shelter Operations.
3. Customer Service and Shelter Operations will be under one umbrella with Nan Gerhardt supervisor of both.
4. Cross-training of desk functions and back room functions will focus on services to both animals and customers.

5. She announced an organizational change – Director of Public Services, Marla Ramsey had resigned and Steve Carnell, Director of Purchasing, would be filling in temporarily, starting on March 1, 2012.
6. The Immokalee Shelter Sub-committee, through the efforts of Jim Rich, had secured donated funds to construct overhangs for the drop boxes, providing some protection from the elements for the animals. Bill and Kathy Avery and Surety Construction were cited for their contributions.

Nan Gerhardt reported 2 pigs and a goat, whose owners were located by the ACO. She stated it was rare to find livestock owners and the word was getting out that DAS had research resources.

Kathy Drew noted every weekend was booked with activities to showcase animals for adoption and educational opportunities.

Daniel Christenbury spoke about adoption spotlights on Happy Tails. He showed a brief video featuring Marjorie Bloom with one of the dogs that had been in the shelter for some time. Hard to adopt dogs and cats will be featured from time to time on the program as well as on u-tube, with links to the DAS facebook page. Upcoming events mentioned were:

- Saturday, February 25 –Strikes for Strays fundraiser for the Donation Trust Fund
- February 27-29 Spay Days – low cost spay & neuter clinic with registration at DAS
- Several local veterinarians will participate and will include rabies vaccinations

Jim Rich commented he would like to see the Donation Trust Fund used to help with adoption fees for hard to adopt pets.

Amanda responded Senior adopt a pet month and Home for the Holidays had several assisted living facilities underwrite the fees.

Amanda Townsend explained the rules for the Donation Trust Funds do not allow for “personal benefit” and objective criteria needed to be followed so that the funds target the animal, not the adopter. She stated the Board could change the Resolution on underwriting fees, provided some kind of hard objective criteria was used.

Jim Rich asked to have Drafting an Amendment put on next month’s agenda.

Marjory Bloom asked how much of the Donation Trust Fund was spent in a year.

Amanda Townsend responded about \$8,000 and about \$20,000 comes in. A healthy reserve was being maintained for emergencies.

B. Executive Summary describing proposed conceptual changes to the Animal Control Ordinance (handout of draft)

Amanda Townsend reviewed the Executive Summary with the DASAB, noting the two major areas of concern: additional regulations regarding cat and dog breeding; and, a system for issuing penalties and consequences for non-compliance.

Discussion followed on the four conceptual changes proposed:

- Taking the existing functions of permitting, making them stronger by re- defining breeder types; and, establish standards, regulations and penalties for non-compliance.
- Introducing language that insures consistency in issuing penalties, allows for responsible pet owner classes and provides for uncollected civil citations to proceed to County Court, increasing the effectiveness of issuing penalties.
- Making definitions of dangerous dogs mirror that of The Florida State Law. Local law can be stronger than state law; some have challenged it, making it more prudent to make it the same as the State.
- Adding regulations for mandatory micro-chipping cats and dogs unless medically excused and regulations for safe transport of animals in motor vehicles

Dana Alger read from the Ordinance, the four categories used to determine a dangerous dog definition.

Amanda Townsend stated, as of last week DAS implemented licensing of all known breeders.

Tom Kepp opted for automatic maximum fines for non-compliance.

Dan Martin suggested consistency in issuing penalties could be covered under the citation enforcement rather than under dangerous dog. Also, certain 1st offense violations could be mentioned under the Fiscal Impact portion of the Executive Summary.

Tom Kepp moved to recommend approval of the proposal conceptual changes to the Animal Control Ordinance and direct the County Manager or his designee to prepare actual ordinance language changes to be approved by the Board at a future meeting, as stated in the Executive Summary. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 5-0.

Amanda explained it will go to the BCC on the March 13th agenda.

Amanda Townsend then announced 3 seats on the DASAB will be open. The Humane Society Representative, Animal Activist and Veterinary Technician or Veterinarian positions applications will be submitted for DASAB recommendations. Applicant should be at the meeting when they are to be interviewed by the DASAB. She will consult with the County Attorney's office regarding any conflict of interest issue if a veterinarian applies who does business with the County.

VI. New Business

A. HSUS's Pledge for Humane Discourse and Conduct within Animal Welfare (Jim Rich)

The DASAB agreed to table this item until the April meeting in order to allow for more preparation time.

B. Proposed change to method of response to nuisance complaints

Amanda Townsend noted suggestions from the Assessment Team regarding noise complaints and/or sanitary nuisance complaints. A policy level decision for first time complaints would be to send out a letter rather than send out an ACO. The DASAB's recommendation was requested.

Tom Kepp moved to recommend sending a letter for a first-time notice of a nuisance or noise complaint, rather than dispatching an Animal Control Officer. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 5-0.

C. Discussion of euthanasia reason reporting (handout)

Amanda Townsend had provided copies of the formerly discussed Asilomar Accords, a nationwide effort, created for a unified method of statistical reporting of euthanasia reasons to be standardized by all in the animals welfare community. Standard definitions were determined to provide for uniform data collection and consistent reporting.

Following a brief discussion:

Dan Martin moved to recommend DAS accept and implement the statistical reporting system under the Asilomar Accords. Second by Marcia Breithaupt. Carried unanimously, 5-0.

Amanda stated DAS would begin implementation of the Asilomar Accords April 1, 2012.

Tom Kepp will inquire about the Humane Society's interest in participating in the Asilomar Accords.

VII. Public Comment

Russ Vanderwerp, a dedicated "snowbird" volunteer, spoke about his work at DAS and thanked the Shelter for all it does for the animals.

VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments

Tom Kepp remarked on the positive outcome of the meeting and the move toward coming together on the Ordinance changes.

Dan Martin congratulated Daniel Christenbury for promoting adoptable animals through u-tube and video presentations.

To questions about the adoptable population in the kennels, **Nan Gerhardt** responded overall intake of all animals had not decreased; however, there had been a decrease in

feral cats and large litters of both cats and dogs coming in, due largely to the efforts of the Collier Community Cat Coalition. TNR was working well.

Marjorie Bloom suggested the creation of a partition down the middle of the kennels to solve the problem of dogs facing each other. Discussion of options, materials and sanitation issues followed.

Amanda Townsend announced DAS would be reviving the Adoption Call-back program.

Marjorie Bloom offered to handle the call-backs.

Kathy Drew will provide follow up information.

Jim Rich offered to check on line for non-chain link replacement gates. He also commended the good public relations being established, stating donations would be bound to follow.

He had been tracking abandoned cats in Marco Island over the past three years and the numbers had gone from 89 to 18 this year.

Amanda noted an interesting statistic that the number of animals under one year was one quarter of what it had been before licensing.

Marcia Breithaupt complimented Jim Rich on all he had done through the pet store; and, that he will be missed on the DASAB.

The next regular meeting of the Domestic Animal Services Advisory Board is scheduled for March 20, 2012.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 8:10 P.M.

COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt

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