

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

Naples, Florida, November 20, 2018

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 6:00 PM in REGULAR SESSION at Domestic Animal Services Training Room, Davis Blvd., Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Daniel Rheume (excused)  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Jim Rich  
SECRETARY: Sarah Baeckler Davis (late)  
Mary Baker  
Marjorie Bloom  
Dr. Michael Gordon  
James Spartz

ALSO PRESENT: Darcy Andrade, Director, DAS  
Kyra Lynch, Shelter Operations Manager, DAS  
Jaime Whiting, Animal Services Program Coordinator, DAS  
Kellie Carroll, Administrative Assistant, DAS

**I. Call to Order**

**Vice Chairman Jim Rich** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Attendance**

A quorum was established.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*Marjorie Bloom made a motion to approve the agenda, there was a second and the motion passed 5-0.*

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

*James Spartz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2018 meeting, there was a second and the motion passed 5-0.*

#### **V. Director's Report**

**Darcy Andrade** informed the Board that there was a delay in the arrival of the new marquee sign that is shipping from Orlando, but it is expected at any time. She showed the Board a mock-up of the graphics for the sign, which include the words 'Adoption Center.'

**Ms. Andrade** advised the Board that the sales tax increase passed and that means \$6M in future funding for new buildings at DAS. A bid is already out for design of a new prototype building and the plan is to build a new building, then tear down one of the old ones and replace until all of the kennels are replaced. She also advised that she and **Kyra Lynch** sat on the selection committee that chose the design firm. The company that was chosen has experience with animal shelters and understands the unique challenges. **Marjorie Bloom** asked if a date has been set for the groundbreaking and was advised that it is likely to be 2020 before the project gets started.

DAS has applied for two grants recently. One is a Hazard Mitigation Grant to get a generator that can provide power to the entire facility when needed. The second is for a spay/neuter bus. Commissioner Solis will be speaking at the annual Legislative Delegation Meeting on 11/30/18 at 9:00a.m. at the North Collier Regional Park in support of the bus.

**Ms. Andrade** reported on the Community Cats Town Hall Meeting that was held on October 16, 2018. There was a good turnout and attendees asked great questions about the program. DAS offered spay/neuter vouchers to the attendees and several of the vouchers have already been used.

She also advised the Board that DAS is working very hard to return strays to their owners and have partnered with Lost Animals of Collier County to post on Facebook any animals that arrive at the shelter as strays. If DAS has not been in contact with the owners of a stray animal, it is posted on Facebook; if DAS has been in contact with the owner, that animal is not posted. **Jim Rich** asked what percentage of animals arriving as strays are microchipped and was advised by **Darcy** that those stats are not available but did report that the reclaim rate for dogs is currently at 51%.

**Ms. Andrade** announced to the Board that the next Adopt-a-thon will be held December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The shelter will open on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and remain open until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday for adoptions.

A staffing update was provided, and **Darcy** informed the Board that there is a new Shelter Veterinarian who began working a couple of weeks ago. She also stated that there is no Field Operations Manager on board yet, but an offer has been made to one of the candidates that was interviewed. **Karla Carlisle** has left her employment with DAS and the Training Coordinator position is now vacant. **Ms. Andrade** introduced **Jaime Whiting**, who was recently promoted to the position of Animal Services Program Coordinator.

**Kyra Lynch** discussed the Community Cat Program and stated that 58 cats were Shelter-Neutered-Returned, and 13 cats were sterilized for Trap-Neuter-Return for the public. That is nearly 75 cats that would have otherwise ended up at the shelter. **Ms. Lynch** also advised the Board that interviews were recently held for open Animal Care Specialist positions, offers were made to several candidates, and interviews for the Senior Animal Care Specialist vacancy will be held next week.

**Jaime Whiting** informed that Board that there are currently 46 animals in foster care and that nearly 400 animals were in foster care last year. She also provided an update on several upcoming events that DAS will be participating in, including several Yappy Hours events, Pets on Third and the Senior Expo.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Multi-Year Statistical Review**

**Darcy Andrade** presented a slide show of DAS statistics, including intake figures, outcome figures, sterilization statistics, Officer activities, Volunteer statistics and the live release rate. DAS' overall live release rate for fiscal year 2018 is 93%. The live release rate for dogs is 97% and for cats it is 89%. Ms. Andrade explained to the Board that in previous years, volunteer statistics included hours for foster care that were not calculated and distributed in a consistent manner. It is not possible for those hours to be corrected and so the total volunteer hours in previous years is skewed. For this fiscal year, only hours volunteered at the shelter are included in the count.

**Jim Rich** asked if DAS uses text messaging to help increase the number of animals that are returned to owner. **Ms. Andrade** explained DAS has not previously been authorized to do so and that text messaging using county cell phones was only recently approved.

**Ms. Andrade** briefly discussed citations and advised that a slide with citation statistics is not in the current Multi-Year Statistical Review, but it may be added in future years. She stated that in fiscal year 2018, officers issued 785 Notices to Comply, that 92 citations were paid, 17 citations were dismissed after the recipient attended the Responsible Pet Ownership class and that 480 citations were referred to Code Enforcement for collections. She also stated that officers issued 141 Formal Written Warnings for animals Running-At-Large and that there are 39 citations pending.

### **Old Business**

## A. Owner Requested Euthanasia

**Darcy Andrade** informed the Board that a large percentage of the owners that request euthanasia are referred to DAS by the animal's Veterinarian because the clients are not able to afford the cost charged by the Veterinarian. **Ms. Andrade** advised the Board that she believes DAS should accept owned animals for euthanasia to prevent animals that are ill from being left to suffer and stated that DAS does not accept healthy animals for on-demand or convenience euthanasia. She advised that Board that although this was a practice in the past, she ended it when she became the Director.

**Ms. Andrade** informed the Board that there are members of the public that do not believe that DAS should provide this service to the public because of their beliefs that DAS should not euthanize any animals. **Darcy** noted that in the past, there was no language in the Animal Control Ordinance that allowed DAS to accept the surrender of any owned animal, but DAS has always done so. When the Ordinance was revised in 2018, language was added to allow for owner surrender, including owner surrenders for euthanasia. **Ms. Andrade** explained that owned animals surrendered for euthanasia that are unhealthy do not count as part of the shelter's euthanasia statistics, but owned animals surrendered for euthanasia that are treatable-rehabilitatable or treatable-manageable are counted as part of the shelter's euthanasia statistics, as per the Asilomar Accords.

**Kyra Lynch** provided the example of a cat with diabetes that requires daily insulin injections. Diabetes can be managed, but the shelter does not have the resources to effectively manage the care of that cat and the cat would need to be surrendered for euthanasia. That type of owner requested euthanasia would be counted in the shelter statistics.

**Jim Rich** stated that he believes that this is a service to the public.

**Mary Baker** asked if DAS contacts the Veterinarians who refer clients to DAS to perform euthanasia and **Kyra Lynch** advised that if it is clear by looking at the animal that it is ill, for example, the animal is unable to walk, then DAS does not contact the Vet. However, if the animal appears healthy, then DAS would contact the Vet.

**Dr. Gordon** asked what part of the community is not in favor of providing this service and was advised by **Ms. Andrade** that it is often posted on social media platforms and that there are people who believe that the service is being used to skew the euthanasia statistics for the shelter.

*Mary Baker made a motion that DAS continue to offer owner requested euthanasia services to the public, there was a second and the motion passed 6-0.*

## VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments

**Sarah Baeckler Davis** stated that she was still absorbing the information from the Multi-Year Statistical Review but commended DAS for its good work.

**Dr. Gordon** stated that he is proud to be associated with Domestic Animal Services.

**Marjorie Bloom** said that she believes that every DAS volunteer voted for the sales tax increase. She also stated that the statistics are great and that she believes that the wording on the new marquee sign will be very helpful. **Ms. Bloom** also said the volunteers are grateful to have Jaime as their trusted leader and she thanked **Patty Teulet** for all the hard work she did while the Volunteer Coordinator position was vacant.

**Jim Rich** stated that no one is happier than he is about the current statistics and thanked DAS.

*James Spartz made a motion to adjourn, there was a second and the motion passed 6-0.*

**The next regularly scheduled Advisory Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:00 in the Domestic Animal Training Room, Davis Blvd., Naples, Florida.**

**There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was concluded at 7:07 p.m.**

**COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES**

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**Chairman Daniel Rheume**

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