



Public Safety Department
Animal Services Division
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Manatee County Animal Services Advisory Board

Animal Services Advisory Board Minutes
February 22, 2017

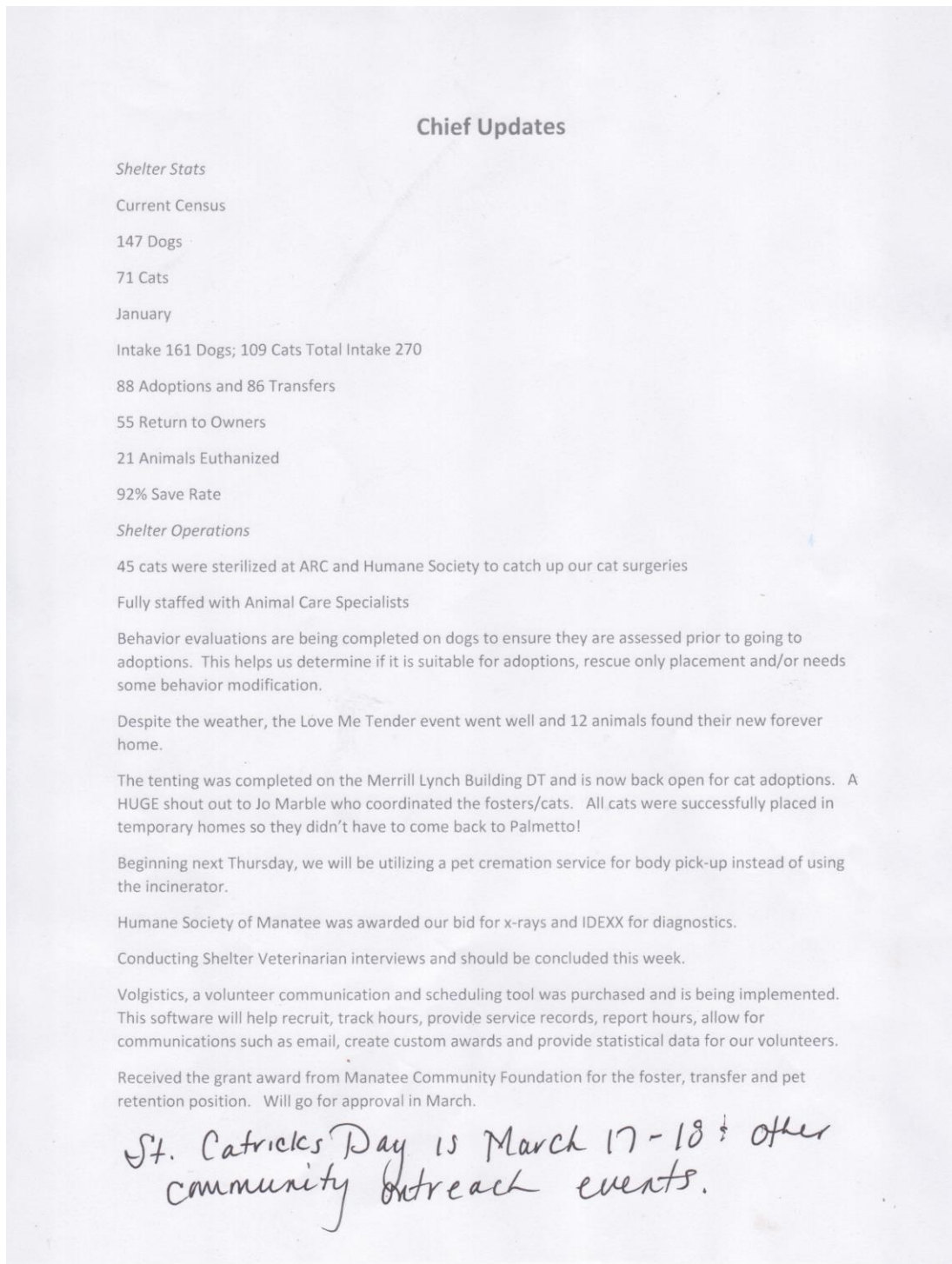
In Attendance: Lisa Barnott, Jana Dunson-Martin, Rebecca Neal, Jean Peelen, Gerald Thomas, Lisa Williams

Meeting called to order by board chairwoman, Jean Peelen

Meeting minutes from January 25, 2017 approved

Public comment: none

Division chief updates were presented by Bob Smith



Animal abuse registry recommendations have been finalized.

Comments from Wendy Smith regarding the state Animal Abuse Registry legislation...

While we would certainly support a statewide AAR, this proposed legislation falls short in several key areas:

Nothing in the legislation says an abuser cannot continue to live with or work with animals.

It is only for an animal related **felony** (many felony charges are reduced to misdemeanors).

There is an exclusion for equines.

Those on the AAR will only be on the list for two years (there is almost 100% recidivism rate for animal abusers.)

With a few tweaks, Rebecca Neal can submit the Spay/Neuter recommendation to the BOCC.

New Business:

Re: Commercial sale of dogs and cats in pet stores.

Karen Ankerstar shared some thoughts with us:

This ordinance will prohibit stores like Petland from selling animals.

Pet stores sell animals bred in puppy mills, reputable breeders won't sell to pet stores.

These animals are often sick and are born into horrific conditions.

Courts have always sided with the community.

Sarasota's ordinance went into effect January, 2016.

To get a perspective from the other side, go to www.pijac.org

Board Chairwoman Jean Peelen will present a 1-year summary from our advisory board including:

MSN

AAR

Commercial sale of dogs and cats

Board member comments - Items for future consideration:

Dogs riding in driver's laps (distracted driving).

Are there other ordinance items that have expired that we should look at including doggy dining?

Regulating the use of comfort animals.

Insurance company/landlord breed or weight restrictions.

Review the resolution forming the board to see where we need to go.

Summary from Friends of MCAS (Wendy Smith)

Renewed focus on mission statement, grant writing.

Adoption event in April designed to attract more people.

Current focus on HW+ dogs; what kinds of medical assistance will we provide?

Next meeting, Wednesday March 22, 5:45pm

Meeting adjourned 7:05pm