



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

Wednesday, June 22, 2016; 5:45 p.m.
Manatee County Animal Services
305 25th St. W., Palmetto, Fla.

In attendance: Lisa Barnott, Dr. Doyens, Rebecca Neal, Jean Peelen, Lisa Williams, and Sarah Brown, chief, Animal Services Division

Meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. by board chairwoman Jean Peelen.

Approval of May 25 meeting minutes

Division Chief Updates

- Currently 179 dogs in shelter, due in part to the confiscation case; 92 cats
- New shelter manager Maddie Ferguson started
- Only position unfilled is vet
- Have started construction on surgery suite; appx. six weeks to completion
- Great media attention this week due to census and confiscation case
- There is more training planned for shelter workers so they are better able to understand animal body language

Board Discussion on Policy Updates

1. **Can Animal Services support itself through services?** Gerald Thomas was absent from meeting/no update given
2. **Recommend increases in funds allocated by County Commission to provide spay/neuter services to qualified, low income individuals.** (Rebecca Neal) This is an emergency item, as the funds have run out with three months left in the fiscal year. Need to ask for double the money for fiscal year 2017. Rebecca is looking for ways to close the gap for the remaining three months; met with Susie Bowie at Manatee Community Foundation. Motion made by Lisa Williams to have Jean send request to Manatee County Commission
3. **Recommend change of current policy regarding the neutering of dogs found at large.** (Lisa Williams) Can be done; need to have funding in place to help people keep their animals if they can't pay. Can have draft next month.
4. **Act to limit the sales of dogs and cats at Manatee pet stores, thus affecting the economic future of puppy mills.** (Lisa Barnott) Still in very preliminary research stage. Jean to give Lisa materials from work already done. Draft should be done by September meeting.
5. **Recommend changes to County's animal ordinance.** (Jean Peelen) Could be done by end of August.
6. **Should the no-kill fund move in-house?** (Rebecca Neal) Susie Bowie from Manatee Community Foundation could help set this up. Could be done by July.

7. **Owner requested euthanasia – should it be eliminated or modified?** (Dr. Doyens) Still gathering info; should be done by August.
8. **Code of conduct/ethics for AS staff.** Gerald Thomas was absent; no discussion.

Public Comment:

- Praise for Sarah Brown and her handling of Animal Services, restoring trust with the community

Next Meeting: July 20, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. at Manatee County Animal Services

Adjournment: 7:30 p.m.