



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

Wednesday, July 20, 2016; 5:45 p.m.

**Manatee County Animal Services
305 25th St. W., Palmetto, Fla.**

In attendance: Lisa Barnott, Rebecca Neal, Jean Peelen, Gerald Thomas, Lisa Williams, Sarah Brown, chief, Animal Services Division, and Robert Smith, director of Public Safety

Meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by board chairwoman Jean Peelen.

Approval of June 22 meeting minutes.

Chair Jean Peelen announced that public comment would be heard both at the beginning and end of each meeting.

Public Comment

- St. Pete City Council to consider ban on sales of puppy/cat mill animals; public urged to write emails to councilmen in support
- What is status of no-kill fund? Figures to be given at next board meeting.

Division Chief Updates

- June intake was 375, with 76 adoptions and 101 transfers. Save rate 88%. Current census is 188 dogs; 128 cats
- Hearing on Monday regarding status of confiscated dogs
- There were 30 people at the last volunteer orientation – mentors (existing volunteers) to be assigned to new recruits to help them adjust to shelter procedures, etc.
- There is a conditional offer out to a veterinarian for AS
- Construction on surgical suite is underway
- Manatee Community Fund has made a 10K grant for low-cost spay/neuter to help make up the shortfall in the budget
- AS is in need of donations of towels, blankets and bandanas

Board Discussion on Policy Updates

There were three policy initiatives due in July:

1. Recommend increases in funds allocated by County Commission to provide spay/neuter services to qualified, low income individuals. (Rebecca Neal) Rebecca drafted a proposal for the

Board of County Commissioners, asking them to double the spay/neuter budget (from 60K to 120K) for fiscal year 2017. Vote passed; Jean, Gerald, Lisa Williams voting yes; Rebecca and Lisa Barnott recusing due to association with HSMC, which may be a recipient of the funds.

2. Recommend change of current policy regarding the neutering of dogs found at large. (Lisa Williams) Lisa produced a proposal suggesting a change from current policy of neutering at second incident to neutering at first. Jean suggested we wait until all the ordinances had been reviewed so the changes could all be submitted together.

3. Should the no-kill fund move in-house? (Rebecca Neal) Rebecca submitted resolution that Pinellas County used to establish their animal welfare fund in 1989. Item will remain in discussion stage as other ideas, such as Manatee Community Fund, are investigated.

Future items:

4. Can Animal Services support itself through services? (Gerald Thomas) Will schedule a meeting with animal services; knows what facts and figures he needs to go forward.

5. Act to limit the sales of dogs and cats at Manatee pet stores, thus affecting the economic future of puppy mills. (Lisa Barnott) Still research stage. Jean shared documents.

6. Recommend changes to County's animal ordinance. (Jean Peelen) Should be done by end of August.

7. Owner requested euthanasia – should it be eliminated or modified? (Dr. Doyens) Dr. Doyens absent.

8. Code of conduct/ethics for AS staff. (Gerald Thomas) Research ongoing.

Public Comment:

- Praise for Sarah Brown and her handling of Animal Services, and her responsiveness and ability to work with the community
- Need more outreach on spay/neuter for Hispanic community

Next Meeting: Aug. 24, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. at Manatee County Animal Services

Adjournment: 6:55 p.m.