



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

Monday, April 18, 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

Absent: Dr. Doyens

Meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by board chairwoman Jean Peelen. Introductions were made by board, Brown, Smith, and audience members.

Division Chief Updates

- Current shelter census given
- 50 new shelter volunteers since Feb. 1
- Outreach and Events Specialist starts April 25
- Shelter Operations position still open
- Some temporary employees are needed to fill in gaps through the end of the 2016 fiscal year
- 92 percent save rate in March
- Kitten season is beginning; actively recruiting fosters
- Expanding foster program to include dogs with medical conditions
- "Reading to the Animals" program to be undertaken
- First shelter partners' meeting scheduled for May 3

Board Discussion on Policy Ideas/Direction

Ideas included:

- Increasing low-income qualified spay/neuter money
- Fees collected by Animal Services staying with AS, rather than going to general fund
- Increasing diligence with animal cruelty prosecutions
- Regulating sales of puppy mill puppies (and cats)
- Mandatory spay/neuter of strays
- Creating and implementing a strategic plan-what are priorities and why?
- Clarification of what "no kill" really means
- "No Kill Fund" – can it be moved in-house from Animal Network?

Board Member Comment

- Gerald asked for a better idea of fees collected vs. expenditures for AS compared to other county departments
- Rebecca suggested a need to look at AS ordinances to better define standard of care; Sarah said AS may need to tighten up ordinances

Public Comment

- There is not enough enforcement of core issues
- Kudos to new director Sarah Brown, “can build trust”
- Try Palmetto Youth Center as additional source for volunteers
- Anecdotal discussion of people who take unaltered animals expressly for backyard breeding

Future Meetings Schedule:

Fourth Wednesdays, going forward. Next meeting: May 25, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. at Manatee County Animal Services.

Adjournment 7:35 p.m.

