



Public Safety Department  
Animal Services Division  
305 25<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Palmetto, FL 34221  
Phone: (941) 742-5933  
[www.mymanatee.org](http://www.mymanatee.org)

## Manatee County Animal Services Advisory Board

Wednesday, September 28, 2016 5:45 p.m.

Manatee County Animal Services  
305 25<sup>th</sup> St. W., Palmetto, FL

In attendance: Dr. David Doyens, Rebecca Neal, Jean Peelen, Gerald Thomas, Lisa Williams, Sarah Brown, Chief, Animal Services Division. Absent: Lisa Barnott

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

Approval of August 24 minutes.

### Division Chief Updates

- August save rate was 85%; 395 animals in shelter; there were 120 transfers and 45 are in foster care.
- Volunteers are doing an outstanding job of getting animals in foster homes.
- Presently wrapping up the current fiscal year and working with the team on goals and structure for FY 2017.
- The new veterinarian Dr. Carmen Lucena, is now onboard and will be invited to the next ASAB meeting.
- 52 animals were adopted in September at the “Clear the Shelter” event. All advertising was done through social media.
- Meetings of a potential 501(c)3 organization, “Friends of the Manatee County Animal Shelter” have been held and the group is moving forward towards formalizing the organization. Their next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 5, at the downtown Manatee County Library.
- Sarah also reported on the untimely passing of a shelter officer, Jerry Hill.

### Board Discussion

- Board members were encouraged, when working on their individual “projects”, to partner with members of the public to gather information and get assistance since the Sunshine Laws prohibit members from working together outside of posted meetings.
- The mandatory spay/neuter proposal was noted for further discussion at the next meeting, with a recommendation that one board member present the “pro” side and one present the “con”. Lisa Williams agreed to present the arguments for the proposal and Rebecca Neal agreed to present the other side.
- The County Commission has asked the Board to examine the issue of whether an ordinance should be passed that establishes an animal abuse registry. Jean Peelen has agreed to examine this issue and present findings at a future Board meeting.
- Lisa Williams reported on the issue of hobby breeder licenses and provided examples of how other areas treat this. She noted that while responsible breeders state that they care about their animals and do comply, there are too many “backyard breeders” who do

not. She also noted that some areas require that all animals be microchipped with codes that are traceable back to individual breeders.

- Jean Peelen asked for information about animal abuse cases in Manatee County. It was noted that the county has investigated and prosecuted hundreds of cases since 2012, and that the average is probably now around 100 per year. The County being proactive and aggressive in investigating and prosecuting these cases has led to the increase.
- Gerald Thomas agreed to meet with the group considering forming as the Friends of Manatee County Animal Services to discuss the importance of having a mission/vision/case statement.
- Gerald Thomas is also going to work with Sarah on developing and proposing a Code of Ethics for Manatee County Animal Services.
- Dr. Doyens briefly discussed the issue of “euthanasia on demand, and commented that he had a lengthy report which he will send to Sarah, who will disseminate to the Board. The issue will be discussed at a future meeting.
- It was noted that a new board member, Jana Dunson-Martin, has been appointed by the County Commission to complete the total number of members; she will be joining at the next meeting in October.
- Jean Peelen commented on the positive difference that the new animal services chief, Sarah Brown, has made at the agency.

**Next Meeting:** October 26, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. at Manatee County Animal Services.

**Adjournment:** 6:50 p.m.