



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

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016; 5:45 p.m.
Manatee County Animal Services
305 25th St. W., Palmetto, Fla.

In attendance: Lisa Barnott, David Doyens, Jana Dunson-Martin, Rebecca Neal, Jean Peelen, Gerald Thomas, Lisa Williams, Sarah Brown, chief, Animal Services Division

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

Approval of Sept. 21 meeting minutes.

Division Chief Updates

- September save rate: 85%; 344 animals in shelter; there were 121 transfers, 86 adoptions, 72 returns to owners, and appx. 50 are in foster
- There is a new reporting system capable of generating automated reports with different types of information; will free up staff hours by identifying which rescues to notify when certain animals come in
- Scanners will be used in kennels; barcodes will be scanned that will give certain animal information, such as medications
- Anna Maria Island Elementary is collecting pet food for Animal Services; trying to get “reading to dogs” program started there
- More specials (like the Halloween one) will be scheduled throughout the year (fees are reduced or waived)
- Exit cards will be given to visitors so that people can share positive experiences on social media
- There is a discussion about possibly eliminating dog breeds on kennel cards, maybe starting January
- There will be shelter volunteer mentoring, where new volunteers are paired with those with experience, to help keep them from getting overwhelmed

Board Discussion on Policy Updates

- Census is high; upside is that enforcement (animal cruelty) is getting better. Would an offender registry work in Manatee County? Three counties in Florida have it. What would and wouldn’t work here? (Jean)
- Mandatory spay/neuter: discussion by the board about the effectiveness of mandatory spay/neuter, the associated costs, and the various ways it could be codified and enforced.
 - Already a state law that animals adopted out must be spayed/neutered.
 - There’s an existing ordinance in Los Angeles that has stood up to legal challenges (Eschenfelder)
 - Must be implemented as part of a comprehensive program
 - Animal Services needs to be taken out of the decision-making mix; it must be objective
 - Costs might be partially supplemented by the new Friends of Animal Services group
 - Should pet stores be included as well?
 - Low income spay/neuter funding needs to be increased by Board of County Commissioners
 - Need education program for public between passing of ordinance and the implementation date
 - Success of trap-neuter-release should be used as support for an ordinance
- Friends of Animal Services has been formed. There are currently 11 board members, plus an executive board. Are in progress of getting 501(c)(3). They have had three meetings, and have discussed possible ways to raise funds.

- Doggie dining (animals at outside cafes) ordinance needs to be addressed ... ordinance expired in 2009.

Next Meeting: Dec. 7, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. at Manatee County Animal Services

Adjournment: 7:55 p.m.