

**COLLIER COUNTY  
DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Collier County Domestic Animal Services Advisory Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 4:00PM in a WORKSHOP setting in Administration Building F, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Floor, Collier County Government Center, Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

James Rich, Animal Activist Group  
Sherry Rego, Law Enforcement  
Kelly Hyland, At-Large  
Michele Antonio, At-Large  
Dr. Bob March, Veterinarian  
Cindy Delgado, Administration DAS  
Marcy Perry, Director DAS

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum**

Quorum was met.

**James Rich:** Today is a workshop so we do not vote. Workshops are where things get done; meetings are best for shallow coverage of many topics. (Difference between workshop and meetings printout handed out.) Meetings deliver outcomes or conditions such as increased awareness, while workshops documents outputs such as strategic plans, decisions, and detailed solutions.

Further discussion regarding:

- Contributions made by everyone on the Committee, i.e., fundraisers, surgical staff supply, emergency surgeries, being on call for emergencies, taking in animals instead of having them euthanized, taking the time to reunite pets with their owners.
- Budget Cuts – The Board of County Commissioners has not decided yet, and cuts will affect all departments of Collier County's budget. DAS needs more funds, staff, volunteers, etc. And we have more than doubled the number of animals coming in.

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by James Rich.

### 4. How Board Members Can Best Support DAS

#### Ideas to help limit the number of animals coming into DAS

- Enforce the breeder's permit but more importantly the hobby breeders by having the local law more stringent. Making these hobby breeders pay.
- It's expensive to spay or neuter an animal and many cannot afford the current cost. If DAS had two veterinarians – one could do medical while the other vet one spays and neuters for the animals already here. And then perhaps DAS could offer low-cost vouchers, and in addition call other veterinarians to see if they would offer the same low-cost service to some who cannot afford it.
- Animal control enforcement but will the magistrate complain that there are too many people being cited.
- If their dog continues to be picked up by DAS and the owner comes to claim their animal, they pay a fee to DAS. If the animal is not spayed or neutered the pay would also include a higher fee for having it fixed.
- It's about education – at fundraisers, special events in different parks throughout the community, food drives, etc.
- Work with unfriendly animal landlords and condo associations to allow pets. Another problem is where rents have been raised and people can't find places to live with their animals. Provide temporary housing for pets because of reasons such as hospital stays, damage to their home because of hurricanes, or a person will be in jail for two weeks. Food banks for pets.
- Create a flyer in several languages and pass them out in specific locations explaining the services that are available. Look at the big picture.
- Find companies that will donate for fencing or dog houses.
- Put together a pamphlet detailing what we can provide and at what cost if any; a list of other locations besides DAS that offer services or food; dates and times for low-cost vaccinations; make a list of all the events going on in the communities and see if we can set up a table; get the word out by mouth and through this pamphlet
- Dogs Deserve Better – basically for chained dogs. Talk to the owner and educate; find out what they need to get that dog off the chain. Some owners just don't care.
- Provide resources and education; some people don't have the means to comply
- We gather the information, resources, vouchers or low cost services and locations for distribution and have Marcy put it together
- Educate people through podcasts; public service announcements; have someone on local radio stations
- Partner with the Sheriff's Department on their community outreach programs/events

**James Rich:** For October's meeting we'll do the same type of format/workshop like we've done today. Get all your resources together and we'll put them in a format and give it to Marcy.



1/14/24