

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COLLIER COUNTY
DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Naples, Florida, March 17, 2009

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, that the Collier County Domestic Animal Services Advisory Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 6:30 PM in REGULAR SESSION at Domestic Animal Services Training Room, Davis Blvd., East Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Michele Antonia
Marcia Breithaupt
Sergeant David Estes
Dr. Ruth Eisele
Tom Kepp, Jr.
Sabina Musci
Jim Rich (excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director, DAS
Nan Gerhardt, Shelter Operations Mgr.
Kathlene Drew, Volunteer Coordinator, DAS
Hailey Alonso, Administrative Assistant, DAS

I. Call to Order

Michele Antonia called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. Attendance- Establish a Quorum

Attendance was taken and a quorum established.

III. Approval of Agenda

Sabina Musci moved to approve the agenda. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2009

Dr. Ruth Eisele moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2009, as presented. Second by Sabina Musci. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

V. Old Business

A. Directors Report

Amanda Townsend announced the painting of the lobby, cat rooms, hallway and Community Resource Room will begin shortly.

She reported on:

- The success of spay day, held on February 24, with 139 surgeries performed.
- Recognition of the participation of local veterinarians with a Proclamation before the BCC.
- Recognition to them for 2 weeks on the Marquee.
- A “thank you” to the Veterinarians mentioned on Happy Tails.
- Anticipating even more will participate next year.
- Low cost Spay and Neuter Clinic has received another grant
- A decommissioned DAS animal transport vehicle will be donated to the clinic.

Kathy Drew reported on the successful Poker Run held on March 15th to benefit the Donation Trust Fund.

- There were 110 riders participated; some riders came back after the weekend to adopt a pet.
- Approximately 250 attendees.
- The event raised \$2,500.
- DAS realized the benefit through both personnel and financial sponsorship from local business; little output needed from DAS.

Amanda Townsend informed the Advisory Board about

- The American Humane Customer Service National Training, a 2-day event that all of the staff (31) will attend on March 24 at DAS, including a shelter tour. With restricted travel budgets, hosting the event at DAS will reduce costs and keeps DAS “on the Map”.

- Volunteer recognition month will be celebrated on March 28th at noon with lunch; and on April 14th with a Proclamation at the BCC.
- The Community Resource room will house a library. Donations of books on animal-related topics will be accepted. It will:
 - Be open to the public
 - Provide owners with educational resources to overcome behavioral issues
 - Provide opportunity for education at the intake desk
 - Provide proper pet selection assistance.

B. Departmental Statistics and Reports (February 2009)

Amanda Townsend reviewed the statistical reports with the DASAB. Comments and discussion of several of the items followed regarding the lower intake figures.

Cited were

- Seasonality
- Reduction in population due to foreclosures and abandoned homes
- Increased efforts in education on responsible pet ownership
- Increased opportunities for adoptions
- Increased efforts by the various rescue and volunteer groups
- Surrender fees
- Honesty regarding euthanasia and alternatives
- Census reports on reduced population

Comments made were:

1. Census Reports may not be right up to date
2. Per capita not always an accurate measure
3. County population shrinking -405 houses abandoned
4. Dramatic increase in Volunteer participation

VI. New Business

Continued from last meeting was a brief discussion on mandatory spay & neuter and the compilation of information by breeder and rescue groups on breeder regulation.

Ann Dee Yurick (handout) provided a guideline of what constitutes a responsible breeder, limitations and proposals for holding a Breeder's Permit.

DAS members and staff will review these items and the topic will be put on the April agenda for discussion. Any comments relating to this issue will be e-mailed to Hailey Alonso at DAS 10 days before the meeting for inclusion on the agenda.

VII. Public Comment

Dani Pepin spoke on comments made by some Advisory Board members that mandatory spay & neuter should be a private decision. She agreed in principle, but stated the reality was that not every pet owner was responsible, resulting in the huge pet abandonment. If pets are not kept on their own property, owners need to accept the consequences. Legislation was needed to balance rights and responsibility. She asked DASAB to consider both sides before making the decision on mandatory spay and neuter legislation.

Stephan Wright passed out material on “Why changing the Mission Statement is a Good Idea”, which gave samples of change. He spoke on the following:

- Various agendas of the different DAS Directors and Managers
- Law Enforcement, Pet Sheltering and Adoptions - the three main functions of DAS.
- Current statement too broad and general, without means to gauge the successes of what has been done.
- Mission statement is only a guideline and can be adapted to choose priorities.
- Proposed a revised Mission Statement
- Pet Adoptions should be part of the Mission Statement, as that is what DAS does

Discussion followed.

Change to the Mission Statement discussion will be put on the agenda for the next meeting

Gisela Rowley, volunteer at DAS, promoted only a small change in the Mission Statement to include pet adoptions. She read from distributed a letter written to Chairman Antonia regarding the change. *The letter will be included in the agenda packet for discussion at the next meeting.*

She then recited the story of an incidence in which a woman eventually adopted a stray dog found at her condo. Because of the assistance and caring of Ms Rowley and DAS staff and volunteers who socialized and cared for him, the grateful woman not only provided a home in Naples and in Germany for the dog, but also donated a \$100 check to DAS for the Donation Trust Fund.

Nan Gerhardt provided the background story on the adopted dog.

VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments

Tom Kepp, Jr. commented on the progress being made and stressed tightening enforcement of the Ordinance.

Dr. Ruth Eisele and Sabina Musci expressed appreciation for the information provided by the Breeder Group and on the Mission Statement for the Board to consider.

Marcia Breithaupt commented the letter written by Gisela Rowley was very nicely worded and looked forward to discussing it next month.

Staff was requested staff to provide copies of the agenda at least 5 business days prior to the next meeting.

Next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2009 at the Domestic Animal Training Room, Davis Blvd., Naples, Florida

March 17, 2009

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 7:40 PM.

COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES

Chairman Michele Antonia

These minutes approved by Board/Committee on _____ as presented _____ or as amended _____.