

May 19, 2009

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

Naples, Florida, May 19, 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
Dr. Ruth Eisele
Sergeant David Estes (excused)
Tom Kepp, Jr.
Sabina Musci
Jim Rich

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director, DAS
Geri Lynn Waterbury, Operations Coordinator
Hailey Alonso, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michele Antonia called the meeting to order at 6:30 P. M.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum established.

The Agenda Packet, Minutes and Monthly Stats were projected on a screen for the benefit of the citizen attendees as well as DAS Advisory Board Members.

III. Approval of Agenda

Sabina Musci moved to approve the agenda. Second by Marcia Breithaupt. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes: April 21, 2009

Jim Rich moved to approve the Minutes of April 21, 2009, as presented. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Carried unanimously, 6-0.

V. Old Business

A. Director's Report

Amanda Townsend reported on the court case recently won by DAS against the owner of 3 dogs, one of which was ill and neglected. The owner received ten days jail time, a \$500 fine plus court costs and 6 month's probation. She explained the trial activity and cited this case as an example of the success of enforcement of the Animal Cruelty Law and a reminder to others that prosecution *can* happen.

Hailey Alonso, Administrative Assistant, requested networking of the DASAB in obtaining sponsors and vendors for the next Howl-A-Day Jubilee in the fall. She provided a 4-page pre-event packet to all Members consisting of an Information Letter to Business Owners from the DAS Director, a Vendor Fact Sheet, Booth reservations Form and a Sponsor Form.

Amanda Townsend addressed the upcoming Budget process in which 2 separate Budgets were prepared by request (millage neutral budget and tax neutral budget) and were reviewed by the Productivity Committee. The next review will be with the County Manager. It will then be ready for the BCC hearings on 29th & 30th of June. She will present it to DASAB at the next meeting.

Due to the complexity of the Budget documents, Amanda offered to set up a one-on-one meeting with each Advisory Board Member who would like one, beginning on June 2, 2009, to discuss and answer any questions prior to next month's meeting in order to facilitate a smoother run meeting.

The effects of 3% and 25% cuts were discussed briefly.

Geri Lynn Waterbury, Operations Coordinator explained the license

tracking program. Reminder cards (400) were sent out with an average of 5 to 6 percent return to date and increasing daily.

Amanda Townsend noted the projection for this data base program is to provide means to:

- Update data monthly
- Remove duplications and out-of-date licenses
- Send out renewals
- Implement contact with Veterinarians to keep input up to date
- Allow Veterinarians to automatically enter license information on line; data can be uploaded directly into the data base
- Allow reconciliations of the finances involved to be automated.

Dr. Ruth Eisele recommended the data base be programmed to allow a reminder notice to be sent out 3 weeks *before* license renewals and shots are due.

B. Departmental Statistics

Review of the monthly statistics were projected on the screen and discussed.

- Decrease in Intake, euthanasia and shelter visitors; adoptions up a bit
- Revenue –decrease in spay and neuter fund
- Trust Fund- research done on amount spent on each animal & outcome
- Volunteer program - running well
- Medical cases – Placing the burden on users of services

C. Update on Florida Legislation

Amanda Townsend reported that every animal related Bill has died in Legislation.

VI. New Business

A. Land Development Code Regulations Regarding Animals

Amanda Townsend explained the reason for this issue on the Agenda was due to comments received expressing:

- displeasure with the 3-dog limit
- concern with zoning problems for dog breeder looking to purchase home

After consulting the Director of Zoning the following was provided:

- The Land Development Code (LDC) allows 3 dogs in residentially zoned lands and 2 dogs in commercially zoned lands - more than that number is called kenneling.
- Kenneling is a permitted use in agriculturally zoned land of 20 acres or more. Less than 20 acres requires a Conditional Use Permit.
- Kenneling is not allowed in any residential zoned lands, no matter how large the parcel.

The following questions arose regarding oddities in the LDC:

- Estates zoning can have 2 horses per acre and 25 fowl but only 3 dogs?
- Who would need 25 fowl unless for fighting?

- No hogs, pigs (except pot-bellied pig) allowed?
- Look to land use related to animals
- Enforcement issues; department branches should be allowed to support one another

Tom Kepp noted breeders can have up to 6 dogs for 6 months only

Amanda Townsend stated Code Enforce not DAS is charged with enforcing the LDC.

She requested, and was given the Board's direction, to:

1. See if DASAB wanted to pursue the topic
2. Thoroughly research every place in LDC that animals are mentioned and what the stipulations are.
3. Invite an LDC Representative to July's meeting
4. Pursue amendments to LDC where needed (about a 9 month process)

Discussion followed on

- Number of animals
- Rules and the means needed for enforcement
- Choices required by the community
- Reward good animal owners without giving bad owners free reign
- Need for public dialogue

B. Summer Schedule

Discussion of eliminating the August meeting, unless something important arises, will be made at July's meeting.

VII. Public Comment - NONE

VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments

Dr. Ruth Eisele asked about changing the definition of the Lemon Law to cover backyard breeders. There is no recourse for sick animals sold, at this time.

Amanda Townsend responded that the Animal Control Law locally can be stronger than the State's. She will check to see if that applies to the Lemon Law. She will also check if local infractions can be take to court or was it a civil issue.

Tom Kepp noted the Breeder Association has no enforcement power. The following requested agenda items were discussed:

- Regulating Breeders Criteria
- Lemon Law
- Zoning issues regarding numbers

After a lengthy discussion it was decided focus would be in the following order:

1. The Lemon Law on *July's* agenda. (The Budget will take up most of June's Agenda).
2. The LDC Zoning issues
3. Regulating Breeders & Breeder Criteria

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Tom Kepp also stressed the DASAB needs to work on what things can be done to cut the euthanasia rate - this being his main concern.

Michele Antonia inquired if the ten-dollar drop-off fee was a hindrance in Immokalee and if sponsors could pay for the owner if they could not afford it. **Amanda Townsend** responded that Immokalee has drop boxes, thus avoiding the drop-off fee. She will check with the Immokalee shelter Director if a problem exists with paying the fee. She also mentioned a donation to DAS of about 20 new dog beds.

Jim Rich asked if many Spay and Neuter impounds are not picked up because of the fee. **Amanda Townsend** responded "No, it is not an issue"

Sabina Musci commented on the nice array of dogs now in the shelter available for adoption.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 7:46 P.M.

The next meeting of the DAS Advisory Board is scheduled for June 16, 2009

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

Chairman Michele Antonia

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