

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

Naples, Florida, December 15, 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 (excused)  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Marcia Breithaupt  
Dr. Ruth Eisele  
Sergeant David Estes (excused)  
Tom Kepp, Jr.  
Sabina Musci (excused)  
Jim Rich

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director- DAS  
Nan Gerhardt, Shelter Operations Manager  
Kathleen Drew, Volunteer Coordinator  
Dana Alger, DAS Animal Control Officer  
Hailey Alonso, Administrative Assistant

**I. Call to Order**

**Vice Chairman Marcia Breithaupt** called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**II. Attendance**

A quorum was established.

28 members of the public also attended.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*All items on the Agenda were shown on the overhead projector.*

*Jim Rich moved to approve the agenda. Second by Tom Kepp. Carried unanimously, 4-0.*

*Dr. Ruth Eisele moved to accept participation in the meeting via teleconference with Chairman Michele Antonia. Second by Jim Rich and carried, 4-0.*

*Chairman Michele Antonia participated via speaker phone.*

**IV. Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2009**

*Tom Kepp moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2009, as presented. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Carried unanimously, 5-0.*

**V. Old Business:**

**A. Director's Report**

**Amanda Townsend** announced:

- Hiring of a new Animal Control Officer
- State Conference was attended by 3 staff members
- Intake less busy - short staffing was spread thin between illnesses and other duties
- Nan Gerhardt noted a thoroughbred horse was taken in to bring back to healthy status. Finding placement for horses proves to be difficult all over the country.

**Dana Alger** spoke about:

- Joining forces with the spay and neuter clinic, along with interpreters, conducting outreach in Naples Manor where door to door contact and word of mouth educational efforts were made.
- This type of effort is being conducted once months in high- intense areas that are found to benefit from information on low-cost spay & neuter clinics and licensing requirements.

**Kathlene Drew** reported:

- Three schools were visited
- Holiday and seasonal volunteers were back
- Howl-a-Day Jubilee was a huge success, adding \$4,000 to the Donation Trust Fund.

**B. Draft of Changes to the Animal Control Ordinance (handout of draft)**

**Amanda Townsend explained:**

- Procedural steps taken and the various committees and departments involved when a revision to an Ordinance is undertaken
- Following the various reviews and recommendations, the DASAB recommendations will be on the BCC agenda January 12, 2010. The BCC will receive the final version at a later meeting for a final vote.
- Each page of the Draft was reviewed and each proposed revision was discussed.

Discussions of a lengthy nature were mostly on the Feral Cat and the Animal Tethering/chaining issues.

**Dr. Ruth Eisele and Tom Kepp** had reservations on the temporary tethering language as to definition and enforceability, but agreed the law was a good start.

**Michele Antonia** agreed.

**Speakers**

**Teri Licastro** spoke on her long-standing efforts to protect a chained dog. She told of her experience with enforcement by Animal Control - what is legal and what is right. She advocated for an anti-chaining provision in the law.

**Belen Briscoe, Dogs Deserve Better (handout-proposals re: tethering)** spoke about the dated practice of chaining dogs which is a danger to dogs and to people. She was for anti-tethering and education on alternative restraint measures. She questioned the terminology of *temporary tethering* and its enforceability, stressing it was more difficult to make a weak law stronger than a strong law weaker. Her proposal list was taken under advisement.

**Amanda Townsend** added that the change from the three-person panel to the Special Magistrate in appeals cases; and, if an owner chooses to appeal, what type of trial would ensue are in the language draft stages with the County Attorneys.

She briefly reviewed the added Feral Cat section regarding the contract between Collier County and the Cat Coalition and the TNR program.

**Tom Kepp moved to recommend approval of all currently recommended changes to the Animal Control Ordinance, with the exception that Section 9 paragraph 2 be revised to read, “No domestic animal shall be chained, tethered, or otherwise tied to any inanimate objects such as trees, buildings or posts.” Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele**

Discussion on adding and defining *proper enclosure* verbiage followed.

*Tom Kepp amended his motion, adding  
And to further define as appropriate within the Animal Control Ordinance stipulations for proper enclosure that are more restrictive than those stipulated by State Statutes and that does not apply only to dangerous dogs but to all animals in Collier County. Dr. Ruth Eisele amended her second. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.*

**C. Breeding Regulation**

**Dr. Eisele** requested the above item be placed on a future agenda to be determined later.

*Jim Rich moved to defer the Breeding Regulation item from the agenda to a future date, to be determined by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Second by Dr. Ruth Eisele. Carried unanimously, 5-0.*

**VI. New Business**

**A. Draft of TNR Program MOU (handout of draft)**

**Amanda Townsend** provided copies of the draft of the *TNR Program Memorandum of Understanding between the Collier Community Cat Coalition and the Collier County Board of County Commissioners*. She reviewed with the DASAB Sections I through VI of the document which are going through review with the County Attorney's office. She explained the program will be reviewed again in three years by the BCC. After discussion 2.2 will read – Vaccinate and re-vaccinate for rabies... 2.7 will read - Remove adoptable kittens...

*Jim Rich moved to recommend approval of the TNR Program Memorandum of Understanding between Collier Community Cat Coalition and the Collier County Board of County Commissioners as presented with the following italicized words added:  
Section III 2.2 Vaccinate and re-vaccinate for rabies, the cats in the colony as appropriate  
Section III 2.7 Remove adoptable kittens from the colony with the objective of placing them in permanent homes to live as domesticated cats. Second by Tom Kepp. Motion carried 4 yes with 1 abstention. Michele Antonia abstained due to a conflict of interest as president of the Collier Community Cat Coalition.*

**VII. Public Comments**

**Gisela Rowley**, a DAS volunteer, spoke on two points:

1. Feedback from adoptees which were very positive. She showed a copy of a letter and a picture of a healthy dog and told of different ways people who adopt from DAS are helped by staff and volunteers.
2. What she had observed in her many volunteer hours at DAS was how much the staff puts themselves out for the good of the animals.

**VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments**

**Tom Kepp** express satisfaction with the votes on the Ordinance changes and the Cat Coalition TNR Program and asked for support when the vote comes up before the BCC.

**Jim Rich** agreed Tom and thanked the public for their continued attendance and interest in DASAB meetings.

**Marcia Breithaupt** asked about the absentee rules for Advisory Board members. She also announced January 7, 2010 at 7:00 pm Dr. Patricia McConnell, an animal behaviorist will present a lecture on “The Power of Pets” at Moorings Park.

**Amanda Townsend** will post the notice on the Bulletin Board.

**Next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2010 at 6:30 PM.**

**There being no further business for the good of the County, meeting was adjourned, by order of the Vice Chair at 8:27 PM.**

**COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES**

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**Vice Chairman, Marcia Breithaupt**

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
as presented \_\_\_\_\_, or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.