

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

Naples, Florida, January 20, 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
VICE CHAIRMAN: Marcia Breithaupt (excused)
Dr. Ruth Eisele
Sergeant David Estes
Tom Kepp, Jr.
Sabina Musci (excused)
Jim Rich

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director of DAS

I. Call to Order

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

II. Attendance

A quorum was established.

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes: December 16, 2008

Dr. Ruth Eisele moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2008, as presented. Second by Tom Kepp. Carried unanimously, 4-0.

V. Old Business

A. Director's Report

Amanda Townsend reported on:

1. The one-hour presentation on Animal Cruelty at Manatee Middle School given by Nan Gerhardt who is a Certified Interpreter, qualified to give such presentations. It covered the three kinds of cruelty. Amanda elaborated on the presentation topic and the impression on the students and teachers.

Sgt. Estes arrived at 6:35 pm.

Presentation kits will be put together in the future for various age groups. DAS members as well as other volunteers could be trained to give these presentations.

Michele Antonia offered her services to train for presentations to Adult Programs in Immokalee.

2. The 40 hour Animal Control Investigation- Level 2 class Training course was attended by her, four Officers and the Animal Control Supervisor; as well as people from all over the country. The course, hosted by DAS, was given by the University of Missouri Law Enforcement Training Institute and a non-profit group called Code Three Associates. She explained the curriculum and identified the presenters and their areas of expertise. A 100 question test, which will be graded by the University, followed the course.

Amanda Townsend Provided reminders of upcoming events:

1. Feb. 14, 2009 from 11:00 to 3:00 *Smooch a Pooch, Kiss a Kitty Meet and Greet Annual Adoption Fair*, which will include hourly shelter tours.
2. February 24, 2009 *Spay Day USA*, with the opportunity to pre-pay with DAS for those making appointments with the various participating Veterinarians. Information on total costs is to be provided.

B. DAS Statistics (handout)

Amanda Townsend Reviewed the monthly statistics and answered questions from the Members regarding various items.

VI. New Business

A. Regulating Breeders- at the request of Tom Kepp

A lengthy discussion was held regarding policies and solutions to the unlicensed breeders and pet sellers.

Speaker **Pallas Diaz** asked to speak at this time as her comments were directed solely to this issue. She distributed copies of a research done by the National Animal Interest Alliance and the issues were discussed after her address on several aspects regarding both hobby and backyard breeders. She also researched other Counties' policies on the issue.

Tom Kepp requested a special meeting or workshop be scheduled, whereby members of rescue groups, animal advocacy groups and the general public could gather to discuss breeder fees, licensing, enforcement, registered breeders and other policies related to indiscriminate breeding. They would then present their recommendations to DASAB.

Dr. Eisele commented that by making registration a benefit to the reputable breeders will help weed out the bad ones.

It was brought out that there are both State and Federal laws regarding breeders.

Amanda suggested conducting a survey to target the proper areas and protections to the buying public.

The consensus was that legitimate breeders would benefit by structured policies

The workshop was scheduled for February 10, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

B. Off Site Adoptions – at the request of Jim Rich

The question was, if DAS does do adoptions, why is it not a focus and why can't there be more off-site adoptions using trained volunteers.

Discussion on various options followed.

Amanda responded the concern for DAS was limited funds, time constraints and risk issues when animals are sent out from DAS without DAS staff present.

She will discuss possibilities with Kathy Drew who handles the once a month off-site adoptions.

C. Domestic Animal Abandonment – at the request of Jim Rich

Jim asked what recourse the county has when an animal is abandoned.

Amanda responded that in Violations of the Ordinance an Animal Officer must witness it or 2 witnesses sign an affidavit. In a criminal offense, it becomes more complicated. In both cases the offender must be located and can be prosecuted.

Sgt. Estes explained the determination of proving a crime. Instances were given.

D. Reporting Lost/Found Pets – at the request of Jim Rich

Jim asked the policy and procedure when a pet is found.

Amanda responded that in both lost and found cases the information is entered into the Chameleon data base on Pet Harbor computer program. Staff follows up on data to find a match. A kiosk will be installed in DAS Lobby by the next meeting for instruction on Pet Harbor.

VII. Public Comment

Stephen Wright restated his plea to the Committee Members for their recommendation to DAS to focus on adoptions. By making it a part of their Mission Statement, adoptions would not be put aside in favor of fundraising and/or education which are harder to do and more labor-intensive. Animals will always be coming into DAS. Changing hours, increase cat inventory, pet store viewing and advertising were some of his suggestions.

Discussion followed regarding procedure if the Mission Statement were to be changed.

Amanda responded there was training of volunteers and liability risk involved, as well as constricted budgets, wrong timing for changes and significantly less tax revenue expected as some of the many reasons DAS would not support changing the Mission Statement. However, as Staff Liaison, she was obliged to bring the Committee's recommendations forward.

VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments

Tom Kepp commented that he hoped to see some kind of consensus on how these issues can be addressed over the next 6 months.

- Better end results, especially with the rescue groups' participation which would occur through discussions and agreements.
- Utilizing volunteers to relieve staff shortage with clerical work.

Jim Rich reported on a positive incident of a DAS rescue on a Sunday.

Sgt. David Estes mentioned

- Using DAS Trust for the breeder situation.
- Volunteers could check ads in the newspaper or report signs in yards.
- Economy has a lot to do with owners not spaying and neutering animals.

Michele Antonia spoke of a University of Florida Pediatric Spay and Neuter Clinic in March. She will provide Amanda with the information to pass along to Dr. Brown, if she would find this clinic useful.

Amanda Townsend:

- Explained the County's "measure of success" determination Process which provides how each department is meeting its expectations.
- Noted, regarding breeder laws, that County Laws can be *more* stringent than State Laws, but not any *less* stringent.
- Reported she was interviewed on a Studio 55 educational piece on micro-chipping.

The next regular meeting of the Domestic Animal Services Advisory Board is scheduled for February 17, 2009.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 8:23 P.M.

COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES

Chairman Michele Antonia

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