

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

Naples, Florida, November 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 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at Domestic Animal Services Resource Training Room, Davis Blvd., East Naples, Florida with the following members present:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director of DAS
Kathlene Drew, DAS Volunteer Coordinator

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Attendance:

Roll call was taken and a quorum established

III. Approval of Agenda:

Sabina Musci moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Marcia Breithaupt. Carried unanimously, 5-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes: October 20, 2009

**Correction: Page 4 G: Italicized line - Change November to December
Page 5 VI. A. 3 Motion is to read:**

Marcia Breithaupt moved to recommend approval to include in the Animal Control Ordinance, additional Anti-Cruelty Provisions, including Anti-Chaining. Second by Tom Kepp. Carried unanimously, 7-0.

Jim Rich moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2009, as amended. Second by Sabina Musci. Carried unanimously, 5-0.

V. Old Business

A. Directors Report

Amanda Townsend reported the following:

- Announced Howl-a-Day Jubilee to be held Saturday, November 21 from 12:00 to 5:00 PM at Veterans Community Park.
- **Kathlene Drew**, Chairman, spoke about the various activities, contests and vendors who will be contributing to the success of the fundraiser.
- **Karen Acquard** was thanked for her efforts in collecting an array of raffle prizes for the event.

Michele Antonia suggested having a second and/or third prize in the costume contest in the form of gift certificates. It was agreed to do so.

- Announced the upcoming Florida Animal Control Conference to which 3 DAS staff members will attend. Amanda will confer with Laura Bevins, the S.E. Regional Director for the Humane Society for the United States, regarding large scale impounds. She will also speak with other Directors about the backyard breeder issue at the Director's Meeting.

(Amanda Townsend moved on to agenda item A. under VI. New Business.)

She noted the BCC established a new three-phase DAS Mission statement:

- To insure compliance with Local and State animal related laws.
- To return strays to their owners and promote adoption of homeless animals to new families.
- To work toward ending the community problem of pet overpopulation.

She announced the BCC approval of revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance and thanked the people who spoke up at the BCC meeting on issues that are important to the community. The three revisions were:

- Accommodate Trap Neuter and Release (TNR) concurrently with an agreement with the Collier Community Cat Coalition and the County.
- Anti-Cruelty-Anti-Chaining of dogs. Specifics of Anti-Chaining measures and sample language and wording of the Ordinance change is still being worked on and will come before DASAB at the December meeting, before going to the BCC on Jan.12, 2010.
- Dangerous Dog appeals cases have been transferred to from the three-person panel to the Special Magistrate, as well as the determination of the type of trial, if an owner further appealed to the Courts.

Agenda Item V. Old Business resumed

B. Departmental Statistics and Reports 4 Year Statistics Review (Handouts)

Amanda Townsend gave a slide presentation to go along with the individual 21-page detailed handout showing in chart and graph format the following statistics over the past 4 years:

- Intake –By Animal Type; Source; Intake Method and Per 1000 Population
- All animal Outcomes; Rescue and Public Adoptions
- Officer Activities by Type; per 1000 Population; Dangerous Dog Investigation Outcomes
- Spay/Neuter Surgeries
- Active Volunteers (doubled in 3 years); Volunteer Hours (more than doubled in 3 years)
- Outreach Events Attended or hosted; Outreach Contacts Made
- General Fund Expenditures; General Fund Revenues; Net Cost to General Fund;
- Cost to General Fund for all Services per Capita; Cost to General Fund for all Services per Animal

Amanda explained the Accounting Funds and the Services between City and County. She reported that most revenue comes from licenses, impound fees and adoption fees. Cost to the taxpayer for all services *per person* is \$6.06. Cost to the taxpayer for care *per animal* is \$3.06. .

Discussion followed on the various graph statistics.

Jim Rich brought up the influx of abandoned cats on Marco being dumped into feral colonies and asked about the number of rabies cases in Collier County.

Amanda noted animal abandonment had risen with the increase in foreclosures. She will obtain the statewide update on rabies cases at the FACA Conference.

VI. New Business:

A. Proposed Changes to the Animal Control Ordinance

Discussed previously under Old Business

B. Five Year Strategic Plan Balance Scorecard

Amanda Townsend reviewed the four categories in the 5-year Strategic Plan Balance Scorecard, namely:

- Serve the Customer
- Manage Financial Resources

- Run the Business
- Build the Team

She stated these items contain the goals for the 5-year Plan. The 10 prioritized projects voted on by the DASAB have been encompassed in these goals and have become the foundation for action in steps that will accomplish these goals closer to a 3 year window than a five year window.

VII. Public Comments

Janet Rossano, of For Footed Friends and a founding member of **Animal Advocates of Collier County** spoke on the following issues their group is working on to assist DAS:

- Emphasis on Education to reduce overpopulation
- Better awareness and exposure of animal issues
- Working for changes of Ordinances and Laws to increase awareness of the need for a more humane way to treat animals
- Working with a volunteer photographer to better bring out the best in animals advertised for adoptions and post information in many areas and web sites
- Have a volunteer Certified Trainer to help improve adoption options
- Use Media contact, video and print exposure to highlight plight of animals,
- Contacting WINK, Fox, Florida Weekly and Naples Daily News for exposure and education purposes
- Website will be available in December to ensure better exposure for animals, with links to DAS and other rescue groups
- Will attend Collier County events promoting spay & neuter and adoptable animals in the area
- Organized and named Volunteer group -Ride to Freedom Rescue Group or Freedom Riders.
- Will do an E-mail blast for DAS on Holiday Jubilee and other events
- Have doubled their volunteers since August inauguration and will work with DAS and rescue groups to make a difference
- For Footed Friends Dog Run now in preparation- to benefit DAS Trust Fund

Karen Acquard asked for the correlation between the number of foreclosed properties and the number of abandoned animals. She also asked to have confining animals in small quarters wording as well as anti-chaining wording as part of the Ordinance revision.

***Amanda Townsend** explained the reason to outlaw chaining was that dogs are social creatures. Chaining causes mental stress which leads to aggressive behavior. A balance between prohibiting “continuous fixed point restraint” and providing minimal restraint for dangerous dog enclosures will be a provision of the law. Care is needed in wording local law so as not to conflict with State Law. The Pet Retail Industry Standards Manual cites acceptable square foot standards.*

VIII. Advisory Board Members Comments

Tom Kepp, Jr. acknowledged improvement in outcomes. With the help of TNR and all things in Ordinance getting passed, he foresees a big change for the better.

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Sabina Musci mentioned fixed crate training and the flu vaccine now being suggested along with annual exams.

Amanda Townsend responded the length of time spent in crate training was the issue. Dogs are pack animals and need to socialize. Away from the pack, they act out. She will ask at the conference about the flu vaccine for dogs.

Jim Rich commented on the informative 4-year statistical report. He thanked the attendees for their constant support & attendance at DAS meetings.

Marcia Breithaupt encouraged everyone to be creative and emulate the success stories. She challenged Board Members to increase their volunteer work and push for animal improvement.

Michele Antonia mentioned the renovations and needs at the DAS Shelter in Immokalee, and noted adoption opportunities were now available there. She encouraged everyone to get involved with the Collier Community Cat Coalition and to come to their meetings every 2nd Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at the County offices on Orange Blossom Drive.

The next meeting of the Domestic Animal Advisory Board is December 15, 2009.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 7:50 P.M.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

Chairman Michele Antonia

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