

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

Naples, Florida, September 30, 2020

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, that the Collier County Domestic Animal Services Advisory Board in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 6:00 PM in REGULAR SESSION at the BCC Boardroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, W. Harmon Turner Building, Collier County Government Center, Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Vacant  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Jim Rich  
SECRETARY: Mary Baker (Excused)  
Sarah Baeckler-Davis  
Marjorie Bloom  
Dr. Michael Gordon  
Cpl. James A. Spartz

ALSO PRESENT: Darcy Andrade, Director, DAS  
Kyra Lynch, Shelter Operations manager, DAS  
Kellie Carroll, Administrative Assistant, DAS  
Steve Carnell, Public Services Department Head

**I. Call to Order**

**Vice Chair Jim Rich** called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**II. Attendance**

A quorum was established.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*Jim Rich made a motion to approve the agenda, there was a second and the motion carried 5-0.*

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

*Marjorie Bloom made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting, there was a second and the motion passed, 5-0.*

## V. Public Comments

**Susie Mehas** stated that she does not agree with the Community Cat program at DAS.

**Jim Rich** asked that when people make public comments, they address the Board as the meeting is between the Animal Services Advisory Board and the public.

**Megan Sorbara** stated that she is not in favor of the Community Cat program.

**Kathy Rheahme** spoke in favor of DAS and advised that she trusts DAS to make decisions that are based on the best interest of the animals.

**Michele Antonia** discussed an abandoned cat colony and advised that she needs assistance with the cats in Immokalee. She does not believe that cats should be returned there.

**Aris Montalvo** said that she wants to be the voice for the cats in Immokalee and that she feeds several colonies there because no one else will. **Ms. Montalvo** described a situation where a hungry cat approached a man at a grill looking for food. The man kicked the cat several times and wandered into the road where it died.

**Tom Kepp** and **Kelly Hyland** passed on making public comments.

## VI. Director's Report

**Darcy Andrade** advised the Board that all operations that were affected by COVID have resumed. DAS is still urging people to purchase licenses online and there is no longer a requirement for pre-approval for people who want to come to the facility to adopt. **Ms. Andrade** discussed the 24-hour hold on found pets and advised that during the time period of April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 through August 28, 2020 there were 106 animals that were held by the finder. Of those 106 animals, 77 were reunited with their owner before coming to the shelter and that 29 were picked up by DAS.

**Sarah Baeckler-Davis** asked what this hold does for the required stray hold and was advised by **Ms. Andrade** that the stray hold begins when the animal is impounded at DAS.

**Darcy** advised the Board that the Trustees have not returned to DAS and that their labor is equivalent to eight (8) part-time employees. DAS has brought on three (3) part time temporary employees.

**Dr. Gordon** asked if these temporary employees will help in the clinic and was advised that they cannot because they are not able to perform work that is outside of their job title.

**Ms. Andrade** discussed in-house surgery and advised that DAS is still not able to provide spay/neuter services to the public, but they have resumed providing this service to the rescue groups. She also told the Board that the first vaccine clinic since COVID was held at DAS on this date.

**Jim Rich** asked how often the clinics will be held and was informed that they will be held monthly but the day of the week will vary.

**Ms. Andrade** told the Board that the Standards of Care Workshop will be held on Monday, October 3, 2020 in the BCC Chambers with any overflow being accommodated in the Risk Management Conference Room.

**Darcy** also informed the Board that DAS has started an email list so that anyone who is interested can receive DAS updates, that DAS will soon be able to accept online donations and that a part-time Marketing Coordinator has been hired.

**Ms. Andrade** stated that an x-ray machine has been donated by a local Chiropractor who is retiring and that the funds that were donated to DAS for the machine will be used to build the room that is required to hold and use it.

**Sarah Baeckler-Davis** asked if DAS is back to regular capacity after the loss of the Trustees caused DAS to put many animals into foster homes and was advised that DAS is back to normal operations.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Community Cats**

**Jim Rich** read prepared remarks regarding the Community Cat program at DAS.

*Jim Rich made a motion to request that DAS organize a workshop with all cat rescue groups, there was a second and the motion passed 5-0.*

**Dr. Gordon** stated that it is a good issue to discuss. He also asked about the October workshop and was advised by **Steve Carnell** that it is for the Standards of Care ordinance.

**Jim Rich** discussed the possibility of DAS hiring someone to be the point person for the Community Cat program and offered a \$5000.00 donation from For the Love of Cats to help with the costs.

**Darcy Andrade** stated that DAS needs to be contacted when cat issues occur, and that Michele does not need to take injured cats to the sanctuary. DAS will not put these types of cats back out in the community. She also advised that she was not giving a presentation, but that she did put some educational materials into the agenda packet.

**Ms. Andrade** informed the Board that DAS is now following all recommendations from the first and second shelter assessments.

**Sarah Baeckler-Davis** stated that **Dr. Robinson, Shelter Veterinarian**, vets these cats for medical issues and asked if there are any other criteria. **Kyra Lynch** explained that each cat is evaluated individually based on temperament, behavior and having a known location to return to.

#### **B. Humane society Naples Presentation**

**Darcy Andrade** made introductory remarks for the HSN presentation.

**Sarah Baeckler-Davis** stated that there is a lot of overlap between the two organizations and that maybe HSN and DAS can divvy up programs. She discussed HSN's various locations and the purposes of each. She mentioned that their behavior staff now has three members and that HSN donated over \$100,000 in free veterinary care to the public. The goal of HSN is to keep animals in the home. She stated that the mobile veterinary clinic was put on hold due to COVID. **Ms. Baeckler-Davis** talked about Operation Rescue, which offers free boarding to animals whose owners are in crisis. She advised the Board that their intake is focused on owner surrenders and animals in Florida, but that they do still import animals from other locations, focusing on areas with live release rates below 46%.

### **VIII. Old Business**

#### **A. Citation Collection Update**

**Darcy Andrade** stated that **Tom Kepp** had recommended that DAS take unpaid citations to the Special Magistrate and DAS has done that. DAS is now getting court orders and are able to lien property. **Ms. Andrade** stated that she anticipates being caught up by March.

**Dr. Gordon** inquired on the status of the HSN/DAS Workgroup meeting and was advised that it is scheduled for October 1, 2020.

### **IX. Advisory Board Member Comments**

**Dr. Gordon** told the Board that he had witnessed a DAS Red Carpet moment and that it was the best thing he had seen.

**Marjorie Bloom** mentioned Scoots, an injured cat at DAS that was posted on Facebook and shown on the local news.

**Sarah Baeckler -Davis** thanked everyone for coming out and stated that we can and would do better. She also mentioned that it was hard to determine the best way to share resources.

**James Spartz** stated that he was very disturbed by the story **Aris Montalvo** told during public comments. He stressed that these types of incidents need to be reported. He advised that every call to the Sheriff's Office is recorded and that the public can also call to find out if it was reported. He said it sounded as though someone stood by and watched the incident occur without doing anything about it. He stated that people need to call, report and be available to testify if needed. **Mr. Spartz** also stated that he was very

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impressed with the 70% rate of animals that were reunited with their owners while being held for 24 with the finders.

**Jim Rich** asked why Public Comments are done at the beginning of the meeting and was advised by **Darcy Andrade** it is so that the public has an opportunity to share their opinions and insights with the Board before the Board discusses and votes on any of the issues instead of having Public Comment after the Board has already voted.

*Jim Rich made a motion to adjourn, there was a second and the motion passed 5-0.*

**The next regularly scheduled Advisory Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Domestic Animal Training Room, Davis Blvd., Naples, Florida.**

**There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was concluded at 7:45 p.m.**

**COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES**

  
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**Vice Chair Jim Rich**

These minutes approved by Board/Committee on 11-17-20 as presented  or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.