

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

Naples, Florida

May 21st, 2025

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 p.m. for a **MEETING** at Growth Management
Community Development Department Room 609/610 2800 N. Horseshoe DR.
Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Allen Schantzen
Michele Antonia
Kelly Hyland
Susan Mehas
Jonathan Foerster
Meredith McLean
Alexandra Casanova

Any persons in need of the verbatim record of the meeting may request a copy of the audio recording from Domestic Animal Services.

Recording was muted until 27:09.

Board is still muted.

27:09 Board unmutes their microphone.

- I. Call to order- Meeting was mute
- II. Roll Call- Establish a Quorum- Meeting was muted
- III. Pledge of Allegiance- Meeting was muted.
- IV. Approval of agenda- meeting was muted.

- V. Public comments- Items not addressed on this agenda

DAS Volunteer- Pattie Touleigh- “ There aren’t enough staff, there aren’t enough volunteers” I would like to know what the county is doing for advertising, searching, looking for employees and volunteers” “would like to see a campaign to get people in and see people stay” “people want to come in and volunteer and there is no orientation until June or July”

Mr. Schantzen- Made notes, in the minutes will address at a later date.

VI Public comment on Agenda items in sequence

No additional public comments.

VI-Approval of minutes

- A. April 16th, 2025

Minutes approved- Johnathan Foerster approved. There was also a second.

VIII-Staff Report

- A. Leadership Report- Meredith McClean**

Ms. McClean-

- New program manager started this week
- Final stages of hiring process for the Foster Care coordinator
- Reviewing candidates for the Volunteer Coordinator
- New Customer service specialist started
- Recently hire Veterinarian is increasing their on site hours.

Current Shelter numbers:

310 animals. Intake for April 661 animals. 504 cats, 142 dogs, 15 other animals. 628 live outcomes. 184 adoptions. 96 cats and 82 dogs. We transferred out 234 animals out. 215 Cats and 15 dogs. 213 went to HSN. We currently have 203 animals in Foster.

Code enforcement- 308 cases opened, 204 closed and 43 citations issued.

We have a Public/private partnership with the Jacksonville Human Society and HSN- we are a chosen shelter. They have stated we are the best partnership in the State of Florida.

April 2025 numbers- YOY 4/2024

Dogs-

- Save rate 95.52% up 7% YOY from 88.98%
- Dog intake is down, but partly due to closed building.
- 54% increase in adoptions from 4/2024.
- We had a decrease in non-live outcomes. Decreased by 48% YOY.
- From January -April the save rate for dogs is 95.1%.

Cats:

- Save rate 98.55% which is up 3.55% YOY from 95%.
- We did take in 42% more cats.
- Live outcomes have increased 86%.
- 135% increase YOY in cat adoption. Transfers to other shelters were up 42%.
- 1/2025-4/2025 Save rate is 96% which is up from 91%.

Overall lifesaving rate is 96%.

B. Facilities Update

- Building 4 is on schedule to be completed by 6/30/2025.
- Building 3 anticipated for demolition 7/15/2025.
- Campus utility identification-Utility shut offs-Has been completed.
- Remaining buildings- Discussion on and with Director's input will come up at a later date.

IX. Old Business

A. HSN and DAS Comprehensive Shelter Study

Discussion on comprehensive shelter study.

- The comprehensive shelter study was done to identify and develop strategies for managing animal populations and increasing the quality of services provided by DAS.
- Money was allocated to the management study that included a staffing element that included up to 75K
- Remaining money is in the partnership with HSN for animal care including Medical and surgeries
- Includes embedded Staff member from HSN to mentor staff.
- There is a draft study that will be published, similar to Maddie's report, talking about best practices to the housing, cleaning and veterinary care for the animals
- All suggestions are being implemented now.

Discussion continued on the option of expanding the board or staying within the limits of the ordinance.

X. New business

A. County Attorney and County Manager Presentation.

Slide presentation with summary of meeting notes from 12/18/24, 2/26/25, 3/19/25 ASAB meetings.

- Board has been discussing items/issues that are not within the purview of the ordinance.
- No recommendations have been made to the County commissioners office from this board in more than 17 years
- If you want to expand board responsibilities a request needs to be made to the Board of county commissioners for approval
- Discussion on dissolving the board or working on items as stated in the ordinance.

Slide presented- Options going forward. Read through 3 options on slide.

B. Discussion of efficacy of DAS Board and discussion of dissolving board.

Discussion continued about expanding the responsibilities of the board. Making it publicly noticed to allow people to participate as an action item to the agenda.

City Manager- Amy Patterson

Amy asked to review the slides again Section 2-1121 for Functions, powers and duties.

Ms. Patterson - clarified what DAS needs assistance with that the board is allowed to work on per their ordinance.

- Make recommendations on things for the public. Providing classes and special events, put the positive forward face on DAS and to bring people to DAS. They still think we are the kill shelter of the 90's.
- Public outreach, campaigns for topics on microchips, spay/neuter, vaccines, first time pet owner.
- Facility- We can use input on improving the facility. When we kick off into the next phase of what to do with the remaining buildings, your input will be super valuable.

A. Frequent return-to-Owner Protocol

- Discussed increase in fine for 1st, 2nd and 3rd offenses.
- Discussed spay/neuter on first out
- Discussed what is withing the purview of the board in regard to repeat return
- The board requested fine amounts per offense also if they could look at increasing the amount of the fines.
- Ms. Mclean- working on a report to show repeat return offenders.

Public speaker- Heidi Leroy- New Agenda items

Ms. Leroy- "You agreed that under new business you would request additional powers and duties so that you can get into the ordinances."

Mr. Schantzen – "that was a discussion about where we might put it."

Ms. Antonia – "He said to put it under new business"

Ms. Leroy- "So we are in new business I want to make sure if we can address it before we get off new business."

Mr. Schantzen – "It's an agenda item."

No further public comments.

Discussion continued about repeat, returned pets

Discussion took place on local meetings that are available.

XI. Advisory Board Member Comments

Ms. Mehas suggested making a flyer to distribute to local High Schools and Colleges for students to volunteer.

Ms. Hyland- Requested update on billboard idea. Nothing from the sheriff's office yet.

Ms. Hyland- Requested update on adding walkie talkie's or radio for communication for volunteers employees. Confirmed radios have been added to the shelter.

Ms. Hyland- Requested update on the flooring the volunteers had concerns with. Facilities will be modifying the application and additives.

Ms. Hyland- Requested update on policies and procedures manual. Still in progress.

XII Next Meeting

A. Wednesday June 18th, 2025

XIII. Additional Resource Materials

A. Code Enforcement hearing dates

Ms. Hyland- Requested contact person to find out who is doing inspections for breeders and pet stores. Suggested to call Code Enforcement for this information.

B. Community Task for Meeting Dates

Alan referenced material in their packets that had information on the dates. Did not discuss in meeting.

C. Executive Summary Hobby Breeder Ordinance

Executive Summary for the ordinance has passed.

Discussion took place on recent board member leaving.

Mr. Foerster -" I will unfortunately be submitting my resignation from the board for professional reasons. I have been appointed to another board that is part of the industry I work in. I appreciate the passion of everyone who has been in this room."

Discussion took place on a small fundraiser for shelter that happened in the past

Mr. Foerster- moved to end the meeting.

XIV. Adjourn

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was concluded at 8:04pm

Collier County Domestic Animal Services



Allen Schantzen- Chair

These minutes were approved by the Committee/ Chairman on
August 27, 2005 (check one) as presented ☒, or as amended _____.