



**Animal Services Advisory Board Meeting**  
**January 25, 2016**  
**Minutes**

John Manning  
*District One*

Cecil L. Pendergrass  
*District Two*

Larry Kiker  
*District Three*

Brian Hamman  
*District Four*

Frank Mann  
*District Five*

Roger Desjarlais  
*County Manager*

Richard Wm. Wesch  
*County Attorney*

Donna Marie Collins  
*Hearing Examiner*

Present: Board Members, Charlene Campbell, Larry Scott, Randy Hodges, Theresa Ink, Jennifer Galloway. Lee County Domestic Animal Services' staff, Mack Young; Abby Soto; Karen Fordiani; Ria Brown; Brandon Scribner

Absent: Heather Hawk, William Townsend

The meeting was called order at 5:43 p.m. by Chairman Charlene Campbell.

Minutes from the September 17, 2015 and November 16, 2015 meetings were approved.

Charlene Campbell reminded board members that there are only six meetings a year. Any member who misses three meetings will no longer be eligible to be on the board. Also, there are five voting members and two non-voting members which make up the board. Four voting members must be present for a quorum.

Public comment of three minutes each began. Members of the public stated they were in attendance to stay informed and to be updated on the status of Animal Services' vacant position for a staff veterinarian and the county's feral cat issues.

Mack Young announced that Animal Services still has one veterinarian and the search is currently underway to fill the vacant position for a second full-time veterinarian. Currently Animal Services is using on-call veterinarians when available. He ensured everyone that the TNR program has not been forgotten and that the possibility of doing targeted TNR are in the planning stages.

It was suggested that Animal Services get local outside vets involved to keep the TNR program going and that more than targeted TNR is wanted. Those speaking about this issue were not interested in using low cost clinics. They felt it should be a free program supplied by the county.

Brandon Scribner recommended that we use education to the public and the vet community to convey that Animal Services does not have the resources to tackle the problem alone. A multi-faceted approach is needed to deal with the issue. We need more involvement from the veterinary community as a whole.

Jennifer Galloway pointed out that low cost clinics are willing to help but they need to be paid as they can't stay afloat doing fee surgeries. She suggested grants as a solution to fund outsourcing to other clinics. Once Gulf Coast Humane Society's renovations are complete they could focus some on TNR cats.

Fundraising was brought up and Jennifer Galloway stated Gulf Coast Humane Society does fundraising just to exist so this would need to be fundraising targeted for TNR specifically. Charlene Campbell suggested fundraising be done for this purpose. Ria Brown pointed out that if targeted fundraising were to happen, someone from the community is needed to organize it. Jennifer Galloway agreed and said Gulf Coast Humane Society is maxed out on their fundraising projects and cannot add another. She felt education would be more effective than fundraising and grants could be used for education.

It was suggested that Animal Services use the lapse salary from the vacant veterinarian position to fund other needs but Mack Young and Brandon Scribner both pointed out that not only is the lapse salary being used for on-call vets but the county budget restrictions do not allow funds to be pulled from one area and to be used for another.

Jennifer Galloway also pointed out that it is more successful for small rescues to apply for grants and use them for spay/neuter as even Gulf Coast is often told they are too large to qualify and obviously the county has this issue.

Charlene Campbell said we need to get more funds for this and asked what would be a good number to set as a fundraising goal. Theresa Ink suggested \$10,000. Brandon Scribner suggested that even at \$30 per surgery, which is very low, it would only pay for slightly over 300 surgeries assuming there were no complications and much more would be needed to make a dent in this problem. Jennifer Galloway suggested again that the smaller rescues and groups take this on as their project. Ria Brown covered the history of the Animal Friend License Grant and reiterated that it is often difficult for the county to get funding because it is assumed the government has or should have enough to cover its costs. She also pointed out that the feral cat problem is a community problem that will require a great community effort to remedy. Even with the vacant veterinary position filled, Animal Services does not have the resources to even make a dent in the problem.

Brandon Scribner followed up on a concern from the previous meeting. The City of Cape Coral added a provision to their ordinance that anytime the County's Ordinance is revised the Cape Coral Ordinance will be automatically updated as well. This now provides anti-tethering for Cape Coral. Charlene Campbell asked if we could contact Wink to promote anti-tethering or do something even if it is just Facebook and social media.

Charlene Campbell reported that she contacted the University of Florida to check out their veterinary program to determine the feasibility of utilizing them for veterinary help and what UF requires of clinics to participate in the program. It was noted that our resources do not remotely meet their stringent requirements. Dr. Scott added that he didn't think any clinic in Lee County could meet these requirements. Charlene Campbell felt we should not give up on it in the future.

New Business: Theresa Ink suggested Animal Services, Gulf Coast Humane Society and PAWS work toward collaborating on a project to sterilize Pit Bulls as many entities who issue grants look for collaborative efforts.

Jennifer Galloway suggested that municipalities get scanners so they can determine the owners of dead dogs since the county is not contracted by the cities to pick up dead animals.

The next meeting will be held March 28, 2016 and subsequent meetings will be held the fourth Monday of every other month at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.