



**Animal Services Advisory Board Meeting
November 16, 2015
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

The meeting was called order at 5:42 p.m.

Present: Board Members, Charlene Campbell, William Townsend, Randy Hodges. Lee County Domestic Animal Services' staff, Mack Young; Dr. James Shewmaker; Abby Soto; Andrea Rothwell; Karen Fordiani; Lt. Angel Cruz; Ria Brown; Assistant County Manager, Dave Harner

Absent: Larry Scott, Theresa Ink, Heather Hawk, Jennifer Galloway

Following introductions Mack Young announced that since the last meeting staff veterinarian Dr. Nicole Ferguson, resigned. The interview processes is underway to fill the vacancy. Chairman, Charlene Campbell reviewed rules for comment and suggestions for positive exchange of ideas.

As a quorum was not present to conduct regular business, the meeting was opened to public comment. Members of the public reported on information regarding a bill proposed through the Florida legislature and spearheaded by an organization called Grey2K that would require greyhound tracks to report all injuries to Animal Services. The bill has passed the Senate three times but has gone no further. Supporters of the bill locally are asking Lee County to require this locally. Assistant County Manager, Dave Harner, advised that the issue is being investigated by the county attorney. Anyone with questions should contact Mr. Harner.

Also of interest to attendees was the county's feral and community cat problem, including difficulty in obtaining spay/neuter appointments at Animal Services through the Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program. Clinic Manager, Andrea Rothwell, noted that presently there is only one veterinarian and an increased number of adoption sterilization thus reducing the number of cats that can be sterilized through the TNR program at this time. She also reported that the sterilization of random cats from random locations has proven ineffective. Animal Services is now looking into a targeted approach where volunteers would assist in trapping in specific locations to sterilize entire colonies. Animal Services is also hoping to get veterinarians in these locations to assist with the sterilizations.

Other questions asked were what each board member intended to bring to the board. Charlene Campbell listed fully accessible neighborhood spay/neuter programs including TNR and funding that would offset costs to the shelter. William Townsend expressed interest in ensuring that proposed laws are compatible with the needs of rural residents and a desire to assist staff in controlling the animal population.

Final public comments requested updates on anti-tethering in Cape Coral, which is being negotiated at this time with the city, and who picks up dead animals. A complete list of who responds to calls regarding dead and nuisance animals is listed by agency and species on Animal Services website.

The next meeting will be held January 25, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

