

**SEMINOLE COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**September 12, 2013
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bryan Wilson, Vice Chairman
Marianne King
Stephen Browne, Chairman
Gayle Hair

MEMBERS ABSENT: Debra Garrambone
Keith Weissman

OTHERS: Tad Stone, Director of Public Safety
Bob Hunter, Interim Animal Services Manager
Ann Colby, Assistant County Attorney
Catherine Scanlon, Clerk to the Board

The following is a non-verbatim transcript of the Seminole County Animal Control Board meeting held September 12, 2013 at 7:00 PM, at the Sheriff's Office/Public Safety Building, 150 Bush Boulevard, Sanford, Florida.

I. Call to Order.

Mr. Browne called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. Roll Call.

Roll Call was taken by the Clerk. A quorum was present. At this time the Clerk to the Board announced that the Licensed Veterinarian's chair (previously held by Dr. Giovanni Vergel) was still vacant, as there has not yet been a new official appointee from the Board of County Commissioners.

III. Minutes: June 13, 2013.

Mr. Browne proposed a review of the meeting minutes from June 13, 2013. Mr. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes. Second by Ms. Hair. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Commentary.

Mr. Browne announced the Board would take public commentary and called for the first speaker.

Erica Daniel, 383 Old Geneva Road, Geneva, FL 32732, addressed the board on Dolly's Foundation and the recent Community Pet Day they held for residents of Geneva. 96 dogs and 117 cats received service at this event, including vaccinations and vouchers for free spay/neuter procedures. Ms. Daniel advised the next Community Pet Day would take place in Sanford, FL. Dolly's Foundation has the goal and hopes to reach as many Seminole County Communities as possible.

Christine Morgan, 300 Rose Drive, Sanford, FL 32773, addressed the board on the topic of rabies in Seminole County. Ms. Morgan distributed an article to board members titled *Feral cat colonies could pose rabies risk, CDC says*. Ms. Morgan also provided the board with statistics regarding how many cat traps were checked out from Seminole County Animal Services in 2012 and 2013, with the purpose to demonstrate to the board the amount of citizens that have issues with nuisance cats.

Gail Naygan, 4242 Shades Crest Lane, Sanford, FL 32773, addressed the board on the topic of trap, neuter, return (TNR) and feral cats. Ms. Naygan asked that information she distributed at a previous meeting regarding the same topic, be re-distributed for new board members. Ms. Naygan discussed the benefits of utilizing a "TNR" program.

V. Old Business.

A. Update on Current Shelter Programs.

Mr. Browne called for old business. Mr. Stone asked that Mary Beth Lake, Shelter Care Supervisor, address the board regarding current shelter programs. Ms. Lake advised the board of several renovation projects at the shelter that would benefit the animals, including two (2) free-roaming cat rooms, one for males and one for females. The shelter now has very few cats in cages. The shelter is also using donations to spay and neuter as many of the cats as possible in an effort to increase cat adoptions.

VI. New Business.

A. Upcoming Animal Services and Community Events.

Mr. Stone asked that Diane Gagliano, Volunteer and Event Coordinator for Seminole County Animal Services, address the board on upcoming events. Ms. Gagliano informed the board about several upcoming events, including Feline Fiesta, Responsible Pet Ownership Day, Saddlers Re-Sale Day Event, and T.E.A.R.S Adopt Me Pet Paradise event, all to be held in the month of September. Hollywood Houndz will be holding a Black Tie Affair event in October to promote the adoption of black cats. Seminole County Animal Services will also be holding a Halloween event during the month of October.

Ms. Gagliano then introduced dog trainer Gary Adams to the board. Mr. Adams spoke on different programs he is assisting with voluntarily at the shelter. He is working with training all of the shelter's volunteers to empower them and to have more consistency with the animals. Mr. Adams is also trying to implement a Canine Good Citizen program that will work with dogs at the shelter, as well as with their new owners once the dogs are adopted. Mr. Adams also has the goal to implement training classes at local dog parks, with a portion of proceeds being donated to the non-profit group T.E.A.R.S. of Seminole County (Together Every Animal Receives Support).

At this time Board Member Ms. King asked about the success of the shelter's "free adoption" promotion during the months of June and July. Ms. Lake and Ms. Gagliano discussed that the promotion was successful; the exact statistics were not available during the meeting and will be given to the board at a later time.

Mr. Browne asked a question about the shelter's statistics in regards to how many cats are being euthanized. Ms. Gagliano clarified that the current cat euthanasia rate is 70%, down from the previously reported 80%. Ms. Gagliano also advised the board that the shelter had recently placed the "statistics board" back in the front lobby, in an effort to better relay to the public the actual amount of animals coming into and out of the shelter. Mr. Bryan Wilson asked for clarification on the shelter's cat Return to Owner (RTO) rate, and how that can be increased. Ms. Gagliano and Ms. Lake explained to the board that all animals coming into the shelter are now immediately photographed and uploaded to the website PetHarbor.com –allowing citizens a much quicker way to view if their lost pets have recently come into the shelter and help to increase the RTO rate. The Board at this time suggested a possible public service announcement to encourage owners of lost animals to check with SCAS. Ms. Gagliano advised the Board that the shelter is currently exploring different ways to reach out to the public.

B. Future Agenda Items.

Mr. Wilson posed a question regarding the recent change in management with the shelter, asking if the shelter would remain headed in the same proactive direction with regards to the shelter's stance on implementing a "TNR" program. Mr. Stone addressed the issue, informing the board that SCAS would continue to work towards finding a resolution regarding TNR and feral cats.

Mr. Wilson asked that the shelter look into possibly adopting similar county ordinances as has been seen in Pasco County, FL with regards to "open air" pet sales.

VII. Reports.

A. Kennel Statistics (Intakes & Outcomes).

Mr. Browne called for discussion on this report. The board reviewed the information. At this time, Ms. King asked if the number of stray cats could be broken down to reflect the amount of stray cats that come into the shelter vs. how many of these cats are considered feral. This information was not readily available at the meeting, and will be given to the board at a later date. This information will be included on future reports for future meetings as requested.

The board also noted at this time that the numbers reflect an increase in adoptions, but that the number of animal intake to the shelter has also increased. Ms. Lake addressed the board and informed them that the rise in adoptions can slightly be attributed to the "free adoption" promotion through June and July, as well as the "hoarder" dog seizure in which 117 animals were rescued from a hoarding situation. Sixty Four (64) of those animals were successfully adopted out in one (1) day due to the publicity received and community involvement.

B. Customer Contact Statistics.

Mr. Browne called for discussion on this report. The board made mention of the fact that the customer contacts for visitors to the lobby compared with phone calls taken in the lobby was very close in number, and perhaps the shelter could implement a phone recording system to help alleviate some of the phone calls; the board was made aware that such a recording system is already in place. The Board was made aware that SCAS is currently researching a system through the County's IT Department that would automatically track the number of phone calls coming into the shelter; updates to this will be addressed as they come in.

C. Pet Data, Inc. Statistics.

Mr. Browne called for discussion on this report. The board reviewed the information; at this time Ms. Hair noted that the number of licenses sold appears to have decreased since the past fiscal year. Ms. Hair posed the question whether or not people are adopting less animals, or are more people just simply not purchasing licenses for their animals? Ms. Lake addressed the issue and responded that from her experience at the shelter, it would seem that less people are actually purchasing their required county pet license and not that people are adopting less animals.

D. Review Necessity of Reports A, B, and C.

Mr. Browne began the discussion, asking other board members for their input. It was agreed that the board would take some time to review each report, and would be prepared to discuss the necessity of each at the next board meeting. This item was asked by Mr. Browne to be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting as Old Business to discuss.

VIII. Confirmation of Next Meeting.

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Mr. Browne reviewed the regular meeting date(s). At this time, the board asked the Clerk to the Board to send an email reminder in addition to the standard agenda package prior to the next meeting, in an effort to confirm a quorum more swiftly. This request was approved and will be the procedure for all future meetings.

IX. Adjournment.

Motion by Ms. Hair to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Wilson. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk to the Board