

**St. Clair County Animal Services
Minutes for Meeting
At the Courthouse – 6:00 P.M.
July 25, 2016**

Members Present:

Steve Reeb, Chairman
Michael O'Donnell
Carol Clark
Robert Trentman
Fred Boch
Michael Baker

Members Absent:

Oliver Hamilton, Sr., Asst. Chairman

Others Present:

Mark Kern, Chairman, St. Clair County Board
James Jacquot
Cheri Weaver
SCC Animal Welfare Advocates

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Reeb.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

The roll was called and a quorum declared present.

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Mr. Boch to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2016.
Second by Ms. Clark.

Vote: 6 yes 0 no

Motion Carried.

Open Comments –

(All of the following questions were directed to James Jacquot, Director Animal Services, unless indicated.)

Q: Kim Keeney: I was at the last meeting and I know this is a question that we asked last time and did not receive, do we have a breakdown of numbers on intake for owner turn ins and the ones that were adopted.

A: We have a break down on all of them

Q: Will we be able to get a copy

A: I don't know if we have enough copies, then members gave their own copies out.

Q: Michelle Walpole: I was at the last meeting, has the county set any goals for things they would like to accomplish and any time lines for those goals

A: The State's Attorney has been addressing the issue of "vaccination on intake", with the Department of Agriculture. The question has been forwarded to their General Counsel. We have not received a response to date.

Q: When did that go to the Department Of Agriculture?

A: St. Clair County Chairman, Mark Kern replied, July 06, 2016.

Q: Is there a start date for using Chameleon?

A: The computers should be in August 10, 2016. They will have the same configuration as the Sherriff Department vehicles. No date on installation.

Q: Ellen Hipton: I have a question about the use of the gas chamber rather than injection; I was told that we've gone back to using the gas chamber to euthanize animals.

A: No

Q: So not at all

A: No

Q: Barb Davidson: This is my first time, I was called about the meeting yesterday and I got some friends to come with me. Did anyone from animal control accept the offer to attend the no kill training at Best Friends that was offered at no charge?

A: No, I spoke to Ledy VanKavage about that because of the time frame, but we have agreed to go to Kansas City with them in October or November.

Unidentified: I was wondering if there were any updates on hiring

A: Actually, I was told that I could hire a person to help with the cleaning, I've made an offer to one of our part-time employee, who has been part time for two years, and he wanted some time to think about it. Si, I have not heard back from him yet. This just happened last week.

Q: Katie Macintyre: How are the animals euthanized?

A: Lethal injection.

Q: How is the rumor getting started that over 40 animals are taken into a room and euthanized with gas.

A: I have no idea. I think if you go back to the late eighty's or early ninety's they were using, gas chambers, but that hasn't been in effect for years.

Q: They say that just happened in the last few days.

A: No

Q: Kim Keeney: Whenever you euthanize by injection what type of injection, do you heart stick.

A: No

Q: So you don't

A: It is done intervenes

Q: Ronnie Aguirre: Has there been any change to the cleaning procedures, are you still hosing the kennels with the animals in them.

A: We try to move the animals before cleaning. When we are at capacity we have nowhere to move them. We have ten runs with outside kennels which are easy to clean. We try to use these kennels for the more aggressive animals. If we had indoor/outdoor runs for the entire facility, cleaning would be easy.

Q: So, the answer is yes.

A: Yes.

St. Clair County Chairman, Mark Kern replied, our kennels and cattery are air-conditioned. We installed a generator several years ago, which can power the entire facility. During the recent four day power outage we ran at 100 percent. We actually assisted the Belleville Area Humane Society with their perishable medications.

Q: Robert Trentman: So how many kennels would you need outside to accommodate when we wash the kennels out.

A: It depends on the amount of time you have to do this properly.

Q: Do we have room for ten kennels outside somewhere.

A: I don't know exactly where you would put them.

Q: If it's a question of not having space to put the animals while washing kennels down, maybe it's something we should look at.

A: You have to consider certain things such as weather. Then you have to understand that if you move ten animals into outdoor kennels, they also have to be cleaned prior to a new group going in. If you can clean and disinfect and dry a kennel in fifteen minutes, it would take two people 9.5 hours.

Q: Jamie Case: So I just have a follow up question, I never thought of the dog park, could they be built, could the outside kennels could they be put in that space to move them over while they are being cleaned.

A: Mark Kern: No

Q: Why not

A: Mark Kern: I don't believe the state will allow that, it was hard enough to get them to allow us to put up a chain link fence around the cleared area.

Q: Oh it's state

A: Mark Kern: They are going to let us it, hopefully when someone comes into adopt a dog they can make sure they are compatible with everyone and have a place to go and actually spend some time with the animals.

Q: So the dog park is only going to be used by the animals in the adoption center.

A: Mark Kern: Yes we hope it will socialize animals with people and let them know if they are compatible, and as advertisement. If you look at what happened we opened up the view from route 15 to animal control which a lot of residents didn't know where it was, so now a sign, adoption animals here will be erected. Before, it was blocked by the undergrowth that has grown up over the years.

Q: Kimmy Nasti: Have you guys thought anymore about using volunteers; bring volunteers in who could walk the dogs while you clean the kennels and just for socialization to make them more adoptable.

A: We haven't discussed that with anybody right now, it would be more of an insurance issue.

Q: Do you think you could make that one of your goals and bring it up for discussion. Yes they could always walk with muzzles on and your staff could muzzle the dogs. We do that with our dogs.

A: Mark Kern: We will talk about it Thursday.

Samantha Stevens: I TNR in Madison County and St. Clair County, I was wondering if any discussion has been about the feral cat population and St. Clair County I just trapped 4 cats from St. Clair County last night got them fixed at Quick Fix and released them which is illegal. But I was wondering if there has been any, and I know everyone has been talking about dogs and I love dogs to but I don't hear much about cats. I am worried of a citizen trapping a cat and it getting killed. How many cats can you have registered under one person's name?

A: Four

Q: You can only have four registered

A: It is important that they mark the cat's ears

Q: Yes they tip the ears

Q: The cat gets trapped

Q: Yes I know, can I also have the statistics of the cat's that have been you know

A: Yes, it is right here

Q: Ledy VanKavage: I appreciate you getting back on Best Friends and Kansas City in October. That's great. What were the statistics for last year; we just got Madison County statistics.

A: We have them right here

●: What was the whole year like?

A: We actually, percentage wise, euthanized a lower percentage than Madison County.

●: Jenny Dolsey: I was wondering why there are no Pit Bulls being offered in your adoption center.

A: That isn't the case anymore; we have been putting Pit Bulls in there.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Trentman. Second by Ms. Clark. Motion carried.