

**St. Clair County Animal Services
Minutes for Meeting
At the Courthouse – 6:00 P.M.
December 18, 2017**

Members Present:

Steve Reeb, Chairman
Robert Trentman, Asst. Chairman
Carol Clark
Michael O'Donnell
Fred Boch
Scott Tieman
Steve Gomric

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Mark Kern, St. Clair County Chairman
Lisa Porter, Chief of Government Affairs
John West, St. Clair County Board Member
James Jacquot, Director, Animal Services
Cheri Weaver, Deputy Director, Animal Services
Area Rescues

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. Gomric to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2017.
Second by Mr. Tieman.

Vote: 7 yes 0 no

Motion Carried.

New Business:

James Jacquot announced to the committee that the 2018 Veterinarian Contract is the same as 2017, with no changes.

Steve Reeb asked if there were any comments from the committee members.

Motion by Steve Gomric to approve the 2018 Veterinarian Contract for Services, second by Scott Tieman.

Vote 7 Yes 0 No

Motion Carried.

Open Discussion:

James Jacquot announced that the live rate release is at eighty percent, which is up from sixty four percent at this time last year. We are up sixteen percent. Last year we euthanized one thousand animals last year at this time and we are at four hundred seventy four this year.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA asked on intake what is the difference between last year and this year.

James Jacquot replied last year was thirty three hundred, this year is twenty five hundred, and that's through November.

Michelle Walpole asked there were several adult animals pulled from animal services through Gateway this past week and there was some talk that as of January 1, 2018 being a three week hold then.

James Jacquot, replied we are going to have to do something because we are starting to get too much feedback from the public. We closed down for probably three out of four weeks so far in December not taking animals.

Michelle Walpole asked how is that conducive to the no kill plan.

James Jacquot replied well it isn't but we are still responsible to the citizens of the county to do our business. We just can't tell them we are not taking in any animals. The big thing is if you look at the statistics we have actually, we are down almost two hundred animals going to rescues at this point from last year. Mainly the Belleville Area Humane Society. They have taken in one hundred fifty five animals so far this year, and

last year at this time was two hundred forty four. Our three major rescues Partners for Pets they are down about eighteen percent, Gateway Pet Guardian is down eighteen percent, and the Humane Society is down thirty seven percent.

Shelly Korves, BAHS, replied we could not take cats the beginning of the year, because our cat house was under renovation.

James Jacquot replied that we have actually placed more cats for rescue this year than we have dogs.

Shoshana Mostoller, BAHS said we also had a change in staffing at the end of the year, so we couldn't take as many animals, but we have been taking more.

Steve Reeb asked why do you think those numbers are so different?

James Jacquot, replied I'm just saying the numbers, we are down a total of two hundred animals to rescues from last year. We would be at ninety percent if those two hundred animals would have left our facility.

Michelle Walpole, SCCAWA asked are there any plans to implement any of the components of no kill to use those components instead of killing animals.

James Jacquot replied as you can see we have made great strides in that, now we can get to ninety percent, we can't do it without the rescues, it's that simple. There is just no way, we have a facility that holds x number of animals, our adoptions are up at our facility. The only reason the numbers are down is we aren't taking animals in, we are starting to get a lot of feedback, how come I have this stray animal, and we can't even go out and chase them because we have nowhere to put them because all of our kennels are full.

Dawn Blackwell, SCCAWA asked whenever you say you are turning the public away are these people actually coming in with owner surrender situation, or a cat they found.

James Jacquot replied all of it. We are not chasing strays, people are calling they have a nuisance animal in their neighborhood, we don't go out, we tell them we don't have room for them, no place to put them.

Steve Reeb said the answer is getting more animals out into the public, somehow some way.

James Jacquot states that Ashley has been working hard with tons of rescues, we have actually done more with other rescues. We really depend on the Humane Society,

Gateway, and Partners for Pets, because they have been our biggest source for rescues. That is just what is going on, I don't know how you change that.

Dawn Blackwell, SCCAWA, I know one thing there are so many of the dogs that you have had for a longer time that you have a little more knowledge of their behavior, their traits, just their overall being, would there be such a thing implemented maybe like a foster program or something like that. For the old ones that have been there awhile.

James Jacquot replied yes, and honestly the majority of animals that we are holding for a long period of time are heartworm positive animals. We understand that it's hard for rescues to take on that expense, it's expensive, and the time element it takes at least three months treatment if you take one of those on, unless you have a foster. I have no problem with trying to start a foster program on a small basis in what we have been doing with the no kill plan that is in that. We will probably start off with trying at risk animals, young animals, unhealthy animals, that is in the plan.

Unidentified person asked where are you getting your fosters?

James Jacquot replied again we will have to advertise for that, I don't know how easy that is, obviously it isn't that easy or everybody out here would have more fosters. I don't think we will be overrun by people wanting to do it, but one is better than none.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA asked how far along are you in the no kill plan.

James Jacquot, replied we haven't had a chance to do any more than we did at the end of November. But we are about two thirds of the way through it.

Unidentified asked what is the main problem.

Steve Reeb replied, I would think not being able to get the dogs out to the rescues and then not being able to take in new animals.

James Jacquot replied for the most part the heartworm positive animals that cause a real set back. Honestly somewhere along the line we have to do something with that, and it is expensive and time consuming and I understand that rescues don't want to take that on, but again we can't hold them forever. There is going to be a time that we may have to euthanize for space. I don't know how we are going to get around it, I said that at the last meeting, it's not getting any better.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA said when you finish reviewing the no kill plan there are all kinds of out of the box solutions to help you with some of the problems that you are experiencing now. What we heard last week, these eleventh hour dogs and there were still empty kennels.

James Jacquot replied, and again we had to do that because we had people backed up, we had people waiting two weeks that had picked up a stray and had it contained in their backyard because we could not pick it up. We had a backlog of that.

Dawn Blackwell, SCCAWA said there could be opportunities to open the window and say hey would you be interested in doing some kind of fostering on a short term plan. If someone is willing to keep a dog in their backyard and care for it for two weeks they might be someone that might be somewhat of an animal person it might be an opportunity. Diamond in the rough.

Unidentified asked, can't you double up some animals?

James Jacquot replied probably ninety percent of our kennels are pit bulls. It is a real risk.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA replied two little Chihuahuas.

James Jacquot replied we got two Chihuahuas together, we just don't have that many small dogs, and we do it when we can, but it's not enough to change anything.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA said there are sheepdogs that came in I am assuming they came in from the same place because they are both from Fairmont City.

Steve Reeb asked is anything seasonal about this, with the rescues not taking on more.

James Jacquot replied I think they are having the problem all rescues are having, they end up with a lot of pit bulls and they are hard to adopt out. They are probably backed up the same way we are, that is pretty much what we are offering all of the time is pit bulls.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA asked when do you think, the review of the no kill plan will be finished, since the deadline is pending.

James Jacquot replied probably sometime after the first of the year we will get started on it again, we won't be doing anything until after the first of the year.

Mark Kern, Chairman, St. Clair County but the deadline isn't busted, we are going to be no kill as soon as we can, but what we found is that we have a situation that we didn't expect. We didn't expect the rescues to be taking a percentage less. So what we are going to have to do is try to figure out how to fill that gap. Whether that is because more dogs and cats are coming into the area because of the hurricanes or the weather this year, I imagine everybody is experiencing the same thing. We are learning together how to do this, how to become the first no kill county that is actually no kill. It doesn't do us any

good to have the ordinance and then just say we are no kill and not this committee and you want us to truly be no kill so whether we have stuff on paper or not it's important to have it documented but really we have to feel our way through this and get there together. As I said we didn't anticipate a drop off in their adoptions, hopefully that doesn't continue and were back up to the ninety percent.

James Jacquot replied, the fact due to our spay and neuters there are not as many puppies around, and that was a big resource for the rescues, they are easy to adopt out, we are not getting many puppies. Which is a good thing, but at the same time makes their job more difficult.

Robert Trentman asked what is the percentage of dogs that are not pit bulls of being rescued or finding a home that come through. Twenty out of one hundred that are not pit bulls what are their chances of finding a home?

James Jacquot replied I think the rescues are thrilled to death when they see something that is not a pit bull, they are anxious to get those.

Robert Trentman said as much as we want the no kill resolution to make it happen, seems the pit bull is a whole other animal, we will have to figure that out too.

Shelly Korvas, BAHS said I know you have put a ton of money in to your low cost spay and neuter thing. Is there any way possible to do some kind of zero or low price spay neuter for pit bulls, or pit mixes, to encourage people to get those fixed. I mean it doesn't matter if it's St. Clair County or any county pit bulls are over running every shelter. I go to shelters when I go out of town for vacation or whatever I always stop at any shelter I can. It's not just us it's every rescue every shelter everywhere you go.

James Jacquot replied we are going to do those, we could do something like that.

Shelly Korvas, BAHS replied some of the people that own them, honestly if it's not free they may or may not go to get it done.

James Jacquot replied and we will actually be doing less spay and neuters at our clinics this year because we are diverting the money that was used for that to the TNR program.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA said the communities do have other options. In fact some are cheaper, especially when Carol House does their twenty dollar, the last two or three months they did free pit bulls.

Steve Reeb said everybody is trying, it's just tough isn't it.

Dawn Blackwell, SCCAWA said it comes down to spay and neuter and not breeding, people want to breed all kinds of different breeds, and people really want to breed them for the look and such, that is where it comes down to is the breeders, and the whole community.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA said so after on January 1, 2018 you are going to start giving these animals there stray hold plus three.

James Jacquot replied that depends on our demand of animals that come in, we have had some of those heartworm positive animals for three and four months.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA said however you are willing to start perhaps doing a little foster opportunity out there for high risk.

James Jaquot replied we would love to find fosters for those heartworm positive animals, again though you are almost going to have find somebody that is going to subsidize the cost. If you are going to ask a foster to do that somebody needs to treat them.

Steve Gomric asked what is the cost per animal.

James Jacquot replied I think you can get it done for about three hundred dollars.

Michael O'Donnell replied that is what a three month period.

Shoshana Mostoller, BAHs replied the immiticide is going to be less than two hundred dollars, the they just need three or four weeks of doxycyline ahead of time which is an antibiotic, then they need some prednisone after. Really you could do it for three hundred dollars or less per animal as long as you have a vet who would give immiticide shots without charging much for them. We order our immiticide through our vet so we have been taking a lot of heartworm positive dogs, we take what we can. We really do not take them because they are heartworm positive almost every dog down there is heartworm positive, really.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA once the plan is fully reviewed we can all work together to come up with some of these solutions that will work with the benefit of the animal and staff and the community.

James Jacquot replied I think a lot of time and effort recently has been with the TNR situation.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA, are the feral cats coming in.

James Jacquot replied I think that since Belleville has passed their ordinance they haven't been trapping which has slowed down the feral cats coming into our facility.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA stated that does not make sense.

James Jacquot replied the city of Belleville stopped trapping cats, and the majority of all of our feral cats came from Belleville.

Steve Reeb replied it has come a long way, but I know it doesn't seem like it, but it has come a long way.

Unidentified replied it doesn't seem like it if they're going to go backwards and kill. I understand your reasoning but it seems like it's going backwards to me. Then just hold the animals for just three weeks, it just doesn't seem fair.

James Jacquot replied that we put that as a guide not a standard. We are going to try to keep doing it the way we are doing it. But at the same time we are going to try to actually take care of the citizens that are calling in and have problems with animals.

Steve Reeb replied that is a balancing act.

James Jacquot replied if that slows down then obviously we have more kennel space and we can hold them longer. If the rescues start moving more animals then their adoptions go up, you can't sit there and say it's going to be one way or another.

Shelia Ford, SCCAWA asked if Belleville is still the culprit with the majority of animals.

Ashley Jett stated that she thought Cahokia and East Saint Louis are always going to be our problem area.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Boch. Second by Mr. Gomric. Motion carried.

Kennel Statistics Report

Intakes from 12/01/17 to 12/31/17

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
CONFISCATE		0	1	0	0	1
	BITE	0	1	0	0	1
	CRUELTY	0	1	0	0	1
	EVICTON	0	1	0	0	1
	POLICE	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	0	5	0	0	5
EUTH REQ	OTC OWN	0	3	0	0	3
	TOTAL	0	3	0	0	3
OWNER SUR		2	9	3	1	15
	FIELD	0	2	0	0	2
	OTC	3	5	0	7	15
	TOTAL	5	16	3	8	32
RETURN		1	1	2	0	4
	TOTAL	1	1	2	0	4
STRAY		3	18	3	1	25
	FIELD	4	7	0	0	11
	OTC	20	36	3	0	59
	TOTAL	27	61	6	1	95
TOTAL		33	86	11	9	139

Kennel Statistics Report

Outcomes from 12/01/17 to 12/31/17

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
ADOPTION	WALKIN	7	15	8	3	33
	WEB	0	1	2	0	3
	TOTAL	7	16	10	3	36
DIED	IN KENNEL	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	0	1	0	0	1
EUTH	BEHAV HIST	0	1	0	0	1
	BEHAV OBSV	0	7	0	0	7
	FERAL	6	0	0	0	6
	MEDICAL	2	4	0	0	6
	TOTAL	8	12	0	0	20
MISSING	ENROUTE	1	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL	1	0	0	0	1
RTO	MICROCHIP	1	6	0	0	7
	PHONE	1	14	0	0	15
	WALKIN	0	3	0	0	3
	TOTAL	2	23	0	0	25
TRANSFER		34	34	20	7	95
	TOTAL	34	34	20	7	95
TOTAL		52	86	30	10	178

Kennel Statistics Report
Intakes from 12/01/17 to 12/31/17

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
CONFISCATE	BELLEVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
	CAHOKIA	0	2	0	0	2
	DUPO	0	1	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	0	5	0	0	5
EUTH REQ	BELLEVILLE	0	3	0	0	3
	TOTAL	0	3	0	0	3
OWNER SUR		2	2	3	1	8
	BELLEVILLE	2	2	0	0	4
	CAHOKIA	0	3	0	0	3
	CASEYVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
	DUPO	0	1	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	5	0	0	5
	FAIRVIEW H	0	1	0	7	8
	SWANSEA	1	1	0	0	2
	TOTAL	5	16	3	8	32
RETURN		1	1	2	0	4
	TOTAL	1	1	2	0	4
STRAY		0	9	3	1	13
	ALORTON	0	2	0	0	2
	BELLEVILLE	6	16	1	0	23
	CAHOKIA	5	11	0	0	16
	CASEYVILLE	1	3	0	0	4
	CENTREVIL	0	2	0	0	2
	COLLINSVIL	1	0	0	0	1
	DUPO	0	2	0	0	2
	EAST ST LO	3	7	0	0	10
	FAIRVIEW H	7	0	0	0	7
	LEBANON	1	1	0	0	2

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
STRAY	O FALLON	2	3	2	0	7
	SWANSEA	1	5	0	0	6
	TOTAL	27	61	6	1	95
TOTAL		33	86	11	9	139

Kennel Statistics Report

Outcomes from 12/01/17 to 12/31/17

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
ADOPTION		7	15	10	3	35
	SWANSEA	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	7	16	10	3	36
DIED	CENTREVIL	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	0	1	0	0	1
EUTH		0	1	0	0	1
	ALORTON	0	1	0	0	1
	BELLEVILLE	1	3	0	0	4
	CAHOKIA	2	0	0	0	2
	CASEYVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
	DUPO	0	1	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	2	0	0	2
	FAIRVIEW H	4	1	0	0	5
	LEBANON	1	0	0	0	1
	O FALLON	0	1	0	0	1
	SWANSEA	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	8	12	0	0	20
MISSING	CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL	1	0	0	0	1
RTO		0	1	0	0	1
	BELLEVILLE	0	14	0	0	14
	CAHOKIA	0	2	0	0	2
	CASEYVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	2	0	0	2
	FAIRMONT C	0	1	0	0	1
	LEBANON	0	1	0	0	1
	SWANSEA	2	1	0	0	3
	TOTAL	2	23	0	0	25

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
TRANSFER	BELLEVILLE	16	3	1	0	20
	CAHOKIA	2	13	0	0	15
	CASEYVILLE	0	2	0	0	2
	COLLINSVIL	1	0	0	0	1
	DUPO	1	1	7	0	9
	EAST ST LO	5	9	3	0	17
	FAIRMONT C	0	1	0	0	1
	FAIRVIEW H	1	0	0	7	8
	LEBANON	0	1	0	0	1
	LENZBURG	0	1	0	0	1
	MARISSA	0	0	7	0	7
	MASCOUTA	1	0	0	0	1
	O FALLON	5	3	2	0	10
	SHILOH	1	0	0	0	1
	SMITHTON	1	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL	34	34	20	7	95
TOTAL		52	86	30	10	178

Animals Left In Shelter on 12/31/17: 66