

**St. Clair County Animal Services
Minutes for Meeting
At the Courthouse – 6:00 P.M.
March 25, 2019**

Members Present:

Robert Trentman, Chairman
Steve Gomric, Asst. Chairman
Lonnie Mosley
Scott Greenwald

Members Absent:

Michael O'Donnell
Carol Clark
James Haywood

Others Present:

Cheri Weaver, Director, Animal Services
Herb Simmons, St. Clair County EMA
Robert Allen, St. Clair County Board Member
Steve Reeb, St. Clair County Board Member
Ashley Jett, St. Clair County Adoption Center
Richie Meile, St. Clair County Board Member
Susan Gruberman, St. Clair County Board Member
June Chartrand, St. Clair County Board Member
Matt Smallheer, St. Clair County Board Member

Call to Order

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

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

The roll was called and a quorum declared present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Gomric to approve the minutes of February 25, 2019.
Second by Mr. Mosley

Vote: Yes 4 No 0 Motion Carried.

Robert Trentman: Ok Cheri, What do you have?

Cheri Weaver replied: Each of you has some flyers. We're going to have our spring clinic, it's going to be pre-registration only and we'll start taking the registration on April 15th. The procedure is to still come to the office, complete the paperwork, have them fill out the microchip paperwork, they'll pay. We'll get the paperwork to Belleville Animal Clinic and they will contact them with the surgery date. They just have to show up and they will get the rabies vaccination, the registration and microchip and surgery all at once. Also, earlier this month, Herb Simmons from the emergency management system came down. We did a little segment for when the very cold weather hit. A segment where people who could not bring their animals inside, different tips and things to do to try to help get them through the cold weather. Also, for the month of February, the save rate was at 94% and also today I'd like to thank the advocates. They did bring us some of the beds so tomorrow we're going to put them together and see how it works.

Robert Trentman replied: Alright, cool, awesome. Anything else? Ok, I'm going to ask Ashley and then we'll go to public comment. Ashley, how's it going?

Ashley replied: It's good, we're good. We're really busy. We had a pretty good month last month with adoptions. Our rescue transfers are down tremendously but our adoptions are good. We still did about 25 adoptions last month and we've got 22 so far this month. Our long timer boy cats that we have that were adoption returns were adopted and went home today. They've been there for about four months so we were pretty excited about that.

Robert Trentman replied: Do you have a lot of cats or dogs?

Ashley Replied: We don't really have a lot of cats, honestly. After our adoptions go through, we're going to have one cat that is available and we really don't have anything on the other side of the building that we can bring over right now. We have a mama cat and some kittens that are not big enough yet. They're pretty close but not yet where we can make them available for adoption yet. Dogs, we're full, the adoption center kennels are full and the quarantine kennels are full.

Robert Trentman: Working hard, right?

Ashley replied: Yeah. We're getting lots of ferals coming through and trying to find places for those is getting harder and harder. Spring is going to bring upon kittens soon and we'll be full again, but as of right now, we're good.

Robert Trentman replied: You might have one more feral if I can catch it. It's running around in my barn. It's a white one. I see it darting around. I can't catch it. I'm not very fast, I can't catch it. Motion to accept Cheri and Ashley's report?

Motion by Mr. Gomric to accept Cheri and Ashley's reports:

Second by Mr. Greenwald

Vote: Yes 4 No 0 Motion Carried

Public Comment:

Robert Trentman replied: Ok we're going to do public comment and please try to keep it to about two minutes and direct your comments to the chair. Who's first?

Janet, GPG replied: Gateway Pet Guardians has some very exciting news. We closed on our building, the old Miles Davis school last Wednesday so we have a long process of just kind of renovating the space but we're hoping to really assist county and tackling the homeless pet population in our service area, which is East St. Louis, Alorton, Centreville, Cahokia, Washington Park service area. But we're very excited.

Robert Trentman replied: That's great news. Ok who else?

Sheila replied: First I'd like to say congratulations to AC, for the last couple of months meeting or exceeding the projected 90 percent save rate. That's huge. We worked a long time to get to this spot and it feels really good to get there. So it's been a long journey, but the road traveled thus far has not yet come to an end. We hope you realize that we're here to help and we'll continue to do all that we can to accomplish the tasks of helping our AC be a benchmark municipal shelter for others to emulate. Since the last meeting, we talked with Cheri about a foster program plan as outlined in the no kill plan and unbeknownst to us, there really kind of already sort of is one. So that was good news to us and it encompasses mostly the neonate kittens and bottle feeding puppies and maybe someday when and if the time comes that a more robust foster program would increase capacity, save more animals and serve to benefit the community..... We're willing and ready to assist in operating a sustainable program. As Cheri also mentioned, we dropped off five or seven kuranda beds today in which we are totally excited about. We're not sure, there were several in each box and some have only one so who knows? Thanks to the community for making that possible and for all donations from our community and if it works out we will continue to try to get more so that all 55 kennels will have kuranda beds in them and Cheri is going to pilot those beds, I think, primarily right now with the sick, injured, senior or pregnant dogs to see how they do. Maybe some of those will feel like they're a little rough and tumble and see if those beds hold up. I think they should.

They've already been used in the adoption center so far and I think they're holding up pretty well. So that's definitely a wonderful step in the right direction.

Cheri replied: They'll be in some time tomorrow.

Sheila replied: Something that we also talked with Cheri about, as a matter of fact, in the last couple days, we noticed an uptick in the wounds from the feeders. So I have asked Cheri about getting in touch with company which I did, but Julie let me know today that there is a plan in place to get an estimate to have the sharper edges of the feeders welded so they're more rounded so it prevents these wounds from happening. If that doesn't work out though, we're more than willing to fundraise to replace those bowls, which is 30-42 dollars apiece depending on retrofitting, they might need to be fitted to the door or total replacement of the doors might be required. Hopefully, at some point, if we go in that direction, I could get a picture of that to send to my contact at Mason Company but again, if the welding doesn't work, we're more than willing to replace those bowls for you, all 55 of them. Moving on, I'm trying to do this quickly for you Bob. Now that AC has nearly accomplished the goal of being a no kill facility statistically we can focus our efforts on programs that will elevate the perception of AC, to change the image of AC as stated in one of the outlined no kill plan goals. In turning our attention to life saving programs, AC will be able to achieve another stated goal: to become a model in the state with the highest save rate. These meeting could be a productive forum to brainstorm ideas and create a total community atmosphere of people dedicated to saving the lives of animals. Also, in the county no kill plan, this is a really easy one. One of the goals put forth is to keep a list of stray and lost animals up to date on the AC website which permits the viewing of all animals and can be accomplished with Chameleon software where every animal impounded at AC can be viewed at any time. Has there been any movement towards making all impounded dogs viewable, not just those on seven day hold and is there something we can expect to see in the future with this? And finally, the advocates have a rock and roll bingo, I put a flyer up there for you. Night on 10 May. It's the latest craze in the bi state region and we're going to be holding it at the VFW in O'fallon. We would like everyone here tonight to please try to attend to support our work as we support animal services in the community we all serve. Of course if anyone here would like to sponsor a round or provide a gift basket for the silent auction or a bottle of booze we will gladly accept that too. And there you have it. I guess our question for the night is regarding showing all of the animals that are currently in impound versus just the ones that are on seven day hold. It is in the no kill plan and it says that it interfaces with chameleon and pet harbor so that way, it's not just our facebook, but people can go on the website and see the animals that are in there. You never know, 3, 4 or 5 weeks later, somebody might say "Oh no, look, there's Spot."

Cheri replied: We'll have to get in touch with data processing because we have it set up that after seven days, they automatically come off. So I'll have to talk to them.

Shelia replied: That's all I have. I know that was enough, but that's all I got.

Robert Trentman replied: Ok, anybody else?

Julia replied: I wanted to bring something up, that is very simple. My understanding is that for a long time, the dogs in SCCAC are not allowed to have toys in their kennels, and I know there were various reasons, toys getting stuck down the grates in their kennels. That was causing problems. I totally understand that, but I've done a tremendous amount of research about the benefits of enrichment to these animals that are on the stray side especially. The goal is to get them all out alive, right? So we want them to be as adoptable as possible so as far as behaviors go toys can be a huge, huge tool to be used in these kennels. And I know that we've been offered donations of toys from different companies for them. So I wanted to know what we can do to be able to provide this for these animals like if the advocates were able to donate them obviously of no cost to the city or the shelter whatsoever, but basically my question is: is there a certain size or shape of toy that would be best for you, so that it doesn't fit down the drain or is there a specific thing that you would want to stay away from, like no rope toys or? Is this something, I feel like it could be a really easy fix.

Julie replied: Sometimes we use the big ones. The big balls and we put food in them for them. Those work really well, because they can't fit anywhere. Those are the ones we use. I think they're Kongs, the ones we have.

Julia replied: So basically the larger toys. So if we were to get donations from a company that are "yea big"?

Julie replied: Yes and easy to sanitize would be best.

Julia replied: Yes, Ok, obviously that's important.

Sheila replied: Did you say Kongs also?

Julie replied: The big Kong balls.

Sheila replied: So anything that's giant?

Julia replied: So let's say if its six inches in diameter, do you think that would be sufficient?

Julie replied: I think it depends on the dog. If it would fit under the grate that probably wouldn't work.

Julia replied: I can follow up outside of this meeting. I was informed that it was kind of a long standing policy and you've had problems in the past with the grates and I basically just wanted to know how we can work around that so that it's not a problem in the future

but these dogs are locked up all day long. I would want toys if I was in there. That would be great.

Julie replied: What was your name?

Julia replied: My name's Julia.

Robert Trentman replied: Awesome great. Anyone else? Ok Thanks.
How about open discussion from any other members of the board? I'd just like to say, I'd like to congratulate the rescues for over the winter. They went out with straw and dog houses. I went out one time with them and they really made a big effort to make sure dogs were warm and I really can't believe how hard they worked for the animals and I wanted to congratulate all the rescuers, the rescues and the volunteers. Ok.

Ashley replied: I do have one more thing. I just kind of feel, so AC became a no kill shelter right? So like a lot of rescues are using that towards their advantage to only take animals when they feel that it's a life threatening type thing. Like if we put out that these five animals have been at Animal control for 120 something days or 190 something days now we have animals who are literally sitting in kennels because they don't want to take them or they're getting bypassed for something that's more important or medically wise. I just, we have to figure out a way we can try to get some of these animals out of here faster. Animals sitting in kennels for four months at a time is not good for them. It's not good for their health or for any of us. We have two dogs that have been sitting there since November.

Shelia replied: Gwen got out thanks to Ashley.

Ashley replied: That's one. I mean, she was there the longest, but the next one has only been there 10 days less than her. It's a huge problem and our rescues aren't pulling as much as they were before. The humane society is probably the only one that is pulling consistently. They're pulling 20-30 animals every month, consistently.

Robert Trentman replied: So we just have to keep in mind, that rescue is a team effort. All the rescuers are all in this together, you know? So, Ashley's doing what she can and we rely on these rescues to help us move animals so. Right? That's basically what you're saying right?

Ashley replied: Yeah, I just feel like it's a lot of different components and I'll break it down more at the coalition meetings. I just wanted everybody else to be aware, too, that it is a problem and I understand that rescue numbers are down, adoptions are down everywhere. But there are animals that are sitting there that are great dogs.

Robert Trentman replied: So we have a dog that's, how many months has it been there? 3 or 4 months?

Ashley replied: We have two that have been there since November.

RobertTrentman replied.: Since November?

Sheila replied: Is it possible, when we were doing the fundraiser for Gwen, I don't know if you noticed, but there were questions about, and I knew the answer but maybe there can be brainstorming at some point, but, "Oh I would adopt that baby".

Ashley replied: I think those are just people talking "just because". Half of them are friends of mine and messages were sent in between that and it's not something that would work well in their home or something that I know that they can't physically handle.

RobertTrentman replied: I'm sure the rescues hear what you're asking for. So maybe we can help Ashley out. Everybody, just keep on working hard, you know?

Julia replied: Are the dogs, I'm sorry that I don't already know this, but Sheila had mentioned increasing visibility of the animals. So I know that the strays are posted however often, I know that I've seen them on facebook. Is there somewhere? Is there a running album that is open on facebook with all the animals that are on the stray side?

Ashley replied: Everything on the stray side of the building is just available for rescue pull only, so no public adoptions. But those animals are all posted on Stray Angels site. Sheila has pictures of all of them that she has taken pictures of. They're pretty much posted and listed in a lot of different places.

Robert Trentman replied: Alright, thank you all for coming. Motion to adjourn?

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

Kennel Statistics Report

Intakes from 03/01/19 to 03/31/19

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
CONFISCATE	ABANDON	0	1	0	11	12
	OWNER D	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	0	2	0	11	13
EUTH REQ	OTC OWN	4	8	0	0	12
	TOTAL	4	8	0	0	12
OWNER SUR	OTC	23	8	5	2	38
	TOTAL	23	8	5	2	38
RETURN	OTC	0	5	0	0	5
	TOTAL	0	5	0	0	5
STRAY	FIELD	0	23	0	6	29
	NIGHT	0	0	9	0	9
	OTC	40	48	19	0	107
	TOTAL	40	71	28	6	145
TOTAL		67	94	33	19	213

Kennel Statistics Report

Outcomes from 03/01/19 to 03/31/19

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
ADOPTION	REFERAL	1	3	0	0	4
	WALKIN	4	6	1	1	12
	WEB	4	1	0	3	8
	TOTAL	9	10	1	4	24
DIED	IN KENNEL	0	0	0	5	5
	TOTAL	0	0	0	5	5
EUTH	BEHAV HIST	0	1	0	0	1
	BEHAV OBSV	0	3	0	0	3
	MEDICAL	10	7	0	0	17
	TOTAL	10	11	0	0	21
RELOCATE		8	13	6	2	29
	TOTAL	8	13	6	2	29
RTO	MICROCHIP	4	8	0	0	12
	PHONE	1	7	0	0	8
	WALKIN	0	8	0	0	8
	WEB	0	3	0	0	3
	TOTAL	5	26	0	0	31
TRANSFER		41	32	15	6	94
	TOTAL	41	32	15	6	94
TOTAL		73	92	22	17	204

Kennel Statistics Report

Intakes from 03/01/19 to 03/31/19

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
CONFISCATE	ALORTON	0	1	0	11	12
	WASHINGTON	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	0	2	0	11	13
EUTH REQ	BELLEVILLE	1	2	0	0	3
	CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	1	0	0	1
	FAIRVIEW H	0	2	0	0	2
	LEBANON	1	0	0	0	1
	MASCOUTA	0	1	0	0	1
	O FALLON	1	2	0	0	3
	TOTAL	4	8	0	0	12
OWNER SUR	BELLEVILLE	5	6	0	0	11
	CAHOKIA	3	2	0	0	5
	CASEYVILLE	3	0	5	0	8
	DUPO	2	0	0	0	2
	MASCOUTA	0	0	0	2	2
	NEW ATHEN	6	0	0	0	6
	O FALLON	1	0	0	0	1
	SHILOH	1	0	0	0	1
	SMITHTON	1	0	0	0	1
	SWANSEA	1	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL	23	8	5	2	38
RETURN		0	2	0	0	2
	BELLEVILLE	0	3	0	0	3
	TOTAL	0	5	0	0	5
STRAY	BELLEVILLE	18	21	9	0	48
	CAHOKIA	4	9	0	2	15
	CASEYVILLE	2	6	0	0	8
	CENTREVIL	0	1	0	0	1

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
STRAY	COLLINSVIL	1	1	0	0	2
	COLUMBIA	0	1	0	0	1
	DUPO	0	2	0	0	2
	EAST ST LO	0	12	0	2	14
	FAIRMONT C	0	1	0	0	1
	FAIRVIEW H	4	3	3	0	10
	FREEBURG	3	2	4	0	9
	LENZBURG	0	2	0	0	2
	NEW ATHEN	0	2	0	0	2
	O FALLON	6	3	0	0	9
	SHILOH	0	0	0	2	2
	SWANSEA	2	0	12	0	14
	WASHINGTON	0	5	0	0	5
	TOTAL	40	71	28	6	145
TOTAL		67	94	33	19	213

Kennel Statistics Report
Outcomes from 03/01/19 to 03/31/19

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
ADOPTION		2	1	0	0	3
	BELLEVILLE	2	6	0	0	8
	CAHOKIA	0	1	0	0	1
	CASEYVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
	COLLINSVIL	1	0	0	0	1
	DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	0	0	1	1
	FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
	MASCOUTA	0	0	0	1	1
	MILLSTADT	0	0	1	0	1
	NEW ATHEN	2	0	0	0	2
	O FALLON	0	0	0	2	2
	WASHINGTON	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	9	10	1	4	24
DIED	ALORTON	0	0	0	5	5
	TOTAL	0	0	0	5	5
EUTH	BELLEVILLE	4	4	0	0	8
	CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	2	0	0	2
	FAIRVIEW H	0	2	0	0	2
	LEBANON	1	0	0	0	1
	MASCOUTA	0	1	0	0	1
	O FALLON	4	2	0	0	6
	TOTAL	10	11	0	0	21
RELOCATE		0	1	0	0	1
	BELLEVILLE	3	4	6	0	13
	CAHOKIA	0	1	0	0	1
	CASEYVILLE	0	3	0	0	3

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
RELOCATE	DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	1	0	1	2
	FREEBURG	2	0	0	0	2
	MASCOUTA	0	0	0	1	1
	NEW ATHEN	2	0	0	0	2
	O FALLON	0	1	0	0	1
	WASHINGTON	0	2	0	0	2
	TOTAL	8	13	6	2	29
RTO	BELLEVILLE	3	9	0	0	12
	CAHOKIA	1	5	0	0	6
	CASEYVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
	COLUMBIA	0	1	0	0	1
	DUPO	0	1	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	3	0	0	3
	FAIRVIEW H	0	2	0	0	2
	LENZBURG	0	2	0	0	2
	NEW ATHEN	0	1	0	0	1
	O FALLON	1	1	0	0	2
	TOTAL	5	26	0	0	31
TRANSFER	ALORTON	0	1	0	6	7
	BELLEVILLE	15	11	6	0	32
	CAHOKIA	5	10	0	0	15
	CASEYVILLE	4	3	5	0	12
	COLLINSVIL	1	0	0	0	1
	DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	5	0	0	5
	FAIRVIEW H	2	1	0	0	3
	FREEBURG	1	0	4	0	5
	MASCOUTA	1	0	0	0	1
	NEW ATHEN	2	0	0	0	2
	O FALLON	6	1	0	0	7
	SHILOH	2	0	0	0	2
	SMITHTON	1	0	0	0	1

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
TRANSFER	TOTAL	41	32	15	6	94
TOTAL		73	92	22	17	204

Animals Left In Shelter on 03/31/19: 105