

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.

April 28th, 2025

Members Present:

Robert Trentman, Chairman
Scott Greenwald, Asst. Chairman
Mike O'Donnell
Lonnie Mosley
G.W. Scott, Jr.
Robert Wilhelm
Harry Hollingsworth

Others Present:

Annie Markevich, Zoning Director
Ann Barnum, Human Resources Director
Herb Simmons, EMA
Robert Allen, County Board member
Lexi Cortez, Belleville News Democrat
Matt Smallheer, County Board member
Phil Henning, County Board member
Marty Crawford, County Board member
Debra Moore, County Administrator
Dawn Blackwell, Animal Services

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

Roll call and a quorum declared present.

Public Comment:

Mr. Trentman: Public comment. Please keep your questions or comments directed to this chair. Does anybody have anything?

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Mosley to approve the minutes of March 31st, 2025 meeting. Second by Mr. Willhelm.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

Mr. Trentman: Reports from Ashley, our AC Director.

Ashley: The month of March was pretty good for us. We had 20 adoptions last month and we're pushing right along for April with about the same. We were able to help with a couple more owner surrenders, more than normal. We did 20 adoptions, we moved 12 into the adoption center, and had 12 transferred out to other rescue organizations, majority of them went to Belleville Area Humane Society. They were mostly on the, actually all of them were dogs. We haven't had very many cats this month. Today, the Humane Society came and took 5 cats, and they are going to be down on Friday to take the rest of what we have which is 5 more and then they are also going to give me a list of the dogs that they're going to take too. We've had a lot of little dogs coming in lately too, which is good and bad because they've all needed grooming, so we've had to make arrangements for that, but it's easier adoptions for us.

Our live release rate this last month was 84%. We had a lot of shelter euthanasias due to aggression, and that's becoming more common so we're really struggling to keep that 90% rate. We are thinking of our community over our numbers, and I honestly think that's the best thing that we can honestly do. Just try and be more proactive in keeping the community safer than putting dangerous or unadoptable dogs out into the community. Just a little bit of things that we've been doing. We've had 2 scares with water flooding in the month of April. We did a precautionary evacuation at the beginning of April with all of the weather that we thought was going to be coming in. Which we didn't get which is good for us, but we also got almost every single animal out of the shelter besides 7. Which is also good for us because that cleared our shelters, and we started over again at the beginning of the month. Last, well Easter weekend when we had that next big rainfall, it was more scary than the first one, which we had 50+ animals back in the shelter at that point. That would've been pretty hard to get everybody out, but we did. Our community stepped up for us. We had a lot of people who ended up fostering and we had a lot of people who ended up foster failing. So that was good.

A couple other things I've done, I just went to a seminar last Thursday at Purina. It was with Red Rover, the Purple Heart Project through Purina, and also Greater Goods charities and it was all about the human services and animal services portion of domestic violence and sheltering. So how human service departments can correlate with animal services departments to be able to

get care for animals because of the numbers of people who don't leave domestic violence situations because they have pets at home. So that's pretty interesting to listen to. Then later that evening, I went to a seminar at the Ogles subdivision neighborhood watch meeting and just talked about our facility, what we do, our new building and all of those kinds of good things, so that was nice. We also have a PSOP meeting that we are going to speak at in May. The only other thing I have is the Bissell event. We are doing a discounted Bissell Empty the Shelters event again this month. It is from May 1st through May 15th, and its discounted adoption rates for dogs and cats, \$50 per animal and they are fixed and ready to go. I don't really have anything more, I don't think. New building progress. It's there, you can physically see it now, it's above ground and we are very excited. I do know Ameren did run power to the pole barn so we will have lights and things like that, so it's probably 85% done for the pole barn. It's useable if we need it.

Mr. Trentman: So, I got a little story to tell about Ashley, our great director.

Ashley: Oh gosh...

Mr. Trentman: So last big rain storm that was rolling in, I thought, I was getting nervous about the creek. Its one of the township streets, so I thought I'll drive over there and look, so its banked full and I looked inside there, there's a light on in her office, 8:30 at night. I call her up, I go what are you doing, and she goes I'm watching the water, I said get on home, you got kids, I'll sit up here. So, I sit up here until about 11:00, whenever I called you and by then the water was starting to move through so. But she's great were lucky to have her and Dawn.

Dawn: We've been through this together 3 times now and I think that the past 2 times like I've been involved with both previous situations as well and this time we knew exactly what we needed to be proactive to take the steps we need because we have other people that have also offered their facility for a larger capacity if we need to, which is in Trenton but still if we find out exactly what she need or what everybody needs, bordetella, distemper, what all they require so we have capabilities if we get a 911 and rescues don't have the space at the moment.

Ashley: We also just had a whole lot of rescues step up and take animals just to hold them, so we had like these animals are here, these animals are there, etc. I had a spreadsheet of everything, everything was set up on my desk, I knew exactly where everything was, and who was where. They ended up just keeping the majority of them, we sent 3 dogs to Helping Strays, and they ended up keeping 2 of the 3, and 1 of them was adopted within an hour. So, it really worked out. Tucker got adopted through his foster and we found out a whole lot of things about different animals. Elmer is still in his long-term foster, so it was nice. So again, I cannot say enough about our community, when we need them, they step up for us. We never want to ask too much of them, but when we need them, they're there and we at least have a plan of "okay, well we had All Paws Inn who took a dog for us and kept it for 4 days. We have Enchanted Tails in Trenton who were willing to take, they had 28 kennels open that they would've taken dogs for us. GPG took a lot of dogs from us. We were even transferring dogs out of our adoption center, that were fully vetted and ready to go. They had a slumber party that weekend, it was a 24-hour slumber party, a nationwide event and they were featuring some of the dogs that were just transferred down there. It was great. We got to- just makes you feel good about the community that you're living in.

Dawn: And kind of what she was saying earlier you know you can't always control what inventory comes in the door, you can't control- like 90% is ideal, yes, but at the same time if something isn't safe you wouldn't want it to be your neighbor. When you're walking a dog, you don't want something to happen because anything can happen. And you can't always control on kitten season and they've maybe been away from their mom too long, and so I think with having those meetings that we do each week with the dogs and discuss inventory. If someone's really stressed out, what can we do differently, is it something this or is this animal not safe for the community. I think that really helped out when we got in our situation, 911 and with the water and such. It really helps because then those people are willing to take on those animals and then later on, they're like well just house them temporarily and then they're like well we'll keep them.

Ashley: They're really great. We really liked them. We have a good team, we're figuring things out. It's working well for us.

Mr. Trentman: We have the hazardous waste Saturday, so if we have some flyers when they come through, we can pass them out. A lot of them will be St. Clair County residents, you know what I mean.

Ashley: I can post it.

Mr. Trentman: If we get a bunch, print it up. If you can get them down there somehow, when they drop their stuff off, me or someone can pass them around when people come through.

Ashley: I can make a flyer that shows what we have and what our process is.

Mr. Trentman: Good deal.

Ashley: We have another vaccine clinic coming up next week. I'm going to post it tomorrow, it's on May 7th, it's Wednesday, so another discounted vaccine clinic.

Dawn: And the community really loves it.

Ashley: Very much.

Dawn: And I know the veterinarians appreciate it too because they can see more of their patients that are more of a 911. Since they are just routine vaccines.

Mr. Trentman: I'm going to talk to Shelly about the cat.

Ashley: Works for me.

MOTION: by Mr. Scott to approve Ashley's report. Second by Mr. Greenwald.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: No orders or resolutions. Does anybody have anything else to come before this board?

Mr. Greenwald: I showed you, Bob, the pictures of the dog houses, so we will have 4 more dog houses in about 3 weeks to use at your disposal.

Ashley: Awesome. Thank you!

Mr. Trentman: Hanks Excavating donated the material and Belleville West 6th hour woodshop class is doing it.

Ashley: Very nice. Thank you

Mr. Trentman: So, when they are ready, get ahold of me and Ill get ahold of Hanks. Well take them down to them.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Wilhelm. Second by Mr. Greenwald.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Intakes from 4/1/2025 to 4/30/2025

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	51	5	12	12	80
BORN	0	1	0	0	1
BELLEVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
CONFISCATE	8	0	0	0	8
CAHOKIA	5	0	0	0	5
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
SWANSEA	1	0	0	0	1
EUTH REQ	8	0	1	0	9
BELLEVILLE	4	0	1	0	5
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
OWNER SUR	4	1	0	4	9
BELLEVILLE	1	1	0	0	2
CAHOKIA	2	0	0	0	2
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	4	4
STRAY	25	1	9	6	41
BELLEVILLE	17	1	5	5	28
CAHOKIA	2	0	0	0	2
CASEYVILLE	0	0	3	0	3
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
MARISSA	3	0	0	0	3
O FALLON	0	0	0	1	1
SAUGET	1	0	0	0	1
SHILOH	0	0	1	0	1
WASHINGTON PARK	1	0	0	0	1
TRANSFER	6	2	2	2	12
BELLEVILLE	2	2	2	0	6

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
CAHOKIA	3	0	0	0	3
MARISSA	1	0	0	2	3



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Outcomes from 4/1/2025 to 4/30/2025

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
GRAND TOTAL	55	12	20	8	95
ADOPTION	4	11	0	1	16
(no jurisdiction)	1	0	0	0	1
BELLEVILLE	0	6	0	0	6
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
E CARONDELET	0	5	0	0	5
MARISSA	1	0	0	1	2
O FALLON	1	0	0	0	1
EUTH	5	0	0	0	5
BELLEVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
CAHOKIA	3	0	0	0	3
O/R EUTH	8	0	1	0	9
BELLEVILLE	4	0	1	0	5
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
RELOCATE	7	1	2	2	12
BELLEVILLE	3	1	2	0	6
CAHOKIA	3	0	0	0	3
MARISSA	1	0	0	2	3
RTO	5	0	0	0	5
BELLEVILLE	5	0	0	0	5
TRAN IN ST	26	0	17	5	48
BELLEVILLE	9	0	10	2	21
CAHOKIA	3	0	0	0	3
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
CENTREVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
EAST ST LOUIS	6	0	0	0	6
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	0	0	5	0	5

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
LENZBURG	1	0	0	0	1
MARISSA	0	0	1	0	1
MASCOUTAH	0	0	1	0	1
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	2	2
O FALLON	0	0	0	1	1
SAUGET	1	0	0	0	1
SWANSEA	1	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON PARK	2	0	0	0	2

Animals Left In Shelter
on 04/30/25

DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
37	7	10	7	61