

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.

July 21st, 2025

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Mark Kern, Chairman
John Coers, County Board Member
Robert Allen, County Board member
Phil Henning, County Board member
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.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Mosley to approve the minutes of June 30th, 2025, meeting. Second by Mr. Greenwald.

Vote: Yes: 7

No: 0

Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Mr. Trentman: Public comment. Please keep your comments or questions to about 2 minutes and if you have anything direct them towards this chair.

Ashley Report

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

Ashley: So, we did 81% live release rate this month, the month of June. We had quite a few behavioral cases that we dealt with and a couple of medical cases. So, of the animals that were brought in, 10 of them were behavioral euthanasias and 4 of them were medical euthanasias. We are really struggling to keep our 90% live release rate just because it seems like we are intaking a lot more aggressive animals than we were before, and it just doesn't seem to be weighing out the numbers. So that's the struggle for us. We're going to keep continuing to do what we're doing because we are obviously making the best choice for what we feel is safe for the community and that's just how we're going to have to look at it unfortunately and how we're going to sit with that decision. We did quite a few adoptions, 16 adoptions, and then we were able to move 32 animals into the adoption center last month, so that was huge for us. 32 animals getting moved into the adoption center is a lot of animals, so it's coming in spurts. It feels like we're having a lot of adoptions one week and then the next week we're not having that many because we're still getting animals prepped for surgery and then making them available for adoption and it's either super-fast or not a whole lot going on.

Of the animals that left the facility last month, we had 24 of them that transferred out to different rescue organizations. Humane Society ended up taking 22 of those 24 animals: 6 kittens, 8 adult cats and 8 adult dogs. GPG ended up taking 2 adult dogs and we did have a rescue that took 1 dog and eventually brought it back, actually the same day for some behavioral issues. Which we chatted about. We just had a pretty busy last couple of weeks, we did 15 adoptions through our Empty the Shelters event this month so not for June, but for July. So, the last 10 days we've did 15 adoptions, which is pretty good for us, we've been busy. Also, for the month of July, we did 25 free microchips for the 4th of July. So, we offered free microchips for anyone that wanted to come in. Then between the afternoon of the 2nd and the whole day of the 3rd we did 25 microchips, which is quite a few. We have a vaccine clinic coming up on the 23rd, which is this Wednesday. I do have a couple of spots available, so I wanted to make sure that you guys were aware in case you might have anybody that might be looking, you could pass the word along. We'll take appointments through tomorrow. We still have to get paperwork ready for first thing on Wednesday morning. Just some upcoming things that are happening, we have the Girl Scouts coming on the 1st, so not this Friday but the following week Friday, and they are going to be here for a couple of hours with some donation things, make some toys, treats and things like that to donate. We are going to do a Q&A, meet and greet type things with them, just do community education so they can have something to fulfill their day. In part with the Girl Scouts coming, on a separate end of that we actually have our picture volunteer, her daughter has to do a project to get a badge, so her and her friend are going to build us a self-serve microchip scanning stations. So, we're going to have an after-hour

microchip scanning station located at the shelter, and then they are going to pick another location, probably in O'Fallon to have, because they are based out of O'Fallon, they have a lot of connects with the O'Fallon Police Department, so that'll be good and something we can take to the new facility with us as well. And then they are going to purchase the microchip scanners themselves which are about \$300 a piece, so it'll be a good thing for them. The only other thing that I have is that we've been contacted by one of the veterinarians who was with Helping Strays, and I don't know if you guys knew Helping Strays and Gateway Pet Guardians were providing a low-cost heartworm treatment service for us. Treating an animal for heartworms can range anywhere from \$800-\$2,000, which is just not feasible for a shelter to do. And the amount of animals that we have coming into the shelter with heartworms is on the higher end. So, Dr. Koss is willing to help out with those. We are going to pay for the cost of the medicine, and she is going to come up with a fair charge for every visit that she has, which I will probably come up with some sort of contract to bring for you guys to review, and then go from there. But she will be able to come to the shelter, provide those services and then we will have an option to be able to do this for close to the \$400 range. Which we will probably end up trying to fundraise for. So that is all the I really have. Building is going, it's moving in the right direction. I was just at the architect's office, and we picked out all the interior finishes so floors, countertops, casework, all of those things we got all picked out today. So that was fun, they poured concrete, so we have floors. I think we might've had an issue with the concrete, but I think it is resolved now. Just moving along, they have the radiant floors mapped out and everything was good with that, and they were able to pour the last final concrete level in the kennel area.

Mr. Trentman: Cool, awesome. Anybody got anything for Ashley, and questions? Dawn, what do you have?

Dawn: Chiming into what she said, we've had a busy couple of weeks. Empty the Shelter definitely is awesome. We had some- I went around to a couple of business that I like to patron from time to time; Corner Chill and Grill, they allowed us to put a flyer up in their bathrooms. Then, I'm friends with Mike and Maria that own Shoehorn Brewery on Main Street, I messaged her and asked her if we could do that and she actually put it on their TV's in there, so that was another way of getting our face out there, you know. That went well. We went to the fairgrounds this past weekend, that went well. We had a line to see Peter, you'll see next month all of the other adoptions in there. There's like- it's the Fleetwood Mac band, and I was like wait a minute please we have to do that, and Peter Green is the last one waiting for a home. So, he went with us, and everybody really loved him and he did great. That's going pretty good. I think it's getting us out there, I took a laptop this time, you know just different things to see what kind of works and stuff. Penny loves it.

Ashley: Also, going to say to that Dawn and Claire and Hannah, the adoption center staff, go to lunch every Tuesday, they go to get tacos at the Corner Chill and Grill, and they take a dog with them every single week. So it's a different dog that they feature and then we just post pictures of them, but the Chill and Grill has been great with letting us bring a dog and there's- I know a couple other people that have been interested now since they've been seeing those posts to try and find another pet friendly patio of some sort to take a dog to lunch or however it can be. It's worked out well.

Dawn: You had a friend of yours coming in a lot.

Ashley: Yeah, she comes in at least 3 times a week and takes one of the long-time stray dogs that are on the animal services side. She'll take them to Bicentennial Park walk with them for an hour, get me 5-10-15 videos/pictures and we then we post those ones online too.

Dawn: And that's been going really good.

Ashley: Yeah.

Dawn: And they love it. It gives us a little more information because-

Ashley: Like how they ride in a car, how are they on a leash, how are they around other people, how are they on a walking trail- do they try to jump into a lake, or do they hangout on the trail or do they go to the grass, or however it is. But we've had pretty good success with that. We had one of our long timers that was adopted, and he actually went home today through one of those posts.

Mr. Trentman: What's your favorite entre on the menu?

Ashley: Yeah.

Dawn: Right, then you kind of know a little bit about like how does this dog do with- on a patio setting, is it going to be trying to get your food or are they just going to chill out and everyone that they've taken is definitely good. It's like what she said, it's like- you can't control the inventory that comes through the door in the dogs, you know. You can't really control that, we get some wonderful ones that come through the door and then we get some ones you can't decode it, can't be your neighbor either, it cant be there. You know so with having the inventory of animals that we've had, we've been able to do a lot of outings and do a lot of these things, it's been really good. And the energy in the kennels has been really good energy because they all feed off of each other and then kind of contacts.

Mr. Trentman: Awesome.

Ashley: I got one more thing, we have a fundraiser going on right now for St. Clair County Welfare Advocates to help with money for being able to reimburse our vaccine clinic and get more vaccines in general, and flea prevention. It's through Krispy Kreme, like who doesn't love doughnuts, and you buy a dozen donuts, you get a digital like certificate for redemption, and 55% of the proceeds actually come to us. So, if you buy a dozen doughnuts for \$17.50, we actually get \$10 of every dozen that's bought. It's a pretty good one, 55% comeback is good, most of them only do about 20%, but Krispy Kreme does 55%. It's on our Facebook page, I know I've shared it a couple of times too. We have a little friendly game going on in the office, a little competition between us to see who can sell the most amount of dozens of doughnuts. So, if you guys are interested or know anybody looking to support the shelter.

Chairman Kern: Do you download the... or just go and buy dozens of doughnuts and then they give you this... ?

Ashley: So, you go online, you pay for the dozen doughnuts online and then they send you the redemption certificate, you can take it to any Krispy Kreme and then they hand you a dozen

doughnuts that are already paid for. And it actually works because I did have a friend actually go and get them. Then Michelle, our volunteer, her husband, she's bought like 5 dozen doughnuts so far, her husband took 3 dozen to work and so it actually does- you just walk right in, hand them the redemption code, the only thing is with- that I've seen is that you can't redeem your code unless you are right there in front of them. So, the email that they send you, it says, "click here" and it says, "are you currently at Krispy Kreme", if you're not you just click no, because if you click yes, you're going to lose your doughnuts. But, yeah, it's worth it, I've had a friend from Collinsville use the Collinsville location and then the Fairview location the last time. It's on my profile and also on the St. Clair County Animal Services page too, but it's just since Sheila moved to Belize she's not very active in being able to raise money to reimburse for our vaccines.

Chairman Kern: She lives in Belize.

Dawn: Yes.

Ashley: Her and her husband retired and bought a house in Belize. They are back and forth, and in TX a lot but she is not here to actively promote the advocates page, so

Dawn: I've been trying to help them out.

Ashley: She's building a guest house, so we can all go visit.

Mr. Trentman: Make a note that Herb Simmons is here also.

Ashley: Yes. I've got him noted.

Mr. Trentman: Well, if that's it, I need a motion to approve Ashley and Dawns report.

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

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Greenwald. Second by Mr. O'Donnell.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Intakes from 7/1/2025 to 7/31/2025

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	54	12	16	51	133
BORN	0	0	0	10	10
BELLEVILLE	0	0	0	5	5
FREEBURG	0	0	0	5	5
CONFISCATE	5	1	1	0	7
CAHOKIA	4	0	0	0	4
DUPO	0	0	1	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	0	1	0	0	1
O FALLON	1	0	0	0	1
EUTH REQ	7	0	1	0	8
BELLEVILLE	3	0	0	0	3
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	0	0	1	0	1
SWANSEA	1	0	0	0	1
OWNER SUR	6	1	1	0	8
BELLEVILLE	2	0	1	0	3
CAHOKIA	1	1	0	0	2
COLLINSVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
STRAY	30	1	13	34	78
BELLEVILLE	8	1	8	19	36
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	4	0	1	1	6
CENTREVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
E CARONDELET	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	9	0	0	0	9

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
FAYETTEVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
FREEBURG	0	0	2	0	2
LEBANON	0	0	1	6	7
MASCOUTAH	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	2	0	1	7	10
SCOTT AFB	0	0	0	1	1
WASHINGTON PARK	1	0	0	0	1
TRANSFER	6	9	0	7	22
BELLEVILLE	4	7	0	3	14
CAHOKIA	0	1	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	0	1	0	0	1
MARISSA	1	0	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	3	3
SCOTT AFB	0	0	0	1	1



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Outcomes from 7/1/2025 to 7/31/2025

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
GRAND TOTAL	40	14	12	61	127
ADOPTION	6	5	0	10	21
BELLEVILLE	3	0	0	3	6
CASEYVILLE	0	0	0	3	3
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
MARISSA	1	0	0	0	1
MASCOUTAH	0	0	0	4	4
NEW ATHENS	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	0	5	0	0	5
DIED	0	0	0	1	1
MASCOUTAH	0	0	0	1	1
O/R EUTH	7	0	1	0	8
BELLEVILLE	3	0	0	0	3
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	0	0	1	0	1
SWANSEA	1	0	0	0	1
RELOCATE	5	8	0	7	20
BELLEVILLE	3	7	0	3	13
CAHOKIA	0	1	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
MARISSA	1	0	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	3	3
SCOTT AFB	0	0	0	1	1
RTO	9	0	1	2	12
BELLEVILLE	3	0	0	2	5
CASEYVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
DUPO	1	0	1	0	2

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
E CARONDELET	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
TRAN IN ST	13	0	10	41	64
BELLEVILLE	5	0	7	19	31
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	1	2
COLLINSVILLE	0	0	0	4	4
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
FAYETTEVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
FREEBURG	1	0	1	5	7
LEBANON	0	0	1	6	7
O FALLON	1	0	1	6	8
SHILOH	1	0	0	0	1
TRANSFER	0	1	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	0	1	0	0	1

Animals Left In Shelter
on 07/31/25

DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
53	8	11	21	93