

**St. Clair County Animal Services**

**Minutes for Meeting**

**Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

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**Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Mark Kern, County Board Chairman  
Ann Barnum, Human Resources Director  
Robert Allen, County Board member  
Lexi Cortez, Belleville News Democrat  
John Coers, County Board member  
Matt Smallheer, County Board member  
Phil Henning, County Board member  
Eddie Johnson, Animal Services Warden

**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 to about 2 minutes and direct them towards this chair. Does anybody have anything to say? Not hearing none.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION: by Mr. Wilhelm to approve the minutes of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting. Second by Mr. Greenwald.**

**Vote:   Yes: 6                   No: 0                   Motion Carried.**

**Ashley Report**

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

Ashley: For the month of February, we're picking up on our intakes a little bit. We had 83 animals brought in. More aggressive animals or questionable animals than normal. This is the first time in a very long time that we have not been above 90% live release rate, only because the majority of animals that we have brought in were not on the adoptable side, so we had to make that tough choice for them. We did move 23 animals into our adoption center. We did 12 adoptions in the month of February as well. We were able to help with 21 owner surrendered pets. We also had 7 puppies born to one of our dogs that have been a long-time resident there at the shelter. Adoption centers picking up, this month alone we did our 20<sup>th</sup> adoption as of today for the month of March, so we've been pretty busy. As far as any sort of event that we have going on, we will be at the Fairgrounds in the month of April, on the 19<sup>th</sup> for a couple of hours. We're going to bring a couple pets out there, we also have a Bissell Empty the Shelter event that is going to be happening at the beginning of May, which we just applied for today. That's pretty much it. We don't have a whole lot.

Mr. Trentman: Are you all staffed good? Do you have plenty of staff?

Ashley: Yea.

Mr. Trentman: How about our volunteers, still coming through?

Ashley: We could use more volunteers. We've had a ton of volunteers who have been signing up lately, but nobody who's actually really come back to actually volunteer. They've signed up and done the waiver and done all those kinds of things and been approved but just nobody who has come back in for their actual training.

Mr. Trentman: How old do they have to be to volunteer?

Ashley: 18.

Mr. Trentman: 18?

Ashley: Yeah, and I mean we do allow kids as long as they're not- we don't allow them to go into the kennels and remove the animals, nor do we allow them to walk them, but they can socialize them and mostly kittens, things like that, puppies are more what they chose to kind of intermingle with. But we always have to have a parent or a guardian or someone with them over the age of 18.

Mr. Trentman: Have you been out to the new AC?

Ashley: I have. We've been having bi-monthly meetings out there, so every other Monday. When we were there last Monday, they had about 65% of all the footings done and they were just a little on the slow side because of the water retention inside of the areas that they needed to fill because they had to pump the water out. So, they were hoping to finish that last week. I'm not sure if they did just because of the weather but it should be done soon, and then they were going to move on to their next phase. Then, the pole barn, they said earlier was 90% done, but I think it's more close to the 75%. They have to do the internal walls, like the outside interior of the walls, and then we did a walkthrough of that Monday as well, just to make sure all of the electric and the lighting, and things of that nature were in the right spots. Kind of did a layout of where we want things and how it will function from there. Looks good though, they're moving. They officially got started at the beginning of March, which is a couple of months behind schedule due to weather but they only prolonged our grand opening by about a month. They are hoping to be done in the July of 2026 timeframe still. Hopefully that stays, they are going to try to make-up obviously as much during the Summer.

Mr. Trentman: Who's been pulling animals? What rescue?

Ashley: Humane Society has pulled a few. Gateway Pet Guardians has pulled a couple. We had- I didn't say that part of it, but we did 7 animals were transferred out of the facility of the month of February. So, I think 2 of those went to GPG, 5 of them went to Humane Society.

Mr. Trentman: 7 animals or 7 dogs?

Ashley: 7 animals total. 3 dogs, 1 puppy and 3 cats.

Mr. Trentman: So, we definitely need to move more animals out.

Ashley: Yes.

Mr. Trentman: So, if anybody needs a pet... We got plenty of them down there, right Ashley?

Ashley: Yeah. We've started working with Helping Strays of Monroe County, they've been doing some spay/neuters for us, so they're helping to do some of the larger animals that we have on the stray side that we don't technically have room for in our Adoption Center, but they are extremely adoptable. We've been getting them fixed and then it doesn't matter if they leave from our facility via adoption or if they get transferred out to a rescue at least they are already ready to go. They are fully vetted, spayed/neutered, rabies vaccinated, and they can just be transferred and get adopted from there. That's been working out for us pretty well. We had 2 dogs that were adopted to the same family last week that were on our stray side that were long term residents, but we're trying to come up with different options so that length of stay is not an issue.

Mr. Trentman: What's going on down at the Fairgrounds, you said you're going down there on the 19<sup>th</sup>?

Ashley: Yeah, we just go down on the flea market days, and then they set up a little spot for us and we can hangout with some animals and get our name out there, promote adoption center more.

Mr. Trentman: Cool. Eddie, what do you have? What'd you been up to?

Eddie: Gotta get me some running shoes. The weather has broke, these dogs everywhere. Pretty much that's it, just been out in the field a lot since the weathers broke. I've been picking up, we've been staying full. Dogs have been getting more aggressive lately, other than that still working.

Mr. Trentman: When you pick up these aggressive dogs- how many can you fit in your truck/van, or do you just go around and pick them up then bring them all back or how do you do?

Eddie: I can fit 4 in the back of my cab and then I have to stop.

Mr. Trentman: You can fit 4?

Eddie: But it does depend on how aggressive a dog is. I can only do 1 to a side because they will try to attack the other side. It just depends. Some of these dogs are real aggressive.

Mr. Trentman: That's a job I don't think I'd want.

Ashley: No, I can guarantee you I could not do that job, I've been tested and I can't do it. Eddie is the only one who can do it, I don't know how he does it. I give him 100% credit every single day, that is a gift to be able to do that.

Mr. Trentman: Does anybody that works down there, are we training anybody to help him out?

Eddie: We really don't have enough employees to train somebody, we actually have to get somebody who actually wants to do that part. Who will have to come in and want to chase dogs.

Ashley: Our employees now want to walk animals on leashes, they want to test the boundaries, they want to see if they can get the animals out of the kennels and befriend them, when that's not always appropriate. So you have to find and be able to train somebody with that mentality of Eddie's way of handling animals is completely different than our- walking on a leash. He is certified in a specific way of handling animals, and not everybody agrees with that. But we are trying to train some of the employees, the kennel staff, at least to be comfortable with using a catch pole because it's much different than trying to use a leash and you have to be able to be confident in doing that.

Ann Barnum: Because you haven't been bit in 12 years, right?

Eddie: Never.

Ashley: Yea, Eddie's worked for the county for 12 years and he's never been bit by an animal.

Ann Barnum: That's good, isn't it John? Risk management wise -- 12 years.

Ashley: I've been there 17 and I've never been bit either, so you just have to be logical about what you are doing, and not test the waters. You don't feel comfortable, they are going to know that.

Mr. Trentman: Alright, sounds like things are moving along.

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

**Vote:    Yes: 6                    No: 0            Motion Carried.**

Mr. Trentman: Going to have no orders or resolutions. Listed on the back of the page who else was here. Ok, Ashley? For the meeting, I didn't get to name everyone off.

Ashley: That's good, but remember we need to approve the amended 2025 meeting schedule.

**MOTION to approve the amended 2025 meeting schedule. Motion by Mr. Scott. Second by Mr. Wilhelm.**

**Vote:    Yes: 6                    No: 0            Motion Carried.**

**MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Scott. Second by Mr. Greenwald.**

**Vote:    Yes: 6                    No: 0            Motion carried.**



## Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Intakes from 3/1/2025 to 3/31/2025

|                    | DOG       | PUPPY    | CAT       | KITTEN   | TOTAL     |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>34</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>49</b> |
| <b>CONFISCATE</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b>  |
| EAST ST LOUIS      | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| <b>EUTH REQ</b>    | <b>2</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>3</b>  |
| BELLEVILLE         | 1         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| DUPO               | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| <b>OWNER SUR</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>2</b> | <b>6</b>  |
| FAIRVIEW HEIGHT    | 0         | 0        | 2         | 0        | 2         |
| MARISSA            | 0         | 0        | 1         | 2        | 3         |
| MASCOUTAH          | 0         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 1         |
| <b>RETURN</b>      | <b>2</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b>  |
| BELLEVILLE         | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| O FALLON           | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| <b>STRAY</b>       | <b>20</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>25</b> |
| BELLEVILLE         | 9         | 1        | 4         | 0        | 14        |
| CAHOKIA            | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| CASEYVILLE         | 2         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 2         |
| EAST ST LOUIS      | 5         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 5         |
| LENZBURG           | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| MILLSTADT          | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| O FALLON           | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| <b>TRANSFER</b>    | <b>9</b>  | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>12</b> |
| BELLEVILLE         | 3         | 1        | 0         | 0        | 4         |
| CAHOKIA            | 0         | 1        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| CASEYVILLE         | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| EAST ST LOUIS      | 2         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 2         |
| FAIRVIEW HEIGHT    | 1         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| O FALLON           | 2         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 2         |



## Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Outcomes from 3/1/2025 to 3/31/2025

|                    | DOG       | PUPPY    | CAT      | KITTEN   | Total     |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>66</b> |
| <b>ADOPTION</b>    | <b>14</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>20</b> |
| BELLEVILLE         | 3         | 1        | 0        | 1        | 5         |
| CAHOKIA            | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| CASEYVILLE         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| E CARONDELET       | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| EAST ST LOUIS      | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| FAIRVIEW HEIGHT    | 1         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| FREEBURG           | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| MASCOUTAH          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 3        | 3         |
| O FALLON           | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| ST LIBORY          | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| SWANSEA            | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| <b>DIED</b>        | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b>  |
| BELLEVILLE         | 0         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 1         |
| <b>EUTH</b>        | <b>9</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>10</b> |
| BELLEVILLE         | 1         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| CAHOKIA            | 3         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| EAST ST LOUIS      | 3         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| SHILOH             | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| SWANSEA            | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| <b>O/R EUTH</b>    | <b>2</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b>  |
| BELLEVILLE         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| DUPO               | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| <b>RELOCATE</b>    | <b>8</b>  | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>12</b> |
| BELLEVILLE         | 2         | 1        | 1        | 0        | 4         |
| CAHOKIA            | 0         | 1        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| CASEYVILLE         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| EAST ST LOUIS      | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2         |

|                   | DOG       | PUPPY    | CAT      | KITTEN   | Total     |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| FAIRVIEW HEIGHT   | 1         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| O FALLON          | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| <b>RTO</b>        | <b>6</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>9</b>  |
| BELLEVILLE        | 3         | 1        | 1        | 0        | 5         |
| EAST ST LOUIS     | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| MASCOUTAH         | 0         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 1         |
| MILLSTADT         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| <b>TRAN IN ST</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>11</b> |
| BELLEVILLE        | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| CAHOKIA           | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| CASEYVILLE        | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| DUPO              | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| FAIRMONT CITY     | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| FAIRVIEW HEIGHT   | 3         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| WASHINGTON PARK   | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| <b>TRAN O ST</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b>  |
| BELLEVILLE        | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         |

Animals Left In Shelter  
on 03/31/25

| DOG | PUPPY | CAT | KITTEN | Total |
|-----|-------|-----|--------|-------|
| 38  | 13    | 19  | 2      | 72    |