

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.

May 27th, 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, County Board Chairman
Norm Etling, Highway Department
Ken Easterly, County Board Member
Robert Coers, County Board Member
Sue Gruberman, County Board Member
Eddie Johnson, Animal Services
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
Jim Gomric, States Attorney

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 comments or questions to about 2 minutes and direct them towards this chair. Do I hear anybody have anything to say? Any comments – Okay.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Mosley to approve the minutes of April 28th, 2025, meeting. Second by Mr. Scott.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

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

Ashley: So, we are starting to pick up a little bit with our intakes. We took in 80 animals in the month of April. 41 of them being strays, 9 of them being owner surrenders, so we are picking up a little bit. I know this month we're probably really close to that as well. So, we are at 94% save rate for just the month of April. We did 16 adoptions, which was really good, that was before we even started empty the shelters event that we had May 1st through May 15th, and we did 12 more adoptions through then. So we had a pretty good month. May's rounding out to be pretty good too. We transferred 48 animals out of the building to other rescue organizations; So Humane Society took 30 total, Gateway Pet Guardians took 14, and Helping Strays ended up taking 4. That was largely to do with the potential for flooding at the beginning of April, we did an emergency evacuation and got everybody out of there. That is about all that we have. As far as the dog houses that were donated, we ended up finding homes for both of them. So that was nice, we were able to find a place for them to go for someone who needed them. He is in mid transit of finding housing, so it was nice to be able to help him do that. I do not really have anything else.

Mr. Trentman: How is the new building coming?

Ashley: It is coming. There are doing the masonry work now and going to start doing the concrete and floors and stuff soon.

Mr. Trentman: The pole barn in case we have to use it, is it available and ready to go?

Ashley: Yes. We got keys for it and everything so I can have access to it. It is pretty good, they are hooking up power now so we have the control panel in there and should be running wires to do some lighting. But, as of now we can use an emergency generator to be able to provide some light because there is power to the building.

Mr. Trentman: So, touching on dog houses; Belleville West built us some dog houses. Mike O'Donnell kind of lined that up out there. Our community partners Hank Excavating, Liese Lumber and Knipp Roofing donated some supplies and this is the 2nd or 3rd round of doghouses we've done, and you were saying maybe next year that Belleville East may get on board?

Mr. O'Donnell: That's what he was saying. Might be able to get double the amount.

Mr. Trentman: Might get double, make double the amount of dogs happy. Right?

Mr. O'Donnell: Oh yeah.

Mr. Trentman: So, that's a good thing.

Mr. O'Donnell: It worked out good this year. The kids really enjoyed it.

Mr. Trentman: Since you are not going to be there next year, you're still going to have to help us put this together, ok?

Mr. O'Donnell: All right, I will. I already talked to them.

Mr. Trentman: Cool. Eddie, what do you have?

Eddie: Everything is going pretty good so far. I am in the field, just like she said it is getting warm and everything is picking up. Just those dog houses were really essential, so if we can get something like that to actually help more people. When I'm out on my humane cares, a lot of people do not have dog houses and that is a lot of the cause. If we can find a way to get some more dog houses, that would be really beneficial.

Mr. Trentman: We took three down to Gateway too, to East St. Louis, so they got 3 dog houses also. Besides what you guys got. Ok, anything else?

Ashley: I do not have anything else.

Mr. Trentman: Good. How about who pulled animals this month?

Ashley: The Humane Society, Gateway Pet Guardians, and Helping Strays.

Mr. Trentman: Now the Humane Society, they take a lot of cats, right?

Ashley: Yep. So, like I was saying in the month of April, so this is April's stats, we had 21 cats and 9 dogs pulled by Humane Society. 14 dogs pulled by Gateway and 4 dogs pulled by Helping Strays.

Mr. Trentman: Good.

Ashley: And that, like I said, was largely into helping efforts of trying with the flood. We were preparing for another disaster.

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

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: So awesome that all you guys showed up tonight. We already had public comment, but do you guys got anything to say?

Savannah: No, well I did want to say actually that- I wanted to give kudos for the preparing of the flood that we had. Ashley and her team sent out an email to everybody and we probably shouldn't have been, but we are monitoring the email all night because I got responses at 2 a.m. They had benchmarks for where they thought if the water rises to here were going to make this choice. It was really reassuring and allowed my team to feel like everything was under control.

Mr. Trentman: Great. Good deal. So, you are all here, do you want to say anything? Got anything to say?

Savannah: They're not with us.

Mrs. Casey: No. I am just a public commenter, from off the street. My daughter and I-

Mr. Trentman: What do you have?

Mrs. Casey: I'll just start by saying I've never done anything like this before, come to a meeting. I'm here because I want to tell what happened to my daughter's dog when she was in the care of the St. Clair County Animal Control Agency. You're probably not going to like what I have to say, but these people already know. Ok-

Mr. Trentman: Ok, what are you going to say? You have 2 minutes.

Mrs. Casey: Oh, ok. My daughter has 2 small house dogs, they are Boston Terrier/Chihuahua mixes, weighing about 18lbs each. The dogs got into a fight and my daughter tried to break it up and one of the dogs' bit her on her forearm. I was afraid of infection, so I took her to urgent care and the nurse practitioner cleaned the wound and bandaged it, no stitches. This happened on April 11th, that was on a Friday, and it was reported to St. Clair County Animal Control Protection Services. Unfortunately, Stephanie's dogs' vaccines were not up to date. Stephanie is deaf. I just want to make that clear that she is deaf. She was thinking that the vaccinations were due in May, this month. So anyway, the dog was quarantined on Tuesday, April 15th, for 6 days. And, on the 6th day, Stephanie and I went to pick up the dog on April 21st and we were very surprised at the dog's condition. My daughter opened the cage door, Peanut, the dog backed away from her. The dog's whites of her eyes were blood red with a possible broken blood vessel, or that's what it looked like to me. There was possible swelling around her, the right eye of the dog. The dog could barely open her eyes, and Peanut was very with drawn and backed away from my daughter and she was shaking. Both of them were shaking, the dog and Stephanie. At that time,

I witnessed the terrible conditions where the dogs were kept and where Peanut was kept. We had the unfortunate task of going over there 3 times, and I saw dogs eating - I didn't see any sleeping dogs, but I saw them eating and laying in their own feces. I saw that with my own eyes, ok. My daughter finally got the harness around Peanut, and she carried Peanut outside. She and I went back into the facility and asked what happened to Peanut's eyes, and the explanation that was given is that sometimes when dogs are kenneled up and isolated their blood pressure can go up and it results with red eyes. And I also asked about the swelling and there was no reply. So, we went to the car and Peanut was shaking and Stephanie was shaking, and we got home and I suggested that we call the vet in Columbia. Stephanie lives in Dupo, so I called the vet in Columbia because it was the closest one. He said "Well I would like you to email me some pictures of Peanut, the dog". Stephanie emailed the pictures to the girl in the office, and the girl said "the vet wants you to bring her in within 30 minutes". So, we took her in, and she was weighed, she had lost 4lbs over that 6-day period that she was at the Animal Control building. And the vet examined her, and he said it looked like trauma of some kind, and he told Stephanie and I about a pole with a tight rope that may have had to be used to do the dog. Stephanie had a very bad feeling about what had happened to her dog. She was very upset. Anyway, the vet prescribed eye drops, ear drops, and an antibiotic to prevent infections and I have pictures of before she went into quarantine and when we picked her up. And pictures tell the story.

Mr. Trentman: Alright, so is this the dog who didn't have its shots and stuff like that?

Mrs. Casey: Right, she was not up to date with the vaccines. That is why she had to quarantine. And so that was a mistake. This is pretty much the same thing. Do you want to see the pictures?

Mr. Trentman: No, I don't.

Mrs. Casey: Ok. But they are very, very disturbing.

Mr. Trentman: I appreciate that, but it is a good idea for your pets to have their shots and vaccinated. So, when our people go out there in that situation they don't get bit.

Mrs. Casey: Yes.

Mr. Trentman: So that the neighbors don't get bit, and other people in your community don't get bit by your dog just because it doesn't have its shots.

Mrs. Casey: Alright.

Mr. Trentman: Alright, thank you for your comments.

Mrs. Casey: I just wanted to let you people know what happened to the dog while she was in quarantine.

Mr. Trentman: I get it. Our staff tries really hard down there. We got thousands of animals that we deal with. So, I apologize if anything happened, but we'll try harder, ok?

Mrs. Casey: Okay. Well, thank you for letting me speak.

Mr. Trentman: Alright, well you guys all came up here and got the chance to talk. Thank you, guys. Anything else from any other board members?

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

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Intakes from 5/1/2025 to 5/31/2025

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	46	10	22	32	110
CONFISCATE	4	0	2	0	6
BELLEVILLE	1	0	2	0	3
CASEYVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
EUTH REQ	3	0	0	0	3
BELLEVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
OWNER SUR	5	5	6	4	20
BELLEVILLE	5	0	2	0	7
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	1	1
NEW ATHENS	0	5	0	0	5
O FALLON	0	0	0	3	3
SWANSEA	0	0	4	0	4
STRAY	30	0	14	25	69
ALORTON	1	0	0	0	1
BELLEVILLE	12	0	8	14	34
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
CENTREVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
COLLINSVILLE	0	0	0	1	1
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRMONT CITY	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	3	0	0	2	5
FREEBURG	0	0	0	5	5
MARISSA	2	0	0	0	2
MASCOUTAH	1	0	1	0	2
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	1	1
NEW BADEN	1	0	0	0	1

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
O FALLON	3	0	1	0	4
SHILOH	0	0	1	0	1
SMITHTON	0	0	2	1	3
SWANSEA	2	0	1	1	4
WATERLOO	1	0	0	0	1
TRANSFER	4	5	0	3	12
BELLEVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	2	3
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	1	1
NEW ATHENS	0	5	0	0	5



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Outcomes from 5/1/2025 to 5/31/2025

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
GRAND TOTAL	38	10	21	26	95
ADOPTION	8	3	2	1	14
BELLEVILLE	2	2	2	0	6
CAHOKIA	2	0	0	0	2
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
E CARONDELET	0	1	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
MARISSA	0	0	0	1	1
O FALLON	1	0	0	0	1
DIED	0	1	2	1	4
BELLEVILLE	0	0	1	0	1
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	1	1
NEW ATHENS	0	1	0	0	1
SMITHTON	0	0	1	0	1
EUTH	4	0	1	2	7
BELLEVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
LEBANON	1	0	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	1	1
SHILOH	0	0	1	0	1
SMITHTON	0	0	0	1	1
O/R EUTH	4	0	1	0	5
BELLEVILLE	2	0	1	0	3
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
RELOCATE	4	6	0	4	14
BELLEVILLE	2	1	0	0	3
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	2	3

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	0	0	0	2	2
NEW ATHENS	0	5	0	0	5
RTO	14	0	3	4	21
ALORTON	1	0	0	0	1
BELLEVILLE	4	0	1	4	9
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	3	0	0	0	3
MASCOUTAH	0	0	1	0	1
NEW BADEN	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	2	0	0	0	2
SHILOH	0	0	1	0	1
WATERLOO	1	0	0	0	1
TRAN IN ST	4	0	12	14	30
BELLEVILLE	2	0	4	5	11
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	0	0	3	0	3
COLLINSVILLE	0	0	0	1	1
FREEBURG	0	0	0	5	5
O FALLON	1	0	0	3	4
SMITHTON	0	0	1	0	1
SWANSEA	0	0	4	0	4

Animals Left In Shelter
on 05/31/25

DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
45	1	11	13	70