

**St. Clair County Animal Services**

**Minutes for Meeting**

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

**November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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**Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Robert Allen, County Board  
Phil Henning, County Board  
Lexi Cortez, Belleville News Democrat  
Mark Kern, County Board Chairman  
John Coers, County Board  
Matt Smallheer, County Board  
Herb Simmons, EMA  
Ken Easterly, County Board  
Dawn Blackwell, Animal Services  
Eddie Johnson, 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 comments or questions to about 2 minutes and if you have anything direct them towards this chair.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION: by Mr. Scott to approve the minutes from October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. Second by Mr. Hollinsworth.**

**Vote:    Yes: 7                    No: 0                    Motion Carried.**

**Ashley Report**

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

Ashley: For the month of October, we had a 91.5% live release rate. We took in 54 animals either via stray or confiscation and 7 owner surrenders. We did have 2 adoption returns. We also transferred 25 animals to the adoption center and then as far as adoptions – we did 26 adoptions and sent 40 animals to rescue and had 5 returns to owners. As far as our rescue transfers go – The Humane Society took the majority of those 40 – 335 of the 40: 9 of them being dogs, 7 of them being cats and 19 of them being kittens. 4 dogs transferred to Gateway Pet Guardians, and 1 dog transferred to Partners for Pets. We did have a very long-time medical foster get adopted by the foster family, so that was very heartwarming for all of us. We are on track this month to also have a really good adoption month. I had 7 applications on my desk this morning, just from the weekend so we are doing pretty well when it comes to adoptions currently. As far as the new building goes, I think they have everything, for the most part, buttoned up with the waterproofing. I know that they finished up with the brick on the outside of the building and they are going to be starting some of the other materials on the outside of the building and then the drywalling on the inside of the building. So, it's coming along very well. You can see every single week how much it's moving along. It's nice and you can see the changes in the facility. Just a couple of things that we have going on this week: We do have a vaccine clinic this week on Wednesday, and it's booked throughout with 45 pets coming in that day. We are also doing in the afternoon a Thanksgiving dinner with the pets. The staff really enjoyed it last year. We had some volunteers join and helped and they all enjoyed it. It's just a good ending to our holiday week. It's good to see the fun part of our job and letting the staff be included and that's obviously nice. We still do need donations if anyone would like to drop some off, I have a list of things that we are looking for, so that we can feed them. If anyone would like a flyer. We have a trim a tree at The Belle Clair Fairgrounds. They are – they have a tree – it's a 10ft tree, and they have ornaments there that you can purchase for \$5.00. You can decorate them, put a picture on them, add your pet's names, and then you can leave them or take them home. It's \$5.00 and all the proceeds will come to the adoption center. We have been going once a month; Dawn has been going down there with an adoption pet.

Dawn: Yeah, it's been going really good. We have a volunteer that likes to do volunteer that likes to do event kind of stuff and ties in with coming in and doing laundry – so she and I have a little system with that on Saturdays to go. This past time, a couple weeks ago, the tree was up and its through the roof. It is a very large tree. We had a lot of traffic coming in and out and I expect that this next month will be a high traffic one as well. People know who we are when we come in and we have a little donation box there and they are always asking questions. So it really is a good thing and has gone very well so far.

Ashley: Other than that we are just going to finalize up some fundraiser things that we have going on for next year. It will be fun. We are going to try to change our outlook next year. We are going to try for more community awareness and try to get ourselves out there a little bit more. With the new building coming I think it will be a good idea for us to make ourselves present and do some fundraisers and get ourselves out there a little but more.

Mr. Trentman: Eddie, whatcha got? Got anything?

Eddie: Bites, that pretty much it.

Mr. Trentman: You busy?

Eddie: I'm always busy. Seems like the bites pick up on he holidays.

Mr. Trentman: Bite cases?

Eddie: Yes sir.

Mr. Trentman: Maybe they are hungry for turkey?

Eddie: Irresponsible pet owners.

Ashley: I laid 12 on your desk today and it hasn't even hit Thanksgiving yet, so we will see what this weekend brings.

Mr. Trentman: So you are busy huh?

Eddie: Always.

Mr. Trentman: So I need a motion to approve Ashley's report.

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

**Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.**

Mr. Trentman: So we need a motion to approve the meeting schedule for next year.

**MOTION: by Mr. Scott to approve the 2026 Meeting Schedule. Second by Mr. O'Donnell.**

**Vote:    Yes: 7                    No: 0            Motion Carried.**

Mr. Trentman: We do not have any ordinances or resolutions. Any other business to come before this board? So over the past month or so, I did go down to Gateway Pet Guardians and I met with Cahokia, they sent two of their public safety workers over there and they are trying to get with Gateway to help with the pet population down there. A few weeks later, then the mayor came over and they are trying to get something worked out between them. They have their own little animal control in Cahokia and they are trying to work with Gateway – so that's a good thing.

Ashley: Them having kennels that are open and capable of taking in animals is a good thing. They just got their license from the Department of Ag. I just found that out last week. That should put the ball into motion where they can start to do things properly.

Mr. Trentman: Anything else to come before this board.

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

**Vote:    Yes: 7                    No: 0            Motion carried.**