

**St. Clair County Animal Services**

**Minutes for Meeting**

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

**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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**Members Present:** Scott Greenwald, Asst. Chairman  
Mike O'Donnell  
Lonnie Mosley  
G.W. Scott, Jr.  
Robert Wilhelm  
Harry Hollinsworth

**Others Present:**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Greenwald.

**Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum**

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call and a quorum declared present.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Greenwald: 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 September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. Second by Mr. Mosley.**

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

### **Ashley Report**

Mr. Greenwald: Alright, Ashley. The director's report.

Ashley: Alright, so just kind of going over some numbers. We brought in a total of 113 animals in the month of September into the shelter. We had 19 adoptions, so for animals that left - we had 19 adoptions, we did 31 transfers to our adoption center, which is a pretty good number for us. We had 8 of those animals brought into us, returned to owner. We transferred 33 out of the building to other partnering shelters. Of those 33, 5 of them were adult dogs, 0 of them were puppies, 8 of them were adult cats, and 20 of them were kittens. So, still struggling with our dog numbers but as far as cats are going, we always tend to do well with cats, we never struggle with those. We did have an 82.7% live release rate just because we had some aggressive dogs that had to be taken care of for community safety, and we also had a litter of puppies that didn't make it. So, unfortunately that kind of counts against what we have in the shelter. Nothing that we can control but still 82% live release rate, we're just going to continue to hope for 90% for the entire year as a whole. But we are doing everything we can. We had 58 strays brought in out of those 113 animals, so that's a pretty good number, plus 8 of those were confiscated from humane cares, police assist, anything of that nature. What else do I have to say? We are trying to get through this year; we've got a lot of good things that are happening next year for us. We're going to try to start doing a bunch of different adoption events, fundraising events, things of that nature. So, we do for sure have a wrestling event scheduled with Herb Simmons in January. So, January 10<sup>th</sup>, we're going to be doing a wrestling event down at the Fairgrounds, and hopefully by next month I'll have some more information on that. But if everybody or anybody wants to throw me some ideas about anybody who might want to sponsor that event, that would be great. We as a group are going to participating in the New Years for the Strays dinner and event. So, that is just a way that the pet lover's coalition, St. Louis Pet Lovers Coalition will recognize some of the different organizations that partake in the adoption processes throughout the Midwest region. We are going to participate in the Slumber Party next year, that is our staff and volunteers sleeping in kennels for 24 hours with the dogs to raise money, and that is in April. We are looking at a Glo Bingo event in May at the bingo hall, and then hopefully we can get something together with Matt and the Tye-Dyed Iguana for an adoption event down there, we're going to see if we can logistically figure all of that out. Good things happening for us next year, and then hopefully later in the year we'll have a whole new building to move into, so that'll be fun. As far as the building goes, its progress is normal. Studs are up on all of the walls, the HVAC system and all of that is going in, the waterproofing on the outside of the building is going - it's almost done. There's like 10 different people inside working on different things too, so they're going to be working on getting all of the electrical ran, getting some of the lighting up, making sure that all of the plumbing is going. It's going to be kind of everybody working on top of each other but they seem to have it figured out on how they're going to make it work. It's looking good. They're still thinking tentatively July of next year as a completion and final inspection, making sure everything looks good. But, we know how construction works, so, hopefully we're not waiting but for the most part we're thinking mid-year.

Mr. Hollinsworth: I might need some help, if you can get to me. We have 4-5 pitbulls, our agency in East St. Louis can't handle them, ... there's a building on 13<sup>th</sup> and St. Louis Ave, and the people are kind of scared to come outside to us. So, I need some kind of assistance from you guys. You all might be set up better than they are.

Ashley: We just got a call today about that.

Mr. Hollinsworth: Okay, good enough.

Ashley: Something about 1500 block...

Mr. Hollinsworth: Little coyote, a big coyote, looks like a wolf.

Ashley: We don't handle those, that's the Department of Natural Resources, but I can get you the contact.

Mr. Hollinsworth: Well, I need information about that.

Ashley: Yeah, I can get you the contact information for that. But we did receive the call first call about that house today and it was over the lunch period. And I did put it in the system because I was the one who answered that call from CenCom. So yeah, it is in the system.

Mr. Mosely: Ok, so give me the information for Department of Natural Resources.

Ashley: Yep. I'll get you the DNRs information.

Mr. Mosley: Yeah, because they're running loose.

Ashley: Okay. I don't have anything else for the group. Yeah, I do not have anything else for the group.

Mr. Greenwald: Dawn or Eddie, have anything for us this evening.

Dawn: She covered the numbers for adoption We have had quite a bit of traffic this week and we had a lot of apps appearing over the weekends. So we will be getting some animals out this week.

Ashley: I think I have 7 applications sitting on my desk currently from this weekend and today.

Dawn: I tried to think if someone's looking for this but we don't have it is there something similar – I look at the whole inventory of what's in the building. All the dogs that we have there right now are all really nice and we just need to take it to the next level – getting them into a house.

Robin: Can I ask a question: I just had a question as far as the protocol and what point do you ticket community members with not taking care of their animals. Is there a specific protocol for that? I saw two dogs come in – Nova and Hazel and they are very thin.

Ashley: So in that situation, she is going to sign those dogs over. So, us issuing citations is going to be null and void because they would get dropped in court because of the fact that she surrendered her rights over to those dogs. If she were to reclaim them, then we would cite her for cruelty or owners duties and then she would have to go to court for that but the goal would

be obviously not to give her back those animals because she absolutely cannot care for them and we have seen that time and time again with her. At the end of the day, we could write her a citation but it will get dropped because she does not have custody of those animals.

Surrendering them means that she is surrendering her rights to them, and she understands that she cannot care for them. It doesn't do us any good to go through that entire process of issuing citations if she is already going to surrender the dogs or not reclaim them. If she were to want to reclaim them then we would obviously have stipulations on her reclaiming them and we would issue her citations were she would have to go in front of a judge to be able to give her side of the story and then they would take whatever into consideration. Animal cruelty laws and animal laws in general are not great. So for animal cruelty it's a class A misdemeanor. It not even a felony charge, it's nothing. It's a misdemeanor that's seen in traffic court. So for us to go through all of that work and have to contact an issuing agency, like a police department or sheriffs department; it has to go through them first, then the States Attorneys office and then into court. It takes so much time and effort than just caring for the dogs and giving them what they need.

Robin: Makes sense.

Ashley: It's not fair. They should have something that's marked on their record. Getting a judge to sign a document indicating that these animals or that she cant own animals any longer or whatever the case may be; there's just not enough follow through with that.

Robin: I get it, it makes sense.

Ashley: I wish there was a list of everybody who has ever had animal cruelty charges so that we know, but.

Robin: Is there anyway to change that?

Ashley: I mean I guess it would be possible, but I just don't know how much of a priority it is on other levels. Until the laws change, the enforcement cant be any stricter.

Eddie: The police department issued her tickets.

Ashley: Cahokia Heights issued her citations for whatever but that's seen in a different, it wont be seen in our courts. They did it on their own ordinances which are completely different than county ordinances – that technically its their jurisdiction in Cahokia Heights as opposed to what our ordinances are for St Clair County, they have to enforce those and follow through with them.

Robin: Ok.

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

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

Scott Greenwald: Any other business to come before this board.

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

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