



Animal Control Advisory Board Meeting
May 9, 2023

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Approval of minutes from January 1, 2023, meeting
- Welcome new board members
- Leadership transition at VCAS-Adam Leath
- Handling Feral Cats-Jeannine Colletti
- New business
- Public participation
- Meeting adjourned

Volusia County Animal Control
Advisory Board Meeting
May 9,2023

Present:

Cathy Driggers
Karen K. Clark
Judy Gillett
Jeannine Colletti
Lorraine Hayden
Eva Cox
Kelly Frasca

Adam Leath, Director, Volusia County Animal Services
Alicia Dease, Field Supervisor, Volusia County Animal Services
Shari Williams, Office Manager, Volusia County Animal Services

Public Participation:

Vicki Hendricks
Ellen Seuberling
Steve Wenman
Marilyn Wenman

This meeting was held at the Emergency Operations Center.

A motion was made by Ms. Clark to approve the minutes for the January 31, 2023, meeting.
Ms. Colletti seconds the motion. The motion is carried.

Mrs. Driggers welcomes the new members of the board.

Director Leath informs the board May 10, 2023, will be his last day employed as the Director of Volusia County Animal Services. Field Supervisor Alicia Dease will move into the role of Interim-Director.

New Business:

Ms. Colletti discusses her concerns regarding the criteria used at the Volusia County Animal Care Clinic to determine whether a cat is feral.

Director Leath relays concerns from clinic staff that the patients coming in on TNR (trap/neuter/return) days are actually true community cats. Those patients are not able to be handled and are not able to receive a full and comprehensive exam because it's not safe. For them to be handled, they need to be anesthetized. There is some inherent risk, all surgical procedures carry some inherent risk. If we have true community cats, that risk is both accepted by the community caretaker as well as the county. We still monitor any concerns that might exist with their health, we can't examine them prior to anesthesia. If it is a handleable cat, a cat that can be friendly, that someone knows, we encourage those patients to be brought in on public pet days so that they are handled. They are receiving a full and comprehensive exam and that we mitigate any of the potential risks that surgery presents to those patients. Without this exam, we're going to miss things like heart murmurs and things we would have been able to identify prior to anesthesia.

Ms. Colletti discusses a conversation she had with Mr. Leath when he told her “We don’t want our vets to get hurt”. She was sent to a private vet to take care of the two cats. Neither cat was feral. She states it was a contradiction of what you’re saying and what was done because you did not want the vets to get hurt.

Director Leath explains that in that circumstance, those two cats were already sterilized. You were wanting us to re-vaccinate TNR cats, which is something we do not do.

Ms. Colletti and Director Leath continue discussion regarding the two cats in question and the reasons behind the clinic requiring all TNR cats arriving at the clinic inside traps.

Other board members joined this conversation.

Officer Dease discusses meetings she has had with select TNR colony caregivers. She states they are in the process of writing a policy for TNR cats.

New Business:

Ms. Clark and Ms. Gillett discuss the “home alone” keychains given out by VCAS staff. Director Leath and Officer Dease discuss what happens when/if someone calls the number on the keychain.

Other board members join the keychain discussion.

Board members discuss what happens when a person, who lives alone, passes away and there are pets inside the home.

Ms. Clark requests Florida State Statute books be given out to board members.

Board members discussed having the mobile spay/neuter vehicle be taken to various events in the county. Just for viewing purposes only.

Public Participation

Discussion regarding making an appointment for public pets online and the differences between feral, and handleable community cats.

Discussion regarding feral cats getting out of traps and the need for the traps to be checked before they are picked up.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2023, at 5:30am.

Meeting adjourned.

VOLUSIA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 5/9/23

NAME

1. Shari Williams

2. Anne Smith

3. D. Dease

4. Jeannine Calletti

5. EVA COX

6. Judy Gillett

7. Lorraine Hayden

8. Kelly A. Gasca

9. Karen K. Clark

10. Vicki Henderson

11. Ellen Seuberling

12. Steve Wenman

13. Marilyn Wenman

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Cathy Diggers

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