

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time:	Wednesday, October 15, 2025 *4:30PM
Location:	Saginaw County Governmental Center 111 S. Michigan Avenue Saginaw, MI 48602
Council Members Present:	Kelli Scorsone, Carol Pickelmann, Laureen Lutenski, Sharon Maher, Demetrios Scott (Arrival 5:17PM), Tom McIntyre, Dr. Bailey Mielke (Arrival 4:37PM), Tracey Slodowski
Council Members Absent:	Cynthia Winiecke, Emilie Lyday, Jonna Godley, Richard Angelo (Best Friends)
Others in Attendance:	Jen Speckhard, Jack Tany, Rachel Horton, Pam Goddeyne, Dolores Kellett, Robin Gover, Linda Leonard, Jaime Ceja

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:30PM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Lutenski made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 17, 2025. Member Maher supported. Motion passed (7-0).

III. DIRECTORS REPORT, RACHEL HORTON, DIRECTOR, ANIMAL CONTROL

1. Animal Control Reorganization – A survey was sent out in April to employees about realigning jobs at SCACC. The re-org is now under way. All employees whose job duties/descriptions have changed will have to reapply. Some new jobs were also created with the goal of having more middle management. Already posted internally to County employees and by the end of the month it will be posted on Facebook and open to external candidates.
2. Dogs Playing for Life – We have been using playgroups instead of traditional temperament testing for quite some time and you really get to see a dogs personality come through. Training is ongoing this week for staff and volunteers.
3. MSU – Starting partnership with MSU to do wellness clinics and spay/neuter clinics. Looking to be included in their med student clinical rotation. Program would start in February or March and be onsite every few weeks and will allow for 15-20 animals at each visit.
4. Veterinarian/LVT – Dr. Mielke has extended her contract for now and we have had multiple Dr.s interested in contracting with SCACC for services. Goal is for the surgical center to be open more than 1 day a week.
5. Volunteer Coordinator – Member Pickelmann asked when the coordinator position will be open. Director Horton stated at the end of the month.
6. Member Maher asked about adoption returns and how they are noted on the shelter facts spreadsheet. Director Horton stated 45 days or more and a return counts as an owner surrender, 44 days or less and it's a return.

IV. AGENDA

1. Educational Outreach Program – Vice-Chair Scorsone stated that the program is at a standstill, waiting to hear back from schools and waiting for liability forms to be approved, corrected.

V. NEW ITEMS:

1. Intakes and Space – Director Horton explained the intake process, depending on how an animal is brought in, it will determine where it goes and if there is space. Once a dog is through isolation they go to playgroups or another kennel aisle. 80 days is the current stay for a dog and 30 days for a cat. Chair Slodowski asked why some people are

- denied intake. Director Horton stated that the average calls per day for owner surrender is 30-45 calls, not including stray, sick or injured animals. If an owner surrender is not in immediate danger of eviction SCACC will offer resources for the owner to try and rehome the dog. Currently SCACC has 0-2 cages open. All shelters are overwhelmed, and a large number are currently using the ladder system for triage. The cost of living is up, and adoptions are down. Reasons for surrender are the animal is untrained, money and eviction. SCACC offers flea and tick treatments, education, food, supplies and recommendations on trainers. Member Lutenski asked if SCACC could do an assessment then out it on the website for adoption while the owner has the animal. Director Horton stated that there are specific websites where people can do that already and there is no staffing to manage it. A common misconception is that SCACC must take in owner surrenders, we must take in strays and injured not surrenders. Vice Chair asked if the council could develop a pamphlet that could list resources. Director Horton stated that there is a rescue list that they hand out, but the council could put it in pamphlet form along with other resources. Dr. Mielke stated that over 73 families were helped by the pet food donations from SCACC.
2. Budget – Mary Catherine Hannah – Very high-level overview. Rachel put together the operational budget which started October 1. Animal Control is millage funded at .4243 mills which funds about \$21.00 a year on a 100K home. Operational expenses come from the millage funds. The millage passed in 2018 for 20 years; renewal will be in 2037. This is tied to property taxes, Values go up so does the revenue, values go down qual less money. FY26 budget is \$3,680,680 generated from the millage. \$55,000 is revenue from animal licenses and is a cut with the treasurer. No General Fund dollars go to animal control. The debt service of \$600K is the payment for the bonds we took out to build animal control. Surgical center numbers are a best guess because it was the first time we have put it in the budget separately. Statutorily the budget has to balance, so animal control cannot go over budget. Director Horton is wonderful at finding and applying for grants. There is a misconception that the millage can fund everything, but that is not the case. This budget also covers ACO's, outfitting, maintaining vehicles and fuel.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Linda Leonard – Has fundraising been discussed? Chair Slodowski responded that for now it is on the back burner. Alycia Norton who was creating the 501(c)3 has broadened her scope and is more community focused. A fundraiser is a large upfront cost and you have to have commitment from council members to help. Member Scorsone asked about a raffle. Mary Catherine stated that if someone wants to personally pull a license, they can do it.
2. Jen Speckhard – Plan to make cat houses for the winter? Director Horton stated that Undercover Angels is planning a giveaway in November. When do people start in their new positions? Director Horton stated next week, if they went from a union position to a union position they will retain their seniority. New shelter hours will start on November 1st.

VII. NEXT MEETING

1. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 4:30PM.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Member Pickelmann made a motion to adjourn. Member Mielke supported. The meeting adjourned at 5:33PM.